

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 27 JULY 2026**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY, 27 JULY 2026 AT 10:00**

**Present Virtually**

Councillor RL Penhale-Thomas – Chairperson for the Meeting

F D Bletsoe  
S J Griffiths  
MJ Williams

JPD Blundell  
M L Hughes  
E D Winstanley

N Clarke  
T Thomas

HJ David  
AJ Williams

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillors H Griffiths, J Llewellyn-Hopkins and A Ulberini-Williams

Councillor Jane Gebbie – Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Councillor Melanie Evans – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

Joanne Norman – Interim Deputy Head of Finance

**Invitees:**

Councillor John Spanswick  
Councillor Hywel Williams  
Councillor Martyn Jones  
Councillor Eugene Caparros  
Councillor Gary Haines  
Councillor Colin Davies

Leader  
Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation  
Cabinet Member for Education and Young People  
Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Job Share)  
Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Job Share)  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

Jake Morgan  
Carys Lord  
Lindsay Harvey  
Claire Marchant  
Janine Nightingale  
Kelly Watson  
Stacey Forde  
Kate Pask

Chief Executive  
Corporate Director – Finance and Transformation  
Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People  
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Corporate Director – Communities  
Chief Officer – Legal, Regulatory and Electoral Services  
Head of Performance and Workforce Cultural Change  
Corporate Policy and Performance Manager

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

## **CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 27 JULY 2026**

### **Officers:**

Jessica McLellan  
Stephen Griffiths

Scrutiny Officer  
Democratic Services Officer - Committees

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor AJ Williams – Personal - Items 4,5 and 6 – Community Governor at Coety Primary School

## **202. Appointment of a Chairperson**

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| Decision Made      | <b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b><br><br>Councillor RL Penhale-Thomas was appointed as Chairperson for the meeting. |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026                                                                                              |

## **203. Approval of Minutes**

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Decision Made      | <b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b><br><br>That the minutes of the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 29 June 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record. |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026                                                                                                                                                              |

## **204. Budget Monitoring 2026-27 - Quarter 1 Revenue Forecast**

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| Decision Made | <b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b><br><br>Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information: |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|                    | <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>1. 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.</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested</b></p> <p>2. 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.</p> <p>3. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**205. Corporate Performance Quarter 4/ Year-End 2025-26**

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| Decision Made | <p><u><b>RESOLVED:</b></u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information:</p> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|                    | <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

**206. Self-Assessment 2025/26**

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| Decision Made      | <p><u><b>RESOLVED:</b></u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendation:</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>9. 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> |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**207. Forward Work Programme Update**

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| Decision Made      | <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b><br/>The Committee approved its draft Forward Work Programme in Appendix A subject to the following, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committees' Recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and noted the Forward Work Programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendices C, D and E:</p> <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;</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; and</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> |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**208. Urgent Items**

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| Decision Made      | None.        |
| Date Decision Made | 27 July 2026 |

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

The meeting closed at 13:33.