

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 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, 11 DECEMBER 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Chairperson

HJ David

H Griffiths

GC Haines

Present Virtually

F D Bletsoe
M L Hughes
AJ Williams

JPD Blundell
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
MJ Williams

N Clarke
RL Penhale-Thomas

S J Griffiths
T Thomas

Apologies for Absence

None

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor Hywel Williams
Councillor Eugene Caparros
Councillor Neelo Farr

Leader
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance
Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing

Jake Morgan
Carys Lord
Kelly Watson
Lindsay Harvey
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale

Chief Executive
Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change
Chief Officer
Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People
Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities

Alex Rawlin
Kate Pask
Paul Miles

Corporate Policy & Performance Manager
Corporate Performance Manager
Group Manager - Human Resources and Organisational Development

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Officers:

Meryl Lawrence
Jessica Mclellan

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scrutiny Officer

Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Ulberini-Williams – Item 4 - Personal - Discussion of Boundary Review – sat on the Committee developing the proposals

Councillor AJ Williams – Item 4 - Personal - Community Council Governor at Coety Primary School

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Item 4 - Personal - Trustee of a local homelessness charity

Councillor MJ Williams – Item 4 - Personal - Member of a Community Council which has engaged in a Community Asset Transfer

Councillor Tim Thomas – Item 4 - Personal - Engaged with the Welsh Government on the subject of housing and homelessness as part of employment

176. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 23 October 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	11 December 2025

177. Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2025-26

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 consideration be given to the establishment of a Transformation
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	<p>and Change Working Group and that regular updates be provided to the Committee but that there be a separation of powers between the Group and the Committee to allow clear scrutiny of the process.</p> <p>2. With reference to Commitment WBO1.2.1 relating to woodland enhancement, the Committee discussed large parcels of common land in the County Borough and pieces of land transferred from the Coal Board and recommended that:</p> <p>a. there be greater collaboration with groups such as the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators who manage them and that consideration be given to whether there are any external funding routes that can be utilised to assist them; and</p> <p>b. consideration be given to including the in this performance indicator, the performance of any pieces of land which have been transferred from the Coal Board into the Council's ownership.</p> <p>3. Members expressed concern regarding capital projects such as Porthcawl Grand Pavilion and school modernisations that are both overspent and delayed but one is ranked green while the others are red and amber. The Committee were advised that there are different milestones attached to individual capital projects which appeared to present an inconsistent approach to the reporting of performance of capital projects and recommended that consideration be given to consistent methods being used to assess the performance and detail provided in the narrative.</p> <p>4. The Committee recommended that the heading, '<i>WBO3.4: Modernise school buildings</i>' in the Performance Dashboard be amended to reflect that the capital projects sitting beneath it relate to new buildings or extensions.</p> <p>5. The Committee expressed significant concern regarding the 10% year-end target for the percentage of care leavers who have experienced homelessness during the year and recommended that it be set at 0%.</p> <p>6. The Committee discussed areas of performance which are reliant on volatile/unpredictable data such as the number of pupils awaiting specialist provision and numbers of Care Experienced Children which changes frequently and the timeliness of reporting performance. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to how live data can best be accessed and analysed to provide Members with the latest position.</p>
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	<p>Additional Information Requested</p> <p>7. The Committee discussed the responses provided to their Recommendations 1 and 2 made at their previous meeting on 23 October 2023 and requested a written note explaining the reasons why they had only been partially accepted given the responses provided.</p> <p>8. The Committee expressed concern regarding the performance against WBO2.1.4 relating to the handling of corporate complaints and that delays or failure to receive requested information from service areas appeared to be impacting on the ability to respond to complaints in a timely manner and requested a corporate response from the Chief Executive explaining how this will be addressed.</p> <p>9. The Committee requested the percentage of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in the percentage of Care Experienced Children who had experienced homelessness (CH/052).</p> <p>10. The Committee requested the National Evaluation relating to the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales Pilot.</p> <p>11. The Committee expressed concern regarding the time taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. that consideration be given to including median data instead of an average which was presenting an inflated figure skewed by legacy cases; andb. a presentation on the process being used, prioritisation and spend. <p>12. The Committee discussed the Corporate Complaints report presented to the previous meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC) on 27 November 2025 where concerns were raised regarding the number of complaints regarding waste contract, the majority of which were upheld. The Committee were given some reassurance by the Corporate Director and advised that GAC have requested further information but requested that the issue be referred to the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information in the meantime.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 December 2025

178. Recommendations from Scrutiny Budget Working Group

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report the Committee endorsed the recommendations from the Scrutiny Budget Working Group for forwarding to Cabinet to feed into the development of the draft budget proposals and MTFS, in accordance with the Scrutiny Budget Working Group process agreed by the Committee on 24 July 2025.
Date Decision Made	11 December 2025

179. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report the Committee approved its Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B, noted the Forward Work Programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendices C, D and E and acknowledged the Regulatory reports recently reported to the Governance and Audit Committee.
Date Decision Made	11 December 2025

180. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	11 December 2025

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

The meeting closed at 13:03.

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