

Date	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
16-Oct-18	Review of Post 16 Provisions across Bridgend, Public Consultation on Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member request that ALN Post 16 Review is added to the FWP. 	
		<i>Members raised the following concerns</i>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee raised concerns in relation to the travelling between centres that were proposed to be carried out during pupil and teacher lunchbreaks and also queried what assessment of risk had been carried out if a greater transport time was involved. 	This issue is being raised specifically in the consultation survey and Scrutiny will be informed of public opinion on this matter once the consultation has closed.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee was concerned of the probable increase to travel arrangements imposed by most of the presented concepts, which in turn would create an increase to the Post 16 Transport budget and Members questioned the sustainability of this. 	At this point in time because we are only dealing in concepts rather than specific options it is not possible to estimate the impact on non-discretionary post-16 transport costs. If after receiving the report on the consultation Cabinet decides to move to an appraisal of options then transport costs will be factored in to each option analysis. It should be noted that schools currently spend £60,000 on day time transport provision and this is drawn from the 14-19 component of the Education Improvement Grant (EIG). This element could be drawn upon further to support transport costs as used to happen before the reduction in the size of the 14-9 grant and its incorporation into the EIG. If this route were to be followed then it would reduce the demand on the Council's post-16 discretionary transport budget.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid future challenge, Members highlighted the necessity to present what Post 16 sites will be retained, along with evidence and reasoning for their retention. 	Officers are very mindful of this. However this level of detail is not pertinent to the current consideration of concepts. Should Cabinet decide to move to an analysis of detailed options then a future paper prepared by officers will include all possible permutations of mergers/retentions along with supporting evidence, advantages and concerns.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee voiced their concerns regarding the positivity that was being presented in the consultation regarding Post 16 learning in large groups and Members were keen to emphasise that the Borough does have high performing Post 16 learning from much smaller settings. 	As the consultation paper goes live Scrutiny will be able to see the detailed analysis of standards of performance and have an opportunity, through engagement in the consultation, to comment on the data and evidence that is presented.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee was concerned of how the retention of Post 16 Education by only a select amount of schools would influence parental choice. Members suggest that this could possibly lead to oversubscription in schools providing Post 16 and surplus places where they were not. 	This is linked to the earlier point above about which sixth forms might be merged or retained. If Cabinet moves forward to detailed options analysis then in the consultation paper that would follow the public can be asked specific questions on this point in order to ascertain whether or not and to what degree a particular option may influence their choice of secondary school.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee raised concerns in relation to implementing Concept 5 - the creation of a new FE college governed sixth-form centre as this option would impact on schools, what the Authority provides and also the Council's budget. Members also voiced their concerns regarding FE governance and provided performance data. 	Currently the recommendation made to Cabinet and accepted is that there are two preferred concepts, 4 and 5. They differ in the governance of any proposed sixth form centre and as to whether they would fall under LA or FE control. The relative advantages and disadvantages of these two forms of governance will be explored fully in either further reports to Cabinet or in a second consultation paper should Cabinet choose to consult on detailed options.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable Members to successfully visualise the process, the Committee suggest that Officers provide examples of blended learning in action. 	For the consultation officers have not provided specific examples of 'blended learning' but a more detailed explanation has been provided in order to make it easier for consultees to comment on this aspect.
		<i>Members made the following recommendations</i>	
<p>Initial concerns were raised regarding the evidence and research gathered for the review of Post 16 provisions and the Committee recommend that a representative sample of small, medium and large businesses be invited to partake in the consultation when live and that social research is also commissioned and undertaken on the pupils in our Borough.</p>	A wide range of stakeholders will be engaged with in the public consultation and this will include organisations that represent the interests of local businesses of all different sizes. Their views will be presented in the report on the consultation. There is currently no resource allocated to undertake social research on our pupils. However officers will be working with schools to run active workshops, as part of the consultation, with around 3,000 pupils drawn from all of our mainstream secondary schools. Thus the pupil/student view will be well represented.		
<p>The Committee requested clarification of the consultation process and recommend that Members of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 are invited to add value to the process and act as consultees when the consultation commences and that they receive the final outcomes prior to being presented to Cabinet.</p>	Scrutiny will act as consultees but that, as the consultation has been commissioned by Cabinet, it is Cabinet which, in the first instance, will receive the report on the consultation.		