MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor HJ David – Mayor and Chairperson

H T Bennett	A R Berrow	F D Bletsoe	S J Bletsoe
JPD Blundell	E L P Caparros	N Clarke	O Clatworthy
RJ Collins	C Davies	P Davies	S Easterbrook
M J Evans	N Farr	J Gebbie	W R Goode
RM Granville	GC Haines	M L Hughes	D M Hughes
P W Jenkins	M Jones	W J Kendall	RL Penhale-Thomas
JC Spanswick	T Thomas	A Ulberini-Williams	AJ Williams
HM Williams	I Williams	MJ Williams	E D Winstanley
T Wood			
H Griffiths			

Present Virtually

S Aspey	P Ford	S J Griffiths	D T Harrison
RM James	M R John	M Lewis	J Llewellyn-Hopkins
J E Pratt	I M Spiller	G Walter	A Wathan
R Williams			

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Laura Griffiths	Group Manager – Legal and Democratic
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Jake Morgan	Chief Executive
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities

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Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Oscar Roberts	Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services

210. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Davies, Rob Smith and Jefferson Tildesley
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

211. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	The following declarations of interest were made:- Members declared a universal personal declaration of interest in Agenda item 13, as members of the LGPS. All Officers present at the meeting declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 13, as members of the LGPS, other than the Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees who remained in the meeting to take a note of proceedings on this item. Councillor E Winstanley declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8 as it mentions premises that are under the ownership of her employer. The Chief Officer – Legal, HR, Regulatory Services and Corporate Policy and Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7 and left the meeting whilst this item was being considered. Councillor E Caparros declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13, as the motion had potential to impact partners, suppliers or customers of his employer. Whilst indirect, to avoid any potential issue he declared an interest. Councillor M Jones declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 13.

	Councillor Amanda Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8, as she is Chair of Governors at Coity Primary School as a Community Council Governor.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

212. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	RESOLVED: That the minutes of a meeting of Council dated 22 October 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

213. Presentation to Council by Mental Health Matters

Decision Made	The Chief Executive and Leader presented a report that introduced Michaela Moore and Mark Williams of Mental Health Matters Wales, who in celebration of their 40th year providing mental health support to residents in Bridgend and beyond across the region gave a presentation outlining their services and summarising their work. The presentation went into detail on MHM's services offered across Bridgend and other services delivered across Wales, including a wide variety of community support and direct aid for those suffering from poor mental health, veterans and groups struggling to access community activities. Emphasis was given to the role of directly involving residents in the creation, naming and running of services offered to ensure that community needs and requirements are being appropriately met. The organisers also went into detail on future schemes including an effort to introduce an AI assistant to aid carers with questions around mental health that is ethically sourced and backed by trusted research, to be rolled out in the future pending further development. Following Ms Moore's and Mr Williams' submission, the Mayor opened up questions, examples of which were as follows:

	• Information regarding integration with other connected services throughout the community. • Whether unused land owned by BCBC could be used by community groups or as allotments. • What therapeutic models are used to help with counselling clients. • How local residents can gain access to resources to aid with dementia and other common ailments. • Support for LGBTQIA+ parents. • The number of veterans and veteran's groups being supported in Bridgend County. • How Mental Health Matters Wales will implement the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Wales 2025-2035. The questions and queries raised above (as well as others) that Ms Moore and Mr Williams could not sufficiently respond to, they confirmed that they would follow-up and respond to outside of the meeting. RESOLVED: That the report of the Leader and Chief Executive together with the presentation by representatives of Mental Health Matters, be noted.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

214. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following Cabinet Members and Chief Executive (No decisions required/made):- • Mayor; • Chief Executive
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

215. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

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216. Initial Response to PPA Assessment and Proposed Changes to the JNC Senior Management Structure

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Leader, was to set out the initial response to the Panel Performance assessment (PPA) including the recommendation regarding the need for the development of a transformation strategy. It also proposed amendments to the JNC senior management structure to support change and ensure risk is managed effectively to enable such change. Various sections of feedback and takeaways from the assessment were shared with Council, as well as recommendations made that the Council will now take forward to address any potential future challenges and avoid what has been termed as a possibility of managed decline. Members posed questions on: • Whether the report can come before Scrutiny at an early stage to be examined and scrutinised. • Short-term measures that can be used to address funding gaps within the Council structure. These questions were addressed by the Chief Executive, who agreed to go into further detail on plans and proposals raised by any member outside of the meeting, in order to comply with organisational and legislative requirements and to not divulge any information that may be otherwise regarded as exempt. RESOLVED: That Council:- 1. Noted the initial response to the PPA recommendations with progress to be monitored through the corporate planning structures; 2. Delegated authority to relevant Corporate Directors and the Chief Executive to commence a formal consultation with relevant JNC officers; 3. Delegated authority to the Chief Executive to determine the final JNC senior management structure following the formal consultation and appoint to it in accordance with the Officer Employment Procedure Rules within the Constitution; 4. Delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make minor amendments to the Constitution and the Scheme of Delegation of Functions in relation to references to the portfolio and job title of the relevant JNC officers following the appointment processes.

Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

217. Capital Programme Quarter 2 Update 2025-26

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to provide an update to Council on the Capital Programme position for 2025-26 as at 30 September 2025, as well as for Council to note and approve various slippages, virements, additions and reductions to the Programme. Members posed questions on: • The timescale for keeping earmarked reserves. • What revenue pressures are generated from the capital spend. • How much of the Capital Programme has been spent in the year to date. • The Council's confidence in whether the agreed-upon programme that has not been earmarked for slippage will be delivered in the current financial year. • Details of the Bridgend Heat Scheme. • The Council's capacity financially speaking to borrow further should this be deemed necessary. These questions were addressed by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, the Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change, the Corporate Director - Communities and the Leader. The Corporate Director – Communities agreed to answer further questions regarding the report, outside of the meeting. RESOLVED: That Council:- • Noted the Council's Capital Programme 2025-26 Quarter 2 update to 30 September 2025 (at Appendix A to the report) • Noted the slippage of £84.515 million to 2026-27 as detailed in Appendix B. • Approved the virements between schemes as detailed in Appendix B. • Approved the new additions/reductions to the capital programme in 2025-26 totalling £6.119 million as outlined in Appendix B. • Noted the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and the projected indicators for 2025-26 (Appendix C).

Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

218. Treasury Management Half Year Report 2025-26

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to update Council on the treasury management activities and treasury management indicators for the half year ending 30 September 2025. RESOLVED: That Council:- (1) Noted the treasury management activities for the half year ending 30 September 2025. (2) Noted the Treasury Management Indicators for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025 against those approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2025-26.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

219. Council Tax Base 2026-27

Decision Made	The purpose of this report, presented by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance, was to seek Council approval for the estimated council tax base and collection rate for 2026-27. This included approval of the individual tax bases for the town and community areas as detailed in Appendix A to the report. Members posed questions on: • Whether the current collection rate of 97.5% was realistic. • Potential risks to the Council were the current collection rate not to be maintained. • How Bridgend's collection rate compares both to the start of the current administrative term as well as compared to other local authorities. • Whether households at risk of not making payments are aware of potential help they can receive from BCBC. These questions were addressed by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance and the Chief

	Officer – Finance, Housing and Change. RESOLVED: That Council:- • Approved the council tax base and collection rate for 2026-27 as shown in paragraph 3.1 of the report. • Approved the tax bases for the town and community areas set out in Appendix A to the report.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

220. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	Councillor Ian Williams to the Leader (response previously circulated to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Williams which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

221. To receive the following Question from:

Decision Made	Councillor Ross Penhale-Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing (response circulated previously to Members). A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Penhale-Thomas which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

222. Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Jane Gebbie

Decision Made	Members debated the Notice of Motion as detailed at Agenda item 13. on today's meeting agenda. The Deputy Leader, Councillor Jane Gebbie, gave a statement outlining a proposed amendment to the Notice of Motion following cross-party consultation, as follows:- "This Council notes: 1. BCBC employees are able to join the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund, which, as part of the Wales Pension Partnership (WPP), manages over £3 billion on behalf of local government employees and retirees. 2. That current investments include holdings in fossil fuel companies, arms manufacturers, and multinational corporations accused of contributing to human rights violations or environmental degradation. 3. That Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds have a fiduciary duty to act in the best long-term interests of members, which includes managing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks. 4. That numerous other public bodies, including city and county councils across the UK, have adopted Responsible Investment policies with stronger commitments to divest from harmful sectors and align with international human rights and climate goals. 5. That the Wales Pension Partnership has adopted a Responsible Investment policy but currently allows fund managers significant discretion over ethical criteria and sector exclusions. This Council resolves to: 1. Write to the RCT Pension Fund and the Wales Pension Partnership requesting: o Greater transparency on current investments, including sector exposure (e.g. fossil fuels, arms, surveillance tech). • A strengthened Responsible Investment Policy with clear exclusion criteria for companies involved in: § Fossil fuel extraction § Arms manufacturing or sales to regimes involved in war crimes as defined in international law § Human rights abuses (e.g. violations of UN Global Compact principles) § Environmental destruction or systemic deforestation 2. Call on the Pension Committee and Local Pension Board to:

	o Explore options to accelerate decarbonisation of the fund's portfolio in line with a 1.5°C climate target. o Engage with asset managers to develop a plan for phased divestment from the most harmful sectors, where consistent with fiduciary duty. o Ensure active member representation in future policy reviews concerning ethical or responsible investment. 3. Support the development of a transparent Ethical Investment Charter for the fund, published annually, reporting on progress toward socially responsible and climate-aligned investments. 4. Send this motion to the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), urging a coordinated LGPS-wide approach to ethical investment. 5. This Council expresses concern over investments in companies from territories subject to international sanction and urges fund managers to align holdings with international humanitarian and human rights law." Members outlined their thoughts on the amended Motion, indicating a general agreement aside from a minority, who were against aspects of the submission and requesting further clarity in what investments should be restricted, as referenced to in the motion. An electronic vote was then conducted on the amended Notice of Motion, the result of which was as follows:- For (the motion) — Against — Abstentions 30 — 1 — 12 RESOLVED: That the amended Notice of Motion put forward by the Deputy Leader as announced verbally out at the meeting, be supported.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

223. Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Rhys Goode

Decision Made	RESOLVED: That this Notion of Motion as was detailed on the meeting agenda, be supported.
Date Decision Made	19 December 2025

224. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

225. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	RESOLVED: The report relating to the following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. Following the application of the public interest test Council resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

226. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	RESOLVED: That the exempt minutes of a meeting of Council dated 22 October 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	19 November 2025

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To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this link

The meeting closed at 19:30.

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