

Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 December 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2025-26			
Recommendations			
1	The Committee recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a Transformation and Change Working Group and that regular updates be provided to the Committee but that there be a separation of powers between the Group and the Committee to allow clear scrutiny of the process.	Corporate Transformation Governance and Operating Model reported to Extraordinary Meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 September 2026, BCBC Emerging 2040 Transformation Vision reported to Extraordinary Meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 September 2026 and the latter is scheduled to be reported to again to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 December 2026.	
2	With reference to Commitment WBO1.2.1 relating to woodland enhancement, the Committee discussed large parcels of common land in the County Borough and pieces of	A. Agreed that greater collaboration with groups who manage woodlands outside of the LA would be undertaken and funding routes/ grants investigated. B. Agreed this will be considered.	Accepted

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	land transferred from the Coal Board and recommended that: a. there be greater collaboration with groups such as the Coity Wallia Board of Conservators who manage them and that consideration be given to whether there are any external funding routes that can be utilised to assist them; and b. consideration be given to including the in this performance indicator, the performance of any pieces of land which have been transferred from the Coal Board into the Council's ownership.		
3	Members expressed concern regarding capital projects such as Porthcawl Grand Pavilion and school	Consistent methods for assessing the performance of these projects are set out in the council's performance framework. Performance champions and project leads will be reminded of these requirements and examples of good narratives provided.	Accepted

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	modernisations that are both overspent and delayed but one is ranked green while the others are red and amber. The Committee were advised that there are different milestones attached to individual capital projects which appeared to present an inconsistent approach to the reporting of performance of capital projects and recommended that consideration be given to consistent methods being used to assess the performance and detail provided in the narrative.		
4	The Committee recommended that the heading, ' <i>WBO3.4: Modernise school buildings</i> ' in the Performance Dashboard	Five key projects are already listed in the dashboard under WB03.4. These headings and commitments are as worded in the corporate delivery plan 2025-2026, as agreed by Council, and cannot be amended at this point. They will be reviewed in preparation for the corporate delivery plan 2026-2027.	Not accepted

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	be amended to reflect that the capital projects sitting beneath it relate to new buildings or extensions.		
5	The Committee expressed significant concern regarding the 10% year-end target for the percentage of care leavers who have experienced homelessness during the year and recommended that it be set at 0%.	It is agreed that no care leaver should experience homelessness. It is helpful to have an aspirational target and to hold all parts of the Council, not just SSWB for its attainment. In particular, this requires action by housing which sits under the chief executive's directorate, in order to work as One Council to prioritise care leavers for accommodation.	Accepted
6	The Committee discussed areas of performance which are reliant on volatile/unpredictable data such as the number of pupils awaiting specialist provision and numbers of Care Experienced Children which changes frequently and the timeliness of	This consideration will be included in CPDP development in March / April 2026	Accepted

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	reporting performance. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to how live data can best be accessed and analysed to provide Members with the latest position.		
Additional Information Requested			
7	The Committee discussed the responses provided to their Recommendations 1 and 2 made at their previous meeting on 23 October 2023 and requested a written note explaining the reasons why they had only been partially accepted given the responses provided.	1. Having reviewed the response from October 2023, the recommendations are accepted. 2. The recommendation was partially accepted as Officers are currently exploring a range of options for enforcement across a number of Council Services, including Fly-Tipping, Littering, Dog Waste and will be bringing options back to the Cabinet in the New Year. At this stage this does not include the use of CCTV. However, this could be explored as part of the digital technology transformation board.	
8	The Committee expressed concern regarding the performance against	The Committee discussed this further with the Chief Executive at subsequent meetings and made further recommendations and have also now added a report on handling of Corporate Complaints to the Committee's Forward Work Programme.	

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	WBO2.1.4 relating to the handling of corporate complaints and that delays or failure to receive requested information from service areas appeared to be impacting on the ability to respond to complaints in a timely manner and requested a corporate response from the Chief Executive explaining how this will be addressed.		
9	The Committee requested the percentage of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children in the percentage of Care Experienced Children who had experienced homelessness (CH/052).	There were 10 care leavers who experienced homelessness between 01/04/2025 and 30/09/2025, of which 2 were UASC (20%). This was out of a total of 126 category 2,3 & 4 care leavers	
10	The Committee requested the National Evaluation relating to the	Please see the link to the second Basic Income Pilot annual report https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2025-03/basic-income-for-care-leavers-in-wales-pilot-evaluation-second-annual-report-2024-to-2025_0.pdf	Accepted

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	Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales Pilot.		
11	The Committee expressed concern regarding the time taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and requested: a. that consideration be given to including median data instead of an average which was presenting an inflated figure skewed by legacy cases; and b. a presentation on the process being used, prioritisation and spend.	The change in the reporting of the data will be considered for the Q3 data. An all Member briefing to outline the issues in b. is being planned.	Accepted
12	The Committee discussed the Corporate Complaints report presented to the previous meeting of the Governance and Audit	Referral made to CEH OSC to be reported on 23 February 2026.	

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	Committee (GAC) on 27 November 2025 where concerns were raised regarding the number of complaints regarding waste contract, the majority of which were upheld. The Committee were given some reassurance by the Corporate Director and advised that GAC have requested further information but requested that the issue be referred to the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information in the meantime.		
Recommendations from Scrutiny Budget Working Group			

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Recommendations			
13	The Committee made recommendations.	Sent to Cabinet on 16 December 2025 for response.	
Additional Information Requested			
A	<u>Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)</u> The Group discussed the Council's Service-Level Agreement and contribution to the CAB (£194k) and recognised the assistance and preventative measures it provides for residents. However, Members queried the extent of the CAB's presence in towns (particularly in Maesteg) and requested further information regarding the frequency of sessions and appointments and	A meeting has recently taken place with representatives from CAB. Information is being collated as a result of that meeting and will be shared with members once available	Accepted

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	the number of cases being dealt with for residents of Bridgend County Borough in order to assess demand for the service.		
B	<u>Shared Regulatory Services (SRS)</u> The Group discussed the payment to SRS (£1.089m) and requested a more detailed breakdown setting out what it funds and what is statutory and what is non statutory.	Please see links to the SRS paperwork which set out in detail what we fund. As with many services there isn't a clear split between statutory and non- statutory. It is suggested that SRS officers attend a scrutiny session to discuss any COSC queries in more detail and can provide examples of how the threshold between statutory / non- statutory is blurred. https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Shared-Regulatory-Services-Joint-Committee/2025/25-06-25/SRS-Business-Plan.pdf https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Shared-Regulatory-Services-Joint-Committee/2025/25-06-25/25-06-25-SRS-Annual-Report.pdf https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/ Committee%20Reports/Shared-Regulatory-Services-Joint-Committee/2025/25-06-25/SRS-Unaudited-Statement-of-Accounts-24-25.pdf	

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C	<u>Communications and Marketing</u> The Group discussed the £1.664m net budget for communications and marketing and requested a detailed breakdown of what it includes.	<table><tr><td>1,663,500</td><td>Sub-Total</td><td>1,663,500</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Partnerships</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>439,730</td><td>Transformation</td><td>473,930</td></tr><tr><td>1,663,500</td><td>Customer Services and Engagement</td><td>1,734,330</td></tr><tr><td>2,103,230</td><td>Sub-Total</td><td>2,208,260</td></tr></table> The £1.664 million budget relates to 2024-25. The 2025-26 budget is £1.734 million and is broken down as follows:- <table><tr><td>Communications and Marketing</td><td>493,120.00</td></tr><tr><td>Customer Care</td><td>793,330.00</td></tr><tr><td>CCTV</td><td>447,880.00</td></tr><tr><td>Budget Book - 2025/2026</td><td>1,734,330.00</td></tr></table>	1,663,500	Sub-Total	1,663,500		Partnerships		439,730	Transformation	473,930	1,663,500	Customer Services and Engagement	1,734,330	2,103,230	Sub-Total	2,208,260	Communications and Marketing	493,120.00	Customer Care	793,330.00	CCTV	447,880.00	Budget Book - 2025/2026	1,734,330.00	
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D	<u>Closing a Small School</u> The Group requested a briefing note setting out the steps required to be taken to close a small school.	 Scrutiny - Closure of Small Schools - Briefin	Accepted																							
E	<u>Nursery Provision (EEYYP 3)</u> The Group discussed the	1728 Full-time Nursery places were available on the 30 May 2025 (national offer day)																								

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	number of private nursery places currently provided in the County and requested the number of nursery places provided in Bridgend schools, in order to understand the potential shortfall if the budget reduction proposal not taken progressed last year regarding reducing provision of nursery provision was to be reconsidered in future years.		
F	<u>Childcare Offer for 3 and 4-year-olds</u> The Group discussed the Council's childcare offer for 3 and 4-year-olds which is more generous than the statutory minimum of 10 hours and the significant cost of private childcare and requested:	In order to reduce the provision of early education to statutory minimum, the Council needs to be satisfied that there is sufficient childcare in place. It is possible for schools to register to provide wraparound childcare for nursery-aged pupils, but this would be subject to registration with Care Inspectorate Wales and adherence to the National Minimum Standards. A significant scoping exercise would be required to assess the physical environment in each school to make a judgement on which might be registerable, and which would require capital investment to do so. The scoping would also need to assess whether headteachers and governing bodies would be open to such a proposal. The financial model requested is a significant piece of work as	

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	i. confirmation as to whether the Council could reduce provision to the statutory minimum and charge parents to top up/uplift their childcare hours by use of school provision at a cheaper rate than private provision; ii. if so, that an exercise be undertaken exploring the income generation possibilities and/or savings the model would achieve; and iii. information regarding whether there are any other local authorities that provide the statutory provision and whether they offer any uplift and at what cost.	this would vary from school to school. It could be considered alongside the scoping exercise outlined above. Bridgend is the only local authority to still offer full-time provision to all its nursery-aged pupils. Most local authorities offer between 10 and 12.5 hours per week to nursery-aged pupils.	

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G	<u>Governor Vacancies</u> The Group requested the number of community and parent governor vacancies at each Bridgend school.	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. While the local authority is advised of these vacancies, there can often be a significant delay in this information being provided by the clerks. This renders the data on these categories of governor held by the local authority data often unreliable.	
H	<u>Reviews</u> The Group discussed the Cemeteries Review due to be completed by August 2026 and the Fleet Services Review due to be completed by Spring 2027 and requested further narrative to include the terms of reference and key issues that are being considered in each review and firm timescales of their likely completion in order that the outcome reports can be added to the	Agree – The TOR of both reviews will be sent to the Working Group. The Cemetery Review will be completed by June 2026 and can be submitted to a Scrutiny Committee in the summer for pre decision scrutiny before Cabinet, subject to agreement by the Chair of the Committee. The deficit position in Fleet Services will be resolved by Q4 and ahead of the Fleet Review being completed.	

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	Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme. The Group also discussed the significant overspend in Fleet Services and requested that this review be expediated if possible.		