

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2026 AT 11:00

Present

Councillor H Griffiths – Chairperson

HJ David

Present Virtually

JPD Blundell
R J Smith

S Easterbrook
AJ Williams

N Farr
E D Winstanley

D M Hughes

Apologies for Absence

RJ Collins, J Llewellyn-Hopkins and JH Tildesley MBE

Invitees:

Councillor Martyn Jones

Cabinet Member for Education and Young People

Lindsay Harvey
Tanya Smith
Matthew Evans
Stacey Forde
Lauren Saunders
Rachel Morgans

Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People
Head of Strategy, Early Years and Youth
Team Manager – Catering Services
Head of Performance and Workforce Cultural Change
Sustainable Food Co-Ordinator
Sustainable Food Project Support Officer

Headteachers:

Ryan Davies
Neil Pryce

Headteacher, Brynteg Comprehensive
Headteacher, Pil Primary

Officers:

Lucy Beard
Stephen Griffiths

Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Officer – Committees

Declarations of Interest

None.

101. Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations and Expansion of Access to Free School Meals in Secondary Schools

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following consideration of the report, presentations by the Headteachers of the Bridge and Litchard Primary School, and the Headteacher and staff from Pencoed Comprehensive School, and detailed discussion with a Cabinet Member, Senior Officers and Invitees, the Committee made the following recommendations and request for additional information: Recommendations 1. The Committee discussed the requirement within the Regulations to reduce the amount of processed food, action being taken to reduce the use of ingredients from non-sustainable sources and increase the amount of sustainable locally sourced food, and Officers advised they could link with the main suppliers to get more information on sustainability. The Committee welcomed the provision of this information and recommended that consideration be given to exploring the potential of becoming deforestation free champions and reviewing menus accordingly. 2. The Committee acknowledged that catering staff within schools know the children well and support them accordingly and discussed the importance that the new Regulations did not hamper their discretion, and issues including children not eating at home, children who have higher metabolisms and therefore may need more food, and also childhood obesity. The Committee recommended that the Authority explore with Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh Government a methodology for monitoring what children are eating and are not eating to understand if any changes to menus are required in order to balance nutrition and hunger. 3. The Committee were advised by the Sustainable Food Co-Ordinator and Sustainable Food Project Support Officer of engagement undertaken with 11 schools on the new menu, working with schools to also deliver cooking and growing sessions, with the aim to increase the uptake of meals and recommended that consideration be given to how current food waste in schools could be reduced and the potential for redistributing food waste be explored. Request for Additional Information 4. The Committee requested a copy of new menus and if possible, some of the recipes be circulated to them.
Date Decision Made	2 July 2026

102. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the following inclusions, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information. The Committee requested: a) A report on Attendance in Schools be scheduled to include: i) The Authority's position on prosecuting for non-attendance; ii) Incentives to keep children in school; iii) Variances in attendance between schools. b) That the scheduled Review of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Support report include in its scope, the rising costs for delivering the ALN provision in schools. c) A Member Briefing regarding School Modernisation be arranged in the interim, as the report is scheduled for March 2027.
Date Decision Made	2 July 2026

103. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	2 July 2026

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 12:03.