



Wales School Governors Association  
Cymdeithas Llywodraethwyr Ysgolion y Fro

**Dr Martin Price, Chair**

**Norman Craggs, Chair of Governors  
Gwenfo Church in Wales**

**Katy Williams, Headteacher, Romilly  
Primary**

- **This is not criticism of the Vale of Glamorgan Council**

- The Vale Of Glamorgan Council has an open and fair system for distributing funds to schools
- The Education Budget Forum works well with democratic representation of Headteachers, Governors, Officers and Cabinet Member

# Deficit Budgets

- Our understanding is that most schools in the Vale will post a deficit budget for 2023/2024
- Reserves have dropped and will be wiped out by March 2024
- 2024/ 2025 projected figures are likely to be much worse
- This affects
  - Teaching and Learning
  - Safety of pupils
  - Wellbeing of Pupils
  - Wellbeing of staff
- This applies to all schools including those who have balanced budgets

# Two reasons for deficits

1. Welsh Government has elected not to fully fund the Teachers pay award.

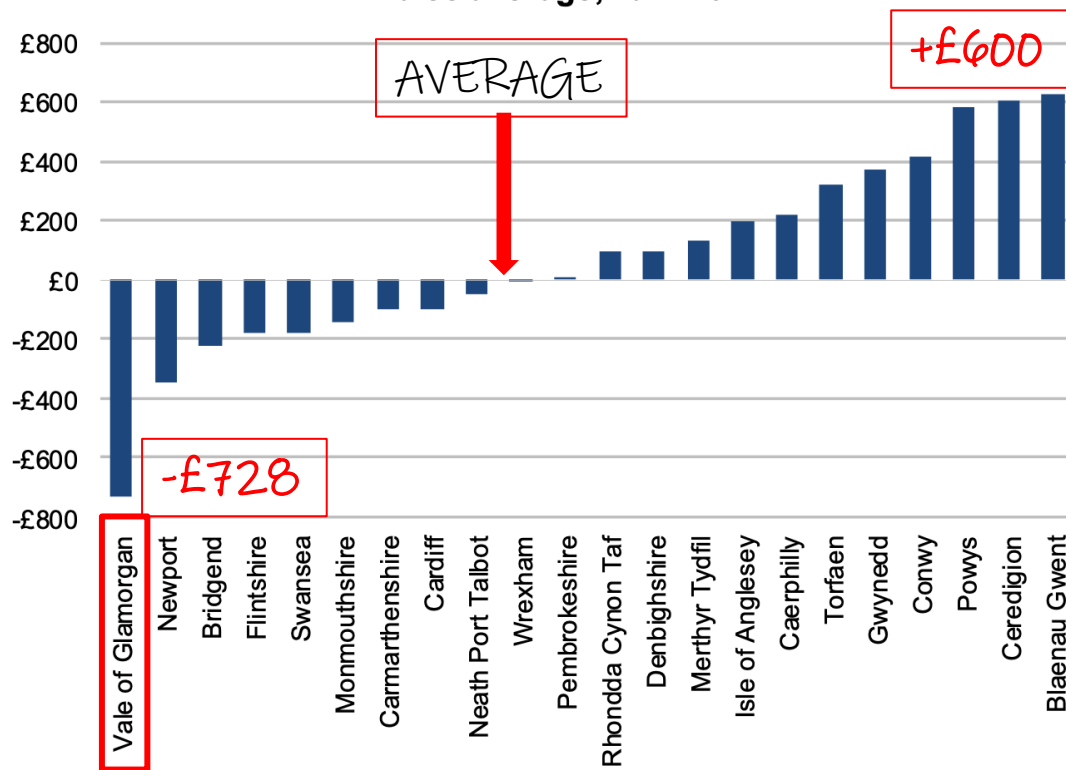
The overall settlement from Welsh Government is too low  
Indications for next year's budget will also be low

2. The funding formula used by Welsh Government is fundamentally flawed and disadvantages children in the Vale of Glamorgan

The Vale has been able to spend significantly less per pupil than every Welsh Local Authority every year for past twenty years.

# A child in the Vale is worth less !

Chart 1: Schools budgeted expenditure per pupil: difference from the Wales average, 2022-23



## FACT

Learners in VoG receive £728 less per year than the Welsh average.

## AND...

More than £1,300 less than the highest funding Local Authority.

# What is VSGA doing?

1. Working with other Governor Associations in Wales to raise awareness about the deficit budgets

Other Authorities also face large numbers of schools with deficits

A currently favoured route is to petition the Welsh Government and trigger a Senedd debate.

2. Challenging the Welsh Government funding formula as being inherently unfair and not fit for purpose.  
If necessary, ask for a judicial review

The Vale receives £1,511 of funding per capita less than the Welsh average of £1,756

**14 %** below the Welsh average

The Vale spends £728 per pupil below the Welsh average of £6,773

**11%** below the Welsh average

**The Vale spends more on Education**

# CURRENT DEMANDS ON SCHOOLS

- Post Covid Challenges & Cost of Living Crisis
- ALN Bill & increase in bureaucracy
- Increase in numbers of learners with additional needs
- Curriculum for Wales
- New assessment arrangements
- Community Focused Schools
- Well-being of Future Generations Act
- Welsh Language Strategy
- ETC. ETC. ETC.



# IMPACT OF 2023/24 BUDGET SETTLEMENT

## IMPACT OF 2023/24 BUDGET SETTLEMENT

- Reduction in the quality of learning & teaching
- Increased adult/learner ratios
- Health & safety - supervision
- Needs of children with ALN not being met
- Safeguarding – keeping children safe
- Staff well-being
- AND SO ON...