

Appendix 3

Phase 4 of the consideration for potential re-organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend County Borough Council

Efficient use of resources

1. From the 2020-2021 financial year, Welsh Government is modifying the funding mechanism for sixth-form education. There has been an anomaly in the way in which the Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (ASCC) has been funded. In future it will be funded on the same basis as any other A level or A level equivalent qualification. The ASCC is recognised as an A level equivalent qualification providing the full range of grades from A* to E and the same value of UCAS points. The majority of universities now accept the result of the ASCC in the offer they make to students. Strong performance in the ASCC can also make a difference in borderline considerations in universities such as Bath and Cambridge.
2. In the alteration to the post-16 funding model Welsh Government have stripped out the Learning Core element which was used to fund ASCC or a set of Essential Skills Wales and instead will fund the ASCC on the same basis as an A level. There will be no other funding for the Learning Core. Schools that do not provide the ASCC/Welsh Bac will no longer be able to draw down Learning Core funds.
3. The revised programme values are provided on the next page. The breakdown of allocation per qualification taken is as follows:

Number of qualifications	Programme value	Rate per qualification
3	£2,782	£927
4	£3,565	£891
5	£4,347	£869

4. In assessing the BCBC post-16 allocation Welsh Government look at the PLASC data returns and calculate an average programme value per student across BCBC. This figure is then used along with a demographic prediction to generate an overall allocation for the County's sixth forms. For the 2019-2020 financial year calculation the average programme value for BCBC was £3,599.
5. It can be seen therefore that each student contributes a financial resource of around £890 to each teaching group they attend. With teaching costs running at approximately £10,000 per group it will need just over 11 students in the group to cover teaching costs and 15 if the full costs (including overheads) of sixth-form provision are to be met. This will be an improvement on the current position where group sizes needed to be 13 and 18 respectively.

6. While this is an improvement on the 2019-2020 programme values, it should still be noted that in England the current rate for programmes of 3, 4 and 5 qualifications are £4,000, £4,400 and £4,800. This means that the Welsh figures are showing a comparative deficit of £1,218, £835 and £453 across the three programme values. This is a significant disparity in post-16 funding for the delivery of the same volume of programme. In England there is significant pressure being exerted to increase the levels of post-16 funding.
7. In consequence of this resourcing background it is important not to run too many classes in post-16 provision with numbers less than 10. Indeed in order to be able to maintain minority low uptake subjects, critically ones like modern foreign languages, classes in other subjects need to be kept above the average.
8. As reported in the earlier public consultation document for this review, the proportion of small teaching groups (below 10 learners) increases as the size of a sixth form decreases from 3 out of 25 subjects (12%) in the largest sixth form to 8 out of 12 subjects (66.6%) in the smallest. In the October 2017 Learning audit 150 classes across Years 12 and 13 were identified with less than 10 students. Decreasing this number in order to improve the efficiency and value for money of post-16 provision has to be significant consideration in this review of sixth-form provision.

Programme Title	Equivalent no of A Levels	Main subject area weight	Induction hours	New Main Hours	Main * SAW	Other (CLIF)	New Core Hours	Total Hours	Total Weighted Hours	Current Value	New Programme Value
2 AS equivalent plus WBQ	3	1.20	15	405	486	75	0	495	576	£2,652	2,782
3 AS	3	1.20	15	405	486	75	0	495	576	£3,434	2,782
3 AS equivalent	3	1.20	15	405	486	75	0	495	576	£3,434	2,782
3 AS plus WBQ	4	1.20	15	540	648	75	0	630	738	£3,434	3,565
3 AS equivalent plus WBQ	4	1.20	15	540	648	75	0	630	738	£3,434	3,565
4+ AS	4	1.20	15	540	648	75	0	630	738	£4,217	3,565
4+ AS equivalent	4	1.20	15	540	648	75	0	630	738	£4,217	3,565
4+ AS plus WBQ	5	1.20	15	675	810	75	0	765	900	£4,217	4,347
4+ AS equivalent plus WBQ	5	1.20	15	675	810	75	0	765	900	£4,217	4,347