

START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 7th July, 2025.

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, J. Aviet, W. Gilligan, E. Goodjohn, S.J. Haines, S.M. Hanks, W.A. Hennessy, N.P. Hodges and J. Lynch-Wilson.

Co-opted Members: Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), P. Bond and R. Davies (Vale Youth Council).

Also Present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor E. Penn; G. van der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector) and M. Werrett (Church in Wales).

AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor J. Aviet declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 4 - Summary of Estyn Inspection Outcomes for Spring Term 2025 and Update on a School in Statutory Follow-up. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Aviet was a Governor for Oakfield Primary School and also had a family member that was employed at Pencoedre High School. Councillor Aviet had received dispensation from the Standards Committee so remained in the meeting for the duration of the report.

AGENDA ITEM 4. SUMMARY OF ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES FOR SPRING TERM 2025 AND UPDATE ON A SCHOOL IN STATUTORY FOLLOW-UP (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the three schools that received a core inspection where no Estyn follow-up activity was identified be congratulated.
- (2) T H A T the Headteacher for Oakfield Primary School be thanked for sharing their experience of the school's Estyn inspection.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. SCHOOLS BUDGET AND ADMISSIONS FORUM REPRESENTATION (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T Councillor Wendy Gilligan be appointed as the Scrutiny Committee Representative on the Schools Budget Forum.
- (2) T H A T Councillor Wendy Gilligan be appointed as the Scrutiny Committee Representative on the Schools Admissions Forum.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) To ensure that the Forums included a Member of the Start Well Scrutiny Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6. TASK AND FINISH REVIEW ACTIVITY (DCR) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T subject to legal advice around the voting of Co-Opted Members, a Task and Finish review of the Additional Learning Needs Resource Bases be undertaken as a priority, which when completed will be followed by a Task and Finish review into – “What has been the impact on schools having to make difficult decisions to balance budgets”.

Reason for recommendation

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