

Minutes of the Education Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

18 March 2021

Remotely via Teams

Chairperson:	Councillor S.H.Reynolds
Vice Chairperson:	Councillor R.Mizen
Councillors:	M.Crowley, S.Harris, J.Jones, D.Keogh, S.Miller, J.D.Morgan, R.Phillips, M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, A.J.Richards, D.Whitelock, R.W.Wood and J.Hale
Co-opted Voting Members:	M.Caddick and L.Newman
Officers In Attendance	A.Evans, C.Millis, P.Walker, W.John, E.Dennis, K.Gilbert, H.Lewis, P.Doyle, T.Davies and C.Davies
Cabinet Invitees:	Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following officer made a declaration of interest at the start of the meeting:

Wayne John	Re: Item 8 – Welsh Public Library Standards, Annual Report 2019/20, as he is a Member on the Welsh Government Group on WPLS.
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2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 21 January 2021, were approved subject to the following amendment:

- That Cllr. J.Hale and Co-opted Member Lynda Newman be marked as present on the attendance.

3. **NEATH PORT TALBOT LIBRARY SERVICE - COVID-19 UPDATE**

Members were provided with an update on the performance of the Library Service during COVID-19 and officers outlined the support and range of services that were offered to residents, as contained within the circulated report.

Members commended the staff within Libraries for adapting to the current climate around Covid-19 while still providing an excellent service.

Following Scrutiny, the report was noted.

4. **REPORT ON THE CYNNYDD AND THE WELLBEING SERVICE**

Members were provided with information on the work and impact of the Wellbeing and Behaviour Service and Cynnydd. Members were also provided with information on future work, opportunities and challenges, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members commended the work of the Wellbeing and Behaviour Services and Cynnydd.

Following Scrutiny, the report was noted.

5. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following cabinet board items:

Welsh Public Library Standards, Annual Report 2019-2020

Members received the Annual Report to the Welsh Government in respect of the Authorities library services performance against the Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS) framework 6. Members also noted the feedback, comments and recommendations in the Annual Assessment Report 2019-20.

Members queried whether there were any impacts to the Valleys Impact assessment. Officers confirmed that as it was annual report for 2019-20 based on performance this report wouldn't have a direct impact on the Valleys.

The Committee requested that a note be sent to all officers to ensure that officers consider the Valleys Impact Assessment.

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

Schools' Forum Revised Constitution

Members were updated on a revised constitution for the Schools' Forum, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members asked for clarity in relation to the following statement that was detailed within the circulated report, 'Having reviewed the original Regulations the constitution attached as Appendix A has been drafted and clarity provided to the areas of Concern'. Members queried what the area of concern was. Officers clarified that there were no particular concerns in relation to the original draft it was more of a generic concern on ensuring the constitution was updated in line with current practice of the forum as it had drifted its ways of working from the original terms of reference.

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

6. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Members noted the Forward Work Programme and considered an additional item to be included in relation to Childcare placements within Schools due to the impact of the pandemic.

7. 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.

8. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF PRIVATE ITEM/S

The committee chose to scrutinise the following private cabinet board items:

Former Cymer Afan Comprehensive School – Stand-Alone Floodlit Astro Turf Pitch

Members received information in relation to the former Cymer Afan Comprehensive stand-alone floodlit Astro Turf Pitch, as detailed within the private circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet board.

Aberavon Seafront – Beach Lifeguard Service

Members were informed of a request to enter into a contract, as detailed within the circulated report, with regards provision of a Lifeguard Service at Aberavon Beach.

Following Scrutiny, the committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by the cabinet board.

Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Chairperson