

## LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

Present: Councillor G.C. Kemp (Chairman); Councillors S.J. Griffiths, N.P. Hodges, T.H. Jarvie, Mrs. J.M. Norman, A.C. Parker, Mrs. S.D. Perkes and N.C. Thomas.

Co-opted Members: Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church) and Mrs. J. Lynch-Wilson (Parent Governor – Primary Sector).

Non-Voting Observers: Mr. T. Froud (Vale Youth Forum).

Also present: Councillor L. Burnett (Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration), Councillors Dr. I.J. Johnson and L.O. Rowlands.

### 592 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor Ms. R.M. Birch (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor A.R.T. Davies and Mr. H. Gapper (Welsh Medium Education).

### 593 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

### 594 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

### 595 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021-22 (REF) –

The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources presented a reference from the Cabinet meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019 regarding the school admission arrangements for 2021/22. The report had been referred to the Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process.

In referring to the Cabinet report, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources stated that it had been proposed to consult on an amendment to the existing English medium secondary school catchment areas and policy for admissions into the academic year 2021/22. The consultation period would be from 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 to 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 and a report on the outcome of the consultation would be presented to Cabinet in March 2020.

The proposed revisions to school catchment areas were summarised in the report as follows:

## **Barry Area**

Pencoedtre High School:

- Transfer of the Gwenfo area into St. Cyres school catchment area;
- St. Cyres School had the capacity to accommodate extra areas and pupil demand into their catchment areas;
- The revision would provide a better balance of school places to meet future demand for parents living in the Pencoedtre High School catchment area requiring a school place.

Whitmore High School:

- Transfer the Rhoose area into Cowbridge Comprehensive School catchment area;
- Removal of the dual catchment area status of Rhoose to Barry and Llantwit so that it is realigned to Cowbridge Comprehensive;
- The revision would provide a better balance of school places to meet future demand for parents living in the Whitmore school catchment area requiring a school place.

## **Cowbridge Area**

Cowbridge Comprehensive School:

- Increase the catchment pupil population size by incorporating the area of Rhoose into the school catchment area;
- The current secondary pupil catchment population was small relative to the size of the catchment area with scope to increase its size;
- The revision would provide a better balance of school places and would meet future demand for parents living in the Cowbridge Comprehensive School catchment area requiring a school place.

## **Llantwit Major Area**

Llantwit Major School:

- Transfer the Rhoose area into Cowbridge Comprehensive School catchment area;
- A further 270 English medium primary children were likely to enter the secondary school system in future as a result of housing allocations outlined in the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) that had not come forward for development to date. The developments were also anticipated to introduce a further 241 pupils of secondary school age into the system. It was uncertain as to when interest in the sites was likely to take place but a reduction in the catchment area would provide flexibility to manage these future developments;
- The revision would provide a better balance of school places to meet demand for parents living in the Llantwit Major School catchment area requiring a school place.

## Penarth Area

### Stanwell School

- The school were their own admissions authority. The Council had not been made aware of any plans to alter the school catchment area.

### St. Cyres School:

- Increasing the catchment pupil population area size by incorporating the Wenvoe, Penarth and Sully areas into the school catchment area;
- The current secondary pupil catchment population was small relative to the size of the catchment area with scope to increase its size;
- The revision would provide a better balance of school places and would meet demand for parents living in the St. Cyres School catchment area requiring a school place.

It was reported that the above changes would provide a better balance of places in the school catchment areas when compared to the overall number of places available to ensure, and as far as possible, pupils living in the catchment area would be able to secure a place at their local school.

The revised catchment areas would assist to support the Council's admission process, promote fair access to secondary school places and address high numbers of catchment area applications at certain schools.

The catchment area revisions would be consulted upon with schools and prescribed consultees as part of the consultation exercise on school admission arrangements (Appendix A to the report) for the 2021/22 academic year before any decisions were made. The basis for the changes was attached at Appendix B to the report.

Maps showing current and revised catchment areas were included at Appendix B to the report.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme was a unique collaboration between the Welsh Government and Local Authorities. It was a major long term strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools in Wales.

Band B of the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme would see more than £134m invested in education assets across the Vale of Glamorgan between 2019 and 2024.

A number of schemes had been progressed for implementation in September 2021. These schemes had been reflected in the admissions arrangements for 2021/22 (Appendix A to the report). These included the expansion of:

- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg from 1,361 places to 1,660 places;
- Ysgol Sant Baruc from 210 places to 420 places;
- Llancarfan Primary School from 126 places to 210 places;
- St. Nicholas CIW Primary School from 126 places to 210 places; and

- St. David's CIW Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

Secondary age pupils were entitled to free school transport if they lived three or more miles to their nearest or catchment area school.

The proposed changes to secondary school catchment areas would result in increased transportation costs for pupils residing three miles or more by securing new contract vehicles and routes.

It was estimated that the cost of additional transport requirements would be in the region of £85,000 rising to £114,000 per annum over an initial four year period as pupil numbers requiring transport increased each year from those areas and where the Council had an obligation to honour existing transport arrangements for those pupils affected by the changes. This may reduce if pupils from within Stanwell's feeder areas continued to attend Stanwell School but this was difficult to predict at present.

A saving of £31,730 would be achieved by the discontinuation of school transport from the Rhoose area to Whitmore High School. The Council had an obligation to honour existing school transport arrangements for those pupils affected by the changes, the full effect of savings would be realised in around five years' time.

In the long term the net increase to transportation arrangements after existing transport arrangements were honoured and savings realised would be around £53,270 per annum. This may reduce if pupils from the Sully area did not attend Stanwell School. The cost would be funded from within existing budgets

A Committee Member referred to the proposal to extend the catchment area for St. Cyres to include Wenvoe. The Member stated that given the increase in housing in the Sully and Cosmeston area then the proposed new catchment areas would impact on traffic congestion, particularly around Dinas Powys and the Merrie Harrier junction. He queried how would this be addressed and what solutions were being proposed. In reply, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources agreed that there would likely be an increase in traffic but this would depend on how many parents chose to send their children to St. Cyres. He advised that the Council had been doing some modelling work, but the issues needed consideration by Highways.

A Committee Member queried why Rhoose had been included within the catchment area of Cowbridge Comprehensive School. In reply, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources stated that this was to do with the number of spaces available at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and in order not to divide Rhoose into two separate catchment areas.

Having considered the report, it was

**RECOMMENDED – T H A T** the resolution of Cabinet made on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2019, be supported.

Reason for recommendation

Following consideration of the school admission arrangements for 2021/22.

### 596 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION – MUSEUM PROVISION IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON) –

Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson presented his Request for Consideration which related to museum provision in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor Dr. Johnson began by referring to the Expert Review of Local Authority Museum Provision published in 2015, which highlighted that 20 of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales funded some form of museum provision. One of the two not to fund a provision was the Vale of Glamorgan.

Councillor Johnson then raised a point regarding the length of time that it had taken for a report to be produced, stating that his original request had been submitted in January 2019. He then raised a second point regarding the content of the report which he felt did not cover the desirability of having a museum provision but talked a lot about why it could not be provided. He stated that the Council needed to be more creative and asked for more positivity and consideration of the Council establishing and operating an accredited museum in the Vale of Glamorgan. Councillor Johnson therefore wanted to see a wide discussion on the topic of museum provision across the Vale of Glamorgan.

In reply, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources stated that he took on board the Member's point regarding length of time taken to produce the report. He stated that there had been an issue around capacity and a number of competing priorities. In terms of desirability around a museum in the Vale of Glamorgan, he stated that it was important for the report to set the context and for this to be led by Members on how the Council progressed, so it was important for the report to 'set the scene' first.

The Culture and Community Learning Manager then referred to the report which advised that the Vale of Glamorgan was home to two local museums: Barry Island War Museum, located in the historic Barry Island Station, and the Cowbridge and District Museum, located in the Cowbridge Town Hall. Neither museum was in receipt of any Local Authority funding, but the Cowbridge Museum had received accreditation.

The Barry Island War Museum was operated by the Barry at War Group (Voluntary) and offers an authentic wartime experience.

The Cowbridge and District Museum was founded in the early 1980's and focused on Cowbridge's past. The museum exhibits were housed in the Town Hall cells. In April 2017, the Museum received formal accreditation from MALD – the Museums, Archives, Libraries Division (Wales).

Both Vale Museums were open only a few times per month and at specific times. Barry Library held a local studies collection which contained numerous items including books, maps and photographs. It also contributed to the online digital archive called the 'People's Collection Wales', a national digital initiative funded by the Museum's Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) and based in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Glamorgan Archives collected records relating to the history of Glamorgan and its people. Records could range from, papers, plans, photographs, parchments, personal diaries, and Council minutes. The Glamorgan Archives were particularly interested in hosting records that were in danger of destruction or decay so that they may be saved for future generations.

The Vale of Glamorgan did not have any Council operated or funded local museum provision. There was no statutory obligation on Local Authorities in Wales to provide museum services.

There was currently no provision for Council operated local museum provision in the Vale. Establishment of such a provision would require a establishing an increase to the existing budget, or establishment of a separate budget to facilitate the following considerations:

- Physical space for artistic collections. This may necessitate establishment of controlled environments to facilitate the preservation of historic works;
- Staffing for a museum archivist for the curation of physical or digital collections, and administrative support associated with accreditation, logistics and maintenance;
- Additional provision for marketing, communications and security;
- Increases to insurance and liability cover.

On average in Wales approximately 20% of museum running costs were covered by revenue. The remaining 80% of funding came from grants, national funding and / or subsidies from Local Authorities.

A Virtual Museum could be considered to enable sharing large amounts of information without the technical, and physical storage requirements. In the past The Vale Libraries Digital Project had encouraged local people to bring in their photos for uploading to the People's Collection Wales. This type of project, if properly resourced, could help to collate an online innovative Virtual Museum for the Vale. Links to information via the National Archive was already available and could be further developed. Digitised information could be accessed via personal devices such as mobile phones, tablets, computers or dedicated digital interactive systems across the Vale of Glamorgan in libraries and historic venues.

A purely digital provision would however still incur revenue costs associated with management and maintenance of a digital platform, alongside staffing costs for a digital archivist, and ancillary costs associated with a digital platform such as software licences, hosting and digital security.

The standards and quality systems in most frequent use in Wales were the Accreditation Scheme for Museums in the UK and Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme Cymru (VAQAS). The Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) accreditation was a national UK accreditation awarded by Arts Council of England (ACE). Other relevant standards, including Investors in People, Investing in Volunteers, PQASSO32 and EFQM33 were also available.

The Accreditation schemes set minimum standards for museum provision. As at May 2015, there were 98 museums in the VAQAS accreditation scheme in Wales.

To retain Accreditation, museums must demonstrate compliance with all aspects of the standard by completing a return every three years. In the interim, museums were required to inform the Welsh Government's MALD of any planned significant changes to their operations.

Both obtaining and maintaining accreditation would have ongoing revenue implications in the monitoring and reporting which would be required.

The Welsh Government expert review of Local Museums in Wales (2015) acknowledged that although Museums in Wales were significant and housed important local information and artefacts in 20 of the 22 Local Authority areas, reductions in budgets was eventually likely to lead to reduced opening times, collections not being developed, charges being introduced for some services, staff reductions, exhibitions being curtailed and many other signs of services under stress leading inevitably to museum closures. Developing Council operated accredited museum provision at this time and under current financial challenges affecting statutory services would be difficult to rationalise. The implications and cost of running a museum in the Vale of Glamorgan should therefore be carefully considered.

There was no national funding available to Local Authorities from Welsh Government linked to the provision of museum services.

The total Arts development budget for 2019/20 was £129k. This budget was set to reduce to £108k in the forthcoming 2020/21 financial year. It was anticipated that operating a dedicated physical museum provision would cost an additional £100-150k (approximately) per annum. This was based on the existing running costs of the Arts Central Gallery space, at £84k for the 2019/20 financial year, and the additional costs associated with maintaining museum collections, such as appropriate lighting, temperature and humidity-controlled conditions, additional security considerations and human resource implications. A separate consultation was due with regards to the use of the Arts Central Gallery space as part of the Council's strategy for Arts and Culture. Repurposing the space as a museum could be considered as part of those proposals.

Learning and Skills currently employed a single Arts Development Officer for managing its Arts provision in the Vale. There was currently no administration support for any Arts and Culture services. Additional staffing would be required in the form of a specialist museum archivist to manage and curate any physical / digital

collections. Dedicated administration support would also be required for managing accreditation, monitoring returns and supporting any revenue management associated with the provision, should the Council's strategy on fees and charges be levied.

A number of Council funding streams exist to support community growth and facilities, including:

- Stronger Communities:  
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/Business-Support/Strong-Communities-Grant.aspx>
- Community Grants:  
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/Community-Grants.aspx>
- Business Funding:  
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/Business-Support/Business-Funding.aspx>
- Mayor's Foundation:  
[https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our\\_council/Council-Structure/The-Mayor/Mayors-Foundation-Grant-Fund.aspx](https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/Council-Structure/The-Mayor/Mayors-Foundation-Grant-Fund.aspx)

External funding streams were also available from MALD, the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries Wales, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and The Community Fund, for example. Each funding stream was contingent of meeting specified criteria, such as being an existing accredited museum, or for capital work.

In addition, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources advised that there were many ways in which collections could be displayed, such as digital or offering a physical space in a school or community resources. Therefore, he stated that there were some opportunities there.

In outlining some of their initial thoughts, a number of Committee Members commented on the report which could be summarised as follows:

- There was opportunity to establish facilities for collections and there were other models away from a museum;
- There was an assumption that Barry would be the best location for a Vale Museum, but there were other locations;
- The cost to establish a museum, which was in the region of £150k, was prohibitive at a time of shrinking budgets and there was little justification in spending money this way when the Directorate should be prioritising children, safeguarding and education;
- There was scope to work in partnership with Town and Community Councils;
- With regard to Barry, its history would be known across the world and so it was important to look at how collections could be displayed. Costs however were high and it was important not to undertake “vanity projects” at a time when the budgets were challenging;
- The report was too narrow in its focus and did not outline opportunities for tourism and the importance of raising civic pride;



- Where museums had been established this had also led to shops and restaurants being set up, so a museum in the centre of Barry would be a boost to the town;
- Digital and physical spaces did not necessarily increase footfall to town centres;
- There were a lot of national museums located in Cardiff and it would be nice for there to be some provision in Barry;
- Austerity did not mean that the Council could not be ambitious, and grants and funding were available, which had to be looked into otherwise our history could be lost;
- Llantwit Major had a Historical Society which used volunteers to look after collections in a local church. Therefore, the Council did not necessarily need to provide a physical building but the key was attracting volunteers. Perhaps there was opportunity to look at how collections could be provided on a small scale with the support of volunteers and to see what could be built up from there;
- Cowbridge had a vibrant museum which could be used as a model. The first step would be to assess the interest of volunteers to assist with any venture getting off the ground;
- St. Athan had recently seen an aviation museum set up, which had been well received. It was important to maintain cultural and historic heritage, but this was down to the money available, so the Council should start on a small scale to see if that was successful;
- The role of curators should not be forgotten as it was a professional undertaking to look after and manage collections;
- History and culture were a fundamental part of the new curriculum in Wales, so all schools had to offer something to its pupils;
- There were opportunities to obtain grant funding to maintain local history and culture, so this should not be at the expense of education.

In being asked to comment, the Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration stated that it was important for the Committee to understand some of the context and costings to develop a museum and one important aspect of the work of the Council was the Sense of Place Board. The Board had developed the Barry Story Book which was a fascinating read and so the Council was looking to maintain the culture and history of Barry in order to create a destination for tourists. Therefore, the Council needed to assess what it was doing, but if it was to create a museum then this needed to be done properly. There were questions to ask such as should it be the Vale of Glamorgan Council and discussions held back in 2012 had been challenging because of the number and range of history groups which needed to work together. The Cabinet Member advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had been doing things to support local groups and she referred to the Iolo Morganwg Walk and local walks around Barry which were very popular. She therefore hoped that the Council could work more closely with these groups. In addition, a lot of information was available online which was maintained by local community groups. Finally, the Cabinet Member stated that heritage was taken very seriously, and the Vale was lucky in having some very diverse communities and so it was important to consider what the Council wanted to do and how it engaged with organisations and history groups to ensure that the cultural heritage was protected.

The Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources stated that there were electronic links contained within the report which showed what grants were available, some of which referred to volunteers. There were mechanisms and areas such as libraries that volunteers could help and other venues such as schools which could be used for events. He stated that the Council was happy to look to facilitate these.

A Committee Member recommended that the Council should scope the idea of working with local communities / groups to encourage volunteers. In reply, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources stated that he would be happy to do this.

Councillor Dr. Johnson, in being asked to come back on some of the points raised, stated that he was glad that there had been a wide-ranging debate and he appreciated the financial issues, but £150k was not large for an organisation with a budget of £220m. He stated that he agreed with the comment around curators and the professionals needed to maintain collections and he supported the recommendation regarding a further report around opportunity for volunteers and working with community groups. He therefore asked for a full Cabinet report regarding the Council's plans to set out the work it was doing including all options available and within the wider context.

A Member of the Committee then made another recommendation regarding artefacts and displays within Vale of Glamorgan Council offices and facilities such as libraries, and she suggested that these spaces could be shared with historical societies and for this to be looked into further. In reply, the Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resource stated that this would be considered.

The Cabinet Member also suggested that it would be worth the Scrutiny Committee inviting the Chairman of the Sense of Place Board to provide a presentation of the work undertaken.

Finally, the Committee considered the financial aspects and a Committee Member stated that the budget for the Arts and Culture should be maintained if not increased. The Committee agreed for this to be a formal recommendation to Cabinet.

Subsequently, it was

#### RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet agree for officers to scope opportunities to work with historic societies and community groups around the establishment of local exhibitions on a small scale and for the outcome of this to be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee.

(2) T H A T Cabinet receives a report on museum provision in order for it to consider what the Council can do and to outline the Council's strategy.

(3) T H A T Cabinet agree that the budget for the Arts and Culture is either held at the current level or increased in order to retain development.

(4) T H A T Cabinet approves officers to look at possibilities of displaying artefacts in Vale of Glamorgan Council spaces such as libraries or community facilities in partnership with historical societies and community groups in order to share costs.

(5) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee receive a presentation from the Chairman of the Sense of Place Board regarding cultural heritage.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1) To explore the possibility of establishing local exhibitions on a small scale and for the outcome of this to be reported back to the Committee.

(2) In order to outline the Council's strategy and in order to maintain funding.

(3) To maintain or increase spending on the development of the Arts and Cultural heritage.

(4) In order to consider the feasibility of displaying artefacts in the Vale of Glamorgan Council spaces such as libraries and community facilities.

(5) In order for the Committee to consider the work undertaken to protect cultural heritage.

#### 597 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL TO 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 (DLS) –

The Principal Accountant presented the report the purpose of which was the advise of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

The report outlined the forecast for Learning and Skills was an overspend of £888k after a planned use of reserves of £136k. As part of the initial revenue budget proposals 2020/21, £500k was transferred into a new reserve set up for education pressures acknowledging the issues arising in 2019/20. This reserve would be utilised to partially balance the budget in the current financial year.

In terms of specific services, the report outlined the following.

Schools – The delegated budget relating to schools was expected to balance as any under/over spend was carried forward by schools.

Strategy, Culture, Community Learning and Resources – There was an adverse variance of £266k anticipated for this area after a planned transfer from reserves of £136k. The Schools Non Delegated budget was projected to overspend by £127k.

£136k of this variance was due to the need to fund on going safeguarding and salary protection costs in relation to the transformation of secondary schools in Barry, however, it had been planned to transfer £136k from the Schools Rationalisation reserve for this purpose. There were other small favourable variances of £9k. There was a projected overspend of £393k relating to School Transport which was an increase from the figure previously reported. Local Education Authorities had a statutory duty to provide free school transport for pupils of statutory school age who resided beyond walking distance to the nearest appropriate school in addition to a statutory duty to provide transport for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) who required access to specialist provision. The Council also provided discretionary support towards pupils in further education above the age of 16. Currently, there was a projected adverse variance of £245k for ALN. The overspend was due to new transport provision at the Early Intervention Base (EIB) at St. Josephs, Ysgol Ty Coch, SAS Ysgol Y Deri (this was a day per week provision in Y Deri for pupils who attended mainstream schools – St. Bride’s, Y Ddraig and Llansanor) and increased transport provision/costs at Gladstone Primary, Jenner Park Primary, Red Rose School, Y Daith (PRU), Ysgol Y Deri and payments to parents where transport could not be provided due to child needs or because no other transport option was available. This was in addition to the loss of an operator who provided a number of ALN routes but was unable to meet our contractual terms and conditions. The subsequent retendering of the routes saw an increase in overall costs. There was a projected £121k adverse variance relating to mainstream transport. Schools such as Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, Cowbridge Comprehensive and Llantwit Major Comprehensive had additional routes due to the increase in demand in addition to a number of catchment issue taxis. Costs from the tender of mainstream services also saw an overall increase across the board. Further Education was projecting an adverse variance of £27k as actual costs for St. David’s College transport were due to be higher than in previous years. These adverse variances were offset by the £118k net favourable variance projected by the Strategy and Resources section. The largest variance being due to the delay in the new finance system for secondary schools being implemented which had resulted in savings this year of £65k.

Directors Office – It was anticipated that this area would outturn on target.

Additional Learning Needs and Wellbeing – A net adverse variance of £641k was currently projected for this service. The Non Delegated Resource Units were projecting an overspend of £297k. The key emerging challenge for schools was the increasing number of children and young people who were displaying very complex social, emotional and mental health difficulties. In order to meet this need two specialist resource bases had been developed at Gladstone Primary School in partnership with Ysgol Y Deri. These resource bases were developing a trauma informed approach which recognised the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on the development of young people. The Children’s Placements and educational needs of Looked After Children’s budgets were currently projecting an overspend of £319k. It was difficult to predict the outturn on these budgets as there could be changes in placements between now and the year end and costs for individual cases could be expensive. There was currently an adverse variance of

£54k on the recoupment income budget and there were other small favourable variances of £29k projected.

Standards and Provision – A net favourable variance of £19k was projected for this service. There was a £70k favourable variance mainly relating to staffing in the Youth Engagement and Progression service. The EOTAS and Alternative Curriculum service was projecting an adverse variance of £110k due to a significant increase in the number of pupils accessing education provision other than at school. This had been partially offset by additional income of £38k from the Youth Support Homelessness grant and £10k from Cardiff Council CLA. The Pupils Referral Unit was currently projecting an adverse variance of £38k due to issues relating to long term sickness of staff and the need to employ agency staff to provide the service. Behaviour and Attendance had a projected favourable variance of £10k mainly against staffing budgets. There was also a favourable variance of £39k under School Improvements also related to the staffing budgets.

As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2019/20, a savings target of £162k was set for this Directorate, excluding schools. Attached at Appendix 1 to the report was a statement detailing the savings targets for 2019/20. It was anticipated that all savings would be achieved this year.

Appendix 2 to the report detailed financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. The following changes had been made to the Capital Programme since the last report to Committee.

Band B Preparatory Works Changing Rooms etc – This scheme was complete and it had been requested that the remaining budget of £57k be vired to the following schemes; £10k Band B Whitmore High School, £10k Band B Pencoedtre High School for two containers and £37k Romilly Primary School. Various additional works had had to be carried out at Romilly Primary School, including revised playground construction, revised reception externals and revised nursery externals.

Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School Water Mains Renewal – Costs had increased due to significant additional works to lay the water main due to unforeseen rocky ground. Peterston Super Ely Roof Renewal scheme was underspent due to tenders being returned lower than expected. It had therefore been requested to vire £32k from the Peterston Super Ely Roof Renewal scheme to this scheme within the 2019/20 Capital Programme.

Childcare Offer Capital Grant – Gladstone Primary School and Llanfair Primary School schemes were at planning stage and options were being considered for the design and build of Welsh Medium scheme. Another round of applications would be opening in January 2020 for the small grant scheme. Due to the above the spend needs to be reprofiled and it had been requested that £1.170m was carried forward into the 2020/21 Capital Programme.

Having considered the report, it was

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2019/20 Revenue and Capital Budgets be noted.

Reason for recommendation

So that Members are aware of the projected revenue outturn for 2019/20.

598 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRESSION UPDATE (DLS) –

The Lead for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing presented the report which provided an update on progress made over the previous six months of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the current levels of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training in Year 11 reduced from 1% in 2017 to 0.5% in 2018. Significantly below the Welsh average of 1.6%, the Local Authority was ranked first position for having the lowest percentage of NEET young people in Wales, compared to third lowest Local Authority last year.

Year 12 NEET figures had reduced from 0.6% in 2017 to 0.4% in 2018. Again under the Welsh average of 0.7%, the Vale ranking however fell to 7th position compared to 5th position last year.

Year 13 NEET figures had reduced greatly from 2.85% in 2017 to 1.55% in 2018, whilst remaining below the Welsh average of 2.53% and placed the Vale in 4th position compared to 13th position in 2017.

The reduction of NEETs in Years 11, 12 and 13 in the Vale had been due to various programmes and initiatives which were summarised below.

The continuation of the Early Identification exercise carried out by schools flagged up young people who had been categorised as RED, AMBER or GREEN depending on analysis of risk factors. The task was carried out twice annually by leads of KS3 and KS4.

Pupils from key stage 3 (KS3) and key stage 4 (KS4) who were identified as RED, were considered for support from the European Social Fund, Inspire to Achieve (I2A) programme. The preventative programme helped reduce the number of young people at risk of becoming NEET. In 2018, 107 pupils were enrolled onto the I2A programme. The programme had set three common results indicators to measure impact of participants at risk of becoming NEET which were: 'gaining qualifications upon leaving'; 'in education, employment or training upon leaving'; and 'at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving'. There were 103 year 11 leavers in 2018, 22 of these young people entered education or training. This figure was likely to increase to approximately 40 young people once Careers Wales had collected the data from colleges as part of the 2019 destination survey during November and December 2019. Six young people were confirmed NEET, and the remaining number of young people were considered unknown or uncontactable. The local

authority were working to reach out to this cohort, to reduce the number of unknown NEET young people.

The ESF Inspire to Work (I2W) Programme was measured on the reduction of young people NEET aged 16-24 through entry into the labour market, thus reducing youth unemployment. The ESF programmes were managed regionally in partnership with Cardiff Council, Newport Council, Monmouthshire Council, Llamau, Careers Wales, Gwent College and Cardiff and the Vale College. Newport Council had the strategic overview and were the lead agency for the programmes.

There were 10 young people aged 16-17 enrolled on to the I2W programme in 2018/19, five of these young people had entered education, training or employment, the remaining five were still receiving support from the programme. There were a total of 65 enrolments to the programme aged 18-24, all of which had received or were still receiving ongoing support. 18 had entered employment and five had entered further education/training.

The Local Authority and schools had independently commissioned a number of providers to deliver vocational education to pupils educated otherwise than at school (EOTAS) in KS3 and KS4. There were a total of 11 alternative education providers working with comprehensive schools, the Local Authority and the Pupil Referral Unit. The largest engaging alternative education provider in the Vale was Motivational Preparation College for Training (MPCT), engaging 189 learners of all abilities across years 9, 10 and 11 in 2018/19, an increase of 30% from the previous year of 132 learners. Pupils gained qualifications in BTEC and or City and Guilds, achieving a total of 192 qualifications in 2018/19.

Cardiff and the Vale College Junior Apprenticeship programme enrolled eight pupils from year 11, to study automotive, construction, hair and beauty, multi-skills and hospitality and catering. Five pupils gained level 2 Institute of Motor Industry (IMI), City and Guilds and NVQ qualifications. The remaining three pupils entered full time courses at the college to study vehicle maintenance, painting and decorating and introduction to building services. In 2018/19, 77 pupils were enrolled onto the College's 14-16 pathways programme, 51 of these pupils completed their courses and 26 pupils were transferred back to school.

In 2018-19, Associated Community Training (ACT) Schools provided education for 21 Vale pupils. Nine learners continued their education with ACT this academic year, the remaining 12 returned to school. All KS3 learners completed their Agored Cymru Entry 3 qualification in Personal and Social Education (PSE) and work related education. This was a requirement for progression onto the KS4 program and a development of skills for the Welsh Baccalaureate should a pupil reintegrate back into mainstream education. The majority of learners in KS3 showed progression in their literacy and numeracy, in most cases, learners were seen to improve by one level for example from level 3 to level 4.

The Youth Engagement and Progression Board continued to meet quarterly and monitored the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework annual grant work plans. The Board ensured the reduction of young people NEET in

the Vale and relative to Wales as a whole, by monitoring performance, scrutinising NEET data and ensuring tracking of vulnerable groups. The Board looked at quarterly data of young people aged 16-18, this included the number of NEET young people, and unknown NEET young people. The Board also provided leadership, monitored the outcome of strategic partnership work and the use of resources to help reduce the number of young people NEET in the Vale.

A directory of alternative education provision for statutory school age had been developed. The directory was a useful resource for schools, placing an emphasis on the availability of alternative education providers for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs who may benefit from more bespoke learning pathways. The range of provision was varied and subject specific to meet the needs and interests of young people. The providers had worked with the Local Authority and supported young people. The directory provided details of delivery, expected learning outcomes, qualifications, progression routes and costs.

The Chairman queried whether the percentage of NEETS would ever fall to zero. In reply, the Lead for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing stated that there would always be a percentage of young people who were difficult to engage with. The figures presented were a snapshot in time and engagement depended on the resources available.

A Committee Member queried what would happen with the European Funding post Brexit. In reply, the Lead for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing stated that this was a main challenge and discussions had already taken place around a multi-faceted approach and effective partnership working. In addition, discussion had been held with Welsh Government regarding available funding and it was hoped that this would help negate some of the challenges.

A series of questions were then raised by a Committee Member. The first query related to the type of work provided to young people and how sustainable were these. In addition, the Member asked whether the young people in employment would be able to access training and whether they were paid the Living Wage. Finally, the Member queried whether schools were onboard when pupils were offered alternative places. In reply, the Senior Youth Manager stated that information was captured but this was only for those young people in full time employment. Those employed on a part-time basis would still be supported under the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. With regard to alternative opportunities for schooling, the Committee noted that funding around this was a challenge and would depend on the individual need of the pupil.

A Committee Member stated that it had been previously raised that a key issue was tracking those pupils who no longer wished to be engaged. In reply, the Lead for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing stated that this was where partnership working would be key as the “unknowns” would be a challenge because issues could change and so co-operation with other agencies and organisations was vital. The service would be proactive in encouraging young people to engage with a lot of phone calls and door knocking taking place. This related to a small number of children or young



people (perhaps 8 or 9) and could change on a regular basis. The key therefore was being persistent and ensuring that these young people were not forgotten.

There being no further queries, the Committee

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (1) T H A T the progress made in the last 12 months of the implementation of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee receives a further progress update report in 12 months' time.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Following consideration of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
- (2) To ensure that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee had continued oversight of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

599 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATE WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2019/20  
(MD) –

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer advised Members on progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and asked for confirmation of the updated Work Programme Schedule for 2019/20.

Attached at Appendix A was 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter decision tracking for October to December 2019 and Appendix B was decision tracking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter July to September 2019. Appendix C contained the update Work Programme Schedule for 2019/20.

Having considered the report, it was

**RECOMMENDED –**

- (1) T H A T the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the recommendations listed below be deemed completed:

<b>14 November 2019</b>	
<b>Min. No. 451 – Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Objectives – Draft Consultation Response (MD) – Recommended</b>	
(2) That Cabinet be advised of the Scrutiny Committee's view that the equality objectives for 2020-2024	Cabinet, at its meeting on 18 <sup>th</sup> November, 2019, resolved

<p>should have greater consideration and reference to mental health as an area of inequality.</p>	<p>[1] That the content of the Welsh Government's consultation document (Appendix A to the report), the Council's draft response to the consultation (Appendix B to the report), and the recommendation of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be noted.  [2] That the draft consultation response be approved for submission to Welsh Government by 19th November, as amended to include reference to potential mental health inequality as part of question 9 and to reflect the recommendation received from Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.  (Min. No. C143 refers)</p>
<p><b>Min. No. 452 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Scrutiny Decision Tracking of Recommendations and Updated Work Programme Schedule 2019/20 (MD) – Recommended</b></p>	
<p>(2) That subject to the inclusion of the following items of business, the work programme schedule attached at Appendix C be approved and uploaded to the Council's website, the additions being that in February 2020 there will be a presentation on Adult Community Learning and a site visit will be arranged to the new Catering Service and to High Street Primary School.</p>	<p>Work programme updated and uploaded to the Council's website.</p>

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.