

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 December 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2025-26			
Recommendations			
1	The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a Transformation 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.	Awaited	
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: a. there be greater collaboration with groups such as the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators who manage them and that	Awaited	

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	<p>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>		
3	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Consistent methods for assessing the performance of these projects are set out in the council's performance framework. Performance champions and project leads will be reminded of these requirements and examples of good narratives provided.</p>	Accepted

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	to assess the performance and detail provided in the narrative.		
4	The Committee recommended that the heading, 'WBO3.4: <i>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.	These headings and commitments are as worded in the corporate delivery plan 2025-2026, as agreed by Council and cannot be amended at this point. They will be reviewed in preparation for the corporate delivery plan 2026-2027.	
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%.	It is agreed that no care leaver should experience homelessness. It is helpful to have an aspirational target and to hold all parts of the Council, not just SSWB for its attainment. In particular, this requires action by housing which sits under the chief executive's directorate, in order to work as One Council to prioritise care leavers for accommodation.	Accepted
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	This consideration will be included in CPDP development in March / April 2026	Accepted

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	live data can best be accessed and analysed to provide Members with the latest position.		
Additional Information Requested			
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.	Awaited	
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.	Awaited	

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9	The Committee requested the percentage of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in the percentage of Care Experienced Children who had experienced homelessness (CH/052).	There were 10 care leavers who experienced homelessness between 01/04/2025 and 30/09/2025, of which 2 were UASC (20%). This was out of a total of 126 category 2,3 & 4 care leavers	
10	The Committee requested the National Evaluation relating to the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales Pilot.	Please see the link to the second Basic Income Pilot annual report https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2025-03/basic-income-for-care-leavers-in-wales-pilot-evaluation-second-annual-report-2024-to-2025_0.pdf	Accepted
11	The Committee expressed concern regarding the time taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and requested : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> that consideration be given to including median data instead of an average which was presenting an inflated figure skewed by legacy cases; and a presentation on the process being used, prioritisation and spend. 	Awaited	
12	The Committee discussed the Corporate Complaints report presented to the previous meeting of the Governance and	Referral made to CEH OSC to be reported on 23 February 2026.	

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	<p>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>		

Recommendations from Scrutiny Budget Working Group

Recommendations

13	The Committee made recommendations.	Sent to Cabinet on 16 December 2025 for response.	
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Additional Information Requested

A	<u>Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)</u> The Group discussed the Council's Service-Level Agreement and contribution to	Awaited	
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	<p>the CAB (£194k) and recognised the assistance and preventative measures it provides for residents. However, Members queried the extent of the CAB's presence in towns (particularly in Maesteg) and requested further information regarding the frequency of sessions and appointments and the number of cases being dealt with for residents of Bridgend County Borough in order to assess demand for the service.</p>																	
B	<p><u>Shared Regulatory Services (SRS)</u></p> <p>The Group discussed the payment to SRS (£1.089m) and requested a more detailed breakdown setting out what it funds and what is statutory and what is non statutory.</p>	<p>Awaited</p>																
C	<p><u>Communications and Marketing</u></p> <p>The Group discussed the £1.664m net budget for communications and marketing and requested a detailed breakdown of what it includes.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>£,000,000</th> <th>Sub-Total</th> <th>£,000,000</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Partnerships</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>439,730</td> <td>Transformation</td> <td>473,930</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,663,500</td> <td>Customer Services and Engagement</td> <td>1,734,330</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2,103,230</td> <td>Sub-Total</td> <td>2,208,260</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	£,000,000	Sub-Total	£,000,000		Partnerships		439,730	Transformation	473,930	1,663,500	Customer Services and Engagement	1,734,330	2,103,230	Sub-Total	2,208,260	
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		<p>The £1.664 million budget relates to 2024-25. The 2025-26 budget is £1.734 million and is broken down as follows:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="770 546 1484 847"> <tr> <td data-bbox="770 546 1253 620">Communications and Marketing</td><td data-bbox="1253 546 1484 620">493,120.00</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="770 620 1253 695">Customer Care</td><td data-bbox="1253 620 1484 695">793,330.00</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="770 695 1253 770">CCTV</td><td data-bbox="1253 695 1484 770">447,880.00</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="770 770 1253 847">Budget Book - 2025/2026</td><td data-bbox="1253 770 1484 847">1,734,330.00</td></tr> </table>	Communications and Marketing	493,120.00	Customer Care	793,330.00	CCTV	447,880.00	Budget Book - 2025/2026	1,734,330.00	
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D	<p><u>Closing a Small School</u> The Group requested a briefing note setting out the steps required to be taken to close a small school.</p>	Awaited									
E	<p><u>Nursery Provision (EEYYP 3)</u> The Group discussed the number of private nursery places currently provided in the County and requested the number of nursery places provided in Bridgend schools, in order to understand the potential shortfall if the budget reduction proposal not taken progressed last year regarding reducing provision of</p>										

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	nursery provision was to be reconsidered in future years.		
F	<p><u>Childcare Offer for 3 and 4-year-olds</u></p> <p>The Group discussed the Council's childcare offer for 3 and 4-year-olds which is more generous than the statutory minimum of 10 hours and the significant cost of private childcare and requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. confirmation as to whether the Council could reduce provision to the statutory minimum and charge parents to top up/uplift their childcare hours by use of school provision at a cheaper rate than private provision; ii. if so, that an exercise be undertaken exploring the income generation possibilities and/or savings the model would achieve; and iii. information regarding whether there are any other local authorities that provide the 	<p>Awaited</p>	

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	statutory provision and whether they offer any uplift and at what cost.		
G	<u>Governor Vacancies</u> The Group requested the number of community and parent governor vacancies at each Bridgend school.	Awaited	
H	<u>Reviews</u> The Group discussed the Cemeteries Review due to be completed by August 2026 and the Fleet Services Review due to be completed by Spring 2027 and requested further narrative to include the terms of reference and key issues that are being considered in each review and firm timescales of their likely completion in order that the outcome reports can be added to the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme. The Group also discussed the significant overspend in Fleet Services and requested that this review be expedited if possible.	Agree – The TOR of both reviews will be sent to the Working Group. The Cemetery Review will be completed by June 2026 and can be submitted to a Scrutiny Committee in the summer for pre decision scrutiny before Cabinet, subject to agreement by the Chair of the Committee. The deficit position in Fleet Services will be resolved by Q4 and ahead of the Fleet Review being completed.	

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