



EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2.00 PM THURSDAY, 22 JULY 2021

REMOTELY VIA TEAMS

All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

PART 1

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Chairs Announcements
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 6*)
5. Pre-Decision Scrutiny
 - i. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Boards reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
6. Forward Work Programme 2020/21 (*Pages 7 - 22*)
7. Urgent Items
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

K.Jones
Chief Executive

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.Mizen

Councillors: M.Crowley, S.Harris, J.Jones, D.Keogh, S.Miller, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, M.Spooner, D.Whitelock, R.W.Wood and J.Hale

***Co-opted
Voting Members** M.Caddick, A. Amor and L.Newman

***Co-opted Non
Voting Members** R.De Benedictis

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.*

Minutes of the Education Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

28 June 2021

Remotely via Teams

Chairperson:	Councillor S.H.Reynolds
Vice Chairperson:	Councillor R.Mizen
Councillors:	J.Jones, D.Keogh, S.Miller, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock, R.W.Wood, J.Hale and R.G.Jones
Co-opted Voting Members:	M.Caddick and L.Newman
Officers In Attendance	C.Millis, P.Walker, J.Burge, M.Daley, Z.Ashton, R. Miller and C.Davies
Cabinet Invitees:	Councillors P.A.Rees

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 18th March 2021 were approved.

2. **UPDATE ON THE IMPACT THAT COVID-19 HAS HAD ON THE EDUCATION, LEISURE AND LIFELONG LEARNING SERVICE (VERBAL UPDATE)**

Following a request from the Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee, Members were provided with a verbal update on the impact that Covid-19 had on the Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Department along with a brief update on the recovery strategy moving forward.

Members were updated on Additional Learning Needs Reform. It was noted that the team would be running two different systems parallel to

each other, over a three year period, implementing the Additional Learning Needs Act. It was noted that this change would be transformational, collaborative and offering a transparent system. However, the system would also have its challenges. In preparation, Officers of the Inclusion Service had organised training for Head Teachers and staff within the schools. This training consisted of outlining the new system and providing information on the legal implications.

Members also received an update on the School Based Counselling Team. Reassurance was provided on the continuation of the School Based Counselling Service throughout the pandemic. It was noted that there had been a decrease in children being seen by School Based Counselling Teams across Wales. However, Neath Port Talbot's figures on this statistic had increased by 42% which was an excellent achievement. It was also noted that a Primary Parent Helpline and Staff Helpline had been developed during the pandemic to help with the emotional wellbeing of the pupils.

Officers informed Members of the Education Welfare Service. It was noted that throughout lockdown the service had continued by meeting safely outdoors ensuring the support was provided. It was noted that attendance in Schools had decreased to 90% which was lower than usual, due to the pandemic.

Members received a brief overview of the Leisure and Culture services. It was noted that the Princess Royal Theatre had remained open in some form of capacity and all of the Theatres within Neath Port Talbot were now open and abiding by the Health and Safety measures. It was noted that all Libraries had now resumed all opening hours and Margam Park continued to host as a vaccination centre.

Discussions took place around Curriculum reform and their approach to developing different approaches to enable children to become 'higher order thinkers' to understand the purpose of the new curriculum.

Members commended the verbal update and the continued efforts that officers had achieved throughout the pandemic to continue services.

Members asked for clarity around private education as it would become Neath Port Talbot's responsibility under the new regulations. Officer confirmed they would get a response outside the meeting.

Members asked for a further update on the impact that Covid-19 had on Children and Early Years at a future meeting.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

3. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21**

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Chairperson

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SCRUTINY

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

March 2021 – 2022

CONTENTS

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>Officer Responsible</u>
Cabinet Scrutiny Committee	Charlotte Davies / Chloe Plowman
Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee	Charlotte Davies
Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee	Charlotte Davies
Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Charlotte Davies
Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee	Chloe Plowman
Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee	Chloe Plowman
Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee	Chloe Plowman

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
8 th March	Budget Special (please see Cabinet FWP for items)	Hywel Jenkins
16 th March	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
9 th April	Meeting cancelled	
12 th May	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
2 nd June	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
30 th June	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
28 th July	Items to be confirmed	
1 st September	Items to be confirmed	
22 nd September	Items to be confirmed	
20 th October	Items to be confirmed	
17 th November	Items to be confirmed	

15 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
12 th January	Items to be confirmed	
9 th February	Items to be confirmed	
9 th March	Items to be confirmed	
6 th April	Items to be confirmed	
9 th May	Items to be confirmed	

Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
18 th March	Update Report on Libraries	Andrew Thomas
	Report on the work of Cynnydd and the Wellbeing Service	Andrew Thomas
19 th April	Meeting cancelled	
10 th June – postponed to 28 th June	<p>An update on the impact Covid-19 has had on Education and Leisure services;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the return to schools been, any issues etc, overcome or still challenging, • Assessment in lieu of exams, how is it going/gone • Staff morale in Council, classroom and wider provision, • New curriculum prep. Simple quick rendering of what was said at school standards. • Adult Education activities • Childcare - as furlough ends after summer what will be the issues for providers / do we know? How many operating 	Andrew Thomas/ Chris Millis

22 nd July	Items to be confirmed	
2 nd September	Update on capacity at Schools – First and Second Choice	Andrew Thomas / Helen
14 th October	Update on Youth and Community Activity	Chris Mills
	Curriculum Reform Update	Andrew Thomas
25 th November	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
18 th January	Items to be confirmed	
17 th February	Consider the impacts that the pandemic has had on Schools - including the impacts from the loss of attendance and wellbeing on pupils and teachers –This will be included in Cabinet Board Report – Pupil Attendance update	
31 st March	Items to be confirmed	

Leisure and Culture Scrutiny Sub Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Cabinet Board	Contact Officer
2021			
1 st July	Items to be confirmed		
23 rd September	Christmas/New Year Opening Times (Libraries, Leisure Centres etc)	14 th October	Paul Walker
Page 13	Service Update Report – Theatre’s, Margam Park (information on the effect that Covid-19 is having on venues)		Paul Walker
	Physical Activity Sport Service Update – pass		Mark Naperella/ Paul Walker
16 th December	Library Performance Report	6 th January 2021	Wayne John
2022			
10 th March	Items to be confirmed		

Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
1 st April	Update on Homelessness	Angela Thomas
13 th May	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
24 th June (Postponed to the 5 th July)	Postponed	Postponed
5 th July 14	Update Report on the impact of Covid-19 on Disabled Facilities Grants	Angela Thomas
29 th July	Impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainability of Older People Care Homes in Neath Port Talbot	Chele Howard
13 th September (Special)	Tai Tarian lettings policy consultation	
16 th September	Impact of dischargers from hospitals on the availability of care packages. An update on Delayed Transfer of Care (DTOCS)	Angela Thomas

21 st October	The Neuro Diverse Strategy – Post scrutiny	Keri Warren
9 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
20 th January	Items to be confirmed	
3 rd March	Recovery plan – specifically to do with social care, inclusion on care homes – is this going to change people decisions going forward. Welfare of staff to be included in this.	Angela Thomas
7 th April	Items to be confirmed	

To be confirmed:

- Invite Tai Tarian – Update from Tai Tarian – TBC
- Invite Health Board – TBC

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
16 th April	Trends in Domestic Abuse	Claire Jones/Elinor Wellington
14 th May	Update Report on Active Travel	Ceri Morris
25 th June	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for Items	
30 th July	Items to be confirmed	
10 th September	Update on the Audit Wales NPT Action Plan	Simon Brennan
22 nd October	Items to be confirmed	
3 rd December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		

14 th January	Items to be confirmed	
4 th March	Items to be confirmed	
8 th April	Items to be confirmed	

Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
10 th July	Neath Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour	Elinor Wellington
1 st October	Environmental Health/Trading Standards – Food Hygiene Inspections (Performance and Impact of Covid 19)	Ceri Morris / Mark Thomas
	Update on NPT Safe Spaces	Elinor Wellington
17 th December (2.00 pm)	Update on Anti-Social Behaviour in general (all town centres and wider)	Elinor Wellington
2022		
18 th March	Items to be confirmed	

Items to be programmed in:

- CCTV: Position Statement and Update
- Substance Misuse
- ASB in all town centres to be moved to an earlier meeting

Streetscene and Engineering Scrutiny Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
6 th March	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for items	
21 st May	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for items	
2 nd July	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for items	
24 th September	Annual Parking Report 2020/21	Steve Cook
	Parking Enforcement Operation 2021	Steve Cook
5 th November	Items to be confirmed	
17 th December	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
28 th January	Items to be confirmed	

11 th March	Items to be confirmed	
29 th April	Items to be confirmed	

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