

## LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

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

Present: Councillor R.R. Thomas (Chair); H.M. Payne (Vice-Chair), Councillors A. Asbrey, S. Campbell, E.J. Goodjohn, E. Goodjohn, S.J. Haines, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson and N.B. Marshallsea.

Co-Opted Members: M. Werrett (Church in Wales), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), G. Van Der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector) and G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education).

Also Present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and Dr. I.J. Johnson.

### AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors W. Gilligan and W.A. Hennessy; Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), E. Woodfield and I. Da Silva (Vale Youth Council).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to the following inclusion to the apologies of absence which had been submitted but due to technical issues had not been received by officers: L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector).

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

### AGENDA ITEM 4. WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2023-24 (REF) –

#### RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Annual Welsh Monitoring Report for 2023-24 (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) and Update on the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy (attached at Appendix 2 to the report) be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the comments made by the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration, which included the following:

- That the Council considers a bid to host the 2029 Urdd Eisteddfod at Barry.
- That the Council looks to maximise the opportunities to recruit and retain teaching staff and others with Welsh language skills.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the reference, appended report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) In order for Cabinet to consider the comments made at the Scrutiny meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT  
2023-24 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the work that had been undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults be noted.

(2) T H A T the comments made by the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration, which included the following:

- The inclusion of more data on the impact of teaching staff implementing safeguarding measures, such as time taken away from other schoolwork in order to do this.
- The importance of School Governors completing the relevant safeguarding modules.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the reference, appended report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) In order for Cabinet to consider the comments made at the Scrutiny meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6. DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL  
SELF-ASSESSMENT 2023/24 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments made by the Committee be referred to Cabinet for their consideration, which included the following:

- To ensure a continued focus on monitoring and tackling school deficits and other issues impacting upon teaching staff.

- The importance of highlighting to residents, through the use of public communications, the data on expenditure, etc. contained within the infographics used in the 'What our budget was spent on' section of the Annual Self-Assessment.
- The importance of highlighting what the Council had achieved in areas such as school inspection reports and what additional work teachers undertook outside of school time. As well spending on education, it was important to show what teaching staff undertook in terms of work and these details should be combined.
- The ongoing importance of improving school attendance figures.

#### Reason for recommendation

In order for Cabinet to consider the comments made at the Scrutiny meeting.

#### AGENDA ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 (DLS) –

##### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the report and the financial measures taken and proposed be noted.
- (2) T H A T the allocation of overall Council surplus as set out below be noted:
  - £2m transfer to new reserve to offset school deficits on a provisional basis in 2024/25.
  - £80k to Council Fund to offset general pressures.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report to inform Members of the outturn and the financial measures taken and proposed.
- (2) To inform Members of the allocation of the 2023/24 surplus to support key pressures identified by the Council.

#### AGENDA ITEM 8. QUARTER 1 REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25 (DLS) –

##### RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2024/25 Revenue Budget be noted.
- (2) T H A T the virements requested as part of the report be noted.

#### Reason for recommendations

- (1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9. CAPITAL CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 (DLS) –  
RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the year end capital position for financial year 2023/24 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the additional scheme budgets as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T the summary position of the changes in the Capital Programme by directorate from approval at Council on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.
- (4) T H A T the Emergency Power approved in respect of the slippage, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

Reason for recommendations

- (1-4) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 10. CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL  
TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024 (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made on delivering the 2024/25 Capital Programme within the remit of the Committee, in the attached Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Delegated Authority within the remit of the Committee, summarised in paragraph 2.6 and detailed in the report at paragraphs 2.21, 2.22 and 2.23, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers within the remit of the Committee, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. be noted.
- (4) T H A T the changes to the 2024/25 Capital Programme and future years' Capital Programme within the remit of the Committee, summarised in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.5 and detailed within the body of the report from paragraph 2.13, be noted.

Reason for recommendations

- (1-4) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11. ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT:  
QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE 2024/25 (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T Quarter 1 performance results and progress towards achieving Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 commitments as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives within the remit of the Committee, be noted.

(2) T H A T the comments made by the Committee be referred to Cabinet, for their consideration, including:

- That efforts be made to ensure continued effective monitoring of primary and secondary school pupil attendance, as referred to under 'Emerging Areas of Concern' under Objective 2, in Appendix A to the report.
- That the Annual Delivery Plan Monitoring Report should detail the efforts to ensure that schools were a safe working place for teachers and the support provided to them.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

(2) For the consideration of Cabinet.