

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 7th April, 2022.

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

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor G.C. Kemp (Chair); Councillor R.M. Birch (Vice-Chair); Councillors S.J. Griffiths, N.P. Hodges, J.M. Norman, A. Parker, S.M. Perkes, N.C. Thomas and L.O. Rowlands.

Co-opted Members: R. Morteo (Church in Wales), Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector) and C. Williams (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector)

Also present: Councillor L. Burnett (Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration).

1027 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

1028 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor T.H. Jarvie and G. Scott (Welsh medium).

1029 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

1030 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

1031 DRAFT STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLANS FOR SCHOOLS (REF) –

Cabinet, on 14th March, 2022, had approved the Draft Strategic Equality Plans for Schools as the basis for consultation, and had referred the report and draft Plan (attached at Appendix A) to Committee for consideration as part of the programme of consultation.

The Vulnerable Groups Manager presented the reference, which advised that the draft Plan demonstrated that the Vale of Glamorgan was a diverse and actively anti-racist Council, and the Plan's development demonstrated how the Council could bridge the gap between policies and guidance, and turn this into tangible action. The purpose of the draft Plan was to describe what schools were doing to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010 which, in addition to the 'general duty', included the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

The draft Plan included two strategic equality objectives:

- Improve how we involve, engage, and communicate with protected groups about our work and decisions.
- Develop and implement plans throughout the life of this plan to address attainment gaps for children and young people and provide support to overcome barriers to them reaching their full potential.

Members thanked the Officer for the draft Plan, with the Chair noting that it was concise while still conveying its purpose effectively, and the Vice-Chair commenting that the Plan would be particularly welcome in light of the arrival of refugees from Ukraine. The Vice-Chair added that the development of the Plan was important as expressing good intentions was not as effective as formally making them a matter of policy.

In response to queries raised by Members the Officer responded as follows:

- Schools had been responsive and had engaged in the development of the Plan, with Senior Leadership Teams having been invited to training and to join the conversation regarding the Plan in October 2021. Training had been facilitated by 'No Outsiders' and had included discussions regarding protected characteristics and gender identities.
- Following training and initial conversations, the resources deemed most impactful had been provided to schools and were being used.
- Conversations with schools were continuing to take place, and once the Plan was published support for schools would be ongoing depending on where they were situated in terms of their individual contexts and equality journeys. As such, the delivery of the Plan would look different in each school to ensure it worked for their specific communities, which would naturally vary.
- The Plan and associated support was intended to equip staff and pupils to have difficult conversations regarding matters such as racism, sexism and prejudice.
- The Officer was pleased to advise that faith community schools in the Vale of Glamorgan were actively inclusive and open to dialogue regarding matters such as gender identity and sexuality, with the schools acknowledging that this was necessary to reflect the experiences of their own pupils. The consultation process would inform the Council further about what support and resources

faith community schools would need to continue this dialogue and tackle potentially difficult conversations.

Dr. Price wished to echo the Officer's response, advising that in his experience Catholic schools were inclusive and had worked with Council staff to ensure that the sentiment and purpose of the draft Plan was fully embedded in the schools' work.

With permission to speak, the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration wished to give due credit to the Officer's team for their work developing the draft Plan and supporting schools. The Cabinet Member advised that from her experiences visiting schools and speaking with pupils online, she knew that young people had been involved in the process and were keen to continue discussing these matters, and she suggested that it would be beneficial for their voices to be heard by Committee, possibly by way of a workshop.

Having fully considered the draft Plan it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the draft Strategic Equality Plans for Schools be endorsed, and Committee's thanks to the Vulnerable Groups Manager and all staff involved in the development of the draft Plan be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

1032 UPDATE ON PENARTH PIER PAVILION AND THE POTENTIAL FUTURE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE KYMIN HOUSE AND GARDENS (REF) -

Cabinet, on 14th March, 2022, had referred the report to Committee for consideration in order that, subject to Committee's views or recommendations, a number of resolutions in connection with matters raised within the report be actioned.

The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources presented the report which provided an update on the progress that had been made in reinvigorating the Penarth Pier Pavilion since under Council management and to outline potential links with other Council assets such as the Kymin House and Gardens.

Since opening to the public under Council management in April 2021, Penarth Pavilion had generated additional income of over £70,000 through the Agreement between the Council and the Big Fresh Café, and profit share from numerous events and commission from art sales. A selection of community events had been undertaken at the Pavilion, and they would continue to provide a full programme of future activities and events for the community to enjoy, whilst also increasing income opportunities to support the running of the building. The Officer highlighted that the surplus from all Big Fresh Catering sales at the Pavilion went into schools.

The Kymin, Beach Road was currently empty, which provided the Council with an opportunity to deliver a further offer including community events and activities whilst

also generating an income to support the running of the building. The successful model at the Pavilion could be replicated at the Kymin.

The Officer advised that there were some procedural resolutions made by Cabinet for Committee to consider:

- That the operational management of the Pavilion remain within the Arts & Culture portfolio; and
- That Big Fresh Catering's 12 month license at the Pavilion be renewed and they stay in situ as the anchor tenant.

Following the Officer's presentation of the report Members made comments which could be summarised as follows:

- Councillor N.C. Thomas highlighted that both buildings were iconic and significant in the Penarth area, but the Kymin was in need of considerable investment for refurbishment and he therefore welcomed the Council's direction of thinking towards a model that was complimentary and cooperative with activities at the Pavilion.
- Councillor S.D. Perkes hoped that the success of the model at the Pavilion could be replicated in Barry, particularly with regard to future plans for Art Central. With the venue being in the town centre and easily accessible, Councillor Perkes hoped there would be a wide range of arts available all residents, with surplus able to be invested back into the Vale of Glamorgan.

With permission to speak, the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration praised the work of the Officer and his service area in relation to the Pavilion. The Cabinet Member noted that many Councils outsourced their catering services only to face deficits, whereas Big Fresh was in fact operating at a sizeable surplus. With regard to the Kymin she advised that work needed to be done to determine future use as the Council wished to avoid duplication with other venues in the area, and as such many innovative, community-based initiatives were being brought forward. With regard to replicating the success of the Pavilion's model elsewhere in the Vale, the Cabinet Member noted developments both at Art Central in Barry and Old Hall in Cowbridge, but added that an arts and education facility in the Western Vale should also be explored.

The Officer highlighted that as developments were ongoing Committee would be hearing update reports regarding arts and culture in the future, and within the context of the challenges currently being faced by young people and families, the importance of the arts must not be understated.

Having fully considered the reference and appended report it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the resolutions made by Cabinet on 14th March, 2022 (Min. no C880) be endorsed, with it being noted that Committee would welcome future updates relating to this matter.

Reason for recommendation

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

1033 CURRICULUM FOR WALES: JOURNEY TO 2022 – SPRING TERM 2022 UPDATE –

The Principal Improvement Partner for Curriculum Cohesion and Assessment at Central South Consortium (CSC) presented to Committee an update regarding progress being made towards the roll-out of the Curriculum for Wales (CfW), which was due to be introduced in maintained schools and funded non-maintained nursery settings from September 2022. The presentation advised of research that had been undertaken to help schools with the process of designing their curricula, aligning advice from Welsh Government with a design thinking model. The prospect of curriculum design was exciting for schools as CfW offered broad, high level principles which allowed schools to tailor their curricula to their localised contexts.

Subsequently, representative staff members from Colcot Primary School and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg were invited to address Committee, and Members were provided with a presentation from each school reflecting on their own experiences so far with curriculum design. Following the presentations, the Assistant Director for Curriculum and Professional Learning at CSC thanked the representatives for outlining some of the fantastic work taking place in schools, highlighting different approaches which both placed children and the Four Purposes at their heart.

The Chair thanked the representatives of both CSC and the schools for their presentations, noting that Committee had heard much about CfW during the last year and it was good to hear about specific experiences in more detail.

There being no queries raised at this time it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T thanks be expressed to the representative staff members of Colcot Primary School and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg for their presentations, and that the contents of their presentations be noted.

Reasons for recommendation

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