

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 31st March, 2025.

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) and G. Van Der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector).

Also Present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), C.P. Franks and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor W. Gilligan; Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), I. Da Silva and E. Woodfield (Vale Youth Council).

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor A. Asbrey declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 – Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Autumn Term 2024 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow Up. The nature of the interest was Councillor Asbrey was a Governor for Dinas Powys Primary School. The nature of the interest meant that Councillor Asbrey remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor S. Haines declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 – Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Autumn Term 2024 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow Up. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Haines was a Governor for St. Athan Primary School. The nature of the interest meant that Councillor Haines remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 – Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Autumn Term 2024 and Update on Schools in Statutory Follow Up. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Lynch-Wilson was a Governor for St. Athan Primary School. The nature of the interest meant that Councillor Lynch-Wilson remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

AGENDA ITEM 4. QUARTER 3 REVENUE MONITORING 2024/25 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Quarter 3 position with regard to the Authority's 2024/25 revenue budget be noted, and the following comments referred to Cabinet for its consideration:

- In relation to the 51% of schools showing a budget deficit was that as a result of issues from the new ALN act.
- Would the Council be able to protect the 241 school transport routes that it currently provided.

Reason for recommendation

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

AGENDA ITEM 5. CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2024 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Quarter 3 Capital Monitoring 2024/25 report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

AGENDA ITEM 6. SUMMARY OF ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2024 AND UPDATE ON SCHOOLS IN STATUTORY FOLLOW UP (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the inspection outcomes for the Autumn term be noted and congratulations sent to the two schools that received a core inspection as there was no Estyn follow up activity and the progress made by the Llanfair School resulting in them being removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review be noted.
- (2) T H A T progress in relation to Pencoedtre High School be noted.

Reason for recommendations

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

AGENDA ITEM 7. LEARNING AND SKILLS DIRECTORATE PLAN 2025/26 (INCLUDING ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ASSOCIATED PERFORMANCE TARGETS) TO DELIVER VALE 2030, THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2025-30 (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Learning and Skills Directorate Plan and performance targets for 205/26 be referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee for its consideration in order for a composite response to be developed and referred back to Cabinet on 1st May, 2025. The comments relating to the following:

- Additional detail being added in relation to the Active Travel programmes for schools;
- The need for more resources in the area of Additional Learning Needs;
- More resources were required in relation to healthy eating, in order to combat obesity within young people;
- The inclusion of an additional performance indicators in relation to healthy eating for young people and in relation to the Council's apprenticeship scheme;
- Was there scope for the Council to be more ambitious in relation to the actions around the Council's Youth Service and in terms of how the Council engaged and heard the views of young people;
- Could the Council do more to tackle child poverty;
- Was there more that the Council could do to enable better access to examinations for those young people who are home-educated;
- Could the Council provide more opportunities for young people to access leisure, sport, cultural and heritage activities;
- Queried whether the Council could do more to encourage more people engage with arts and culture;
- Did the Directorate Plan contain sufficient long-term focus on the risks and impact following cuts to the benefit system; and
- The need for targets to be set for those new performance indicators where a measure had not been included.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting and to advise the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee of the views of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.