

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 20th June, 2019.

Present: Councillor G.C. Kemp (Chairman); Councillor Ms. R.M. Birch (Vice-Chairman); Councillors: A.R.T. Davies, S.J. Griffiths, N.P. Hodges, T.H. Jarvie, Mrs. J.M. Norman, A.C. Parker, Mrs. S.D. Perkes and N.C. Thomas

Co-opted Members Present: Mrs. J. Lynch-Wilson (Parent Governor - Primary Sector) and Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church).

Non-voting Observers: Mr. H. Gapper (Welsh Medium Education).

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett and B.T. Gray.

66 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE -

This was received from Dr. C. Browne (Parent Governor - Secondary Sector).

67 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN -

RECOMMENDED - T H AT T Councillor Ms. R.M. Birch be appointed Vice-Chairman to the Committee for the municipal year.

68 MINUTES -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

Councillor Mrs. J.M. Norman declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 - Summary of School Inspection Reports for Spring Term 2019. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Mrs. Norman was a Local Authority appointed Governor to St. Illtyd Primary School. Councillor Mrs. Norman had received a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and vote on such matters.

Councillors T.H. Jarvie and A.C Parker also declared an interest in relation to Agenda Item 5 - Summary of School Inspection Reports for Spring Term 2019. The nature of the interest was that both these Councillors were Governors for Cowbridge Comprehensive School and both had received dispensations from the Standards Committee to speak and vote on such matters.

70 SUMMARY OF SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORTS FOR SPRING TERM 2018 (DLS) -

The Head of Standards and Provision presented the report the purpose of which was to update Members on the outcomes of School Inspections for the Spring Term 2018.

In September 2017 a new Estyn School Inspection Common Inspection Framework (CIF) was introduced across all schools in Wales

An overview of the CIF was outlined in Appendix 1.

Two primary schools (St Illtyd and Wick and Marcross), two secondary schools (Cowbridge and Ysgol Bro Morganwg) and the Pupil Referral Unit (Y Daith) were inspected during the Spring term 2018.

A summary of the inspection findings for each of the named schools was appended to the report (Appendix 2).

The purpose of inspections was to:

- Provide accountability to the users of the services and other stakeholders through public reporting on providers;
- Promote improvement in education and training; and
- Inform the development of national policy by Welsh Government.

School inspections were governed by the Education Act 2005 and related regulations. Inspections must be conducted by teams of inspectors, led by an HMI, additional inspector or registered inspector, and must result in a written report. Section 28 of the Education Act 2005, says that inspectors must report on:

- The educational standards achieved by the school;
- The quality of education provided by the school;
- How far education meets the needs of the range of pupils at the school;
- The quality of leadership in and management of the school, including whether the financial resources were managed efficiently;
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils at the school; and
- The contribution of the school to the wellbeing of pupils.

During all core inspections, the inspection team would consider whether the school needed any follow-up activity.

When conducting school inspections, the main forms of evidence considered were:

- Briefings from Local Authorities;
- Documentary evidence, including data on pupils' performance and progress;
- Observation of teaching or training sessions and other activities;
- Samples of pupils' work;

- The views of pupils and stakeholders; and
- Discussion with staff, leaders and managers, governors and others.

The reporting inspector was responsible for producing a final inspection report that was clear to a lay audience and helpful to the school. In most cases, the main body of the report was no longer than six pages.

Schools received 15 working days' written notice of an inspection.

Judgements were made under five inspection areas:

- standards
- wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- teaching and learning experiences
- care, support and guidance
- leadership and management.

The judgements for each of the five key questions could be one of four options:

- Excellent – very strong, sustained performance and practice
- Good – strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement
- Adequate and needs improvement - strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement
- Unsatisfactory and needs urgent improvement - Important weaknesses outweigh strengths.

There were three types of follow-up category:

- Estyn review
- Significant improvement
- Special measures

All follow-up work involved activity by Estyn inspectors. The activity involved increasing levels of intervention in proportion to need.

During the Spring term the overall judgements achieved by Vale of Glamorgan schools which were inspected were as follows:

School	Inspection area 1: Standards	Inspection area 2: wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Inspection area 3: teaching and learning experiences	Inspection area 4: care, support and guidance	Inspection area 5: leadership and management
St Illtyd Primary	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate
Wick & Marcross Primary School	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Ysgol Bro Morganwg	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Y Daith PRU	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Good	Adequate
Cowbridge Comprehensive School	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent

Where Estyn identified excellent practice during an inspection, schools were invited to prepare a written case study which would be published by Estyn and shared with other schools. Excellent practice was identified in Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Ysgol Bro Morganwg.

St Illtyd Primary and Y Daith PRU were judged to require Estyn review. Estyn would monitor the schools' progress in addressing the recommendations highlighted in the reports about 12-18 months after publication. In the first instance, the monitoring activity would take account of documentary evidence and the most recent reports by challenge advisers. If sufficient progress was not evident, Estyn may decide to visit the school for a monitoring visit.

There were no schools identified as requiring significant improvement or special measures.

Appendix 3 provided an overall summary of Estyn activity in the Vale of Glamorgan since the introduction of the new inspection framework in September 2017.

The Chairman queried whether the outcomes of the Inspection for St. Illtyd Primary School were expected. In reply, the Head of Standards and Provision stated the outcome on the Inspection was dependent on the evidence considered by Estyn. She stated that St. Illtyd's had been categorised as a Yellow school meaning that the school received 10 days extra support from a Challenge Advisor. She also advised that the Challenge Advisor had raised issues of leadership which had not been fully addressed. Following the Inspection, the Committee noted that the Challenge Advisor would be considering the school's categorisation and additional support would be allocated to the school.

In relation to both St. Illtyd and Y Daith Pupil Referral Unit, a Committee Member asked why extra input could not be provided from other schools that had been identified as having good practice. In reply, the Head of Standards and Provision stated that for St. Illtyd links with another school had been identified and the Challenge Advisor would work with the headteacher and the senior leadership team in order to monitor progress and hold senior staff to account. In relation to the Pupil Referral Unit she outlined that the adequate judgement was not surprising but it was important to consider where the Unit had been 18 months ago. She stated that a decision had been made to place the school into the Red categorisation which allowed for extra support to be provided. This was in the form of an external consultant to carry out health checks and monitor that actions had been progressed.

In relation to Cowbridge Comprehensive School, the Committee noted the excellent judgements to have come out from their inspection and the Committee agreed that the Chairman should write a letter of congratulations to the staff, Governing Body, pupils and parents.

A Committee Member commented on the importance of the monitoring process of pupils' progress and she queried whether there was a standardised system in place for all schools. In reply, the Head of Standards and Provision stated that no standardised system existed, but each school's Challenge Advisor would look at the tracking systems in place and how they were being used. There was however an expectation that schools would carry out regular 'data drops' in order that pupil progress could be closely monitored. In relation to this, the Director of Learning and Skills stated that Estyn had recently changed the framework around monitoring and this had been agreed by most schools. The new framework changed the accountability within schools with more emphasis on tracking because attainment levels for Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 would no longer be published. This had been carried out in order to reduce workload on target setting and to focus more on individual pupils' performance.

In relation to Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and the budget deficit within the school a Committee Member queried whether the budget deficit had stopped the school from receiving an excellent in leadership. In reply, the Director of Learning and Skills stated that there were other challenges in relation to leadership apart from the budget deficit that prevented an excellent rating.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the Inspection judgements about the schools inspected during the Spring term 2019 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Chairman on behalf of the Committee write a letter of congratulations to Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) In order that Members are aware of Estyn's judgements about local schools.

(2) In order to congratulate Cowbridge Comprehensive School in receiving excellent overall judgements for the latest Estyn Inspection.

71 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF
RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
2019/20 (MD) -

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer presented the report the purpose of which was to report progress on the Scrutiny recommendations and to confirm the Committee's Work Programme for 2019/20.

Decision tracking for 4th Quarter (January to March 2019) was attached at Appendix A and decision tracking for 3rd Quarter (October to December 2018) was attached at Appendix B.

In relation to the Committee's proposed Work Programme schedule for 2019/20, attached at Appendix C, the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer stated that there had been some last minute amendments for the July meeting. He advised that the Cabinet report in relation to the Catering Services Reshaping Services Programme would be forthcoming to a Scrutiny Committee meeting pending the return of external advice to be incorporated into an updated Business Plan.

In relation to the Arts Central Strategy, Members noted that a review was being considered and a Tranche 4 and link to Tranche 5 of the Reshaping Services Programme following the establishment of new Programme Board. A new Options Appraisal was being conducted and a report to Scrutiny would be forthcoming once a date had been confirmed.

In relation to the Transgender Toolkit, Members noted that this would be deferred from the meeting and programmed for a later date. In addition, for the July meeting, the Central South Consortium would be providing a presentation on evaluation developments.

The Chairman noted that the Committee was due to visit High Street Primary School, and he requested whether it would be possible for the Committee to hold this in conjunction with a meeting at the school. This would be followed up the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer.

In considering the Forward Work Programme, the following topics and subjects were recommended by Members of the Committee:

- A review on School Proms and the impact that these may be having on pupil's emotional wellbeing;
- Affordability of School Uniforms;
- Consideration of the affordability and accessibility of out of school activities;
- A report on the level of pastoral care available in schools;
- Follow up work on the Committee's Task and Finish Review into the Provision of Sanitary Products at Secondary Schools;

A Committee Member requested for the Committee to have opportunity to visit schools in order how see how best Council funding could be used for upgrade and maintenance purposes. In reply to this, the Director of Learning and Skills outlined that the Council possessed detailed information of where and when maintenance and upgrades were due for all its schools across the Vale. This included a ranking system, which was part of a 25 year programme. The Director therefore stated that a report could be provided for the Committee.

In addition to the above, the Director of Learning and Skills asked Members to consider the change to the Welsh curriculum that would be coming into force, and for the Committee to receive a presentation on this at its September meeting. The Director also requested that the Committee receive a report following the change to the Assessment Framework and how pupil's data would be correlated. She requested for this report to be presented at the next meeting in July.

Subsequently, it was

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T subject to the inclusion of the following item of business, the work programme scheduled attached at Appendix C be approved and uploaded to the Council's website, the additions being as listed above.
- (3) T H A T the recommendations listed below be deemed completed:

15 January 2019	
Min. No. 664 – 21st Century Schools Programme – Band B Update and Current Position (REF) – Recommended	
(2) That the Committee urges the Cabinet to consider that the £11.387m being the reduction in the Council's contribution for the 21 st Century schools be utilised for older primary schools that required attention and / or refurbishment.	Cabinet, on 18 th February, 2019, noted the comments of the Scrutiny Committee. (Min. No. C579 refers) Completed
Min. No. 666 – 3rd Quarter Scrutiny Decision Tracking of Recommendations and Updated Work Programme Schedule 2018/19 (MD) – Recommended	
(2) That the amendments to the work programme as outlined above be undertaken and the updated work programme uploaded to the Council's website as appropriate.	Work programme schedule updated and uploaded to the Council's website. Completed
12 February, 2019	
Min. No. 739 – Proposals to Increase the Number of Primary Welsh Medium School Places in Barry (REF) – Recommended	
(1) That Cabinet be informed that the Scrutiny Committee unanimously supports the proposal to increase the	Cabinet, at its meeting on 4 th March, 2019, resolved that Cabinet notes the unanimous support of the proposal to

number of primary Welsh medium schools places in Barry as contained within the report.	increase the number of primary Welsh Medium schools places in Barry of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee. (Min. No. C602 refers) Completed
(2) That a further report on school buildings in the primary sector be presented to the Scrutiny Committee under its work programme.	Added to work programme schedule. Completed
Min. No. 740 – Summary of School Inspection Reports of Autumn Term 2018 (DLS) – Recommended	
(1) That letters of congratulations be forwarded to High Street Primary School and Ysgol Sant Curig in respect of the inspection outcomes for each of the schools.	Letters sent. Completed
(2) That a site visit be arranged to High Street School in view of the progress made to date.	Date to be determined. Completed
Min. No. 741 – Annual Equality Monitoring Report 2017-2018 (MD) – Recommended	
That the Annual Equality Monitoring report be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for approval with the Committee's comments.	Cabinet, on 4 th March, 2019, noted the comments of the Scrutiny Committee and resolved (2) That the Annual Equality Monitoring Report be approved and endorsed. (Min. No. C601) Completed
12 March, 2019	
Min. No. 849 – Proposed Reconfiguration of Primary Provision in the Western Vale (REF) – Recommended	
That the report detailing the implementation of the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale and the written representation received by the Committee be forwarded to Cabinet for their final determination.	Cabinet, on 18 th March, 2019, resolved [1] That the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee, including the written representation received by the Committee for its consideration in relation to the Abracadabra Playgroup be noted. [2] That implementation be approved of the proposal to reconfigure primary provision in the Western Vale by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a new 210 place primary school building with a 48 part time place nursery class for Llancafarn Primary School; • Transferring staff, pupils and the Governing Body from the existing Llancafarn Primary School building into the new school building, and;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changing the age range of Llancarfan Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 years. <p>[3] That the use of Article 14.14.2 (ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of Resolution (2) above. (Min. No. C627 refers) Completed</p>
11 December 2018	
Min. No. 577 – Initial Revenue Budget Proposals (2019/20 and Revised Budget 2018/19 (DLS) – Recommended that the Scrutiny Committee recommend to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee	
(1) That Cabinet be requested to consider carefully the impact for the service areas should it decide not to fund some of the cost pressures noted for the Directorate.	<p>Referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13th December, 2018, which concurred with the recommendation and referred it to Cabinet, which was to be considered on 21st January, 2019.</p> <p>Cabinet, on 21st January, 2019 resolved that the contents of the report be noted and passed to the Budget Working Group for consideration in concluding the budget proposals for 2019/20. (Min. No. C552 refers) Completed</p>
Min. No. 578 – Initial Capital Programme Proposals 2019/20 to 2023/24 and Capital Monitoring 2018/19 (DLS) – Recommended	
(1) That Cabinet be requested to consider that if there was any additional funding forthcoming for asset renewals in schools, that the aspects of dignity and privacy for pupils be considered.	<p>Referred to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13th December, 2018, which concurred with the recommendation and referred it to Cabinet, which was to be considered on 21st January, 2019.</p> <p>Cabinet, on 21st January, 2019 resolved that the contents of the report be noted and passed to the Budget Working Group for consideration in concluding the budget proposals for 2019/20. (Min. No. C551 refers) Completed</p>

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For information.

- (3) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.