



EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10.00 AM THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 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 - 4*)
5. Admission/Capacity in Schools (*Pages 5 - 12*)
6. Pre-Decision Scrutiny
 - i. To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (Cabinet Boards reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
7. Forward Work Programme 2020/21 (*Pages 13 - 26*)
8. 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

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Wednesday, 25 August 2021

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

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

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

22 July 2021

Remotely via Teams

Chairperson:	Councillor S.H.Reynolds
Vice Chairperson:	Councillor R.Mizen
Councillors:	S.Harris, J.Jones, D.Keogh, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, M.Spooner, D.Whitelock, R.W.Wood and J.Hale
Officers In Attendance	C.Millis, J.Burge, I.Guy, T.Davies and C.Davies
Cabinet Invitees:	Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 28th June 2021 were approved.

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

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

3. **URGENT ITEMS**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No.4 below, the Chairperson agreed that it could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 (as amended).

Reason for Urgency:

Due to the time element.

4. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following urgent cabinet board item:

Culture and Heritage Strategy Report

Members received an update in relation to the culture and heritage position within Neath Port Talbot, as detailed within the circulated report.

It was noted that the Council was currently not in a position to submit an expression of interest for the current round of the City of Culture bid. However, endorsement was sought to undertake work in developing a culture and heritage strategy for the county borough that could subsequently be used to support the investment decisions and future bids for funding.

Members queried whether the levelling up fund would provide any resource to help with capacity in terms of the work around producing a Culture and Heritage Strategy. Officers confirmed that they would provide this information outside of the meeting.

Members shared their knowledge on the heritage and culture within their local areas. They highlighted their concern as to why the Council felt they were not in a position to provide an expression of interest, considering the amount of culture and heritage that was within Neath Port Talbot. Following this, officers emphasised the further need to produce a Culture and Heritage Strategy.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the Recommendations to be considered by cabinet board.

Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Chairperson



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

2nd September, 2021

Report of the Head of Education Development – Chris Millis

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: ADMISSION/CAPACITY IN SCHOOLS

Purpose of the Report:

At the request of Members as part of their forward work programme this report provides Members with information and data in relation to the admission and capacity of pupils and placements to Neath Port Talbot schools.

Executive Summary:

The number of admission applications for pupils entering or moving schools in Neath Port Talbot has increased in recent years. The vast majority of applicants are offered their first choice of school with just 1.45% of applicants being offered their second preference of choice. More than three-quarters of applications made are now online.

Background:

Members of the Scrutiny Committee have asked officers to provide a report outlining the results of the annual admission round of pupils entering Neath Port Talbot schools.

Members will be aware that each year permission is sought from Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet to firstly carry out a consultation process with interested parties regarding the Council's Admissions Policy for the year ahead and then in again to the responses to the consultation Cabinet is asked to approve an annual Admissions Policy.

Whilst today marks the first day of the 2021/22 academic year, the admission round to enable parents apply for a school place for their child for the academic year 2022/23 will commence in a matter of weeks. Officers will also be starting the process of drafting the Admissions Policy for the 2023/24 academic year over the next few months for submission to Cabinet for consideration prior to Christmas.

Over the past three years the service has been rolling out the ability for parents to apply for a school place online in place of the completion of a traditional paper application form. This academic year saw the final phase of digital rollout with the inclusion of nursery admission applications. 884 applications were received, with 658 being made online (74.4%).

Academic Year 2021/22

Members have previously requested data in relation to the number of pupils who were offered their first and second place choice of school within the county borough and also to be provided with information in relation to school capacity.

- Number of applications received: 2,965
- Number allocated first choice preference: 2,922 / 98.55%

- Number allocated second choice preference: 43 / 1.45%
- Number of independent appeals: 7
- Number of successful appeals: 2
- Number of applications processed online: 76.3%

A list of individual schools along with the capacity and pupil admission number is attached as Appendix A. Members should note that whilst these figures represent the overall surplus or over capacity of the school as a whole, admission might be still be denied based on an application to a particular year group which is at full capacity. Interpretation of these figures comes with a health warning that they can fluctuate on a daily basis depending on the fluid movement of pupils.

In addition to the application figures above, the Admissions Team also process in-year transfers. These are applications for admissions to a school that are outside of the normal admission round, usually mid-year transfers. Numbers under this category have increased substantially in recent years. For the 2020/21 academic year, despite the Covid pandemic and restrictions placed on individuals, some 716 applications were processed for pupils to move schools. Although today is the first day of the new academic year, already the service has received and processed 167 transfer requests. All-bar 5 have been offered their first choice of school.

The majority of reasons provided on the application forms for wishing to change their child's school mid-year are relating to accommodation moves within the county and new families moving into the Neath Port Talbot area.

Financial Impacts:

No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes only.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications

Legal Impacts:

No implications

Risk Management Impacts:

No implications

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

That Members note the contents of this update report

Appendices:

Appendix A, School Capacity Numbers

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

John Burge, Manager of the School & Family Support Team,
Ext: 3599, j.burge@npt.gov.uk

Helen Lewis, Principal Officer Admissions and Awards,
Ext: 3580, h.lewis@npt.gov.uk

School Capacity Numbers, September 2021		
School	Available Capacity (No's)	Pupil Admission Number
Primary		
Abbey Primary	-1	372
Alltwen Primary	-2	239
Awel Y Mor	-13	300
Baglan Primary	-40	270
Blaenbaglan Primary	+7	282
Blaendulais Primary	-80	166
Blaengwrach Primary	-11	146
Blaenhonddan Primary	-13	226
Ysgol Carreg Hir	-75	420
Catwg Primary	-9	204
Central Primary	+8	388
Cilffriw Primary	-37	213
Coed Hirwaun Primary	-8	159
Coedffranc Primary	-81	435
Creunant Primary	-26	134
Croeserw Primary	-41	178
Crymlyn Primary	0	90
Crynallt Primary	-125	480
Cwmafan Primary	-20	363
Cwmnedd Primary	-35	216
Cymer Afan Primary	-26	90
Eastern Primary	-36	182
Glyncorwg Primary	-65	137
Gnoll Primary	-32	338
Godre'rgraig Primary	-34	161
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Primary Phase	-4	210
Llangiwig Primary	-52	176
Maesmarchog Primary	-20	112

Melin Primary	-40	238
Pen Afan Primary	-24	129
Rhos Primary	-34	180
Rhydyfro Primary	-15	168
Sandfields Primary	-80	372
Tairgwaith Primary	-53	150
Tonnau Primary	-32	210
Tywyn Primary	0	366
Wauanceirch Primary	-33	211
Ynysfach Primary	-25	176
Ysgol Bae Baglan Primary Phase	+11	252
Welsh Medium		
YGG Blaendulais	-36	124
YGG Castell Nedd	-5	340
YGG Cwmllynfell	-29	92
YGG Cwm Nedd	-70	185
YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen	-23	178
YGG Pontardawe	-80	359
YGG Rhosafan	+3	318
YGG Tyle'r Ynn	+20*	206
YGG Trebannws	-49	132
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur	-53	200
Secondary		
Cefn Saeson Comprehensive	-94	924
Cwmtawe Community	-98	1284
Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive	+16	1100
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Sec. Phase	-75	1200
Llangatwg Community	-402	1169
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur	-18	1200
Ysgol Bae Baglan Sec. Phase	0	1100
Voluntary Aided Schools		
Alderman Davies CIW	-138	417
Bryncoch CIW	-106	219
St Joseph's Infants	+13	104
St Joseph's Junior	-3	156

St Joseph's Primary	-100	205
St Therese's Primary	-3	196
St Joseph's RC School and 6th Form	-60	910

*Revised increased school capacity to be agreed in September, 2021 following completion of building works on site.

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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	
7 th April	Meeting cancelled	
10 th May	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
21 st June	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
30 th June	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
28 th July	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
1 st September	Please see Cabinet FWP for items	
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	
5 th May	Items to be confirmed	

Page 16

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
29 th April	Meeting cancelled	
10th June – postponed to 20th June 17 th June	An update on the impact Covid-19 has had on Education and Leisure services; <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	Jason Heaney/ Angeline Spooner-Cleverly
	Curriculum Reform Update	Chis Millis and Mike Daley
25 th November	Items to be confirmed	
2022		
6 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 16 of 19	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		
19 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	Tai Tarian Officers/ Angela Thomas/ Robert Davies
16 th September	Update Report on the impact of Covid-19 on Disabled Facilities Grants	Angela Thomas
21 st October	The Neuro Diverse Strategy – Post scrutiny	Keri Warren
9 th December	Impact of dischargers from hospitals on the availability of care packages. An update on Delayed Transfer of Care (DTOCS)	Angela Thomas

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	

Page 21

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
10 th June	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for Items	
30 th July	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for Items	
10 th September	Meeting moved to the following week (17 th September)	
17 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		
9 th July	Neath Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour	Elinor Wellington
1 st October Page 24	Environmental Health/Trading Standards – Food Hygiene Inspections (Performance and Impact of Covid 19)	Ceri Morris / Mark Thomas
	Update on NPT Safe Spaces	Elinor Wellington
12 th November	Update on Anti-Social Behaviour in general (all town centres and wider)	Elinor Wellington
17 th December (2.00 pm)		
2022		
18 th March	Update on Substance Misuse from the APB/APB Regional Team around the transformation project, how services have responded during Covid 19, what else is being developed and harm reduction work	Claire Jones
	Update on the ADDER project and funding (Rep from PCC's Office to be invited)	Claire Jones

Items to be programmed in:

- CCTV: Position Statement and Update
- Scrutiny FWP V19 – 25 August 2021

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

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
26 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	Items to be confirmed	
25 th November	Annual Parking Report 2020/21	Steve Cook
	Parking Enforcement Operation 2021	Steve Cook
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	

