

EDUCATION SKILLS AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

20 July 2017

Chairperson: Councillor A.L.Thomas

Vice Chairperson: Councillor M.Crowley

Councillors: S.ApDafydd, M.Ellis, S.Harris, H.N.James,
S.Miller, R.Mizen, J.D.Morgan, M.Protheroe,
S.Renkes and R.L.Taylor

**Co-opted Voting
Members:** Mrs.M.Caddick

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

**Officers In
Attendance** C.Millis, A.Thomas, Miss.C.Davies, H.Lewis,
Ms.J.Smith and J.Merrifield

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

1. **MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 JUNE 2017.**

Members noted the Minutes of the last meeting as circulated.

Committee agreed that the following amendments be made:-

- That the spelling of Cllr.C.Galsworthy's name be corrected.
- That in relation to minute 3.2 the fifth paragraph thereof be amended to read:-

‘ Officers explained that Solar Energy could be stored and fed in to the system as and when required. Officers also confirmed

that there were many features to the Solar Energy Scheme which could be utilised in the future.'

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

Members noted the Forward Work Programme.

The Chair reminded Members to forward on any item suggestions.

3. **FUNDING FORMULA (PRESENTATION)**

Members received a Presentation on the Funding Formula.

The Consolidated Budget Share 2017/18 of Primary and Comprehensive Schools was circulated at the Meeting.

It was noted that the overriding principle of the Formula is based on school and pupil improvement, to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

Members asked how much consideration would there be if there is a change in the funding formula. Officers highlighted that when it is due for consultation the impact to each school would be shown a lot clearer.

Members asked if the information on the spreadsheets are subject to change. Officers highlighted that you can change the factors, it's done on a curriculum basis. However, officer's highlighted that a small change can make affect a large portion.

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

4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

3.1 **School Term Dates 2019/2020**

Members were provided with information on the School term dates in respect of the 2019/2020 academic Year.

Members asked what the protocol was for Lollipop ladies if School term dates changed. Officers highlighted that their term time is pro-rata and their pay would remain the same.

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

3.2 Strategic School Improvement Programme - Proposal to Establish Specialist Provision for Primary Age Pupils with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties

Members received information to consult on the establishment of specialist provision for primary age pupils with social emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) at Crynallt Primary School and at Coedffranc Primary School.

Members welcomed the report and asked whether the neighbouring authorities are faced with the same pressures. Officers confirmed that other authorities were having the same pressures.

Members queried how Officers can measure parent's involvement and what if parents don't co-operate. Officers highlighted they Consent would have to be given for moving any child and if its parents wishes not to move the child then they don't move, the decision ultimately stays with the Parents.

Members queried if the School that the children are moved from would pass the funding on to the School they are moving to. Officers highlighted that every School would contribute a little money to cover the cost of the facilities.

Members queried whether other schools have been given the same opportunity. Officers highlighted that they asked all Schools whether they would be interested in having this facility and only two Schools responded.

Members queried that in the circulated report it highlights that the skills and expertise that the additional staff members would possess would be available to be utilised for the benefit of the wider, mainstream School communities and asked whether

there would be extra training required. Officers highlighted that it would be passed through general communication and training wouldn't be required.

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

3.3 The Assessment of Walking Routes to comply with the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 - and to approve a Risk Assessment Matrix

Members received an update on an assessment matrix for determining the availability of walking routes for learners travelling from home to school, in accordance with the requirements of the statutory measure.

Members queried whether Welsh Government had seen the Proposed Matrix. Officers confirmed that they have seen it and were supportive of the content.

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

3.4 Quarterly Performance Management Data 2016-2017 Quarter 4 Performance (1st April 2016– 31st March 2017)

Members were provided with an update on quarter 4 performance management data, complaints and compliments for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 for Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorate.

Members asked why the percentage of the final statements of special education needs issued within 26 weeks had fallen. Officers clarified that on occasions additional information is received and therefore takes them over the 26 week threshold.

Members highlighted that the percentage of pupils assessed at the end of key stage 3, achieving the core subject indicator is still positioned low on the ranks. Officers confirmed that they are confident that the teachers for Neath Port Talbot are assessing pupils work.

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

CHAIRPERSON

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