

Minutes of the Education Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

1 November 2021

Remotely via Teams

Chairperson:	Councillor S.H.Reynolds
Vice Chairperson:	Councillor R.Mizen
Councillors:	M.Crowley, S.Harris, J.Jones, D.Keogh, M.Protheroe, S.Renkes, M.Spooner, D.Whitelock, R.W.Wood and J.Hale
Co-opted Voting Members:	L.Newman
Co-opted Non Voting Members:	R.De Benedictis
Officers In Attendance	A.Thomas, C.Millis, I.Guy, T.Davies, C.Davies, R.Crowhurst and K.Windsor-Brown
Cabinet Invitees:	Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.A.Rees

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following members made a declaration of interest:

Cllr Mathew Crowley	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as he is a Governor at Awel y Môr Primary School and Tywyn Primary School but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Sian Harris	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as she is a Governor at Creunant Primary School and a relative works in Ysgol Cwm Brombil but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Jane Jones	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as she is a Governor at The Federated Primary Schools of the Upper Afan Valley but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Dennis Keogh	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as he is a Governor at Ysgol Cwm Brombil but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Rhidian Mizen	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as he is a Governor at Cwmafan Primary School and Ysgol Cwm Brombil but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Susanne Renkes	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as she is a Governor at Baglan Primary School and Blaenbaglan Primary School but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Sonia Reynolds	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as she is a Governor at YGG Gawun-Cae-Gurwen and a trustee at Canolfan Maerdy but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Dave Whitelock	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as he is a Governor at Ysgol Cwm Brombil but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Marcia Spooner	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as she is a Governor at Rhos Primary but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Mark Protheroe	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as he is a Governor at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and Melin Primary School but has dispensation to speak and vote.
Cllr Alan Lockyer	Re:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 as he is a Governor at Gnoll Primary and YGG Castell Nedd but has dispensation to speak and vote.

2. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032

Members received a brief overview of the Neath Port Talbot draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032. Following a request to sought approval to go out to consult, as detailed within the circulated report.

Members of the Committee welcomed Cllr.S.Paddison to the Committee as she was a previous members of the Welsh Language Task and Finish group. Members discussed the promotional elements of the welsh language. It was noted that officers ensure that parents/guardians are provided with the utmost knowledge and information to enable them to make an informed decision on children going to welsh medium schools.

Member's commended the plan of the 3 potential additional Welsh Medium schools.

Discussions took place around the difficulties of recruiting Welsh medium Teachers. Members were reassured that the three schools would be introduced on an introductory basis therefore, enabling the schools to slowly build and recruit when required.

Members suggested that parents be involved in future forums to discuss their personal experiences on their children attending welsh medium schools with an English first language background. As a result encourage further parents to engage.

Members queried whether the 3 schools would be super schools and would this have an effect on future school closures. Members were reassured that the 3 welsh medium schools would be additions to the current system and not cause any future closures.

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

Councillor S.H.Reynolds

Chairperson

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