

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

HJ David

GC Haines

AJ Williams

MJ Williams

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe

JPD Blundell

N Clarke

Apologies for Absence

H Griffiths, ML Hughes, RL Penhale-Thomas and T Thomas

Councillor Jane Gebbie – Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Paul Davies – Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment and Councillor Eugene Caparros – Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)

Claire Marchant – Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Hywel Williams
Councillor Neelo Farr
Councillor Melanie Evans

Leader
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)

Jake Morgan
Carys Lord
Kelly Watson
Lindsay Harvey
Janine Nightingale
Pete Tyson

Chief Executive
Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Electoral
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Corporate Director - Communities
Group Manager – Commissioning

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Officers:

Jessica Mclellan
Meryl Lawrence

Scrutiny Officer
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Declarations of Interest

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Item 4 – Personal - Governor at a Bridgend school

Councillor AJ Williams – Item 4 – Personal - Governor at Brynteg Comprehensive School and Chair of Governors at Coety Primary School

171. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 24 July 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	23 October 2025

172. Budget Monitoring 2025-26 - Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: Recommendations 1. The Committee recommended that budget reduction proposals in future budget monitoring reports include more detailed narratives, in particular: a. Where budget reductions are RAG status green due to one-off grant funding and will remain underlying pressures in the next financial year (e.g. SSW13), these are clearly expressed; b. That one-off efficiency savings to meet shortfalls in savings are clearly identified; and c. That the risk and impact on individuals of budget reductions which are RAG status green such
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	<p>as EEYYP3 and 9 relating to a reduction in counselling services and staff in the additional learning needs team be reflected.</p> <p>2. Members discussed the impact on residents of fly tipping in their local area and the Committee recommended that consideration be given to reviewing the Council's fly tipping enforcement arrangements and exploring the possible use of technology and CCTV to assist.</p> <p>Additional Information Requested</p> <p>3. The Committee requested how many primary schools have a deficit budget greater than £50,000 and how many secondary schools have a deficit budget greater than £150,000.</p> <p>4. The Committee expressed concern regarding the number of schools projecting a deficit budget and the extent of the deficits and requested that Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (EYS OSC) consider requesting a report to monitor the situation.</p> <p>5. The Committee requested feedback from the upcoming meeting of the School Deficit Budget Management Group which has been established to consider best practice across schools and explore how some schools have managed to reduce their deficit be shared with Members of COSC and EYS OSC.</p> <p>6. The Committee requested the number of community and parent governor vacancies at each Bridgend school.</p> <p>7. In relation to the Prior Year Budget Reductions Carried Forward into 2025-26, the Committee requested an outcome confirming when:</p> <p>a. COM 2 (2021-22): the exit terms of the recycling centre at Tythegston are likely to be finalised;</p> <p>b. COM 2 (2023-24): the necessary order for charging blue badge holders for parking is likely to be complete; and</p> <p>c. COM 28 (2024-25): the terms of the lease of the former Woodmat Property, Brynmenyn Estate are likely to be finalised.</p> <p>8. In relation to the Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29, the Committee requested:</p> <p>a. SSW 2: An update confirming when the feasibility study regarding possible seasonal usage of</p>
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	<p>the Bowls Hall is likely to be finalised;</p> <p>b. COM 1: What alternative budgets have been identified if the reduction in staff mileage budgets cannot be achieved; and</p> <p>c. COM 11: An update and further narrative regarding the opportunities being sought regarding the commercial letting of Pandy Depot.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 October 2025

173. Arrangements for Commissioning Services

Decision Made	<p>Following consideration of the report and detailed discussion with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation and request for additional information:</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>9. The Committee discussed the findings of the Audit Wales report and expressed concern about awaiting the National report before formulating a plan to address the recommendations in its Bridgend report. The Committee recommended that clarity be sought from Audit Wales on when the National Report is likely to be published and in the absence of an imminent response, that an exercise be undertaken to identify any themes arising from the other local authority Audit Wales Commissioning reports with an analysis of themes from comparable local authorities to be made the subject of internal audit to provide assurance that the Authority has consistency and standardisation towards commissioning services.</p> <p>Additional Information Requested</p> <p>10. The Committee requested a copy of internal audit plan 2025-26 which includes detail of the commissioning arrangements for services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 October 2025

174. Forward Work Programme Update Report

Decision Made	The Committee approved its draft Forward Work Programme in Appendix A subject to the following addition, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted the Forward Work Programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendices C, D and E. 1. Corporate Arrangements for Commissioning Services (once the National report is available or internal thematic analysis report is complete).
Date Decision Made	23 October 2025

175. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	23 October 2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 13:10.