

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice –Remote Meeting, 12th October, 2023.

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

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

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

Co-Opted Members: L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), R. Morteo (Church in Wales), M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education), G. van der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector), R. Goodjohn (Vale Youth Forum), J. Clemett and T. Williams (Vale Youth Council).

Also present: Councillors J. Aviet, R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G.D.D. Carroll, C.P. Franks, E. Goodjohn and S.J. Haines.

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor E. Penn.

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor W.A. Hennessy declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (School Funding and Finances). The nature of the interest was that the Councillor was a Member of the VSGA.

Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (School Funding and Finances). The nature of the interest was that the Councillor was a Member of the VSGA.

Councillor N. Marshallsea declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 4 (School Funding and Finances). The nature of the interest was that the Councillor was employed by Jane Hutt, M.S.

L. Barrowclough declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (School Funding and Finances). The nature of the interest was that she was a Member of the VSGA.

Dr. M. Price declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (School Funding and Finances). The nature of the interest was that Dr. Price was the Chair of VSGA.

G. Van der Burgt declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4 (School Funding and Finances). The nature of the interest was that she was a Member of the VSGA.

AGENDA ITEM 4. SCHOOL FUNDING AND FINANCES – ALUN CAIRNS, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN –

RECOMENDED – T H A T Alun Cairns M.P. be thanked for his time and verbal presentation on actions being taken by both the Welsh and UK Governments to address the financial issues faced by Vale of Glamorgan schools.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the verbal presentation from Alun Cairns M.P. in response to the issues raised at the June meeting of the Committee regarding school finances and funding as presented by the Chair of the Vale School Governors Association (VSGA).

AGENDA ITEM 5. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE UPDATE DLS) –

RECOMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Primary and Secondary School Attendance Update report be noted.

(2) T H A T a further progress update report be received by the Committee in 6 months (April 2024).

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report on the strategic responsibility of the Council for implementing effective approaches and plans in order to optimise attendance levels.

(2) In order to evaluate progress made in relation to the overall attendance levels and the impact of the #MissSchoolMissOut campaign, launch of the school attendance toolkit, the enhanced training and support for schools and any intervention pilot projects launched with schools for the Committee to maintain to oversight of the work of the Inclusion Team and the impact on levels of attendance across the Vale of Glamorgan Schools.

AGENDA ITEM 6. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF CATEGORY OF STANWELL SCHOOL (DLS) –

RECOMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Governing Body's decision to undertake a consultation from 11th September, 2023 to 23rd October, 2023 on the proposal to change the category of the school from a Foundation School to a Community Maintained School be noted.

(2) T H A T the proposal be endorsed by the Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report on the Governing Body's decision to seek feedback through a formal consultation with prescribed stakeholders, prior to any publication of its proposal, as required by the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 2018.

(2) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee is consulted on the proposal as a prescribed stakeholder.

AGENDA ITEM 7. GOVERNOR TRAINING REPORT FOR THE 2022/23 ACADEMIC YEAR (DLS) –

RECOMENDED – T H A T the Governor Training Report for the 2022/23 Academic Year be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report on commentary, statistics of attendance, and evaluations received for online governor training courses held during the 2022/23 academic year.

AGENDA ITEM 8. 1ST AND 2ND QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2023/24 (DCR) –

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 updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24, as attached at Appendix C of the report, be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report to maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For public information.