

**COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2026**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB / REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 16:00**

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

H T Bennett  
JPD Blundell  
S Easterbrook  
W R Goode  
D M Hughes  
M Lewis  
T Thomas  
A Wathan  
MJ Williams

A R Berrow  
E L P Caparros  
M J Evans  
RM Granville  
M R John  
R J Smith  
JH Tildesley MBE  
AJ Williams  
R Williams

F D Bletsoe  
O Clatworthy  
N Farr  
GC Haines  
M Jones  
JC Spanswick  
A Ulberini-Williams  
HM Williams  
E D Winstanley

S J Bletsoe  
RJ Collins  
J Gebbie  
M L Hughes  
W J Kendall  
I M Spiller  
G Walter  
I Williams  
T Wood

Present Virtually

S Aspey  
P Davies  
J Llewellyn-Hopkins

N Clarke  
P Ford  
RL Penhale-Thomas

C Davies  
H Griffiths  
J E Pratt

C L C Davies  
P W Jenkins

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**Officers:**

Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Carys Lord	Chief Officer - Finance, Housing & Change
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Jake Morgan	Chief Executive
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Oscar Roberts	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Gaynor Thomas	School Programme Manager
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal & Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy

**236. Apologies for absence**

Decision Made	Cllr Dave Harrison, Cllr Malcolm James, Cllr Simon Griffiths
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**237. Declarations of Interest**

Decision Made	Councillor Tim Wood: Prejudicial interest in item 14 Councillor Amanda Williams: Personal interest in item 6 (Governor at Coety Primary School) Councillor Steve Bletsoe: Prejudicial interest in item 7 related to employment Councillor Tim Thomas: Prejudicial interest in item 7 related to employment Councillor Steven Easterbrook: Prejudicial interest in item 14
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	Councillor Elaine Winstanley: Personal interest in item 6 (Employee of the cultural trust running the Grand Pavilion)  Councillor Hywel Williams: Personal interest in item 7
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**238. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : That the minutes of the 14/01/2026 be approved as a true and accurate record
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**239. To receive announcements from:**

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the following (No decisions required/made):- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayor;</li><li>• Chief Executive</li></ul>
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**240. To receive announcements by the Leader**

Decision Made	Announcements were received from the Leader (No decisions required/made).
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**241. Capital Programme Quarter 3 Update 2025-26**

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance provided an update on the council's capital expenditure as of December 31, 2025.</p> <p>He noted that the total expenditure to date was approximately £23.5 million, with a forecast year-end total of £78.2 million. Slippage of £3.392 million was recorded for the Grand Pavilion project in Porthcawl due to grant funding timelines.</p> <p>The following points/questions were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarification on how the Council planned to spend £54 million in the final quarter.</li><li>• Clarification was sought on the total budget relating to the Grand Pavilion.</li></ul> <p>Clarification was provided on the above by the Chief Officer for Finance, Housing and Change.</p> <p>Officers assured that they were on course to complete all refurbishments by the end of the term, with £1.8 million in additional funding allocated.</p> <p>The Deputy Leader defended the Council's borrowing levels, stating it is essential for infrastructure and replacing unsafe school buildings and without borrowing, a number of projects like Heronsbridge School would not have been completed. She highlighted that in terms of long term borrowing, the Council borrowed the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in all of Wales, proving that BCBC was responsible with it's borrowing.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• noted the Council's Capital Programme 2025-26 Quarter 3 update to 31 December 2025 (Appendix A)</li><li>• noted the slippage of £3.392 million to 2026-27 as detailed in Appendix B.</li><li>• approved the virements between schemes as detailed in Appendix B.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approved the new additions/reductions to the capital programme in 2025-26 totaling £1.888 million as outlined in Appendix B.</li> <li>• noted the actual Prudential and Other Indicators for 2024-25 and projected indicators for 2025-26 (Appendix C).</li> </ul>
Date Decision Made	

**242. Houses in Multiple Occupancy Supplementary Planning Guidance**

Decision Made	<p>The Cabinet Member Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing presented a report which informed Council on Council of the outcome of the public consultation exercise on the draft 'Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Supplementary Planning Guidance' (SPG) document.</p> <p>She outlined that there were limited responses to the consultation which were set out in Appendix 2. The up to date SPG document was attached at appendix 1.</p> <p>A question was raised on properties operating as a HMO that later apply for retrospective planning permission and how this was tackled. The Strategic Planning &amp; Transportation manager provided clarification on the legalities and enforcement action that was available.</p> <p>Discussions also took place on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Accommodation</li> <li>• Waste and Refuse Storage</li> <li>• Parking and Infrastructure</li> <li>• The “10% test” applied on refusals</li> </ul> <p>Members stressed that while the guidance was not a perfect, it did offer more clarity around certain issues as well as the crossover and differences between Planning and Licensing.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the contents of this report and approve the officer’s consultation responses to the representations received in</li> </ul>
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	<p>response to the public consultation on the draft HMO SPG, together with the resultant proposed amendments set out in attached Appendix 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the final form HMO SPG (Appendix 1) and agree its adoption for immediate application as a material consideration in making development management decisions and in the determination of planning applications along with the adopted RLDP, subject to the provisions of recommendation 'c'.</li> <li>• Authorised the Corporate Director - Communities and Group Manager - Planning and Development Services to make minor presentational changes, typographical or factual corrections as necessary prior to publication of the adopted HMO SPG.</li> <li>• Noted and approve the contents of the two-page guidance note titled 'A Guide to Planning, Licensing and Building Regulations for Houses in Multiple Occupation' attached as Appendix 3.</li> </ul>
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**243. Information Report for Noting**

Decision Made	<p>The Chief Officer Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy provided a report which informed Council of a recent information report that had been published since the last meeting.</p> <p>The report was attached at appendix 1 for information.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> That Members noted the contents of the report</p>
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**244. To receive the following Question from: Councillor Rhys Goode to the Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services**

Decision Made	Response circulated to all Members A supplementary question was asked by Cllr Rhys Goode which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**245. To receive the following Question from: Councillor Ian Williams to the Leader**

Decision Made	Response circulated to all Members A supplementary question was asked by Cllr Ian Williams which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**246. To receive the following Question from: Councillor Tim Thomas to the Cabinet Member Climate Change and the Environment**

Decision Made	Response circulated to all Members A supplementary question was asked by Cllr Tim Thomas which was responded to at the meeting.
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

**247. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
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Date Decision Made	04 February 2026
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**248. Exclusion of the Public**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b>  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	

**249. Bridgend Town Centre Strategic Property Acquisition**

Decision Made	This item was exempt
Date Decision Made	04 February 2026

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

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

The meeting closed at 18:00

**This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**