

Public Document Pack

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethol / Operational and Partnership Services

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643147

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mrs Julie Ellams

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 6 March 2018

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Monday, 12 March 2018 at 09:30.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 16
To receive for approval the minutes of the meeting of 10/01/2018 and 18/01/2018.
4. Forward Work Programme Update 17 - 38
5. School Modernisation 39 - 48
Invitees

Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;
Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;
Cllr H Williams, Deputy Leader;
Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help;
Gaynor Thomas, Schools Programme Manager

6. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £00.96 in printing costs

Yours faithfully

P A Jolley

Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services

Councillors:

JPD Blundell

NA Burnett

RJ Collins

SK Dendy

DK Edwards

Councillors

J Gebbie

RM Granville

M Jones

DG Owen

Councillors

JC Radcliffe

B Sedgebeer

JH Tildesley MBE

LM Walters

CA Webster

A Williams

AJ Williams

Registered Representatives

Tim Cahalane

William Bond

Rev Canon E J Evans

Ciaron Jackson

K Pascoe

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2018 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Webster – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	NA Burnett	RJ Collins	DK Edwards
J Gebbie	M Jones	JC Radcliffe	B Sedgebeer
LM Walters	AJ Williams		

Registered Representatives

Tim Cahalane
Rev Canon E J Evans
William Bond
K Pascoe

Apologies for Absence

Cairon Jackson	Parent Governor Representative
Councillor Jefferson Tildesley	Committee Member
Councillor Alex Williams	Committee Member
Nicola Echanis	Officer

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Invitees:

Councillor Charles Smith	Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
John Fabes	Specialist Officer Post 16 Education & Training -
Mandy Paish	Senior Challenge Advisor, Central South Consortium

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal declarations of interest were made in respect of Agenda item 5:-

Councillor N Burnett – School Governor at Brynteg Comprehensive School
Councillor C Webster – Has a child that studies at Brynteg Comprehensive School
Reverend Canon Evans – School Governor at Brynteg Comprehensive School
Tim Cahalane – Member of Central South Consortium
Kevin Pascoe – School Governor at Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive School, and a Member of Central South Consortium
Councillor JP Blundell – School Governor at Bryntirion Comprehensive School.

24. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Subject O&S Committee 1 dated 4 December 2017, be approved as a true and accurate record.

25. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee; to present Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation, and finally to ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form.

Attached at Appendix A to the report was the overall FWP for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which included the topics prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the next set of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Table A, as well as a list of topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B.

The Scrutiny Officer advised, that if Members required any further items for considering as part of the FWP going forward, then these could be forwarded to the Scrutiny Unit by email outside of the meeting.

Members agreed to accept the items as detailed in the attachments of the report, subject to the following:-

1. To prioritise the item detailed on page 19 of the report, ie Budgetary Impacts of Parc Prison.
2. To invite to the meeting that considers the subject of Emergency Housing, a representative from the Wales Audit Office.
3. That a site visit be arranged to St. David's 6th form College in Cardiff

RESOLVED: That the report be accepted and noted, subject to points 1. to 3. above.

26. A REVIEW OF THE FUTURE OF POST-16 PROVISION ACROSS BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Chairperson welcomed into the meeting the Invitees, and the Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training gave an introduction to the report on the above, following which the Chairperson invited questions from Members.

A Member advised that whilst the introduction given by the above Officer to the report had explained quite considerably what the Review would entail, the report she felt lacked detail as to what Officers required the Committee to do, ie what input to have from the Overview and Scrutiny process, and more notably what to scrutinise.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training referred those present to the report's Appendices, which detailed the final report in respect of the Post 16 Operational Board Final Report and proposals going forward. He added that these documents had been considered previously by the Post 16 Statutory Review Board as part of Phase 1 of the review. Phase 2 was now underway and further information and documentation would be presented to the Board on 15 January 2018. He added that the new project initiation document, terms of reference and project milestones would be available following this date. A previous report on this topic had been considered by Cabinet, prior to it being considered today by Overview and Scrutiny.

He added however, that future proposals regarding Post 16 Education and Training would not formally go out to consultation until a further report on the next stages of the process was due to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting in April 2018. Presently, appropriate data was being collated for inclusion in this report.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration added that it would assist Cabinet in their future deliberations on this matter, if Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members paid particular attention to paragraphs 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 of the report, as these were the available options to the local education authority moving forward which would form part of a future Options Strategy. He informed Members that Cabinet were due to visit Pencoed Campus this Friday, following which visits would be made to other schools, including those that offered special provisions, in order that options for the future could be shared.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training referred to the different phases of work that had been undertaken, outcomes of which were detailed in the supporting information contained within the Appendices to the report, and various elements of these had been scored against, details of which were also shown in the report's supporting information.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, advised that the Post 16 Board as part of its deliberations had reviewed a range of concepts for the future of post 16 provisions across BCBC, which included:-

- The retention of the status quo;
- The merger of sixth forms into a BCBC sixth form centre, or the development of a new independent sixth form college, or the development of one or more sixth-form centres as part of the FE college
- A mixed model with some school sixth forms being retained, and others merged in line with the three models described above, or
- A full tertiary model.

A Member asked if any data could be shared regarding the percentage of schools within the County Borough that were under capacity in terms of pupil numbers, not just for Year 16 plus but for all ages within schools.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training advised that information such as this and future estimated growth of pupils in schools, would form part of Phase 2 of this Initiative, and be included in the report to Cabinet for its April meeting. Other data would also be looked at, such as demographics and certain geographical concepts. Grant funding arrangements for both pre-16 and post-16 pupils, would also be subject to some changes he added, in that there would be no significant change to pre-16 age, whilst post-16 would by and large be funded through Welsh government and allocated to different schools fairly, ie based on the schools size and number of pupils on role, etc.

The Member asked a follow-up question, namely if the future post-16 proposals would result in there being empty classes at certain schools.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 and Education and Training, advised that data such as this was presently being analysed, the results of which should be known by end of February coming.

A Registered Representative stated that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff had yet to be consulted regarding the report's proposals, and he asked if/when this would take place.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training advised that informal discussions had taken place with the above, and further consultations were intended with the Faith School contingency in due course as matters developed.

A Registered Representative referred to governance arrangements that were being considered for any possible future models being proposed, particularly in respect of the process regarding school admissions. He noted that Bridgend College were looking at the admissions as part of their further educational protocols, and that 6th forms were intending to look at introducing their own admissions policy. If they introduced this however, they would be contravening the School Admissions Code Of Practice.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised the Member that he would look into this issue and come back to him outside of the meeting.

A Member asked if the proposals in respect of the future of post-16 provision within the County Borough had the support of the various School Governing bodies.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, advised that governance support and other arrangements had not been looked at as it was too early in proceedings for this to take place. As soon as the Authority had decided firmer proposals regarding the route it was going to take in respect of Post-16 education, this would be closely considered as part of the overall proposals he explained.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.5.3 of the report, and noted that one of the proposals to be considered in respect of future post-16 provision, was a mixed model with some school sixth forms being retained and others merged in line with the three other models that were described in paragraph(s) 5 of the report. She asked if this meant that if some 6th form age students were not merging to form FE Colleges.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training confirmed that this was also to be considered further as part of the consultation exercise and the results of which would be included as part of the narrowed down feasible options that will form part of the report to Cabinet.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration advised that he was of the opinion, as were his fellow Cabinet Members, that there was merit in all schools being catered for age 11-18 years of age students, and there were some reasons for this as shown in the table detailed on page 26 of the report, that would include improved teaching arrangements.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, reinforced the fact that proposals being put forward, would be a lot more clearer in terms of what would eventually be put in place, after the consultation was concluded, and the views of all relevant consultees had been collated. This he added would also be shared once more with Overview and Scrutiny, in due course.

A Registered Representative stated that he had some concerns with regard to staff recruitment and retention for any changes that transpire whereby schools would be teaching age range pupils 11 – 18. He was aware from previous experience that it was already difficult to recruit teachers with expertise in teaching subjects such as Science and Mathematics. He felt that schools without 6th form education would struggle in this area, and therefore he considered that some secondary schools should retain 6th form education.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training advised that this would be considered as part of the consultation.

A Member pointed out that he appreciated the fact that there was a “one size fits all” solution when considering all the possible proposals for change, and that issues such as the demographics of different areas that comprise Wards needed to be considered as part of any changes. He felt that it was always necessary to raise the aspirations of children, in order to achieve continuous improvement, especially for children/families that resided in the more deprived areas of the County Borough, and for those children who unfortunately had learning needs, and to ensure that consideration is given to make them feel comfortable in the environment they are accustomed to being in. He finally added, that transport arrangements/costs would need to be carefully looked at in conjunction with changes introduced for post-16 education, and possibly also terms and conditions of staff.

The Chairperson noticed that there was no reference in the report to the ALN Bill, and a provision that allowed for an extension of schooling for young people up to the age of 25.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training confirmed that post-16 education proposals when finalised and implemented, would be supportive of ALN children and their individual needs.

A Member reiterated that the mental health of young students should be closely borne in mind when considering any changes in post-16 education.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that the wellbeing of both pupils and school staff was critical, and that the Education Department had been involved in engaging with key public partners regarding this in terms of the overall scheme of things. He added that transport issues would also be closely looked at as was any mitigation regarding pupils transferring schools, etc.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration added that around 50% of students did not have that many options to pursue whilst being educated at schools, and therefore, some of the 6th form changes proposed would address this issue. He felt that all schools should have, for example, more equality in terms of options available for both vocational and academic categories of learning opportunities.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training added that there was still the intention in the future for vocational qualifications to be pursued in a FE college, as there was more expertise to study for this type of qualification there, than in schools. As an example of this, the Pencoed Campus site were looking at introducing engineering and other areas of expertise that supported apprenticeships.

A Member advised that for reasons of continuity, she would wish for her child to continue their education in the same school that continues to provide for pupils studying for A levels. She hoped the proposed models would improve post-16 educational opportunities for learners, she added.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, advised that recruitment of teaching staff was a national as well as a County Borough issue, particularly with regard to teaching subject areas, such as for example, Science, Engineering and Mathematics for post-16 age pupils. This was compounded by the fact, that there were fewer teacher training opportunities currently in Wales than there used to be, an issue that Welsh Government were looking to challenge. He further added that Education Authorities were bound to look for ways to improve educational opportunities at schools,

under the Schools Education Code, hence the introduction of the project subject of the report.

A Member made the point that BCBC were held in high regard in terms of its standards of education provision, and that the review of post-16 provision needed to balance what was required from a statutory perspective; what the Council's preferred option was in order to secure improvements, and if there were any funding avenues available to assist in the financial support of the changes.

A Registered Representative confirmed that he was worried that the changes would result in surplus pupil capacity in some schools. He hoped that any changes could encapsulate further promotion of the Welsh language for pupils aged post-16, as well as promoting other more minority subject areas, such as those referred to in paragraph 4.8.3 of the report, ie through the development of vocational and blended type education opportunities, as well as more conventional higher educational learning.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration confirmed that he was in agreement with this proposal.

A Member also felt it was important to maintain scope for sports/physical activity provision to be provided at schools and/or places that provided education opportunities for learning at age post-16, and at higher educational levels, for young people to maintain their wellbeing for work life balance reasons.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration advised that consideration could be given to arranging a regular half day slot for sporting activities for young people going into full adulthood, across the County Borough.

A Member, whilst appreciating all the work that would be generated from the post-16 proposals, urged caution to transport arrangements for pupils subject to moving from one place of Education to another, particularly when considering up and coming budget cuts faced by Directorates.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, advised that there would be the option of moving staff as well as pupils to accommodate any changes subsequently agreed upon, and that adequate transport provision would be considered as an integral part of what is eventually implemented.

The Chairperson felt, that consideration could be given to, wherever possible, combining school transport provision with that used by Social Services.

As this concluded business on this item, the Chairperson thanked the Invitees for attending, following which they left the meeting.

Conclusions:

1. The Committee determined that for Cabinet to make any future decision regarding the proposed concepts for Post-16, evidence of the following aspects having been considered needs to be provided:
 - a) The Governance route for any future proposal particularly since it was reported that it is currently difficult to recruit new Governors. The Committee requested that evidence be provided as to how this will be addressed;
 - b) How proposals aim to raise the aspiration of those pupils from the most deprived backgrounds;

- c) How the needs of vulnerable pupils such as those with ALN, who often struggle with change, are being met;
 - d) How Pastoral Care will be ensured in any provision going forward. The Committee recommended that whether in a school or a college, students needed a stable base for academic continuity where they could access support should they need to;
 - e) Evidence of where good practice has been considered in both England and Wales in relation to opst-16 education;
 - f) How e-learning will be utilised in any of the proposals;
 - g) How sports can be greater encouraged and incorporated into post-16 education;
 - h) Whether vocational learning should be provided in schools as well as colleges? What evidence is there from other LAS?
 - i) How any transition will be structured and managed;
 - j) How transport costs are going to be met – particularly the different implications there would be with transport depending on whether post-16 education was through a FE maintained college or school sixth forms;
2. The Committee also recommend that the Local Authority maintain control of the admissions process to ensure that it continues to be carried out in line with the code.
3. Members stressed the point that had been discussed during the meeting; that one size did not necessarily fit all, however the Committee felt that the political stance seemed to be that all schools maintain 11-18 provision. The Committee stressed the need to listen to the community and the experts particularly following consultation.

Additional Information

The Committee requested that they receive data regarding schools in the county borough that are under capacity.

27. **MEMBER AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report, the purpose of which, was to present the Committee with the findings and recommendations from a Member and School Engagement Panel (MSEP) meeting with Maesteg School.

The report gave some background information, highlighting that the schools performance had been previously questioned, especially in the combined English and Mathematics threshold indicator. This had been possibly compounded by the fact, that there were also a number of changes that all schools have had to address over the recent academic year, which may have impacted on this year's performance at all schools, including Maesteg, and these were outlined in more detail within the report.

The report then advised that in respect of Maesteg School, a joint local authority and Central South Consortium enquiry, conducted alongside the school was undertaken in May 2017, and some suggested recommendations set for the school in order that it may achieve improved performance, were shown in bullet point format at paragraph 3.5 of

the report. A review of the school's performance had indicated that the school had made a positive start to addressing these recommendations.

In terms of the latest developments at the school, and in order to further gauge the improvements that have been made there, the Member School Engagement Panel met with the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors, together with Officers from the Education and Family Support Directorate in November 2017.

Following this the Panel highlighted a series of key points and recommendations, and these were highlighted in bullet point format, in the first section of paragraph 4.1 of the report. The Panel also highlighted certain further points, in terms of key methods the school had identified for improvement as well as some possible areas for sharing best practice with others.

Paragraph 4.2 of the report then gave three recommendations the Panel also put forward at/following its meeting.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, advised that he would act appropriately on the recommendations put forward, and ensure these are implemented. He added that he would also arrange for these improvements to be monitored accordingly.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration supported the comments made by the Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support.

RECOMMENDED: That the Committee:

- (1) Accepted the comments and recommendations of the Member and School Engagement Panel in relation to Maesteg School.
- (2) Determined to send the comments and recommendations to Cabinet, the Directorate and the Consortium for any suitable response.

28. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 12:40

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2018

**INUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB
ON THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2018 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor CA Webster – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	NA Burnett	RJ Collins	SK Dendy
DK Edwards	M Jones	B Sedgebeer	JH Tildesley MBE
LM Walters	A Williams	AJ Williams	

Apologies for Absence

J Gebbie and JC Radcliffe

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Julie Ellams	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Lauren North	Commissioning and Contract Management Officer
Natalie Silcox	Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services
Pete Tyson	Planning and Contract Management Officer

Invitees:

Cllr P White	Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Lauren North	Commissioning and Contract Management Officer
Natalie Silcox	Manager Children's Regulated Services
Pete Tyson	Planning and Contract Management Officer

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

30. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented an update on the Forward Work Programme, the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, potential items for comment and prioritisation and further items for consideration.

Conclusions

1. Members requested that information on education be included in the report on "Budgetary Impacts on Parc Prison" and that representatives from education and from Parc Prison attend the meeting to explain the service that was provided and aspirations for the future.
2. The Committee considered the criteria form attached to the report and expressed concerns over the safeguarding between licensing and the Authority's school transport, particularly in relation to pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Members commented that current legislation meant it was up to the school transport company to inform

the Council of any criminal convictions of its drivers etc and as such the Council were not doing their own checks. With this in mind it was concluded that the Committee put forward an item on the larger subject of School Transport, due to related issues that had also arisen in discussions over the annual draft budget, and that the concerns regarding licensing and safeguarding checks be incorporated in this report.

3. The Committee also requested that more external experts and service users be considered as invitees on each item for Scrutiny in order to assist with deliberations and provide a wider perspective.

31. REMODELLING CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PROJECT

The Chairperson thanked the officers for the report and additional information requested at the previous meeting.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing introduced the Commissioning and Contract Management Officer and the Group Manager Children's Regulated Services to the committee to present the proposals and the Group Manager Commissioning to explain the financial aspects.

The officers provided an overview of Children's Remodelling, challenges with the existing model, the "No Wrong Door" model and how it could be redesigned to suit Bridgend. They provided a comparison of placement numbers including the proposed number of places that would exist within the service. They explained the five elements to the model including the Hub, the 4 bed medium term unit, transitional carers, supported living and supported lodging. They provided examples of how individuals would progress through the current service model and how the new proposals would change their journey.

The Group Manager Commissioning outlined occupancy levels throughout 2017, the average length of a placement, feedback following rota visits undertaken by elected members and care leaver data which demonstrated the need to maximise stable and sustainable accommodation options for young people leaving care. He explained the history of out of county residential placements and that current forecasts estimated that circa 4 out of county placements would still be required for risk and personal circumstances which suggested that a number could remain in-county if a more effective service model was in place.

The Residential managers were observing the meeting and had undertaken a full workforce planning exercise to inform staffing requirements for both residential units under the proposed model. The Group Manager –Commissioning referred to the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4C's) and systems and processes they were implementing which could be structured to support Bridgend's needs, the training programme and the financial implications.

A member asked for confirmation that the trade unions had been involved in discussions regarding changes to job descriptions and if staff supported the changes. He was advised that trade unions had been involved and staff were happy with the proposed changes.

A member raised concerns about staffing costs, JNC and pay for psychologists. The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing stressed that the new proposals

would not be possible without the work force and trade unions who were fully engaged. Details of the new structure were not yet available. Recruitment was always an issue but each position would be presented as an exciting opportunity.

A member recognised the significant amount of work that had been put into the proposals but asked why children were being taken into care. Bridgend were in the highest quartile in Wales and a specific report was required to explain the reasons and scenarios and to prevent the need for children to be taken into care. The authority needed to work corporately and to look “outside the box” and to start strategically planning for the future.

The Corporate Director explained that lots of authorities were seeing an increase in the numbers of looked after children. Figures at Bridgend had not increased although they continued to be high. It was crucial to provide help as early as possible. There had recently been a CSSIW inspection where both positive areas and areas for development were identified. The findings would shortly be presented to Cabinet. Issues were identified with intervention and the right type of service and the ability to act quickly when children were in care. There had been a culture shift in terms of social workers and their ability to work in risk. Further information would be presented to a scrutiny committee in April under the topic, Early Help and Intervention.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help explained that in 2008 there were just over 400 looked after children and ten years later the figure was 387 and tended to fluctuate by only 1 or 2. Early intervention in this area was very complicated because of children with complex needs and he welcomed an open debate.

A member raised concerns about the number of placements outside the county and savings identified in the report. No allowances had been made for court placements identifying a location where there was no capacity and the cost of accommodating these children. The member was advised that there were emergency beds for these circumstances. The new model gave more flexibility and options for different placements. It was impossible to dictate what happened in court however the proposed model would be presented to the judges so they would be aware of what was available.

A member thanked the officers for the case studies which gave a clear explanation of the issues and problems that staff faced.

A member recognised the number of cases with complex needs and asked if costs had been built in to account for some failures and interventions continuing to adulthood. The Group Manager – Commissioning explained that there would be no detrimental impact on the number of beds just more options. There were on average 10 high cost out of county placements and it had been factored in that some might need to remain out of county.

A member raised concerns about reducing the age of children in Newbridge House, children unable to go into alternative care because of their age and leaving no capacity for any other children entering the system with comparative needs.

The Group Manager – Children’s Regulated Services explained that the reason for reducing the age was so that assessments could be carried out in the same unit. It was hoped that significant numbers could be transitioned back home. These pressures were the same across Wales. The CSSIW were carrying out a themed inspection across Wales and it was hoped that the information that came out would put the authority in a stronger position. There were high numbers but the actual costs were coming down because of the strategy of keeping children local.

A member asked if the out of county option would still exist if all the beds were full. The member was advised that the right placement would be sought for the child no matter where.

A member asked if out of county placements might still be required then wasn't an estimate of zero optimistic. He was advised that a cost differential for four individuals had been included but not for all and other options would also be available.

A member referred to savings of £17,000 for therapeutic services at a time when academics were suggesting that a wholesale culture change was required with significant investment. The member was advised that there was £53,000 set aside for the training programme. Significant amounts were spent on therapeutic intervention so investing in staff training could be achieved and savings made with flexibility in the budget if support was required.

A member asked for further information regarding the transitional carers and the assumption that two out of six carers would be without placements at any one time. Further information was also requested regarding the employment position of carers and if they were employees of BCBC and included in the pension scheme. The Group Manager, Children's Regulated Services explained that these beds would be available for emergency cases and respite. They would not be employees and didn't expect this to change. They were looking at the possibility of an enhancement in the retainer but work was still being done and a paper was due to be presented in April.

A member repeated concerns about capacity and the need to keep two empty to complete the plan. The Group Manager, Children's Regulated Services explained that they would not be used for long term transitional placements. The plans would be reviewed as they went along but it was recognised that they were dealing with real people and families and all the parts had to interlink for it to work.

A member asked if the 3 carers identified as suitable for up-skilling had been notified about the plans. The Group Manager, Children's Regulated Services explained that no one would be approached until the proposals had been agreed. The positions were open to any foster carer to apply for and a bespoke campaign would be launched at the appropriate time.

A member asked for further information on how the intensive training sessions impacted on employment rights. The Group Manager, Children's Regulated Services explained that under foster regulations, all foster carers required training and BCBC would be offering training in addition to the mandatory sessions. This would be available to a specific type of foster carer.

A member asked for assurances that officers knew how many LAC there were at any moment and where they were placed. The Corporate director – Social Services and Wellbeing explained that she received this information regularly and every six weeks there was a board meeting where the position was considered and reviewed. The Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help explained that he could ring and have access to that information at any time.

A member asked why assumptions about inflation and current expenditure were not included in the figures. The Group Manager – Commissioning explained that any inflation or increases would be met corporately and he had tried to allow like for like comparison. Both figures could be increased by 3%. A member suggested that a note to that effect be included in reports in future.

A member referred to the recommendations made at the previous meeting

and stressed the importance of collaboration including national and multi-agency training.

Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project

Members commended the report for its detail and focus.

Recommendations

1. The Committee recommend that the Authority look towards providing joint regional training with other Local Authorities and that consideration be given to looking within these LAs for experts to provide this. This joint training would not only assist in hopefully reducing the cost of training but would also help build relationships between staff, residential staff and foster carers regionally not just within our own LA.
2. The Committee recommend that the Authority incorporate a clause within Foster Carer contracts where they are receiving specialist training, in order to maintain them in house and not potentially lose very qualified Foster Carers to IFAs.
3. The Committee recommend that a proper evaluation of career development be considered for specialist foster carers to use as an incentive when recruiting.
4. The Committee highlighted the budgetary assumptions that were being made in relation to future need for Residential care and the potential risk of still requiring Out of County placements. With this in mind the Committee recommend that evidence of contingency plans, both budgetary and staffing, be incorporated into the project and any future reports.

The Committee requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.

Further comments

The Committee requested that as part of the future Early Help and Social Services item, the report include detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children's Social Services. Members commented that if this is not known and understood then the Authority cannot effectively plan for the future and Members cannot be assured that changes that are being introduced are fit for purpose.

The Committee requested that the outcome of the CSSIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.

32. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 12:05

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

12 MARCH 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) To present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;
- c) To ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form;
- d) To consider and approve the feedback from the previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding at Appendix A.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2016–2020 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 1 March 2017 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2016 and 2020. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.
- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny").

Feedback

- 3.3 All conclusions made at Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) meetings, as well as recommendations and requests for information should be responded to by Officers, to ensure that there are clear outcomes from each topic investigated.
- 3.4 These will then be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting to ensure that they have had a response.
- 3.5 When each topic has been considered and the Committee is satisfied with the outcome, the SOSC will then present their findings to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) who will determine whether to remove the item from the FWP or to re-add for further prioritisation at a future date.
- 3.6 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix B** is the overall FWP for the SOSCs which includes the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B. This has been compiled from suggested items from each of the SOSCs at previous meetings as well as the COSC. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to first consider the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in Table A and determine what further detail they would like the report to contain, what questions they wish Officers to address and if there are any further invitees they wish to attend for this meeting to assist Members in their investigation.
- 4.3 The Committee is also asked to then prioritise up to six items from the list in Table B to present to the COSC for formal prioritisation and designation to each SOSC for the next set of meetings.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.

- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

Identification of Further Items

- 4.7 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council constitution to be updated.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the feedback from the previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding at Appendix A;
- (ii) Identify any additional information the Committee wish to receive on their next item delegated to them in the FWP including invitees;
- (iii) Identify any further detail required for other items in the overall FWP at Table B of Appendix B;
- (iv) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme following the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2018;

- (v) Identify suitable items for Webcasting from the overall Forward Work Programme.

PA Jolley

Corporate Director - Operational and Partnership Services

Contact Officer: Scrutiny Unit

Telephone: (01656) 643695

E-mail: Scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents

None.

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:
08-Feb-2018	School Standards	<p>The Committee felt that whilst the report included a vast amount of data there was a lack of analysis in relation to individual schools within the county borough and therefore Members felt it difficult to get a grasp of the current situation with schools in Bridgend i.e. which ones were of concern and required significant support etc.</p> <p>The Committee also queried the fact that the report did not provide detail of how exactly the Consortium had firstly had an impact on school performance last year – much work was described but the direct impact and outcomes of this on individual schools was not apparent. Secondly whilst areas of improvement were identified throughout the report, it did not provide ideas or examples of how these improvements would be put in place. Members understood that improvements would be somewhat different in each school however, for areas such as improving attainment of boys across the County Borough, the Committee felt there should be some overall plan for this directed by the Consortium.</p>

With this in mind the Committee requested that they receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:

- School Categorisation information;
- In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved;
- Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results;
- Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set;
- Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face;
- Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree;
- Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at

Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it;

- More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend;
- What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils;
- What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures;
- Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money;
- What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils;
- Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc.

Further comments

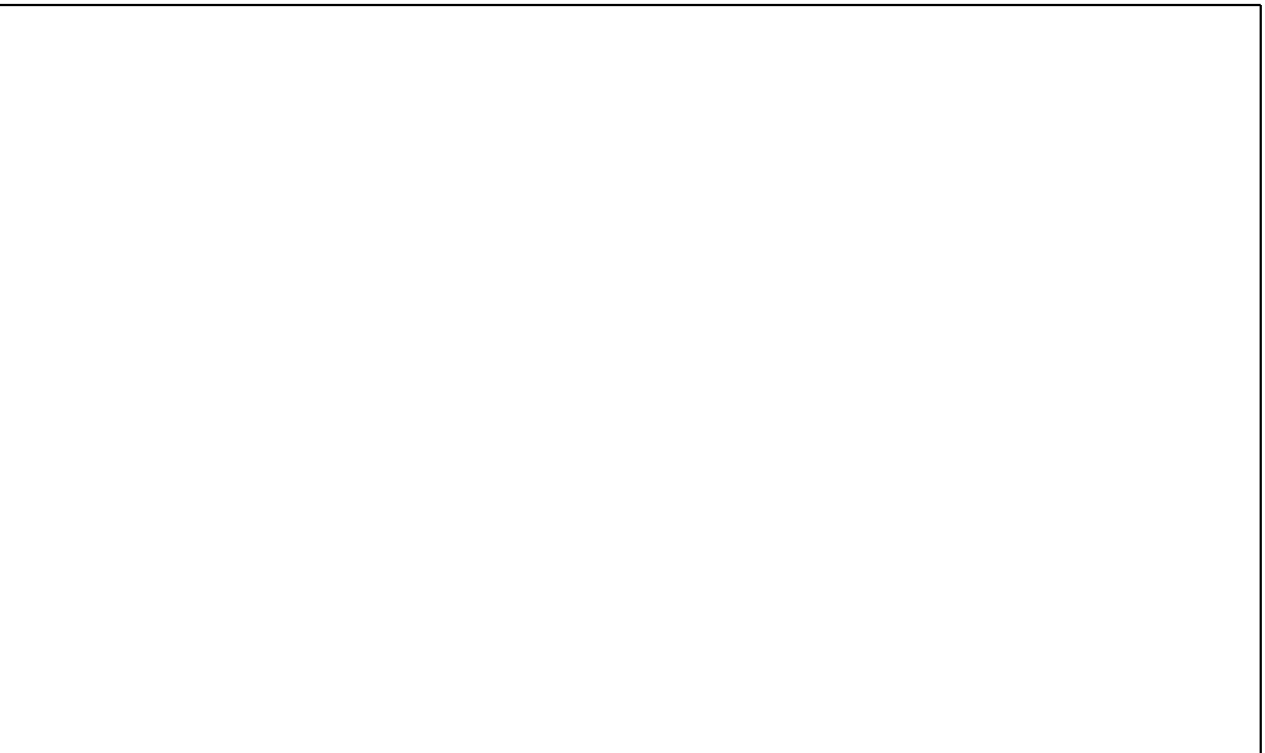
The Committee agreed to keep an eye on the performance of English Literature as a result of it being removed from the Level 2+ performance measure.

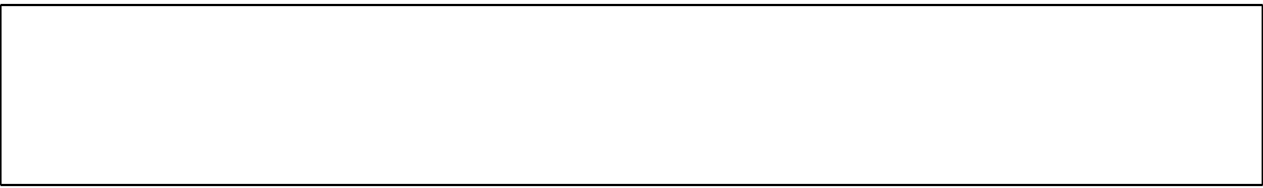
The Committee requested that they invite representatives from other schools to give a broader viewpoint including that of the Consortium support – the Scrutiny Officer agreed to look into this on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee also requested that representatives of the school budget forum be invited to attend future meetings on school performance to seek their views on the consortium and the value for money aspect and the potential impact of the budget reduction to future Consortium funding for 2018-19.

Members requested that the Chair draft a letter to Estyn on behalf of the Committee regarding the recent experiences of some schools having inspections during periods of refurbishment, renovation or a move. Such instances have not only caused extra stress on staff but could potentially affect the school's inspection results even though they were outside of the school's control and could have been avoided had the inspection taken the situation into account and been better timed.

Response/Comments	Follow up required
<p>The process of categorisation provides a view of all schools across the Borough. It is an indication of which schools are of concern and the level of support required. Categorisation indicates the capacity of each school to improve (A, B, C or D with A being very good capacity to improve and D being a limited capacity to improve). The level of support ranges from green support (minimal support) to red support (intensive support). Categorisation for the 2017-2018 academic year has just been verified nationally.</p>	
<p>Direct impact of the Consortium's work on outcomes of individual schools is recorded on Evaluation for Improvement reports, retained centrally at CSC for all schools. Performance of schools and actions taken to improve performance, particularly in relation to those schools causing concern, are reported to the Director on a termly basis through the LA Performance report and meeting. Specific areas of improvement that are particular to a LA are also reported in this report and discussed at the termly meeting e.g. improving Welsh at level 5 and level 6 in 2016-2017. Challenge advisers regularly report to the senior challenge adviser and a termly meeting between all the challenge advisers and LA group managers for school improvement is held. All schools' performance and progress is reported at this meeting. Required actions for improvement / intervention are also agreed.</p> <p>CSC establishes its annual business plan, based on regional and national need. Progress with the business plan is reported annually to the LA. For LA specific improvements the LA does identify areas. Schools are made aware of the general areas through headteacher meetings. This academic year the LA Annex to the CSC business plan is focussing on schools working in their clusters to identify the general areas for improvement that are pertinent to their cluster. Each cluster has produced a 'School on a Page' that sets targets that they need to improve. The Festival of Learning, in June 2018, will share the impact of these improvements across BCBC schools.</p>	





Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:
18-Jan-2018	Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project	Members commended the report for its detail and focus.
		<p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. The Committee recommend that the Authority look towards providing joint regional training with other Local Authorities and that consideration be given to looking within these LAs for experts to provide this. This joint training would not only assist in hopefully reducing the cost of training but would also help build relationships between staff, residential staff and foster carers regionally not just within our own LA.</p>
		<p>2. The Committee recommend that the Authority incorporate a clause within Foster Carer contracts where they are receiving specialist training, in order to maintain them in house and not potentially lose very qualified Foster Carers to IFAs.</p>
		<p>3. The Committee recommend that a proper evaluation of career development be considered for specialist foster carers to use as an incentive when recruiting.</p>
		<p>4. The Committee highlighted the budgetary assumptions that were being made in relation to future need for Residential care and the potential risk of still requiring Out of County placements. With this in mind the Committee recommend that evidence of contingency plans, both budgetary and staffing, be incorporated into the project and any future reports.</p>
		<p>The Committee requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.</p>
		<p>Further comments</p> <p>The Committee requested that as part of the future Early Help and Social Services item, the report include detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children's Social Services. Members commented that if this is not known and understood then the Authority cannot effectively plan for the future and Members cannot be assured that changes that are being introduced are fit for purpose.</p>
		<p>The Committee requested that the outcome of the CSSIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.</p>

Response/Comments	Follow up required
Report went to Cabinet 27 feb 2018 which briefly detailed the recs of scrutiny - need follow up at later date to show evidence of how they have been taken into consideration - annual rec report	
Report went to Cabinet 27 feb 2018 which briefly detailed the recs of scrutiny - need follow up at later date to show evidence of how they have been taken into consideration - annual rec report	
Report went to Cabinet 27 feb 2018 which briefly detailed the recs of scrutiny - need follow up at later date to show evidence of how they have been taken into consideration - annual rec report	
Report went to Cabinet 27 feb 2018 which briefly detailed the recs of scrutiny - need follow up at later date to show evidence of how they have been taken into consideration - annual rec report	
Added to FWP	
Added to FWP	
Added to FWP	

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Table A

The following items were previously prioritised by the Subject OVS Committees and considered by Corporate at its last meeting where the top three items were scheduled in for the next round of meetings:

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Proposed rationale for timing from Officers	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees	Webcast
07-Mar-2018	SOSC 2	Prevention and Wellbeing and Local Community Coordination	<p>To include information about the number of different initiatives that are available within the community as an alternative to statutory services.</p> <p>LCC projects to be referenced under a heading for each area – Ogmores, Llynfi and Garw Valleys – to ensure ease of reference to what projects are being carried out where.</p> <p>To include information on the work being undertaken with the 3rd Sector.</p> <p>What initiatives are available within the community?</p> <p>What input is provided by ABMU and what is provided by Bridgend Council?</p>		Proposed date March/April 2018		<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Clr Phil White, Cabinet Member - Social Services and Early Help</p> <p>Clr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing and Future Generations;</p> <p>Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care;</p> <p>Andrew Thomas, Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Representation from 3rd Sector;</p> <p>Representation from ABMU / Cwm Taf.</p> <p>Kay Harries, Partnership and Projects Manager, BAVO</p>		
12-Mar-2018	SOSC 1	School Modernisation Band B	<p>To advise committee on the development of the strategic outline plan for band b of the 21st century schools modernisation programme</p> <p>How did Band A improve attainment?</p> <p>What were the outcomes for Band A? How were they achieved. What lessons can be learnt for Band B?</p>	Scrutiny to inform the plans and refine the rationale for the development of the schools estate	Proposed by Officers - March 2018		<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;</p> <p>Clr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;</p> <p>Clr H Williams, Deputy Leader;</p> <p>Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help;</p> <p>Gaynor Thomas, Schools Programme Manager</p>		

21-Mar-2018	SOSC 3	Empty Properties	<p>How effective has this council been on bringing back into use empty properties over the last five years?</p> <p>Does this council have the appropriate policies and process in place to fully utilise the powers that we already have to tackle empty homes. For example - Empty Dwelling Management Orders and charging council tax premiums on long-term empty homes and second homes?</p> <p>What are the levels of empty homes across Bridgend?</p> <p>What is the potential loss of council tax receipts due to empty homes?</p> <p>Data on levels of empty properties and homes - how long they have been empty for and what contact has been made regarding them;</p> <p>Examples of case studies from Bridgend CBC;</p> <p>Good practice from across Wales;</p> <p>Detail of Welsh Government policies;</p> <p>In relation to empty properties - could a breakdown of service provision be provided? To include contracts that we sub let out;</p> <p>Members queried how many section 215 have been used in relation to blight properties.</p>				<p>Andrew Jolley, Corporate Director; Operational and Partnership Services;</p> <p>Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities;</p> <p>Jonathan Parsons, Group Manager Development;</p> <p>Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services;</p> <p>Clr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities;</p> <p>Clr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader;</p> <p>Welsh Government contacts?</p> <p>Helen Picton, SRS (VOG);</p> <p>Jennifer Ellis (RCT);</p>	SOSC 3 and SOSC 1 reprioritised this in Dec 2017 after it was rescheduled to accommodate other report	SOSC 3 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
16-Apr-2018	SOSC 1	Early Help and Social Care	<p>The process into how the following information will be presented will be confirmed following meetings with both Directorates Corporate Directors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to date figures presenting the numbers of Looked After Children by Local Authority; A breakdown of referral figures, to include statistics from local pre-school nurseries; Outcome from the review undertaken by Institute of Public Care; What services are being provided post 16, given that research indicates shows that children who have been looked after, have the increased probability that their children will also end up in the care system; <p>To evidence how the two services are working together and the impact on the LAC population.</p> <p><i>Rec from BREP -</i></p> <p>For Scrutiny to receive data relating to the Early Help and Safeguarding Board's joint dataset to evidence how the work being undertaken in relation to Early Help has impacted directly on social services.</p> <p>Detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children's Social Services. Members commented that if this is not known and understood then the Authority cannot effectively plan for the future and Members cannot be assured that changes that are being introduced are fit for purpose.</p>				<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;</p> <p>Clr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;</p> <p>Clr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p> <p>Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help.</p> <p>Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;</p> <p>Mark Lewis,</p> <p>Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance</p>	SOSC 1	
17-Apr-2018	SOSC 2	Dementia Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include accurate and up to date figures on the people diagnosed with dementia in Bridgend County Borough for comparison with the number of people predicted to be living with dementia; Provide Members with the information which can be found on the Local GP Dementia Register which highlights prevalence of dementia by area throughout the borough and type of dementia. The Panel recommend that these statistics are presented on a map diagram for ease of reference. If possible, Members wish that this data be elaborated upon to include age, and whether the numbers show if diagnosis was received prior to moving into the borough; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an update on the review of joint intentions with health and the third sector and include information regarding the production of a dementia strategy and delivery plan - stating milestones, target dates and responsible officers. Provide an update on existing discussions with nursing care providers in relation to the development of nursing residential care places for people with dementia; <p>Include facts and figures on people with dementia living in Cardiff as well as Neath Port Talbot and Swansea for comparison to Bridgend.</p> <p>Comparisons with other LAs such as Maesteg and the Vale on dementia awareness training to consider how successful the Authority has been in making Bridgend Dementia friendly.</p>			Proposed change from Directorate from 7 March as will take time to get the detailed information as it is not owned by the LA and needs to be gathered from Health etc.	<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Clr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p> <p>Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care;</p> <p>Representative from Age Concern Wales;</p> <p>Representative from ABMU;</p> <p>Representative from Bavo.</p>		Corporate highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 35</p>	19-Apr-2018 SOSC 3	Emergency Housing	<p>Is the current emergency housing provided by BCBC meeting the needs of the service users? Is the current provision a good use of public resources? Should an alternative provision be made to ensure families, in particular children, achieve their potential. Service user numbers Service user demographic –ages, disabilities, gender Outcomes Challenges faced daily by families using provision –health, dentist, mental health, schools *Members have requested a possible site visit</p>	members asked for this item to be prioritised by the Corporate Committee to address the homelessness across the county which has increased and can be seen by the increased number of people sleeping in tents.			Andrew Jolley, Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services; Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing and Future Generations;	SOSC3 SOSC 1	
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC 1	Budgetary Impacts of Parc Prison	<p>How much core funding does BCBC receive to deal with the impact of a prison being located within its boundary? What is the true cost of servicing this need? Is there a different impact due to Parc Prison being privately run as opposed to being run by the Prison Service? Educational aspects in prisons and their impact; What Community Services does Parc Prison provide? What does Parc Prison give back to the County Borough of Bridgend; What 3rd Sector services are provided at Parc; Details on the impact on housing; What input does the Probation Service have with working with the Authority and with the resettlement of prisoners.</p>		Proposed by Directorate for May-June 2018	Ongoing discussions with WG over financial position -more appropriate to receive later in year	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care Cllr P White, Cabinet Member Services and Early Help Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Representative from Parc prison; Representation from Health Service Provider; Representation from 3rd Sector – Drug and Alcohol services for example; Representation from Probation Service; <u>Representation from housing department.</u>		
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC 2	ALN Reform	<p>When the Act has been further progressed, report to include consideration of the following points: a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Act? b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them? c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Act? d) Has the Act led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Act could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution. e) Given that the Act focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes? f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme. g) Support for those with ALN into employment. h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity. i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Act on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN j) How is the implementation of the Act being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?</p>	Needs revisiting to monitor implementation of the Bill and if needs are being met as well as impact on future budgets	Proposed by SOSC 1 to be revisited in next years FWP		Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement Third Sector Representatives		SOSC 2 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC3	Waste Services Contract <i>(Confirmation required as to whether Scrutiny can receive re-dacted contract - if contract being considered, item needs to go to Corporate OVSC, other issues are for SOSC)</i>	<p>Members would like the report to include an update on the following: The impact of the recently recruited senior managers associated with the Bridgend contract and front line operative staff. Was recruitment successful? Have all Members now been given full inductions and training Information on the updates to the CRC centre including the instalment of the polystyrene baler and webcam so residents are able to monitor the traffic flow at the site. Change of days for the communal collections - Has this happened? Has the service shown improvements since the change? Impact of the new collection vehicles. Have they made collection rounds more efficient? Outcome of the review of BCBC in house Street Scene enforcement activity Longer term trend of flytipping. What are the figures of flytipping in the Borough? Have they improved? Domestic or business? A breakdown in the number of referrals received before the new contract in a typical month and what they were related to and a breakdown of the number of referrals received in April 2018 A review of the AHP bags be considered when Scrutiny revisit the subject of 'Waste' in approximately 12 months time to include the monetary against environmental impact.</p>	Members requested that this item is prioritised by the Corporate Committee for June 2018 so they can monitor the contract and ensure that improvements to the delivery of the service are made. Members requested that this item remain until significant improvements are made and the service is at a satisfactory level for residents.	SOSC 3 proposed revisit item in June 2018		Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Maz Akhtar, Regional Manager Kier Julian Tranter, Managing Director Kier Claire Pring, Kier	SOSC 3 Jan 18	

Table B

The following items were deemed important for future prioritisation:

Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date		Suggested Invitees		Webcast
Safeguarding	<p>To include Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services.</p> <p>To also cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Safeguarding Boards Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS) <p>Report to provide statistical data in relation to service demands and evidence how quickly and effectively the services are acting to those needs.</p> <p>To evidence how the two services are working together and the impact on the LAC population.</p> <p>To receive the outcome of the in depth analysis which was currently being undertaken within the Council.</p> <p>To include information on Advocacy for Children and Adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome from the Advocacy Pilot Scheme The current system Social Services & Wellbeing Act Regional Children Services advocacy Adult Services – Golden Thread Project <p>What costs are associated to assessments that are contracted out.</p>	<p>Members stressed that this subject must be considered by Scrutiny on their FWP as is a huge responsibility of the Authority and Scrutiny must ensure the work being undertaken to protect some of the most vulnerable people is effective and achieving outcomes.</p>	<p>Pilot for Advocacy ends April. Therefore proposed date May/June 2018.</p>		<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer</p>	SOSC2 Jan 18	
Annual Recommendations/feedback Update to each SOSC	<p>Update on all feedback that required follow up and recommendations - Cabinet and Officer ones</p>		<p>Proposed for March 2018 to inform next years FWP planning</p>		<p>None</p>		
Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) Inspection of Children's Services.	<p>The Committee requested that they receive an information report detailing the progress of the plan and update Members whether or not the actions have addressed the issues raised by the Inspectorate.</p>		<p>Going to Corporate Parenting on 24 Jan - Scrutiny Officers to pick up and send to Committee</p>				
Remodelling Fostering Project	<p>Further project as part of the Remodelling Children's Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detail regarding the upskilling of three internal foster carers to provide intensive, therapeutic step down placements as part of Residential Remodelling project - Review of the foster carer marketing and recruitment strategy at a draft/early stage to allow members input into the process 				<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Pete Tyson, Group Manager – Commissioning; Lauren North, Commissioning and Contract Management Officer; Natalie Silcox, Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services.</p>		

<p>Home to School Transport</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings:</p> <p>Update on pilot that school transport team proposing to run in Spring and Summer terms 2017-2018 - to support the enforcement of bus passes on home to school transport contracts. As part of this pilot, the Authority is also investigating opportunities to track the use of our school bus services by individual pupils.</p> <p>Update on Recommendation from BREP: The Panel recommend the need for the Authority to adopt a Corporate approach in relation to Home to School Transport maximising the LA's minibuses such as those used for day centres. It is proposed that this be supported by slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so that the buses can be available for school transport. Other aspects that could be considered include the exploration of whether school staff could transport children and young people instead of hiring independent drivers.</p> <p>To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees to be scrutinised to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p> <p>Report to include Update on the current arrangements of how licensing and school transport operates within the County Borough since the change in 2015 to the Police National Policy for disclosing non-conviction information to the local authority. Information to include a report from South Wales Police on its approach to disclosing information it holds about licencees following arrests, charges and convictions. What is the current relationship between the local authority's licensing and school transport departments in relation to the disclosure of information from South Wales police? Is there sufficient oversight on behalf of the local authority and a risk of contractors withholding information which may prejudice the continuation of their contract?</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees ought to be scrutinised by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p>					
<p>Highways Services</p>	<p>To include information of efficiency savings and the impact of what the MTFS has on the service</p>			<p>Proposed by HOS as had been drafted previously for scrutiny but did not go due to timing issues - felt that Mmembers need to know info - <i>could this be an information report instead?</i></p>	<p>Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Andrew Hobbs, Group Manager Streetworks</p>		
<p>Community Services</p>	<p>Rec from BREP The Committee recommend that Scrutiny consider a future item on what other Local Authorities are doing to respond to the gap in provision in Community Services.</p>					<p>SOSC2 Feb 18</p>	

<p>Collaboration with Police</p>	<p>The Panel highlighted the need to work more closely with the Police and therefore proposed that a Research and Evaluation Panel be established to look at Policing of the borough on a local level. Members proposed the following points and areas to go to the Research and Evaluation Panel for consideration as part of their ongoing investigative work:</p> <p>a) As the delegated powers to the Police and PCSO's varies between local authorities, the Panel recommend that clarification be provided on what powers have been assigned to the Police and what has been retained be the LA to inform all Members, members of the public, Inspectors and PCSOs;</p> <p>b) How often does the Chief Executive and Leader meet with key people in the Police to discuss and align priorities;</p> <p>c) How often do both the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services and the Corporate Director - Communities meet with their counterparts in the Police to discuss community policing and safety within the County Borough and align priorities.</p> <p>d) The need for a joint plan between Police and the LA;</p> <p>e) How the Police assist the LA in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults and children.</p>						
<p>Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project</p>	<p>SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.</p>						
<p>CSSIW investigation into LAC</p>	<p>The Committee requested that the outcome of the CSSIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.</p>						
<p>CAMHS</p>	<p>With reference to the responses received in relation to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services Members on 12 December 2018, Members note that most of the replies feature an element of work in progress and have asked to retain the item on the FWP for future review. To receive an update on current provision and further advise on current situation in relation to comments and conclusions made on 12 December 2018.</p>						
<p>School Standards</p>	<p>Requested from SOSC 1 meeting in February to receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Categorisation information; • In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved; • Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results; • Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set; • Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face; • Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree; • Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it; • More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend; • What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils; • What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures; • Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money; • What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils; • Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc. 				<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Mandy Paish, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Mike Glavin, Managing Director CSC Representative from School Budget Forum</p>		

The following

Item	Specific Information to request
------	---------------------------------

Overview of Direct Payment Scheme	To update Members on the Direct Payments Process.
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment. To also cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Annual Plan • Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy
Western Bay Regional Report	Update on situation and way forward with WB and Regional Working?

Residential Remodelling - Extra Care Housing	Site visit to current Extra Care Housing and then to new site once work has begun
Children's Social Services	Briefing for SOSC 1 on Child Practice Reviews - details of latest CPRs over last 12-18 months - what recommendations have come out of them, how have they been responded to, how have they helped inform future work to help safeguard children.

This page is intentionally left blank

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

12 MARCH 2018

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 of:

- the initial outcomes of Band A schemes, including lessons learnt; and
- the development of the Strategic Outline Programme for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report relates to the Corporate Improvement Plan priority:

- Smarter use of resources

3. Background

3.1 The School Modernisation Programme was established to deliver on a number of objectives including:

- developing first-class learning environments;
- locating the right number of schools, of a viable size, in the best places to serve their communities;
- making schools an integral part of the life and learning of their communities;
- reducing surplus places and achieve best value for money; and
- making schools more efficient and sustainable.

3.2 The Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for Band A was submitted to Welsh Government in 2011. Following the necessary approvals, Band A schemes were developed to deliver the programme from 2014 to 2019. These schemes have been progressed and are at various stages.

3.3 The SOP for Band B was submitted to Welsh Government in July 2017 and approval in principle was received in December for the programme envelope of £68.2m. Subsequently in January 2018, Council gave approval in principle for the financial commitment required for Band B, subject to sufficient resources being identified and allocated to meet the match funding commitment and to incorporate the finance required for Band B into the capital programme.

4. Current position

Band A

- 4.1 Band A projects are at various stages, the following table sets out the current position and the completion dates for each scheme:

Scheme	Progress	Completion
Bryncethin Campus - Ysgol Bryn Castell and The Bridge Alternative Provision	Complete	June 2015
Coety Primary School	Complete	November 2015
Héronsbridge Special School - Mezzanine	Complete	November 2017
Brynmenyn Primary School	Complete	February 2018
Garw Valley South Phase 1- Betws Primary School	Complete	December 2017
Garw Valley South Phase 2- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw	In progress	January 2019
Pencoed Primary School	In progress	July 2018

- 4.2 As can be seen from the above table, Band A schemes have either very recently completed or are due to complete by 2019. Consequently, a cohort of pupils has yet to move through any of the Band A facilities. Outcome measures, many of which require analysis over an extended time-frame, are collected and reported to the School Modernisation Board on an annual basis. The Board is chaired by the Interim Director, Education and Family Support and membership comprises of Heads of Service, Education and Early Help, Corporate Landlord and Neighbourhood Services, and senior officers from Education, Planning, Property, Legal and Finance.
- 4.3 Band A of the School Modernisation Programme has been effective in that it has:
- provided an additional supply of suitable school places in Bridgend;
 - removed a number of schools with category C building condition ie poor – exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended, and replaced one school damaged in-part by a fire in 2012;
 - provided buildings which are suitable for 21st century teaching and learning; and
 - a bi-product of the programme is the delivery of community benefits (ie apprenticeships, employment and work experience opportunities for school pupils within Bridgend).

Lessons learnt

- 4.4 Lessons learnt workshops are held approximately 12 months after each scheme completion. A key lesson from Band A is that early consultation is required with Highways and Transportation officers to help inform the choice of site. Also, discussion must take place throughout the scheme development stage. Consequently, Highways and Transportation officers are formally invited onto project teams for Band B schemes, are involved at the very outset and will

contribute to the options appraisal process, feasibility studies and help inform the final design.

- 4.5 Welsh Government funding profiles result in timescales/milestones which are critical for school modernisation projects. This aspect, together with the legalities around school organisation proposals, if not complied with can put the Council at risk of a number of issues, including the loss of Welsh Government funding. There are many factors which can impact on the timing of schemes including the availability of resources. Resource requirement/availability needs to be identified at an early stage so that consideration can be given to procuring external resource in order to meet timescales. This is an important lesson learnt as delays were caused on certain schemes within Band A due to resourcing issues. However, in all instances, officers were able to manage the issue and ensure the project was/is delivered within the timescale. Resource is now a standard agenda item for all programme and project team meetings.
- 4.6 In addition, it is recognised that considerable participation is required from headteachers/schools in terms of scheme development. Headteacher involvement includes attending meetings with the project team, designers, contractors and consultation meetings with pupils, staff, governors and the community. In order to support standards at schools affected and assist with benefits realisation, additional financial support has been identified as being required for schools. Funding is now being allocated for the transitional process so that head teachers can safeguard against impact on standards. Headteachers lead their staff in respect of the move from one establishment to another with the vast majority of decants undertaken during term time. The complexity of the process is risk assessed to establish whether pupils are able to be taught in their existing accommodation whilst the decant process is underway, or whether alternative arrangements need to be made eg activity sessions held in a nearby establishment, school closed for a short period of time.
- 4.7 Each project has a financial allocation for furniture, equipment and IT. For Band A schemes, the allocation was deemed to be part of the overall project cost. As schemes have developed over time, construction costs have increased, which has impacted on, and reduced furniture, equipment and IT budgets. This lesson learnt from Band A has been recognised by Welsh Government. Consequently, for Band B, furniture, equipment and IT will be funded on a rate per pupil.
- 4.8 Another lesson learnt from previous schemes is the need to ensure that there is a robust strategy around the delivery of IT. Headteachers now submit business cases identifying the intended IT strategy for the school, listing the IT equipment and infrastructure requirements. Education and IT officers now meet with headteachers to evaluate their approach, offer challenge and ensure the strategy presents value for money.
- 4.9 Recent Welsh Government advice to authorities is such that Band B schemes will include a set funding allocation per m² above damp-proof course, with inflation calculated on an annual basis in April each year, using the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) all-in tender index. This is a stepped change from Band A funding allocations, which were fixed at the outset of the programme.

- 4.10 In addition where the authority has determined that new provision will be delivered via a design and build process, there must be a monitoring/reviewing process of plans and specifications undertaken, in order safeguard the Council's interest. This is currently being considered by officers.

Band B

- 4.11 The Strategic Outline Programme priorities for Band B of the Programme were developed by the school modernisation work stream of the Strategic Review into the Development and Rationalisation of the Curriculum and Estate Provision of Primary, Secondary and Post-16 Education. Workstream membership included officer representation from Education, Planning, Property, Legal, Finance, the Built Environment and headteachers representing the primary, secondary and special schools plus representation from Bridgend College.
- 4.12 The school modernisation workstream considered data which they determined should be used to assist in prioritising the future investment in schools. The data considered included suitability, condition, maintenance backlog, projections of pupil population, housing developments identified within the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the supply of pupil places.
- 4.13 The provision of a sufficient supply of pupil places to meet demand was considered to be the highest priority for the Council. Band B recommendations were primarily based on the projected pupil population (which included pupils from housing developments with planning permission), plus pupils from those developments included in the LDP but without planning permission. Planners gave advice with regards to the LDP and confirmed the likelihood of developments coming forward during the period. The proposed priorities were identified as:

4.14 Bridgend South East area

Additional planned housing identified through the LDP affecting Bridgend and the south-east region of the county borough will result in an increased number of places being required.

4.15 Primary school provision in the Bryntirion area

In 2006, Council adopted policy to create all-through, 3-11 provision and the school modernisation programme has been structured to support this approach. It is considered that there remains a need to fulfil the aims of the 2006 policy. Therefore, consideration was given to creating all-through primary provision for the Bryntirion area. However, it noted that Cefn Glas Infants, Bryntirion Infants and Llangewydd Junior Schools are currently operating successfully.

4.16 Primary school provision in the Bridgend North East area

It was clear from the pupil projections and planned housing that there is a need to increase the number of school places to meet demand arising from current housing developments, including the planned Brackla North East development, which is located in an area adjacent to Brackla Industrial Estate, and on plan, falls within the Coety Primary School catchment area. Additional provision presents an opportunity to potentially address the number of Welsh-medium education places serving the area and increase provision for English-medium education.

4.17 Primary school provision in the Valleys Gateway area

Brynmenyn Primary School has recently opened for pupils and will initially only be partly occupied. Based on the LDP, the projected pupil numbers for the area will be higher than the number of places available. However, Welsh Government will not support creating additional places in schools for housing developments that are yet to come online; schools individual funding is primarily pupil led, therefore should places remain unfilled the formula allocation would be less than anticipated. Funding is based on estimated pupil numbers, but should places remain unfilled then this funding would be clawed back by the Council.

4.18 Special school provision in the Bridgend area

With the unprecedented increase in demand for places for pupils with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) over recent years, evidence suggests that this issue will be a growing trend. Many placements each year are allocated to early years pupils, who, due to the complex nature of their needs, are unable to access any other mainstream or specialist provision, other than a special school. In addition, places available for each year are predicated upon the number of leavers as there is insufficient capacity available. There is currently a serious overcrowding and demand issue within the Heronsbridge Special School and fit for purpose facilities are required that can meet the needs of the most vulnerable pupils.

4.19 Welsh-medium primary provision in the Bridgend West area

The project team responsible for developing a strategy for the delivery of Welsh-medium education to 2030 has recommended that there is a need to increase Welsh-medium provision in the county borough. This will help deliver on the Welsh Government's national programme to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and support the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). (Under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, there is a statutory duty placed on authorities to develop a WESP). A Welsh education survey, completed by prospective parents, indicated that there is demand for additional primary provision in the Bridgend West area. The project team has advised that the provision should be suitably located (ie within the area of demand) and large enough so that more children can access a Welsh-medium education. Additional Welsh-medium primary places will take a number of years to filter through to secondary level. The provision of places at YGG Llangynwyd is reviewed on an annual basis and will be further considered upon completion of the review into post-16 education.

4.20 English-medium primary provision in Bridgend West area

A replacement English-medium primary school which will result in the removal of a condition C building (ie poor - exhibiting major defects and/or not operating as intended). There would, as a result, be a removal of the backlog in maintenance.

4.21 Primary provision in the Kenfig Hill area

The purpose of including Mynydd Cynffig Primary School within Band A was to fulfil the 2006 policy of creating all-through primary schools. This has been achieved in part for Mynydd Cynffig Primary School by amalgamating the former infant and junior schools. However, this has resulted in a split-site school which is on either

side of a busy main road. Consultation with the community regarding the proposal to relocate the primary school to the comprehensive school site met with significant representation together with a counter proposal. However, it was considered important that the needs of the split-site school are not lost and therefore continuing to progress a replacement school is considered necessary. Further option appraisal and feasibility work will be undertaken within the Band B timeframe for future delivery.

4.22 Post-16 review

Currently, there are a significant number of surplus places in the secondary school sector. This position will improve with increased pupil numbers arising from planned housing coming through the system. However, some areas of the county borough are more problematic than others and there is a projected increased demand due to planned housing developments which will impact heavily on secondary places in future years. The issues facing these schools in terms of the impact on places may be improved, depending on the outcome of the work undertaken by the post-16 review.

4.23 Future reviews

It is anticipated that following Band B, there will be two further bands of Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, which may see the programme completing in 2034. In order to help inform future bands of the programme, it is considered essential to undertake a review of provision within the Llynfi Valley and Porthcawl areas during the Band B period; this will help inform the future strategy for delivering education in these areas. Also, following the outcome of the post-16 review, it will be necessary to undertake a review of secondary school catchment areas to ensure there are sufficient places available to accommodate pupil yield from areas of growth. Given the outcome could impact on adjacent secondary schools, a decision on how the catchment area assessment is progressed will be determined following the post-16 review. The assessment will consider school intakes, stability of provision and potential savings in respect of learner travel. Conversely, it will also consider potential disadvantages possibly against established practice and parental choice.

4.24 Risks

Several risks and issues are associated with not progressing certain schemes within the Band B timeframe. Although certain risks have been set out in the following table, the highest risk in progressing the schemes associated with the demand for places is the uncertainty of those developments identified within the LDP and those housing schemes being progressed in a timely manner. Table 1 below illustrates some of the key risks associated with not progressing the proposals outlined in this report.

Table 1 Key risks with not progressing schemes

Scheme	Risk
Bridgend South	Insufficient pupil places to serve the Pencoed and Parc Afon Ewenni areas if all planned housing identified within the Local

East	Development Plan is progressed.
Bryntirion area	Unfulfilled 2006 Council policy. Shortfall of primary school places within the area.
Bridgend North East	Insufficient pupil places to serve housing developments currently allocated to the Coety Primary School catchment area. Opportunity lost to create additional Welsh-medium provision.
Valleys Gateway Area	Insufficient pupil places available in the area should all housing identified within the LDP come online.
Bridgend Special School	Insufficient pupil places to meet increasing significant demand for places. Overcrowding issues remain unresolved.
Bridgend West Welsh and English-medium	No expansion of Welsh-medium provision to serve an area of demand. Building conditions continue to deteriorate. Lost opportunity to remove backlog in maintenance.
Kenfig Hill area	School remains located on split site. Potential income from a capital receipt not realised. Opportunity to make revenue savings through rationalisation of sites.

4.25 It was acknowledged that the Council's limited resources will not be able to deliver on all the schemes identified within this report. However, as there was a need to ensure a sufficient supply of school places then the priority should be around demand for places in growth areas. The following projects were considered the priority Band B schemes:

- Bridgend North East;
- Bridgend South East;
- Bridgend Special School;
- Bridgend West – Welsh-medium; and
- Bridgend West – English-medium.

4.26 Those areas identified within this report but not prioritised for Band B will be closely monitored in terms of the supply and demand of places, and if necessary, re-prioritised during the period, via the Welsh Government official business case process.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Although an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out for the overall programme, it has been considered timely to review and refresh the EIA. An initial screening has therefore been undertaken for Band B. Once schemes have been sufficiently developed, they will be subject to a separate EIA, as the detail will vary between projects. Equality reports on all proposals will be referred to as part of the individual Cabinet reports on each individual scheme.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The overall programme envelope for Band B is estimated to be in the region of £68.2m, of which approximately £43.2m is anticipated to be capital funded, the balance proposed to be funded through the Welsh Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM). The Welsh Government capital grant intervention rate is set at 50% for this second wave of investment, with the caveat that only the approved cost on an elemental basis will secure this rate – any abnormalities or ‘additional’ design features will require 100% Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) funding.

7.2 In order to receive this funding, the Council will need to submit detailed business cases for each project including details of how the match funding (circa £22.8m) required from the Council will be provided.

7.3 The following projects have been included in the 21st Century Band B Programme Budget within the Council’s capital programme, but will only be confirmed once Welsh Government approve the final business cases and sufficient funding has been generated:

- Bridgend North East;
- Bridgend South East;
- Bridgend West – Welsh-medium; and
- Bridgend West – English-medium.

7.4 It is anticipated that section 106 contributions for education places will be available from certain housing developments identified within the LDP together with capital receipts from the sale of sites through a potential rationalisation process which will assist in supporting the Council’s 50% contribution to schemes.

7.5 The Bridgend Special School scheme which is being progressed via the Mutual Investment Model could benefit from a 75% Welsh Government intervention rate. However, this will require revenue match funding from the authority of around £750k per annum over a 25-year period. This is not currently built into the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7.6 A feasibility budget of £111,366 has been secured for 2017-2018 and £75k for 2018-2019 in order to commence progressing Band B schemes.

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- notes the content of this report in relation to school modernisation; and

- considers and agrees any recommendations the Committee may wish to make consistent with its challenge and support role in light of the report.

Lindsay Harvey
Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

Contact Officer: Nicola Echanis
Head of Education and Early Help

Telephone: (01656) 642611

E-mail: ellen.franks@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents

Cabinet Report 2 November 2010: THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO WELSH ASSEMBLY

Cabinet Report 1 September 2015: STRATEGIC REVIEW INTO THE DEVELOPMENT AND RATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM AND ESTATE PROVISION OF PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND POST 16 EDUCATION

Cabinet Report 3 October 2017: School Modernisation – Band B (2019-2024)

Cabinet Report 30 January 2018: School Modernisation – Band B

Council Report 31 January 2018: School Modernisation – Band B

This page is intentionally left blank