

COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3) - MONDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3) HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

O Clatworthy
MJ Williams

C Davies
T Wood

GC Haines

I Williams

Present Virtually

H T Bennett
J E Pratt

N Clarke
G Walter

RJ Collins

W J Kendall

Apologies for Absence
Councillor Paul Davies

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment

Invitees:
Councillor John Spanswick
Janine Nightingale
Martin Morgans
Paul Smith
Stuart Baldwin

Leader
Corporate Director - Communities
Interim Head of Operations - Community Services
Decarbonisation Programme Manager
Climate Change Response Manager

Officers:
Stephen Griffiths
Michael Pitman

Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest
Councillor Norah Clarke – Personal – Item 4 – Owner of an Electric Vehicle.
Councillor John Spanswick – Personal – Item 4 – Family member owns an Electric Vehicle.

120. Net Zero Strategy

	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and request for additional information: Recommendations: 1. The Committee discussed that 71% of the Council's emissions came from the supply chain and recommended that consideration be given to additional resource being allocated to seeking technical expertise to develop a low carbon and local supply chain. 2. The Committee expressed concern regarding the unlikelihood of meeting the 2030 Net Zero target given the funding for the identified cost of £109 Million for implementation that would be needed and recommended that Cabinet reconsider its commitment to the 2030 target, request the Welsh Government (WG) to review their target for Net Zero and provide guidance on how to proceed. 3. The Committee expressed concern about the consultation questionnaire in Appendix 3, in particular that the first question provided responders with the option to 'Strongly Disagree' or 'Disagree' and recommended that it be reworded and that a question regarding the level of understanding and awareness of Net Zero in the wider community be included. <u>Additional information requested:</u> 4. The Committee requested a copy of any correspondence with WLGA or WG in respect of the following recommendations from its 7 April 2025 meeting: <i>"The Committee discussed the challenges of the Authority achieving Net Zero Carbon 2030 and recommended that consideration be given to approaching the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to seek clarity as to the current status of strategies to reach net zero by 2030 in the other Welsh local authorities, following which, if other Welsh local authorities are experiencing similar challenges, the Committee further recommended that a follow-up request be made to ask the WLGA to make the Welsh Government aware of the situation and consider extending its net zero carbon strategy from 2030 to align it with that of the UK Government, to reach net zero by 2050."</i>
Date Decision Made	3 November 2025

121. Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: Recommendations: 5. The Committee discussed the disparity between the availability, capacity and speed of electric vehicle (EV) chargers in Bridgend supermarkets compared to the town centre and recommended that the strategy, which is to be developed following the consultation, focusses on the need to install affordable EV chargers with greater charging capacity in the town centre, and especially in Rhiw car park, as a matter of urgency. 6. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to exploring the feasibility: a. of developing large-scale EV charging stations to be located on industrial estates; and b. and commercial viability of developing a commercial service to provide EV chargers of our own, possibly involving a third-party supplier which could be a source of revenue for the Local Authority. 7. The Committee recommended that energy providers are consulted to understand the potential challenges with grid capacity across the Borough if there is a substantial increase in the number of EV chargers, in homes, businesses, town centres and industrial estates. 8. The Committee recommended that the consultation needed to address a number of issues: • The demand for and affordability of electric cars across our communities. This could provide valuable data to inform priorities for the roll out of infrastructure as part of a future EV strategy. • The need to consult schools directly across the Borough on the possible use of schools as locations for EV chargers. • The questionnaire needed to provide respondents with an opportunity to supply basic location data (e.g. postcode) to help inform the development of the EV strategy, and especially the potential challenges of rolling out EV charging capacity across the County Borough.
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	<u>Additional Information Requested:</u> 9. The Committee requested the number and capacity of EV charging points in supermarkets in the Borough. 10. The Committee queried whether reference to the development of EV infrastructure as part of Section 106 of residential developments in the Local Development Plan is a requirement or a request and requested details regarding the powers available to the Local Authority to ensure the efficient installation of EV charging infrastructure in future.
Date Decision Made	3 November 2025

122. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the requests below, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee requested that: a. The Maesteg Town Hall report scheduled for 23 February be brought forward to 8 December meeting, in place of the Grand Pavilion report. b. The report on Bridgend Town Centre Regeneration included on the Forward Work Programme be scheduled for consideration as soon as possible. c. A report on water quality and pollution, the capacity of the Penybont Wastewater Treatment Works and plans to meet future demand from significant increases in the number of properties planned from a number of new developments, and that Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales be invited to attend.
Date Decision Made	3 November 2025

123. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	3 November 2025

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

The meeting closed at 19:10.