

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2026 AT 16:00

Present

Councillor H Bennett – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	A R Berrow	F D Bletsoe	S J Bletsoe
C Davies	E L P Caparros	O Clatworthy	RJ Collins
M J Evans	C L C Davies	P Davies	S Easterbrook
W R Goode	N Farr	P Ford	J Gebbie
GC Haines	RM Granville	H Griffiths	S J Griffiths
P W Jenkins	M L Hughes	D M Hughes	RM James
RL Penhale-Thomas	W J Kendall	M Lewis	J Llewellyn-Hopkins
I M Spiller	J E Pratt	R J Smith	JC Spanswick
AJ Williams	T Thomas	G Walter	A Wathan
R Williams	HM Williams	I Williams	MJ Williams
	T Wood		

Officers:

Stephen Griffiths	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Laura Griffiths	Group Manager Legal, Democratic Services & Emergency Planning
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years & Young People
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Christopher Lewis	Project Manager - School Modernisation
Carys Lord	Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Jake Morgan	Chief Executive
Janine Nightingale	Corporate Director - Communities
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services
Anya Richards	Group Manager - Communications and Public Affairs
Oscar Roberts	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Gaynor Thomas	School Programme Manager
Kelly Watson	Chief Officer - Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services

297. Apologies for absence

Decision Made	Cllr Alex Williams Cllr Jeff Tildsley Cllr David Harrison Cllr Norah Clarke
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

298. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	Cllr Heather Griffiths declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 Cllr William Kendall declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 Cllr Steven Easterbrook declared a prejudicial Interest in Agenda Item 11 Cllr Tim Wood declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 11
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

299. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED</u> : That the minutes of the 24/06/2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

300. To receive announcements from:

Decision Made	Announcements were received by the Mayor and the Chief Executive.
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301. To receive announcements by the Leader

Decision Made	Announcements were received by the Leader.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

302. Presentation to Council by the Director of Cardiff Capital Region

Decision Made	The Cardiff Capital Region Director provided a presentation to Council, which outlined key functions of the regional public body and the work that had been undertaken to date. Questions were asked by Members and these were answered by the representatives of Cardiff Capital Region. <u>RESOLVED</u>: That Council noted the presentation as referred to at paragraph 3.1 of the report.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

303. Capital Programme Outturn 2025-26 and Quarter 1 Update 2026-27

Decision Made	The Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation presented a report which updated Members on the Capital Programme outturn position for 2025-26, the quarter 1 spend and projected spend for 2026-27 as at 30 June 2026, the revised capital programme for 2026-27 to 2035-36 and the projected Prudential and Other Indicators for 2026-27. She highlighted slippage of £2.011 million which related to land acquisition and a further £500,000 slippage for site and technical surveys at the new Heronsbridge School site.
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	Members discussed the following points: • Concerns were raised regarding historical over optimism in Capital budget forecasting. • Welcomed £500,000 allocation for cemetery improvements and addressing drainage and pathway issues at Maesteg Cemetery. • Welcomed £1 million investment for new industrial units at Village Farm Industrial Estate • Welcomed Investment of £1.25 million for road safety/crossing schemes and £1.5 million for community impact funds. Questions were answered by the Corporate Director. <u>RESOLVED</u>: That Council noted and approved the Capital Programme Outturn for 2025-26 and the Quarter 1 update/variations for 2026-27 as presented in the report.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

304. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025-26

Decision Made	The Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation presented a report which updated Members on the treasury management activities as well as performance, debt and investment for the year 2025-26. A Member asked how surplus cash reserves are managed and whether holding large investment balances restricts funding for viable invest to save proposals. The Corporate Director for Finance and Transformation explained that surplus daily cash is invested short term to ensure liquidity and balance risk, but can be recalled whenever viable invest to save proposals were approved. <u>RESOLVED</u>: That Council noted and approved the Treasury Management activities and outturn indicators for the 2025-26 financial year.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

305. Annual Report of the Standards Committee

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Decision Made	The Monitoring Officer presented a report which updated Members on the Annual report of the Standards Committee. She explained that the report summarized Code of Conduct training as well as governance oversight, and complaints processed during the year. The Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2025/26 was attached as Appendix 1 and was presented to the Committee for approval on 8 July 2026. The Leader expressed frustration over the length of the Public Services Ombudsman process, citing a specific case involving a Brackla Community Councillor who was censured but failed to complete mandated Code of Conduct training. Other Members echoed this point and hopes that the feedback from Members would be taken on board. <u>RESOLVED:</u> That Council received and noted the Annual Report of the Standards Committee.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

306. To receive the following Questions from:

Decision Made	Councillor Huw David received a response to his question. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was answered by the Cabinet Member Councillor Tim Thomas received a response to his question. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was answered by the Cabinet Member Councillor Ian Williams received a response to his question. He asked a supplementary question at the meeting which was answered by the Cabinet Member.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

307. Notice of Motion Proposed by:

Decision Made	Councillor Tim Thomas:
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	It was agreed to defer his Motion until the next meeting, as there was currently a Public Space Protection Order consultation ongoing that related to the Motion. Councillor Freya Bletsoe: The motion was to Members. During the discussions there were two amendments proposed by Members Amendment by Councillor J Pratt Proposal: To explore and review the council's local discretionary rate relief policies in tandem with discussions with the Welsh Government. Amendment by the Leader Proposal: Expanded the scope of the motion's advocacy to write directly to the newly appointed Secretary of State for Wales alongside the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh Government ministers. Both amendments were accepted and the amended motion was passed without dissent.
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

308. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	22 July 2026

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

The meeting closed at 19:00

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