

CABINET - TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS. ON TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor JC Spanswick – Chairperson

N Farr
G Haines

J Gebbie
M J Evans

HM Williams
M Jones

E L P Caparros

Officers:

Jake Morgan
Nimi Chandrasena
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Mark Galvin
Lindsay Harvey
Will Lane

Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer - Support
Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Operational Manager Environmental Protection and Licensing

563. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	<p>There were no apologies for absence.</p> <p>The Leader took the opportunity to advise that Councillor Paul Davies had decided to step down as Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment due to other ongoing personal commitments. In view of this, this role would now be job-shared between Councillors Eugene Caparros and Gary Haines.</p>
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	Councillor Mel Evans would therefore take over the role of Cabinet Member Resources solely, this role previously having been shared between Councillor Caparros and herself. The Leader and fellow Cabinet Members thanked Councillor Davies for his support in the Cabinet Members role he had vacated for this last 18 or so months.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

564. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	There were no declarations of interest.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

565. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of meetings of Cabinet dated 3/11/2025 and 13/11/2025, be approved as true and accurate records.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

566. Recommendations from the Scrutiny Budget Working Group

Decision Made	This item was presented by the Chairperson of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (on behalf of that Committee). Councillor Williams presented Cabinet with Recommendations from the Scrutiny Budget Working Group for consideration during the development of the draft budget proposals and MTFS. These were attached at Appendix A of the report and the Chairperson of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee highlighted some of these for the benefit of Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board. Appendix B to the report detailed requests for additional information made by Members at the Scrutiny
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	<p>Budget Working Group on 4 November and Steering Group on 17 November 2025, some of which follow on from previous requests made by the Deep Dive Groups which received initial responses.</p> <p>Following consideration of the report, it was acknowledged that the Council was improving methods of engagement at both an early and all subsequent stages with regards to budget considerations, throughout the year with an increased number of Members through both COSC and the Scrutiny Budget Working Group.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Cabinet agreed to consider and respond to the Recommendations of the Scrutiny Budget Working Group attached at Appendix A of the report (subject to any additions or amendments agreed by the COSC at their meeting of 11 December 2025 which will be presented verbally to Cabinet) and consider them during the development of the draft budget proposals and MTFS.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

567. School Attendance Enforcement Policy

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member – Education and Youth Services submitted a report, in order to seek Cabinet approval for the revisions to the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) School Attendance Enforcement Policy 2025-2028 and the fixed penalty notice (FPN) code of conduct.</p> <p>These updates reflected changes in national guidance, Welsh Government expectations and local priorities for improving school attendance.</p> <p>Members asked a number of questions on the report, which were responded to by the Cabinet Member – Education and Youth Services and/or the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People, for example:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will the revised Policy be monitored and reviewed in order to establish if school attendance figures improve (or not, as the case may be);• How many Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued by the Police for continued unauthorised absence of pupils from schools in recent times?;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How many Fixed Penalty Notices have the Education Authority issued in the last 12 months for school unauthorised absences;• How much are Court costs for the Council arising from taking parents of pupils to Court in respect of continued unauthorised school absences? <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the revised School Attendance Enforcement Policy.2. Approved the updated Fixed Penalty Notice Code of Conduct.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

568. Governance of the Collaborative Arrangements for Welsh (Local Authority) Adoption and Fostering Services - Quoracy of the National Joint Committee for the National Adoption Service for Wales and Foster Wales

Decision Made	<p>The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health and Wellbeing presented a report, that sought to obtain agreement to a 'Deed of Variation' to amend the quoracy required for the National Joint Committee meetings.</p> <p>She explained that agreeing this proposal, would enable the Joint Committee to meet and undertake its functions on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council, thus enabling the oversight by it of the collaborative arrangements for adoption and fostering services.</p> <p>Approving the recommendations of the report, would assist future meetings in being quorate the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health and Wellbeing added.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agreed to reduce the quorum of the Joint Committee to 40%, with at least 3 regional areas represented.2. Authorised the entry into and sealing of the Deed of Variation to enable this to be implemented.
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Date Decision Made	16 December 2025
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569. A Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member – Finance and Performance presented a report, to provide Cabinet with a proposed draft Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) at Appendix A of the report for consideration and noting before proceeding to Council for approval.</p> <p>A summary of the comments received during the consultation exercise undertaken on the policy, was detailed in Appendix B, along with officers' comments.</p> <p>The report advised that the Council as the licensing authority, is responsible for the regulation of premises which offer alcohol, regulated entertainment and the provision of late-night refreshment.</p> <p>The licensing authority must publish a Statement of Licensing Policy setting out how it intends to approach the granting of licences.</p> <p>He stated that a review of the Policy has been conducted following a consultation and amendments have been made to such Policy.</p> <p>The Policy had been agreed by the Licensing Committee at their meeting of 30 September 2025. The intention was for Cabinet to consider the policy, prior to it being submitted to Council for approval.</p> <p>A Member raised some concern, in that she felt that the provisions of the policy did not fully comply with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Act) in relation to how health determinants are measured. She therefore asked how the licensing authority are taking into account our future generations, given that Bridgend has some of the worse health issues and measures in the UK.</p> <p>The Operational Manager Environmental Protection and Licensing advised that the Licensing Policy was based on Section 182 of the licensing guidance produced by Central Government, which specifically deals with the four statutory licensing objectives and considering these when licensing applications are submitted to the Authority. This is a legal process that Council's have to comply with and these objectives cut across some health issues as referenced in the above question. However, the promotion of public health per se, did not specifically sit within the Licensing Act regime.</p>
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	<p>A Member then asked for some clarity in terms of the relationship between the licensing and the planning process when it came to considering a licensing and planning application for a premises.</p> <p>The Operational Manager Environmental Protection and Licensing confirmed (as referenced above) that the licensing authority had to ensure when considering an application for example for a Premises licence, for a proprietor to sell alcohol, food and provide public entertainment, the impact granting such a licence would have on the four licensing objectives. The planning authority under the provisions of the Planning Act, had a wider remit when considering a planning application, ie the impact the premises would have on the Local Development Plan (LDP) which catered for specific land use in various County Borough locations, car parking, highway issues and visual amenity etc. Therefore, though licensing and planning communicated with each other on any applications that were submitted to the Council, both considered different matters under different pieces of legislation.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the draft Statement of Licensing Policy and agreed to refer the Policy to Council for final approval.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

570. Information Report for Noting

Decision Made	<p>The Monitoring Officer presented an Information report, that included details of the current policy under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the use of RIPA within the Authority.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.2 of the report confirmed that there had been no authorisations for RIPA in BCBC since April 2014.</p> <p>The RIPA Policy was attached at Appendix 1 of the covering report, had been reviewed to ensure it remains fit for purpose and in accordance with the Codes of Practice issued by the Home Office.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet acknowledged the publication of the report referred to in paragraph 3.1 of the report.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

571. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

572. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	<p>The following items were not for publication as they contained exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 and 16 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>Following the application of the public interest test Cabinet resolved pursuant to the Act to consider these items in private, with the public being excluded from the meeting during such consideration.</p>
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025.	

573. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>	That the exempt minutes of Cabinet dated 3/11/2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025	

574. Porthcawl Grand Pavilion Project Update and Request for Approval to Modify Main Works Contract

Decision Made	As the report relating to this item was exempt the minute is not available for public inspection.
Date Decision Made	16 December 2025

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