

**EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**2.00 pm THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2017**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - PORT TALBOT CIVIC CENTRE**

**PART 1**

1. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
2. To receive the Minutes of the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee held on 12th October 2017 (*Pages 5 - 10*)
3. To receive the Minutes of the Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee held on 17th October 2017 (*Pages 11 - 14*)
4. To receive the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2017/18. (*Pages 15 - 18*)
5. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board Agenda for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).
6. Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972
7. Access to Meetings to resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

**PART 2**

8. To select appropriate private items from the Cabinet Board Agenda

for pre-scrutiny (Cabinet Board Reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members).

**S.Phillips**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre  
Port Talbot**

**Friday, 2 November, 2017**

**Committee Membership:**

**Chairperson:**      **Councillor A.L.Thomas**

**Vice  
Chairperson:**      **Councillor M.Crowley**

**Councillors:**      S.ap.Dafydd, M.Ellis, S.Harris, N.T.Hunt,  
H.N.James, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan,  
M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, R.L.Taylor, D.Whitelock  
and C.Williams

**Notes:**

- (1) If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*

- (4) *The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) *Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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## EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**12 October 2017**

**Chairperson:** Councillor A.L.Thomas

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor M.Crowley

**Councillors:** S.Ap.Dafydd, S.Harris, N.T.Hunt, H.N.James, S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, S.Renkes, R.L.Taylor, D.Whitelock, C.Williams and Adam.Amor

**Co-opted Voting Members:** Mrs.M.Caddick, A Amor

**Co-opted Non Voting Members:** A.Hughes

**Officers In Attendance** C.Millis, A.Thomas, J.Merrifield, R.Gordon, P.Walker, Jones, A.Spooner-Cleverly and S. Curran

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees

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The Committee welcomed Adam Amor, the new Co-Opted Member to his first meeting.

### 1. **MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14TH 2017**

The Committee noted that the Co-Opted Members did not appear on the minutes as attendees. The Democratic Services Officer apologised for the administration error and would rectify the minutes so that accurate attendance is portrayed.

Cllr Steffan Ap Dafydd asked that his name be amended to be spelt correctly.

With the above amendments the Committee noted the minutes.

2. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

3. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee chose to scrutinise the following Cabinet Board items:

3.1 **Christmas and New Year Opening Times, Libraries, Theatres, Community Centres, Margam Country Park, Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools 2017-18.**

Members received information relating to the Christmas and New Year opening times as contained within the circulated report.

Members questioned the difference in opening times between the different leisure facilities. Officers explained that the discrepancies were due to the historical use of facilities over the festive period, the number of direct debits associated with the facility and the size of its membership.

Following scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

3.2 **Financing Schools- Reviewing the Funding Formula to raise standards.**

Members received information in relation to proposed changes to the formula for funding primary sector schools as contained within the circulated report.

The Committee noted that the school estate has changed significantly since 2011 and the current funding formula no longer reflects the balance between smaller and larger schools and that the NPT Schools Forum had requested a review of the current arrangements.

The Chairperson drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the recommendation before the Cabinet Board was to approve consultation on the proposed formula review and that the

decision taken by the Cabinet Board would be for immediate implementation. Members noted an error in the report in that the results of the consultation would be presented back to the Committee in mid -January and not January 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 as stated.

Officers explained in order to deliver education the total amount of money to be distributed to schools is determined by the current formula; this formula neither increases or decreases the amount of money in the Individual Schools Budget but is the mechanism by which the Budget is distributed amongst individual schools and Officers explained in detail how the current formula operates.

Members heard how the Review Group established had provided professional advice on how the formula could deliver more equitable funding to schools and comprised of Head Teachers from large and small schools serving both rural and urban areas and had examined the current primary sector formula line by line. Officers explained in detail the review group's proposal for the proposed changes to the funding formula for primary sector schools.

Members noted the proposal to limit the financial benefit resulting from the revised formula for those schools with reserves in excess of £75k and queried where this figure had come from. Officers explained that the Welsh Government limit is £50k but the £75k figure has been derived from careful analysis of the data and they believe it is a fair, realistic and manageable figure. Officers stated that there are currently 8 schools with this amount of reserves but until the budget allocation for 2018/19 is finalised the schools who will benefit from the revised funding formula are unknown.

The Committee asked if compulsory redundancies were anticipated as a result of this process. Officers stated that whilst this was a feasible concern, everything will be done to avoid this.

Members expressed concern that small schools appear to be in a cycle of decline and agreed that mitigation and helping small schools to plan is of utmost importance and asked if federation had been explored. Officers explained the 'Small Rural School' grant which the Welsh Government has committed to for the next 5 years but reiterated the importance of continual review of the school estate and ensuring the funding formula is fit for purpose.

The Committee queried the figures in relation to several of the schools and officers explained fully the data and background to the specific schools.

It was stated that the intention of reviewing the formula was to allocate the funding to where the pupils are as this is fair and equitable.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

### 3.3 Transition Arrangements from the Communities First to the Employability Programme.

Members received information in relation to the transition arrangements from the Communities First to the Employability Programme as contained within the circulated report.

Members noted that the funding for Communities First which has worked locally in NPT since 2002 is due to finish in March 2018 and that Welsh Government has introduced an Employability Programme which will start in January 2018 which will be £12 million across the Country.

Members asked if the work would still be directed at areas of deprivation and officers explained that although Welsh Government have widened the areas, the priority will be on more deprived areas.

The Committee asked if the funding allocated would be affected by 'Brexit' and Officers confirmed that this money was not European money so will not be effected.

The Committee felt it was important that the accumulated memorabilia from Communities First such as photographs be returned to the communities and that 'Celebration Events' be explored.

Following scrutiny it was agreed that the report be noted.



**CHAIRPERSON**

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## LEISURE AND CULTURE SUB COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**17 October 2017**

**Chairperson:** Councillor M.Crowley

**Councillors:** M.Ellis, S.Renkes, R.L.Taylor and D.Whitelock

**Officers In Attendance** A.Thomas, P.Walker and Miss.C.Davies

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1. **MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND CULTURE SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH JULY 2017.**

The Scrutiny Committee noted the minutes.

2. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Scrutiny Committee noted the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme with the following amendment.

It was noted that there was an error with the officer name that was allocated to reports on the Forward Work Programme and that the name Chris Millis be amended to Andrew Thomas.

3. **EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE CABINET BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Scrutiny Committee noted the Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board Forward Work Programme.

4. **MARGAM COUNTRY PARK BUSINESS PLAN**

Members received information on the implementation of a new Business Plan for Margam Country Park.

It was noted that the implementation of the business plan may have workforce impacts, it was noted that when this is the case they would be reported in subsequent reports to Members.

Members asked that when the costs are set for weddings in the orangery are they commercial prices and whether they could be increased by 10% as example to have a better income. Officers confirmed that they are set at a commercial price as they have to be comparable with other venues. It was noted that Margam Orangery is having a better income from Christmas parties and conferences.

Members noted that a grant application for wet weather parking had been approved at Margam Country Park.

Members queried that there isn't enough advertisement on Margam Country Park. Officers highlighted that in the Business Plan it had been proposed, that in order to exploit the income generating opportunities, increased capacity is required, as all staff currently employed are focussed on service delivery. Additional human resources are required, specifically a professional marketing officer. This officer will operate 50% of the time developing the artistic offer and marketing at the Princess Royal Theatre and 50% promoting the programme and facilities at Margam Country Park/ Orangery.

Members highlighted that marketing is fundamental however, wanted assurance that it would not take over the importance of Education. Officers confirmed that they have the same priorities and advised members that a report was coming to a future Leisure and Culture Sub Committee which will include all the information on the educational element of Margam Country Park.

Members asked if the unions had site of the report. Officers confirmed that they had not seen the report, but they would be consulted once the business plan had been approved for implementation.

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

5. **LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT  
PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2016-2017**

Members received an update on the outcomes from the Local Authority Partnership Agreement 2016 -17 (LAPA).

Members commended and noted that in 2015 Sport Wales carried out the second all Wales school sport survey and Neath Port Talbot retained its position of number 1 out of 22 Local Authorities for children's participation in physical activity.

Members commended the work that the PASS team have delivered on the National Exercise Referral Scheme.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

6. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

7. **FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2017 -18 CELTIC  
LEISURE (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 14)**

Members received an update on the performance of Celtic Leisure during the first quarter, in comparison to the submitted ten year business plan.

Members queried how the Annual Sickness level was 2.4% and not 1.2%. Officers informed Members that they would get clarification with the relevant officer and get back to Members.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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**Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Scrutiny Committee  
Forward Work Programme 2017/18**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Officer</b>
15 June 2017		
29 June 2017		
20 July 2017	School Funding Formula - presentation	
14 Sept 2017		

12 October 2017		
9 November 2017	WESP	Aled Evans
	Celtic Leisure Annual Report (Cabinet Paper)	Paul Walker
29 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>SPECIAL Budget Scrutiny</b>	Hywel Jenkins
7 December 2017	A report highlighting the successes of new school builds in terms of education and lessons learnt.	Chris Millis
25 January 2018	Funding Formula- Consultation Response (CABINET)	Andrew Thomas



	School Budget	Andrew Thomas
15 February 2018		
15 March 2018	Taxi Driver Training update	
12 April 2018	Review of Music Service following recent changes to service delivery	Chris Millis
3 May 2018		

Report on the achievements of Looked After Children in Further or Higher Education- CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Achievements of LAC in further or Higher Education- CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Welsh Language- what the department is doing to assist Council in meeting Welsh Government target of 1m Welsh speakers in Wales by 2015 with a focus on pre-school.- WESP