

CABINET - TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026

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, 17 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 14:30

Present

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

N Farr
M Jones

HM Williams
GC Haines

E L P Caparros

M J Evans

Present Virtually

JC Spanswick

Officers:

Jake Morgan
Oscar Roberts
Carys Lord
Janine Nightingale
Lindsay Harvey
Laura Griffiths
Michael Pitman
Kelvin Barlow

Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation
Corporate Director - Communities
Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Group Manager – Legal and Democratic Services
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Head of Adult Social Care

601. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	Apologies were received from the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

602. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

603. Outcome of the Consultation 'Time To Talk Budget' 2026

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member Resources presented a report on the outcome of the consultation held in January 2026. She explained that there was a total of 1,216 responses to the consultation and the process included social media outreach, citizen panel focus groups, and a post-16 learner challenge day. The Leader highlighted that 50% of respondents felt the council was not effective at being citizen-focused and suggested that engagement should happen year round rather than just at budget time <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation as detailed in the attached consultation report.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

604. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026-27 to 2029-30

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance presented the MTFS to Cabinet Members including a financial forecast for 2026-30, a detailed revenue budget for 2026-27 and a Capital Programme for 2025-26 to 2035-36 to submit to Council for approval. The budget prioritized Education and Social Services ensuring these services were protected. The Deputy Leader noted that this was the most positive settlement in over a decade, moving the council from crisis management towards stability.
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	The Leader highlighted an error in the Equality Impact Assessment regarding whether work would be carried out by contractors; The Chief Officer Finance and Performance agreed to address this before the full Council meeting. The Cabinet Member Resources noted that public feedback led to a reduction in the proposed council tax increase from 4.9% to 4.7% <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet recommended the MTFS 2026-27 to 2029-30, including the 2026- 27 revenue budget and the Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2035-36, to Council for approval. Cabinet also recommended that the following specific elements are forwarded to Council for approval: • The MTFS 2026-27 to 2029-30 (Annex 3, with Appendices A to I). • The Net Budget Requirement of £408,148,969 in 2026-27. • A Band D Council Tax for Bridgend County Borough Council of £2,007.06 for 2026-27 (Table 17 of the MTFS). • The 2026-27 budgets as allocated in accordance with Table 10 in paragraph 4.1.3 of the MTFS. • The budget pressures outlined in Appendix C for 2026-27 to 2029-30. • The budget reductions outlined in Appendix D for 2026-27 to 2029-30. • The Capital Programme 2025-26 to 2035-36, attached at Appendix G of the MTFS.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

605. Capital Strategy 2026-27 To 2035-36

Decision Made	The Cabinet Member Finance and Performance presented the Capital Strategy for 2026-27 to 2035-26. The Strategy included the Prudential Indicators against which the Council measures itself during the financial year and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2026-27. The strategy outlined a planned capital expenditure of £121.8 million for the 2026-27 period. Major projects included school refurbishments, the Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, and disabled facilities grants. The Leader highlighted investments of £1.5 million for community sports facilities and £7.5 million over two years for highway refurbishment which exceed previous investment targets. The Cabinet Member Climate Change & the Environment addressed the public's concerns regarding council debt, clarifying that all borrowing is prudential meaning it must be affordable, sustainable, and only used for long-term assets like schools. The Council had a positive history of this which was also supported by the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered the report and recommended that the Capital Strategy 2026-27 to 2035-36, including the Prudential Indicators 2026-27 to 2035-36 and the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement 2026-27 at Appendix A be presented to Council for approval.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

606. Treasury Management Strategy 2026-27

Decision Made	The Chief Officer Finance and Performance presented a report on the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026-27. The Strategy outlined the managing of the Council's borrowing, investments, and cash flows. As of December 2025, the council held £95.6 million in borrowing and £56 million in investments. As the Cabinet Member alluded to earlier, the Council only borrowed when it was affordable to do so, sustainable and only used for long-term assets. BCBC's borrowing was also the lowest per head in the region.
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	The Chief Executive added that borrowing money was never for the day to day running of the Council and its services, but rather for long term investments like new schools. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Cabinet considered the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026-27 (Appendix A) and recommended that the Treasury Management Strategy be presented to Council for approval on 25 February 2026.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

607. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items.
Date Decision Made	17 February 2026

The meeting closed at 15:15

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