

COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3) - MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3) HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

O Clatworthy

GC Haines

Present Virtually

H T Bennett
C L C Davies
MJ Williams

N Clarke
W J Kendall

RJ Collins
J E Pratt

C Davies
I Williams

Apologies for Absence

G Walter and T Wood

Invitees:

Councillor Neelo Farr

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Carys Lord
Janine Nightingale
Martin Morgans
Ryan Jones
Lisa Jones

Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Communities
Interim Head of Operations - Community Services
Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager
Regeneration Funding and Regional Engagement Team Leader

Joanne Norman
Samantha Ready
Robert Frowen
Joanne Ginn

Interim Group Manager - Financial Planning & Budget Management
Project Accountant
Economic Development Team Manager
Housing Solutions Team Leader

Officers:

Stephen Griffiths
Michael Pitman

Interim Scrutiny Officer
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

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H Bennett – Personal – Item 4 - Employer in receipt of UKSPF funding and Item 7- Member of a Town and Community Council.

J Pratt – Personal – Item 4 – Elected Member of Porthcawl Town Council.

M Williams – Personal – Item 4 – Elected Member of Coity Higher Community Council.

I Williams – Personal – Item 4 – Elected Member of Bridgend Town Council and involved in organisations in receipt of UKSPF funding.

W Kendall – Personal – Item 4 – Elected Member of Brackla Community Council.

N Farr – Personal – Item 4 – Elected Member of Porthcawl Town Council.

110. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 14 July 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	29 September 2025

111. United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information: Recommendation: 1. Members discussed the Council's approach set out in the Local Investment Plan, to the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which had emphasised three themes - Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. Whilst the Committee acknowledged that a lot of different projects across the County Borough had been funded, it was also expressed that the approach lacked a guiding thread, a clear and transparent account of how projects had been prioritised, and how the success and value of them were being measured. The Committee therefore recommended that the approach to future UKSPF successor funding projects should proactively and clearly set out the following: a. The guiding strategic aims. b. Establish what the project is about and what it should deliver.
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	c. The agreed objectives, targets and outputs. d. The criteria for awarding grants. e. The measures of success and value to be monitored. f. The approach to contingency planning. Additional Information Requested: 2. The Committee requested that a final UKSPF monitoring report, including a complete analysis of the successes and the lessons learned for future projects for consideration by the Committee as soon as feasible and to include: a. details of how the public, businesses and community organisations were informed and supported to make full use of available funding, including how the Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework had informed decision-making about the UKSPF; b. detailed information regarding the feasibility studies funded by the UKSPF and how many have or will become viable projects; c. detailed evaluation of the sustainability of jobs created across the three themes as a result of UKSPF funding, to include the monitoring processes and the support offered by BCBC; and d. detailed information about the impact the cut in funding during the transition year had on projects in the community. 3. The Committee noted that there was a lack of clarity about what the successor to UKSPF would be like and how it would work and requested that once known, Members receive information about it, including details of the proposals to engage with communities through the Council's partnership structures about the criteria for applying for funding. 4. The Committee requested more information about the assistance that could be provided to organisations to apply for alternative sources of funding, once UKSPF funding comes to an end. 5. The Committee requested that previous reports about the UKSPF considered by scrutiny committees be distributed to Members.
Date Decision Made	29 September 2025

112. Social Housing Allocation Policy

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>
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	Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information: Recommendation: 6. The Committee expressed concern that there were approximately 3300 people on the housing register and there was an urgent need to address the fundamental mismatch between the demand for and the supply of available housing, particularly social housing, in the County Borough. The Committee therefore recommended that: a. The Communities 'deep dive', consider potential ideas to address the shortfall in the supply of housing, and; b. That the Strategy and Action Plans be updated setting out the steps being taken to urgently address this position. Requests for additional information: 7. The Committee requested that an All-Member Briefing session be provided regarding the revised Social Housing Allocation Policy and how it will change, especially in respect of the bandings and how properties will be allocated. 8. The Committee requested additional information regarding the impact of the Welsh Government's Nation of Sanctuary Plan on the draft Social Housing Allocation Policy. 9. The Committee requested additional information about both the statutory and non-statutory review processes, including the number, the outcomes, and the steps taken to ensure fairness and the consistent application of policy.
Date Decision Made	29 September 2025

113. Information report - Quarter 4 / Year End Performance 2024-25

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>
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	The Committee considered the content of the Information report upon the Quarter 4 / Year End Performance 2024-25 report, the Corporate Performance Dashboard Quarter 4 – Year End 2024-25 and the Regulatory Tracker updated for Quarter4 2024-25 within the remit of the Committee and had regard to the dashboard and the tracker when considering the Committee's Forward Work Programme report.
Date Decision Made	29 September 2025

114. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the following requests, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information: a. <u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Final Monitoring Report</u> to include the information in Request 2 above. b. <u>Homelessness and Housing</u> to include: People presenting as homeless or potentially homeless, for whom the Local Authority has a final legal duty to secure suitable accommodation, the strategic plans to address the mismatch between the supply and demand for housing, particularly social housing. c. <u>Street / Utility works</u> to include charges and analysis of the utilities and performance.
Date Decision Made	29 September 2025

115. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
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To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#).

The meeting closed at 18:44.