

COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3) - MONDAY, 15 JUNE 2026

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, 15 JUNE 2026 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

O Clatworthy

I Williams

T Wood

Present Virtually

RJ Collins
M Lewis

C L C Davies
J E Pratt

P Davies
MJ Williams

W J Kendall

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Graham Walter
Jake Morgan

Chief Executive

Invitees:

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Eugene Caparros
Councillor Gary Haines
Councillor Colin Davies

Leader
Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Job Share)
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Kelly Watson
Janine Nightingale
Martin Morgans
Jason Bale
Christina Hill
Jonathan Parsons

Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services
Corporate Director – Communities
Head of Service – Public Realm
Operational Manager Enterprise and Specialist Services – Shared Regulatory Services
Head of Shared Regulatory Services
Group Manager – Planning and Development Services

Representatives from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Representatives from Natural Resources Wales

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

Officers:

Lucy Beard
Stephen Griffiths

Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Martin Williams – Personal – Item 4 – Previously employed as Director for Wales within supply chain of Welsh Water and work in water industry but not in Wales.

Councillors Jonathan Pratt, Ian Williams & Richard Collins – Personal – Item 5 – Members of the Development Control Committee

128. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meetings of the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 3 November 2025 and 8 December 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

129. Bathing Water Quality Issues and Impacts of the River Ogmore

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members, Senior Officers and External Invitees, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: <u>Recommendations:</u> 1. Given the poor water quality reported at Ogmore By Sea, and that those who bathe in the waters on the other side of the river, at Merthyr Mawr / Newton being unaware whether the water was safe to bathe in without monitoring, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to an application to Welsh Government for designating Newton as a bathing water under the Bathing Water Regulations, having regard to the impact on all users e.g. bathers, small boat clubs, dog walkers, etc. and meanwhile options be explored for live monitoring of the water quality at Merthyr Mawr / Newton.
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	2. Given the importance of the safety of all users, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to exploring and investigating the potential of taking action against Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) on statutory nuisance, environmental health and public health grounds. 3. The Committee discussed the increased rainfall and extreme weather being experienced and its increased impact on the rivers flowing into the River Ogmore and recommended that options for mitigating against the effects of excess rainfall across the County Borough, be explored. <u>Additional information requested:</u> 4. The Committee requested regular progress reports be provided. 5. The Committee welcomed the general discussion about interventions, but requested that more technical detail be provided in future reports to the Committee, including, specifically, planned mitigations and timescales e.g. details of how many sewers were to be relined, where Combined Sewer Overflows or rain gardens were to be installed, etc. and how the Authority could work with DCWW e.g. to separate rainwater from the sewage system, etc. 6. The Committee requested that the presentations made by representatives from DCWW and Natural Resources Wales be circulated to all Committee Members.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

130. Audit Wales Report - Bridgend County Borough Council Planning and Development Service

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations: Recommendations: 7. The Committee recommended that haste consideration be given to the sufficiency of funding for the Service. 8. The Committee discussed public perception of the Development Control (DC) process and
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	recommended the provision of more communication and raising public awareness of the planning process, particularly regarding large scale planning applications and consultations. 9. The Committee also discussed instances when the DC Committee refuses an application recommended for approval and recommended that consideration be given to providing DC Committee Members with appropriate Officer support with finalising their reasons for refusing a planning application.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

131. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That Councillor Owain Clatworthy be nominated to represent the Communities Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

132. Information Report - Corporate Performance Quarter 3 2025-26

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee considered the content of the Corporate Performance Quarter 3 2025-26 report, the Corporate Performance Dashboard Quarter 3 2025-26 and the Regulatory Tracker updated for Quarter 3 2025-26 within the remit of the Committee, and had regard to the dashboard and the tracker when considering the Committee's Forward Work Programme report.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

133. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the following inclusion, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted that the FWP approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information: a. The Committee requested a Member Briefing be held to provide an update on Maesteg Town Hall and the Grand Pavilion in the meantime, whilst awaiting the reports scheduled for the 12 October meeting.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

134. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	15 June 2026

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

The meeting closed at 19:28.