

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY  
AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 13 March 2026 at 6:00 pm at the  
Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors:** Steve Bard (Chair), Frankie Baker, Bruno Gões Maciel, Lucy Harmer

**Officers:** Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk) and Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) - (via video-link)

**Absent:** Mike Whatley, Nick Simmons.

**57. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mike Whatley and Nick Simmons.

**58. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations**

None.

**59. Minutes 6 February 2026**

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record.

**60. Feedback from Internal Audit**

The Deputy Clerks provided a verbal update on the recent Interim Internal Audit for 2025-26. Overall, the Auditor seemed pleased with the governance of the Council.

143 items were checked by the Auditor, of which 101 were applicable to us. Of these 101, 94 had a positive response. 7 negative responses were identified and 11 observations were made, with no non-compliances identified.

A further 37 items will be checked during the Year End Audit.

**61. Grant Policy Review**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend the following to Full Council:

- To pool the Christmas Lighting Grant budget lines into one budget line, totalling £10,500.
- To inform all previous annual Christmas Lighting Grant recipients that the grants policy has changed and they are no longer guaranteed funding, but send the application form and encourage them to apply.
- To abolish annual grants entirely.
- To move the annual grant budget lines to the Council Grant budget line, for a total of £28,540 (this excludes the £10,000 for Ffrindiau Tyleri, which may be spent on events).
- To inform all previous annual grant recipients that the grants policy has changed and they are no longer guaranteed funding, but send a Council Grant form and encourage them to apply.
- To adopt the new Grants Policy.
- To adopt the new Grants Application Forms and Feedback Form.

**62. Internal Controls Review**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Internal Control document.

**63. Date of Next Meeting**

Initial:

Date:

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6pm

The meeting ended at 6:58pm.

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

Signed as correct record by the Chair.....

Date.....

Initial:

Date: