

## START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2026.

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.M. Hanks, W.A. Hennessy and N.P. Hodges.

Co-opted Members: Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), K. Riddick (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector), G. Scott (Welsh Medium Education), M. Werrett (Church in Wales) 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), I.A.N. Perry, N.C. Thomas and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors S.J. Haines and J. Lynch-Wilson; and L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

The following declarations of interest were received:

Councillor A. Asbrey	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Asbrey was a Governor of Dinas Powys Primary School, which was covered in the report
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	and the Councillor remained in the meeting during the item.
Councillor J. Aviet	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Aviet was a Governor for Colcot Primary schools and also had a family member that worked at Pencoedtre High School. Councillor Aviet remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.
Councillor N. Hodges	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Hodges was a Governor of Ysgol St. Baruc, which was covered in the report and the Councillor remained in the meeting during the item.
Councillor H. Payne	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was they were a Governor of Palmerston Primary School, which was covered in the report and remained in the meeting during the item.
Dr. M. Price (Co-opted Member)	Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget

	<p>deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was they were a Governor of St Richard Gwyn School and a member of the Vale of Glamorgan's Governors Association, which was covered in the report and remained in the meeting during the item.</p>
K. Riddick (Co-opted Member)	<p>Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was they were a Governor of Pencoedre and Whitmore High Schools which were covered in the report and remained in the meeting during the item.</p>
M. Werrett (Co-opted Member)	<p>Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was they were Head of Education for the diocese under whose remit several schools in the Vale came under. M. Werrett remained in the meeting during the item.</p>
G. Scott (Non-voting observer – Welsh Medium Education)	<p>Declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5 – Presentation – School Budget Recovery Plans – Update from the Director of Learning and Skills on progress in tackling school budget deficits since the previous Start Well Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The nature of the interest was they were a Governor of Ysgol Pen Y Garth which was covered in the report and remained in the meeting during the item.</p>

AGENDA ITEM 4. TO CONFIRM VOTING RIGHTS FOR CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the voting rights for those Co-Opted Members present at the Committee meeting be noted.

Reason for recommendation

To confirm the agenda items and voting rights for those Co-Opted Members present at the meeting with voting rights.

AGENDA ITEM 5. PRESENTATION – SCHOOL BUDGET RECOVERY PLANS – UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND SKILLS ON PROGRESS IN TACKLING SCHOOL BUDGET DEFICITS SINCE THE PREVIOUS START WELL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2026 –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the update on School Budget Recovery Plans be noted.

Reason for recommendation

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

AGENDA ITEM 6. SUMMARY OF ESTYN INSPECTION OUTCOMES FOR AUTUMN TERM 2025 AND UPDATE ON SCHOOLS IN STATUTORY FOLLOW-UP (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the outcomes of the Estyn inspection outcomes be recognised and congratulations sent to Gladstone Primary, Colcot Primary and Ysgol Sant Baruc on their core inspection with no Estyn follow-up activity.

(2) T H A T the progress of Pencoedtre High School in addressing their Estyn recommendations and the work that has begun in relation to Fairfield Primary and St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School to address the recommendations within their inspection reports be recognised.

Reasons for recommendations

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

AGENDA ITEM 7. LEARNING AND SKILLS DIRECTORATE PLAN 2026/27 (OUTLINING YEAR 2 ACTIVITIES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND ASSOCIATED PERFORMANCE TARGETS) TO DELIVER VALE 2030, THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2025-30 (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Learning and Skills Directorate Plan (Appendix A to the report) and associated measures and performance targets for 2026/27 contained within it be endorsed.

Reason for recommendation

To ensure that the planned activities, associated measures and performance targets for the Learning and Skills Directorate as detailed in the Plan were relevant and together with the other four Directorate Plans became the main means through which performance against Vale 2030 was monitored and measured during 2026/2027.

AGENDA ITEM 8. TASK AND FINISH REVIEW – ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS RESOURCE BASES (DCR) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration and approval of the Task and Finish Group's recommendations provided in paragraph 2.43.

Reason for recommendation

To allow Cabinet to consider the findings, observations and recommendations of the Additional Learning Needs Resource Bases Task and Finish Group.