

## LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision Notice – Remote meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2025.

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, W. Gilligan, E.J. Goodjohn, E. Goodjohn, S.J. Haines, 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) and E. Woodfield and I. Da Silva (Vale Youth Council).

Also Present: Councillors R.M. Birch (Cabinet Member for Education, Arts and the Welsh Language), L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### AGENDA ITEM 2. MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

### AGENDA ITEM 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor E. Goodjohn declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 4 – Annual Report for SACRE/SAC 2023-2024 (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council). The interest was a personal interest as Councillor Goodjohn was a member of the Council appointed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Councillor R. Thomas (Chair) declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 4 – Annual Report for SACRE/SAC 2023-2024 (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council). The interest was a personal interest as Councillor Thomas was a member of the Council appointed by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Update on St. Athan Primary School. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Lynch-Wilson was a governor for the school and remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor S. Haines declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 9 – Update on St. Athan Primary School. The nature of the interest was that Councillor Haines was a governor for the school and remained in the meeting for the duration of the item.

AGENDA ITEM 4. ANNUAL REPORT FOR SACRE/SAC 2023-2024 (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION) / SAC (STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL) (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the Annual Report for SACRE/SAC 2023-2024 (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) / SAC (Standing Advisory Council, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 5. ANNUAL EQUALITIES MONITORING REPORT 2023-2024 (REF) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be referred back to Cabinet for consideration and inclusion in the final version of the Annual Equality Monitoring Report. The comments for consideration included:

- Although the report contained references, there was no specific section covering Mental Health, particularly in relation to education, staff or service users;
- Equalities Information in relation to recruitment and the use of agency staff could be included as part of the monitoring process;
- Information contained in the report could be used to assist the decision-making process;
- Expectations around targets and outcomes of the Quick Start programme to be added.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6. READING IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.

(2) T H A T on behalf of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and given the Committee's concern regarding data sharing of pupil attainment levels, the Chair write to the Welsh Government Minister for Education calling for improved data sharing arrangements.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) So that the Chair writes to the Welsh Government Minister for Education regarding concerns around data sharing of pupil attainment levels.

AGENDA ITEM 7. VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022-34 – UPDATE ON ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 2023-24 (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the Annual Review Report 2023-2024 and the feedback received by Welsh Government in terms of the long term commitment outlined in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-32, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8. ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2024/25 (DLS) –

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Q3 performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2024/25 commitments as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives within the remit of the Committee be noted.

(2) T H A T the views and comments of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be referred to Cabinet for its consideration. Comments related to:

- Statistics in relation to fixed term exclusions and ALN Pupils would be shared with the Committee;
- Pupil attainment levels in relation to reading/literacy would sit nicely within the Annual Delivery Plan;
- Concern regarding an Amber rating for SCL/A015 – Work in partnership across the Council to establish sustainable solutions for school transport services and where possible make use of public transport where feasible.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9 MATTER WHICH THE CHAIR HAD DECIDED WAS URGENT –

RESOLVED – T H A T the following matter which the Chair had decided was urgent for the reason given beneath the minute heading be considered.

AGENDA ITEM 9(i) UPDATE ON ST. ATHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL (DLS) –  
**(Matter which the Chair had decided was urgent by need of updating Members on the current position of St. Athan Primary School following a major incident (fire))**

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the report be noted, and everyone commended for their swift and effective action in dealing with the crisis.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.