

# Meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 July 2026

## Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

|                                                               | Recommendations / Information Requested:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Response:                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted: |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Budget Monitoring 2026/27 – Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               |
| <b>1</b>                                                      | The Committee <b>recommended</b> that future Revenue Budget reports and those that reference the Council's Capital Programme make explicit reference to any revenue impact of delays to the Capital Programme.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The Finance Budget Management Team and the Capital Accountant have been made aware of the recommendation and references will be made in future monitoring reports to any revenue impact of delays to the Capital Programme | Accepted.                                     |
| <b>Additional Information Requested</b>                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                               |
| <b>2</b>                                                      | The Committee discussed schools projecting deficit budgets and <b>requested</b> a breakdown of how much the deficits are impacted by a fall in pupil numbers and how much they are impacted by the increased demand for support for pupils with Additional Learning Needs.                                                                                                                                                  | Response awaited.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                               |
| <b>3</b>                                                      | The Committee discussed the Welsh Government's plan to expand the Universal Primary Free School Meals into secondary schools, expressed concern regarding the lack of clarity regarding the next steps for implementation and financial pressures that may follow from the expansion and <b>requested</b> a copy of the guidance which the Committee were advised was due to be received from the Welsh Government shortly. | Response awaited.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                               |

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|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| 4     | The Committee discussed the projected overspend on the Free Breakfast Initiative, were advised that the provision should be commensurate with demand and <b>requested</b> an explanation be provided regarding the discrepancy.                                   | Response awaited                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |       |       |       |       |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| 5     | The Committee discussed the impact of population growth on the provision of services to children with complex needs and <b>requested</b> the projected number of children with complex needs likely to transition into Adult Social Care over the next 3-5 years. | <table><tr><td>25/26</td><td>26/27</td><td>27/28</td><td>28/29</td><td>29/30</td><td>30/31</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>13</td><td>22</td><td>12</td><td>16</td><td>13</td></tr></table> <p>These figures are indicative, there is some uncertainty in forecasting future transitions to Adult Services. There may be a small amount of cases that are currently considered unlikely to transition, although may ultimately require Adult Services support. Child Disability and Transition Services continue to receive new referrals across all age groups, particularly among 16-18 year olds, as families begin planning for adulthood. Therefore, this may increase slightly.</p> <p>Other teams have also identified a very small number of additional children (fewer than five over five years) likely to require Adult Social Care support, primarily from Mental Health Services.</p> <p>Young people transition into a range of Adult Services, including Learning Disability, Mental Health, and Network Teams supporting people with physical disabilities, sensory impairments, and other vulnerabilities. Further assessment is required to determine future support needs, which can range from</p> | 25/26                                         | 26/27 | 27/28 | 28/29 | 29/30 | 30/31 | 19 | 13 | 22 | 12 | 16 | 13 |  |
| 25/26 | 26/27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 27/28                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 28/29                                         | 29/30 | 30/31 |       |       |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |
| 19    | 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 12                                            | 16    | 13    |       |       |       |    |    |    |    |    |    |  |

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|               | Recommendations / Information Requested:            | Response:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted: |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|---------------|------|--|
|               |                                                     | <p>social work involvement alone to direct payments, short breaks, supported living, residential care, or other services. Needs may also change over time.</p> <p>It is also important to note that year-on-year fluctuations in transition numbers are not unusual. Welsh Government population estimates show similar variations in the number of 18-year-olds within the wider population. Short-term increases or decreases do not necessarily indicate an underlying trend, although over the longer term there is recognised growth in the number of disabled people, driven by factors such as improved survival rates and advances in diagnosis and healthcare.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Whole Population of those Aged 18 years in Bridgend</th></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2024</td><td>1556</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2023</td><td>1646</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2022</td><td>1558</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2021</td><td>1554</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2020</td><td>1547</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2019</td><td>1612</td></tr><tr><td>Mid-year 2018</td><td>1571</td></tr></table> | Year                                          | Whole Population of those Aged 18 years in Bridgend | Mid-year 2024 | 1556 | Mid-year 2023 | 1646 | Mid-year 2022 | 1558 | Mid-year 2021 | 1554 | Mid-year 2020 | 1547 | Mid-year 2019 | 1612 | Mid-year 2018 | 1571 |  |
| Year          | Whole Population of those Aged 18 years in Bridgend |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2024 | 1556                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2023 | 1646                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2022 | 1558                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2021 | 1554                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2020 | 1547                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2019 | 1612                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |
| Mid-year 2018 | 1571                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                               |                                                     |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |               |      |  |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Corporate Performance Quarter 4 / Year End 2025-26</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                               |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                               |
| 6                                                         | The Committee welcomed the inclusion of last year's figures in the <i>Sickness Absence by Reason</i> table in the Performance Dashboard and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to setting out whether absence due to <i>MSD including back and neck</i> is work or not work related to understand how many days are lost to work related injuries. | Response awaited.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |
| <b>Additional Information Requested</b>                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                               |
| 7                                                         | The Committee discussed the Food and Fun Programme and <b>requested</b> confirmation of the number of schools participating this Summer (2026) and the spread of those schools across the County Borough.                                                                                                                                                      | Response awaited.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |
| 8                                                         | The Committee expressed concern regarding the time taken to deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and <b>requested</b> the data from comparable and neighbouring Local Authorities, where available.                                                                                                                                                              | It is acknowledged that whilst some improvements have been made, overall there have been concerns with the performance of the DFG service over a number of years. The DFG service is currently subject to an improvement plan with an end to end review commissioned from independent experts. |                                               |

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>This service review will look at current internal processes, policy updates will focus on addressing blockages, multiple hand offs and a more cohesive service delivery and will assist with the future DFG performance.</p> <p>The request for data from other LA's is already available through a document called Time to Adapt- <a href="https://olderpeople.wales/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Time-to-Adapt-Examining-waiting-times-for-Disabled-Facilities-Grants-in-Wales.pdf">https://olderpeople.wales/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Time-to-Adapt-Examining-waiting-times-for-Disabled-Facilities-Grants-in-Wales.pdf</a> although it should be noted that Audit Wales have advised that local authorities have been measuring performance in different ways since the backlogs resulting from the covid pandemic.</p> |                                               |
| <b>Self-Assessment 2025-26</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                               |
| <b>Recommendation</b>          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                               |
| <b>9</b>                       | <p>The Committee expressed concern regarding the perceived discrepancy of some areas which are red in the Performance Dashboard but marked amber in the Self-Assessment and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to how the narrative in both explains the difference in measurement frameworks for each to ensure clarity and transparency for Members and the public.</p> | Response awaited.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Forward Work Programme Update</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                             |                                               |
| 10                                   | <p>The Committee <b>requested</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. that information regarding budgets, how capital investment may generate opportunities for revenue savings and how they will be monitored be included in the scope of the Transformation Strategy report; and</li> <li>b. An update on when the Future Waste Services Briefing will be delivered;</li> <li>c. An all-Member Briefing be provided regarding the Council's Armed Forces Covenant;</li> <li>d. a report regarding the delay in the time taken to respond to Corporate Complaints be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme.</li> </ul> | Scrutiny/Chair of COSC to action in work planning meetings. |                                               |