

**JOINT MEETING OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY  
REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)**

**Members Present:**

**14 November 2016**

**Chairperson:**

**Councillor A.Llewelyn**

**Councillors:**

M.Crowley, H.N.James, A.Jenkins, M.Jones,  
R.G.Jones, J.D.Morgan, Ms.C.Morgans,  
Mrs.K.Pearson, M.Protheroe, S.Rahaman,  
A.Taylor, A.L.Thomas, D.Whitelock,  
Mrs.L.G.Williams, Mrs.M.Caddick,  
Ms.D.Vaughan and R.De Benedictis

**Officers In  
Attendance**

C.Millis, A.Thomas, Ms.H.Lervy, N.Evans and  
Miss.C.Davies

**Cabinet Invitees:**

Councillors M.L.James, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards  
and A.J.Taylor

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1. **MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the Meeting:-

Councillor P.A.Rees

- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is a Member of the Governing Body for Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and Creunant Primary School and is a Governor on the temporary school

- Governing Body at  
Ysgol Newydd Cymraeg
- Councillor P.D.Richards - Report of the Director of  
Education, Leisure and  
Lifelong Learning – Item  
3 Y Cynllun 2016-18  
(The Plan) – as he is a  
Member of the  
Governing Body for  
Blasw Baglan Primary  
School and Baglan  
Primary School
- Councillor A.L.Thomas - Report of the Director of  
Education, Leisure and  
Lifelong Learning – Item  
3 Y Cynllun 2016-18  
(The Plan) – as he is  
Member of the  
Governing Body for  
Rhos Primary School
- Councillor L.G.Williams - Report of the Director of  
Education, Leisure and  
Lifelong Learning – Item  
3 Y Cynllun 2016-18  
(The Plan) – as she is  
Member of the  
Governing Body of  
Gwaun Cae Gurwen  
Primary School
- Co-opted Member Marie Caddick - Report of the Director of  
Education, Leisure and  
Lifelong Learning – Item  
3 Y Cynllun 2016-18  
(The Plan) – as she is  
Member of the  
Governing Body at St.  
Joseph’s Primary  
School Neath
- Co-Opted Member Donna Vaughan - Report of the Director of

- Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as she is Member of the Governing Body at Cilffriw Primary School
- Councillor R.G.Jones
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Dyffryn Comprehensive School and Coed Hirwaun Primary School
- Councillor M.L.James
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Llangiwg Primary School
- Councillor A.Taylor
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Sandfields Primary School
- Councillor H.N.James
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is

- Member of the  
Governing Body at  
Llansawel Primary  
School and is a  
Governor on the  
temporary school  
Governing Body at  
Ysgol Newydd Cymraeg
- Councillor A.J.Taylor
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Eastern Primary School
- Councillor A.Jenkins
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and Gnoll Primary School
- Councillor M.Protheroe
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and Melin Primary School
- Councillor K.Pearson
- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18

(The Plan) – as she is Member of the Governing Body at Creunant Primary School and Llangatwg Community School

Councillor J.D.Morgan

- Report of the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning – Item 3 Y Cynllun 2016-18 (The Plan) – as he is Member of the Governing Body at Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmnedd and has a grandson at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

## 2. PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:-

### Cabinet Board Proposals

#### 2.1 Report from the Director of Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning re: Y Cynllun 2016/17

Members considered the report that required Member approval of the Business Plan for the Directorate of Education Leisure and Lifelong Learning covering the period 1st September 2016 to 31st August 2018.

Officers highlighted that the Business plan attached at appendix 1 to the report, identified the outcomes required to achieve excellence. The strategies that were required to gain that ambition were detailed in individual service delivery plans that sit beneath the Business plan. Members were advised that whilst the main outcomes were included within the plan if all the associated actions were included then the plan would run to over 200 pages. Members were asked to note that monitoring of the implementation of the plan would be done through the year via consideration of service specific service report cards.

Members queried whether plans had been put in place to review that all staff within Schools were up to date on Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Checks. Officers highlighted that the responsibility sits with the schools and Admin Officer's within each School would have the responsibility of checking that all DBS checks were up to date. Officers stated that if DBS checks were not being undertaken then the Internal Audit Department of the Council would pick this up.

Officers highlighted to members that due to the nature of a Business plan the data contained within it would instantly be out of date and therefore, an update plan would come back to a future meeting of this Committee.

Members noted that there was a target to increase the number of seven year olds taught through the medium of Welsh from 18.5% in 2015 to 18.6% in 2018. Members raised concern that this target was small particularly as the Welsh Government had set a target of 1m welsh speakers in wales by 2050. Officers advised that this could change as it was based on the previous Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and that a new WESP was currently being consulted on and could change which may mean this plan would have to be updated also.

Members asked how the Council will know if it has sufficient numbers of practitioners to deliver welsh medium education. Officers advised that it was difficult to work out the number as it is dependent on take up. Members were asked to note that it is often difficult to get welsh speakers from colleges and universities to come and teach in our schools.

Members noted the ambitious Strategic School Improvement Projects and that savings have been delivered through the removal of surplus school places. Members then asked whether we are putting a cap on welsh medium education when we could be see an opportunity of demand outstripping supply. Officers stated that this was not the case and the Department had recently received confirmation that Welsh Government had agreed future projects including a new welsh school.

Members highlighted that a particular building in the ward of Gwaun Cae Gerwen was not in a fit state to be utilised and

queried whether it could be re-built or knocked down. Officer's confirmed that there was no funding available to knock it down and that Capital money could not be utilised to demolish the building. It was noted that any queries would need to be passed to the Head of Property and Regeneration.

Members highlighted that there had been funding available to support Syrian Refugees for the 1st year of their arrival and queried how the authority would support Syrian refugees for future years with no funding available. Officers confirmed that an update report would go to a future meeting of this Committee. Members also requested that a specific action was contained within the plan in relation to the support of Syrian Refugees.

Members queried why there was a target to maintain a 100% of a current score of 4 on the food hygiene rating and not to achieve a score of 5. Officers highlighted that they would relook at the target and attempt to achieve a 5.

Members queried why there was a target to maintain an increase to access libraries when there are 2 scheduled to close. Officers highlighted that the targets were set with what was currently in place, if the decision was made to close any libraries then officers would re-look at the targets.

Members queried on page 23 of the circulated report what was meant by a target of 145% for Job Outcomes in NPT Works. Officers highlighted that it was an ambitious target and that if the target was reached over a 100% then a profit would be made.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

## **CHAIRPERSON**