

START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 18th May, 2026.

The meeting papers are available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

To view the presentation and subsequent discussion for any Part I agenda item, please click the hyperlink contained in its title below.

Present: Councillor S.J. Haines (Chair); Councillors: A. Asbrey, J. Aviet, B. Dodd, W. Gilligan, J. Lynch-Wilson, S.M. Hanks, W.A. Hennessy, N.B. Marshallsea, H.M. Payne and R.R. Thomas.

Co-Opted Members: M. Werrett (Church in Wales), Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church) and K. Riddick (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector)

Also present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), I.R. Buckley, L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

14 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

15 [APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR](#) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T Councillor W.A. Hennessy be appointed Vice-Chair for the Municipal year.

Two nominations for the position of Vice-Chair were voted upon, Councillors H.M. Payne and W.A. Hennessy. Later on, during the meeting, Councillor W. Gilligan advised that she had been disconnected from the meeting momentarily during the vote for Councillor H.M. Payne, and had cast her vote in support of Councillor Hennessy’s nomination in error.

16 [APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE](#) –

This was received from Councillor N.P. Hodges

17 [DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST](#) –

No declarations of interest were received.

18 [MINUTES](#) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March, 2026 be approved as a correct record.

19 [TO CONFIRM VOTING RIGHTS FOR CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE](#) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the voting rights for those Co-Opted Members present at the Committee meeting be noted.

Reason for recommendation

To confirm the agenda items and voting rights for those Co-Opted Members present at the meeting with voting rights.

20 [SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS: FIRST YEAR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2026/27](#) (DCR) –

The report was presented by the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer and outlined activity and work undertaken during the preceding Municipal year under the revised Scrutiny arrangements. Committee was asked to consider and agree its proposed Forward Work Programme for 2026/27.

The Committee requested that a site visit be arranged for Llantwit Major School, with other school visits to be co-ordinated between the Vice-Chair and Democratic Services. In addition, visits would be arranged to see the Council's Youth Services and Flying Start.

The Chair requested a report on the situation affecting Llantwit Major School which had been placed under special measures.

Following discussion of the item, Committee

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Forward Work Programme appended to the report (Appendix A) be agreed.

(2) T H A T the agreed Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website for public information.

(3) T H A T the Committee to consider future Task & Finish Review activity upon completion of the current ongoing review exploring the impact upon schools from having to make difficult budget decisions.

(4) T H A T the Committee acknowledges the current status in relation to existing Task & Finish Recommendations and endorses the proposal to receive a further update in November 2026, including details of implementation progress and the establishment of a tracking system to enable more regular monitoring.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To enable the Scrutiny Committee to approve a programme of work for the forthcoming Municipal year that reflected Members' priorities, ensured effective forward planning, and supported the Committee in fulfilling its Scrutiny role.

(2) To promote openness, transparency and public engagement by providing residents, stakeholders and partner organisations with clear visibility of the Committee's planned work across the Municipal year.

(3) To consider future Task & Finish Review activity for 2026/27.

(4) To enable effective oversight by the Committee through timely updates on implementation progress and the development of a system to support regular monitoring.