

**Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) recommendations in respect of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2020-21 to 2023-24**

**Recommendation 1**

In terms of Legal and Procurement's obligations to the MTFs, the panel recommended that funding is increased to address, for example, specific support to new initiatives e.g. Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS).

**Recommendation 2**

The Panel recommend to Cabinet that there needs to be further work done to break the silo approach to budgeting.

**Recommendation 3**

The Panel recommends that Cabinet and CMB review statutory and non-statutory services with particular emphasis on non-statutory preventative services being beneficial and cost effective to the Authority.

**Recommendation 4**

The Panel recommend to Cabinet that they review the Authority's financial relationship with partners, especially within the Community Safety Partnership.

**Recommendation 5**

BREP recommend to Cabinet to establish a more strategic approach to working in partnership with TCC's to support the MTFs.

**Recommendation 6**

BREP considers the outcome of the scrutiny process with regards to CAT in the financial year 2020/21 and that Cabinet endorses this recommendation.

**Recommendation 7**

That BREP considers the outcome of the scrutiny process with regards to the consultation process in relation to Home to School Transport and advises Cabinet/CMB on any issues that could be discussed outside of the Scrutiny process and that Cabinet/CMB support this.

**Recommendation 8**

The Panel recommend that Cabinet ask the Corporate Director, Education and Family Support to review KS2 PAN to allow some flexibility where children are refused entry to their closest school and therefore putting extra pressures on the family to transport their children to a school further away with the costs being passed onto the Authority.

**Recommendation 9**

That Cabinet continues to support schools with deficit budgets but looks to extend this support by engaging with schools at the initial budget planning process.

**Recommendation 10**

Cabinet considers a political approach to the WG Minister for Finance and Trefnydd to discuss the current management of grant funding. A Pan Wales approach could be taken to ensure some of this grant funding could be included in the revenue support grant.

**Recommendation 11**

That Cabinet and CMB ensure that all previous recommendations on charging are delivered and take a fresh look at commercial opportunities to support the MFTS.

This report should be read in conjunction with recommendations from 2018-19. A schedule and timetable to address each and every recommendation should be prepared and made available for BREP entering the financial year 2020-21.

There is an invitation for the Council Leader and the Chief Executive to meet with BREP at its first 2020-21 budget meeting. This would be beneficial to reflect on the recommendation schedule and consider prioritising work programme for the duration of the MFTS. The draft schedule and timeline to be presented at the first meeting for discussion.