

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 4th November, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor R.R. Thomas (Chair); H.M. Payne (Vice-Chair), Councillors A. Asbrey, S. Campbell, W. Gilligan, E. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson and N.B. Marshallsea.

Co-Opted Members: M. Werrett (Church in Wales), Dr. M. Price (Roman Catholic Church), L. Barrowclough (Parent Governor – Primary Sector), G. Van Der Burgt (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector), E. Woodfield and T. Williams (Vale Youth Council).

Also Present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and Dr. I.J. Johnson.

AGENDA ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors E.J. Goodjohn and S.J. Haines.

AGENDA ITEM 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

AGENDA ITEM 3. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meetings held on 27th June, 19th September and 7th October, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

AGENDA ITEM 4. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY 2025-2027 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments of the Committee be referred back to Cabinet for their consideration, as part of the proposed consultation exercise, including:

- The importance of assessing and considering the needs of the children that are not in education and not homeschooled and how the Council accounts for

them as part of the Strategy, including any additional learning needs they may have;

- The positive benefits of building the second Ysgol Y Deri school through providing extra capacity for additional learning needs;
- The importance of continued provision of comprehensive and agile specialist outreach services that support children with learning difficulties across mainstream schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, to the same high standard.

Reason for recommendation

For Cabinet to consider the comments of the Committee as part of the proposed consultation exercise.

AGENDA ITEM 5. DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2025-30 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the following comments from Committee be shared with the Director of Corporate Resources to inform revisions to the Corporate Plan, prior to Cabinet considering a final draft in due course:

- The importance of outlining further how the consultation will be funded and how comments and resident feedback will be heard, managed, organised and addressed;
- The importance of ensuring that those not in mainstream school or homeschooling are considered as part of the Corporate Plan and Additional Learning Needs Strategy;
- As part of the Corporate Plan and consultation, it was important that the Vale of Glamorgan Council communicated to residents the focus on, the proportion of the budget used and spending undertaken for education and schools, through its Communications team and other means;
- The importance of efforts made by the Council through its schools and educational establishments in addressing poverty and the impact of this on children and their family such as missed opportunities, through providing support in areas such as developing essential and basic skills and other opportunities;
- The need to ensure that the Corporate Plan was as accessible, easy and simple to understand as possible, in order to reach younger people and other groups of people within the Vale of Glamorgan;
- The need to strengthen engagement and further empower younger people within the Vale of Glamorgan and to reach out to people who do not normally engage and respond around the Corporate Plan and consultation. This should include collaboration with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Head of Digital and Youth Service to help improve engagement with younger people, etc. through digital communication and other similar cost-effective means;
- To ensure that there is ongoing monitoring and scrutiny of the Corporate Plan, in order that its targets and objectives are delivered, met and that it remains on track to achieve these objectives;

- Consideration to be given to including in the Plan's efforts to tackle poverty, the means to tackle poor educational outcomes and to ensure that children receive and reach the appropriate educational outcomes and standards at the various stages of their educational journey.

Reason for recommendation

For the comments of the Committee to be shared with the Director of Corporate Resources to inform revisions to the Corporate Plan, prior to Cabinet consideration.