



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : LEARNING AND LGES MEETING

MONDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

PRESENT: Councillors L Mytton (Chair)
G Lewis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Scriven, C Tovey and A Williams-Price

Coopteers:

J Beard (Public Appointment), L Matuszczyk (Public Appointment), L McClean (Voluntary Sector), J Bridges (MTBWYF), N Jones and H O'Neill

Officers:

S Walker (Chief Education Officer) L Bruford (Education) and J Jones (Performance and Scrutiny) M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer), M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer) and E Galeozzie (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
278	Apologies for absence	Apologies received from P Phillips and Cllr C Jones
279	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Declaration received from L Matuszcuk
280	School Balances and Mid-Term Financial Plans	Presented by S Walker The following questions were raised

		<p>What will be the impact? Referring to 5.19 what are the expectations for future budgets? Regarding the estyn standards for management, is there a risk that as schools are inspected that they may be failing to meet standards? Referring to 4.3 how many schools south and north of the borough are in amber? How can schools manage approximately a 3% downturn in funding with almost an 11% increase in costs? How will this impact young people regarding aspirations and achievements? How much was taken out for admin by MTCBC before the distribution of the Welsh Government Grant? What is the impact on student wellbeing following music redundancies? Welsh schools have additional expenditure due to few resources being readily available in the Welsh language especially regarding ALN resources, is this factored into funding? There is a noticeable downturn in Cyfarthfa highschools funding, why is this? Are there assessments regarding the impact on teachers workload with increased class sizes?</p> <p>No comments were raised.</p> <p>Resolved that;</p> <p>The following recommendations be approved;</p> <p>2.1 Scrutiny members note the contents of the report and consider implications for the monitoring of schools' budgets and the prioritisation of schools' funding in the Council's budget setting processes 2024/25 onwards</p>
281	Community Focused Schools - North Cluster	<p>Presented by S Walker and L Bruford</p> <p>The following questions were raised;</p> <p>Regarding 5.12 how is attendance monitored to ensure that holiday programmes are engaging with the target audience? How is family engagement measured? Regarding 4.5 how are schools expected to prioritise this? To what degree were governing bodies included in these collaborations? How are successful pilot programmes sustained? Are there plans for when grant funding ends? How does Welsh education fit into this as its not in either cluster? How do you evaluate wellbeing?</p> <p>No comments were raised</p> <p>Resolved that;</p> <p>The following recommendations be approved;</p>

		2.1 Members discuss and debate the content of the report, reflecting on dialogue from previous meetings and identify if there are further aspects of this agenda that need scrutinising.
282	Forward Work Programme 2023/2024	There will be a workshop held to discuss LRB Capacity in November. The committee will be scrutinizing school inspection reports in the upcoming meeting. The committee will be reviewing food waste in schools. The committee will further examine the impact of school budgets.
283	Report Recommendations	The Chair states that the committee has added value.
284	Scrutiny Referrals	No referrals were received
285	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair
286	Feedback on Scrutiny Activities	