

## LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 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, W.A. Hennessy, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson and N.B. Marshallsea.

Co-Opted Members: M. Werrett (Church in Wales), Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), G. Van Der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector), E. Woodfield (Vale Youth Council) and G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education).

Also Present: Councillors L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language) and G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing).

### AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor W. Gilligan and I. Da Silva (Vale Youth Council).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor E.J. Goodjohn declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 – Elective Home Education (EHE) Update. The interest was a personal interest as Councillor Goodjohn was previous an Elective Home Educator.

Councillor E. Goodjohn declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 – Elective Home Education (EHE) Update. The nature of the interest was a personal interest in that a family member had been part of the Elective Home Education programme at the time covered within the report.

Dr. M. Price declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 7 – Capital Monitoring for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024. The nature of the interest was that Dr. Price was a Governor for St. Richard Gwyn School which had been provided with money for a capital works project.

AGENDA ITEM 4                      MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025/26 TO 2029/30  
REFRESH AND UPDATE (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Cabinet reference and appended Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2029/30 Refresh and Update report, outlining the work to mitigate the cost pressures, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of both the Cabinet reference, the appended report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5.                      ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION (EHE) UPDATE (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

(1)     T H A T the progress made in the area of Elective Home Education during the last 12 months, be noted.

(2)     T H A T the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee receives a further progress update report in 12 months in relation to the ongoing delivery and further measures to raise awareness of the use and impact of the Elective Home Education grants for the support of Elective Home Education learners. The progress report to also include the likely impact of any implementation of the proposed amended statutory guidance on Home Education and the proposed draft regulations which incorporate the requirement for all Local Authorities to maintain a Child Missing Education (CME) data base.

Reasons for recommendations

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

(2)     To further update the Scrutiny Committee as to the progress made in relation to the ongoing delivery, and further awareness raising of the use and impact of the EHE grants for the support of EHE learners.

AGENDA ITEM 6.                      YSGOL PEN Y GARTH: UPDATE ON SCHOOL IN  
STATUTORY FOLLOW-UP (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Estyn monitoring outcomes for Ysgol Pen y Garth made against the recommendations for their core inspection in November 2022, be

noted and the school to be congratulated on their removal from the list of schools requiring special measures.

Reason for recommendation

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

AGENDA ITEM 7. CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024 (DSL) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the progress made in delivering the 2024/25 Capital Programme within the remit of the Committee, covered in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the use of Emergency Powers within the remit of the Committee, detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- (3) 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 and 2.5 and detailed within the body of the report from paragraph 2.11 be noted.

Reason for recommendations

(1-3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8. QUARTER 2 REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25 (DSL) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the Authority's 2024/25 revenue budget, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

AGENDA ITEM 9. ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE 2024/25 (DSL) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Quarter 2 performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 commitments, as aligned to the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives, within the remit of the Committee, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified within the remit of the Committee, be noted.

Reason for recommendations

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