

No.

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 18th May, 2023.

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

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

Present: Councillor R.R. Thomas (Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, W. Gilligan, E.J. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson, N.B. Marshallsea, J.M. Norman, H.M. Payne and E. Penn.

Co-Opted Members: L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), R. Morteo (Church in Wales) and Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), G. van der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector); A. Emmerson and R. Goodjohn (Vale Youth Forum).

Also present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), G.D.D. Carroll, A.M. Ernest, E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and M.R. Wilson (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood and Building Services).

38 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”.

39 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR –

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor H.M. Payne be appointed Vice-Chair for the Municipal year.

40 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor R.E. Godfrey.

41 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 20th April, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

No.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor H.M. Payne declared a general interest (personal not prejudicial), which was not related to a specific agenda item, as she was a Trustee and Vice-Chair of the Vale Youth Forum.

43 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2022/23 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2023/24 (DCR) –

The report, presented by the Chair, advised Members of the progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24, and included the following: –

- 3rd Quarter Recommendation Tracking - October to December 2022 (Appendix A);
- 4th Quarter Recommendation Tracking - January to March 2023 (Appendix B);
- Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme 2023/24 (Appendix C); and
- Proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24 (Appendix D).

The Chair introduced the proposed Forward Work Programme of the Committee, and invited Members to suggest topics for consideration on future agendas, by contacting either himself or the Democratic Services Officer.

Following the Chair's presentation, the Vice-Chair noted the report's listed implications, and suggested a further consideration could be added around the wellbeing of staff, particularly those in Education Services.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language commented that school attendance, post the impact of Covid-19, and what Local Authorities were doing to address the fact that some children have not returned to the school system, was of interest. The Head of Standards and Provision advised that a report around this could be scheduled for the Autumn term, which the Chair welcomed.

Councillor Hodges subsequently suggested that the following topics should be considered as part of future agendas:

- Progress and changes regarding Arts Central;
- An update regarding libraries;
- Changes to school budgets and the impact of these on schools.

These topics were also welcomed by the Chair. The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources advised that an update on Arts Central was scheduled as part of the service review for the arts, which was now underway following the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. The Officer also advised that a report updating Committee on the current position of Libraries was possible in the Autumn term.

With no further comments or queries, Scrutiny Committee subsequently:

No.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendices A and B to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2023/24, attached at Appendix C to the report, in the context of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2023/24 content, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24, attached at Appendix D to the report, be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) To align with Section 7.6 of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Roles and Responsibilities.
- (3) For public information.