

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 October 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
<b>Budget Monitoring 2025-26 – Quarter 2 Revenue Forecast</b>			
<b>Recommendations</b>			
1	<p>The Committee <b>recommended</b> that budget reduction proposals in future budget monitoring reports include more detailed narratives, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where budget reductions are RAG status green due to one-off grant funding and will remain underlying pressures in the next financial year (e.g. SSW13), these are clearly expressed;</li> <li>b. That one-off efficiency savings to meet shortfalls in savings are clearly identified; and</li> <li>c. That the risk and impact on individuals of budget reductions which are RAG status green such as EEYYP3 and 9 relating to a reduction in counselling services and staff in the additional learning needs team be reflected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. This will be reflected in the narratives that support the budget setting papers</li> <li>b. As above</li> <li>c. As above</li> </ul>	Partially Accepted
2	Members discussed the impact on residents of fly tipping in their local area and the Committee <b>recommended</b> that	We are currently exploring a range of options for enforcement across a number of Council Services, including Fly-Tipping, Littering, Dog Waste and will	Partially Accepted

**Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**23 October 2025**

**Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested**

	<b>Recommendations / Information Requested:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:</b>
	consideration be given to reviewing the Council's fly tipping enforcement arrangements and exploring the possible use of technology and CCTV to assist.	be bringing options back to the Cabinet in the New Year.	
<b>Additional Information Requested</b>			
<b>4</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> how many primary schools have a deficit budget greater than £50,000 and how many secondary schools have a deficit budget greater than £150,000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 Bridgend primary schools have deficits over £50k;</li> <li>• 5 Bridgend secondary schools have deficits over £150k; and</li> <li>• 1 Bridgend special school has a deficit over £150k.</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	The Committee expressed concern regarding the number of schools projecting a deficit budget and the extent of the deficits and <b>requested</b> that Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (EYS OSC) consider requesting a report to monitor the situation.	Scrutiny referred to EYS OSC and action with Scrutiny Chair in Work Planning Meetings.	
<b>6</b>	The Committee <b>requested</b> feedback from the upcoming meeting of the School Deficit Budget Management Group which has been established to consider best practice across schools and explore how some schools have managed to reduce their deficit be shared with Members of COSC and EYS OSC.	The School Deficit Budget Management Group has not yet (as of 6 March 2026) provided a formal update to Cabinet. The delay has been created by the lead officer retiring and the vacated post not being filled. It is hoped that this activity will be concluded during summer 2026 and, when completed, the group's finding will be shared with the Committee.	Accepted

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 October 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
7	<p>The Committee <b>requested</b> the number of community and parent governor vacancies at each Bridgend school.</p>	<p>While the local authority holds accurate data on local authority governor vacancies, the responsibility to manage the other categories of governor vacancies rests solely with individual governing bodies.</p> <p>While the local authority is advised of these vacancies, there can often be a significant delay in this information being provided by the clerks.</p> <p>This renders the data on these categories of governor held by the local authority data often unreliable.</p>	Partially accepted
8	<p>In relation to the Prior Year Budget Reductions Carried Forward into 2025-26, the Committee <b>requested</b> an outcome confirming when:</p> <p>a. COM 2 (2021-22): the exit terms of the recycling centre at Tythegston are likely to be finalised;</p> <p>b. COM 2 (2023-24): the necessary order for charging blue badge holders for parking is likely to be complete; and</p> <p>c. COM 28 (2024-25): the terms of the lease of the former Woodmat Property, Brynmenyn Estate are likely to be finalised.</p>	<p>a. The exit of the lease on Tythegston is being negotiated with the landowner and our legal colleagues. It is anticipated that this will be concluded by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>b. The Parking Regulation Order (PRO) is drafted and is currently being consulted on, this is a legal process, and we are anticipating that it will be completed by the start of the next financial year.</p> <p>c. The Corporate Landlord Service have been in discussions with the CJC to take a lease on the former Woodmat Property on the Brynmenyn Industrial Estate. This is on hold currently while we explore the use of the building as a suitable use for a new maintenance depot for the waste fleet, when it is brought back inhouse from July 2027. If</p>	Accepted

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 October 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
		the site is deemed suitable it will be retained for BCBC use and will not be leased. The Service area will then cover the revenue cost of the lease from July 2027.	
9	<p>In relation to the Budget Reduction Proposals 2025-26 to 2028-29, the Committee <b>requested</b>:</p> <p>a. SSW 2: An update confirming when the feasibility study regarding possible seasonal usage of the Bowls Hall is likely to be finalised;</p> <p>b. COM 1: What alternative budgets have been identified if the reduction in staff mileage budgets cannot be achieved; and</p> <p>c. COM 11: An update and further narrative regarding the opportunities being sought regarding the commercial letting of Pandy Depot.</p>	<p>a. The feasibility study exploring potential usage of the Bowls Hall all year round is currently in its final stages. The study is scheduled for completion by January 2026.</p> <p>In parallel with this work, the healthy living partnership has secured £240,000 in capital funding from Sport Wales, alongside an additional £32,000 investment from HALO Leisure, bringing the total confirmed investment to £272,000. This funding will support the redevelopment of the Bowls Hall flooring and will inform the final feasibility outcomes regarding all year round usage of the space.</p> <p>b. The budget reduction from staff mileage can be achieved, so no alternatives have been identified.</p> <p>c. The Pandy Depot is currently leased by Plan B as part of their waste contract operations for BCBC. It is expected that this will continue once the waste services are brought inhouse.</p>	<p>B - Not Accepted</p> <p>C – Accepted.</p>

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 October 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
<b>Arrangements for Commissioning Services</b>			
<b>Recommendations</b>			
10	<p>The Committee discussed the findings of the Audit Wales report and expressed concern about awaiting the National report before formulating a plan to address the recommendations in its Bridgend report. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that clarity be sought from Audit Wales on when the National Report is likely to be published and in the absence of an imminent response, that an exercise be undertaken to identify any themes arising from the other local authority Audit Wales Commissioning reports with an analysis of themes from comparable local authorities to be made the subject of internal audit to provide assurance that the Authority has consistency and standardisation towards commissioning services.</p>	<p>Clarification has been sought from Audit Wales with regards to when the national report will be published.</p> <p>Work can be done to look at the reports that have been published to look for common themes and areas of good practice.</p>	Accepted
<b>Additional Information Requested</b>			
11	<p>The Committee <b>requested</b> a copy of internal audit plan 2025-26 which includes detail of the commissioning</p>	<p>The last progress against the audit plan 2025/26 report to Governance and Audit Committee was providing details of the position as at 31<sup>st</sup></p>	

**Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**23 October 2025**

**Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested**

	<b>Recommendations / Information Requested:</b>	<b>Response:</b>	<b>Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:</b>
	arrangements for services in the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.	<p>December 2025. A copy of the report is attached for information.</p> <p align="center">                       Appendix A -                      Progress Against Plan                 </p> <p>At the time of the report, on line 42, that there is an audit called “Commissioning of Services – Adult Social Care “ which was ongoing at the time.</p> <p>Since then, the audit has been completed and the final report issued. The audit was given Reasonable Assurance, and the recommendations made have been accepted.</p>	
<b>Forward Work Programme Update</b>			
<b>12</b>	<p>The Committee requested that the following item be added to their Forward Work Programme:</p> <p>Corporate Arrangements for Commissioning Services (once the National report is available or internal thematic analysis report is complete)</p>	To be actioned by Scrutiny, Chair of Committee and Chief Executive / Chief Officer and scheduled in Work Planning Meetings	Accepted.