

**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1**

**RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2023-2024**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Response</b>
26 May 23	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members expressed concern regarding the retention of school staff and their wellbeing. They discussed the importance of the support pupils received for their wellbeing and felt that staff wellbeing should be of equal priority. Members recommended that the narrative regarding the support for staff in <b><i>T1 Pupil and staff wellbeing</i></b> be strengthened to reflect this.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 23	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	During discussions regarding pupil attendance and levels of absence, Members requested a breakdown of the reasons for and the numbers of absence and recommended that these be included in the Plan.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 23	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members considered the success indicators relating to <b><i>T2 Support for pupil behaviour, attendance, and exclusions</i></b> and highlighted that assessing progress towards the achievement of the objective ‘a reduction in fixed term and permanent exclusions’ would only be meaningful if all schools were following the School Attendance	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>

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		Policy to ensure consistency. Members recommended there be a standardised Exclusion Policy referenced in the Plan to ensure assurance in the data provided and accurate measurement of the improvements.			
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members recommended that there be more granular detail in the Plan on how the ambition for completion of the statutory training modules by School Governors could be measured annually and that a baseline be provided in the Plan to demonstrate the target to be achieved.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members noted the plan to increase the support for parents with vulnerable children under <b><i>T3 Support for vulnerable children and young people</i></b> and recommended that there be more detail in the Plan to include how this was to be achieved, how the current support could be measured and how to ensure that the support increases in the future.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members discussed how a video produced by Brynteg Comprehensive School in relation to <b><i>T5 Curriculum for Wales and assessment</i></b> gave a better understanding of the new curriculum and recommended that this be made available	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>

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		to other schools and to the Members themselves.			
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members discussed the importance of the safeguarding training module for School Governors and made a recommendation to support the Directorate in advocating Welsh Government to consider making it a statutory requirement.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members expressed concern regarding potential increased utility bills and impact on pupils, due to outdated facilities in existing older schools. Whilst Members noted that refurbishment and maintenance of older schools was within the remit of the Property Team and not the EFS Directorate, it was recommended that this should still be referenced in the Plan.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members discussed <b><i>T14 Effective Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to promote the Welsh language and Welsh-medium education</i></b> and felt that the objective appeared to be tailored towards younger learners and improving Welsh speakers and recommended the objective be expanded to include what was being done to promote and improve the use of the Welsh language in secondary schools.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>

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26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Members expressed concern that without definitions of the three numbered parts in each stage of the RAYG (Red (unsatisfactory), Amber (adequate), Yellow (good) and Green (excellent)) statuses, it was difficult to understand the criteria for the top, middle and bottom score in each RAYG status. Members recommended that the RAYG Self-evaluation guidelines be revisited and that a discussion take place with partners to ensure that the targets set were achievable, for example an ambition to achieve a rating of 8 by August 2026 from a current rating of 4 in <b><i>T2 Support for pupil behaviour, attendance, and exclusions</i></b> and 9 by August 2026 with the current rating of 6 in <b><i>T5 Curriculum for Wales and assessment</i></b> and other examples in the Plan.	Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 30 November 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	A detailed breakdown of the individual grants once all grants were consolidated and available which was offered by Officers, in response to Members questions regarding the financial implications of the report including what external grants and capital funding were expected for 2023-24.	Director of Education and Family Support / Central South Consortium	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31400/AppendixASchoolGrantAllocations20232411OfficeResponse.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31400/AppendixASchoolGrantAllocations20232411OfficeResponse.pdf</a>

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26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	The anonymised data for the Food for Fun Programme collated from the previous year and the available data from this year, when available, for the Members of the Committee to compare, which Officers offered to provide to Members in response to Members' questions whether records had been kept of the participants of the Food and Fun programme within the 'Successes to date' and 'Improvement objectives' of <i>T1 Pupil and staff wellbeing</i> , and what the plans were going forward.	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager - Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Figures and data regarding the length of waiting times for school based counsellors, that Officers offered to provide in response to Members' concerns regarding the length of waiting list times for school based counsellors, although Officers were not aware of the lists being significant.	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager - Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Recent data from the annual monitoring undertaken by the Educational Psychology Service that Officers offered to provide in response to Members' referring to <i>T1 Pupil and staff wellbeing</i> in the report which outlined the well-established support from the Educational Psychology Service and highlighted the	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>  <a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31399/Appendi">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31399/Appendi</a>

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		emotional and social wellbeing support role of Learning Support Assistants and their continued training, asking whether the roles were undertaken by dedicated staff and if every school had them			<a href="#">xBBridgendELSAregister202314Officersresponse.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	Links from Central South Consortium regarding the staff wellbeing service funded by Welsh Government.	Director of Education and Family Support / Central South Consortium	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	More information on when Officers expected to meet the objective in <i>T4 Support for children and young people with additional learning needs</i> , that 60 Additional Learning Needs Co-Ordinators would receive bespoke training to meet the needs of pupils	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	In relation to <i>T11 Effective childcare and early years offer</i> , a timeline in relation to the Flying Start roll out and which childcare providers are included across the County Borough.	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager - Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>
26 May 2023	EFS Strategic Plan 2023-2026	An update on recruitment of staff for school breakfast clubs and kitchens.	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager, Business Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 9 August 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31403/SOSC126May2023ResponsesToRecommendations2.pdf</a>

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11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	That narrative be included in future reports to Scrutiny explaining why the budget table with a breakdown of the financial and staffing information in the Youth Justice Service Plan did not show financial support from the Probation and / or Health Services.	Director of Education and Family Support / Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>
11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	That the Committee write a letter to the Probation Service highlighting the increased demand on the Youth Justice Service (YJS) and requesting greater support given the statutory duty on the YJS to have a minimum of representatives from Police, Education, Probation, Health, and Children’s Social Care.	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Letter sent.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32052/SOSC1toProbationServiceemailsupport.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32052/SOSC1toProbationServiceemailsupport.pdf?LLL=-1</a>
11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	That there be more engagement and liaising between schools and the Police and with a focus on prevention.	Director of Education and Family Support / Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>
11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	That a young person aged 18 plus but under 25 who has gone through the YJS be invited to sit on the Bridgend Youth Justice Service (BYJS) Management Board to provide their insight on their experience of the YJS and possible improvements.	Director of Education and Family Support / Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>

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11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	Given that there were recruitment issues across the whole of the organisation but recognised that there was a need to have adequate specialist staffing to conduct some of the trauma screening and strongly recommended they look to establish if what they currently had was sufficient, so they were going to be able to reach their performance targets and ensure young people are safeguarded.	Director of Education and Family Support / Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>
11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	A link to the Joint Inspection responses made by Care Inspectorate Wales.	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 5 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>
11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	More information regarding the reasons why 45% of children were not attending school referenced as reported from the My Voice questionnaires.	Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>
11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	Data regarding the national Key Performance Indicators to be circulated to members to see the aspirations for each part of the service, and for measurement and performance monitoring of the Youth Justice Service.	Director of Education and Family Support / Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>



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11 September 2023	Bridgend Youth Justice Service Update	More data on how many trauma screenings using the Trauma Recovery Model were outstanding, how often they would be reviewed and how the service would manage the staffing resource to achieve it.	Director of Education and Family Support / Youth Justice Service Manager	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 17 October 2023.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s31369/SOSC111September23ResponsestoRecommendations.pdf</a>
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	That an audit of schools be undertaken to identify the significant level of School Governor vacancies along with an audit of School Governor skills to assist Members in understanding what can be done to attract more people with the right skills to becoming Community School Governors, and the outcome of the audits be made available to the Committee for information in the first instance.	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager, School Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	That the Bridgend Governors' Association be requested to clarify that all School Governing Bodies are included on distribution lists for their upcoming meetings and that all Local Authority and Community Governors are circulated with the promotion of their upcoming training sessions.	Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager, School Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	That the Committee write a letter to Welsh Government requesting that more be done at a national level to raise the profile of / incentivise recruitment and retention of school support staff, as these	Scrutiny / Chair actioning	<b>ACTIONED:</b> A letter from the Chair of Subject Overview and Scrutiny	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32057/SOSC1toWGreSchoolSupportStaff.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32057/SOSC1toWGreSchoolSupportStaff.pdf?LLL=-1</a>

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		important roles are significant in delivering requirements and ensuring well-being is at the forefront, however support staff are leaving to work in jobs outside the sector.		Committee 1 to the Welsh Minster (sent on 11 March) and response(received 28 March) .	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32217/Responses/eltrWGHtST12Oct23.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32217/Responses/eltrWGHtST12Oct23.pdf?LLL=-1</a>
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	That the invaluable practice of requesting appropriate Headteacher Invitees to attend for the reports being considered by this Committee, be continued.		Scrutiny actioning	
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	The document being constructed by Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Health Team to analyse the Perform and Grow Programme linked to their self-evaluation tool, for Members to get an understanding of mental well-being across the county borough.	Whole School Approach to Health and Well-being Coordinator / Group Manager Learner Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	<p>A breakdown of the Welsh Government: Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Grant received by the Local Authority referred to in the report, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The reasons for the increase in Activity funding during 2022-23 and the decrease in 2023-24.</li> <li>b. What the funding provides, including how many sessions of counselling and if this is sufficient.</li> </ul>	Whole School Approach to Health and Well-being Coordinator / Group Manager Learner Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	

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		<p>c. Whether there are any alternative funding streams for the Activities listed in the tables and whether they are adequately funded.</p> <p>d. The Council's contribution towards the Activities listed in the tables.</p>			
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	The outcomes and evaluation of the review of the framework referred to in the report which was planned to ensure it was fit for purpose during late 2022.	Whole School Approach to Health and Well-being Coordinator / Group Manager Learner Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	Information regarding support mechanisms and the sickness absence procedures for staff and headteachers and their role in supporting the recruitment and retention of staff.	Whole School Approach to Health and Well-being Coordinator / Group Manager Learner Support / Group Manager School Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	An update on those schools that did not have breakfast clubs and the plan going forward for their provision to ensure that all learners can receive breakfast,	Director of Education and Family Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	

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		particularly given the cost of living and the colder weather.			
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	The Committee requested an update on the timescale of the publication of the Welsh Government Home to School Transport review.	Director of Education and Family Support / Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED:</b> A letter from the Chair of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Welsh Minsters and response	<a href="https://democratic.br idgend.gov.uk/documents/s31981/AppendixALettertoDeputyMinisterforClimateChange.pdf">https://democratic.br idgend.gov.uk/documents/s31981/AppendixALettertoDeputyMinisterforClimateChange.pdf</a>  <a href="https://democratic.br idgend.gov.uk/documents/s31979/AppendixBResponsefromWGClimiteChange14December2023.pdf">https://democratic.br idgend.gov.uk/documents/s31979/AppendixBResponsefromWGClimiteChange14December2023.pdf</a>
12 October 2023	Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing	A copy of the recently published Welsh Government Guidance and summary relating to elective Home Education, that sets out the requirements and how the interface with local authorities and parents in this area works.	Director of Education and Family Support	Recommendations circulated requesting response – to be provided.	
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	The Committee expressed strong concerns around the financial situation for Universal Free School Meal Provision (UPFSM) given the fact that whilst Welsh Government has provided Capital investment for new kitchen equipment, facilities and upgrades, there are the ongoing Revenue cost implications	Chair / Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – Letter sent.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32058/SOSC1toWGreFullyFundingUPFSM.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32058/SOSC1toWGreFullyFundingUPFSM.pdf?LLL=-1</a>

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		<p>that the Local Authority and Schools will struggle to meet. These include the cost of subsidising school meals, food inflation rates, costs to meet new requirements for food waste as well as significant costs required for additional staff to deliver UPFSM, both in schools and in the Catering Service. ○ Express these concerns and highlight the continuing struggle of Local Authorities and Schools to respond to new legislation and requirements without suitable funding being provided to support it; and</p> <p>○ To call on WG to commit to fully funding the revenue and capital costs of implementing this national policy commitment.</p> <p>The Committee therefore agreed to write to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Express these concerns and highlight the continuing struggle of Local Authorities and Schools to respond to new legislation and requirements without suitable funding being provided to support it; and</li><li>• To call on WG to commit to fully funding the revenue and capital costs of</li></ul>			

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		implementing this national policy commitment.			
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Furthermore, the Committee asked that the implications of UPFSM on time for learning be looked at as a matter of urgency given that Headteachers are already highlighting this as a concern which will only be exacerbated with the further rollout of UPFSM to Nursery years and Years 5 – 6. The Committee were of the view that this could have a significant negative affect on primary school pupil’s education.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Business Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Members expressed concern over school meal portion sizes provided for primary school pupils in that these are the same for those in nursery provision to those in year 6. It was agreed that portion sizes for this age range would likely differ significantly and either cause an issue of food waste from younger children due to the portion size being too big (as well as unnecessary associated costs), or the potential opposite in portion sizes not being big enough for the older children and them remaining hungry. The Committee were advised that Welsh Government were reviewing healthy eating in schools, however, it was unknown whether the review would include consideration of portion sizes, which was set, under the direction of WG, by the	Chair / Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED:</b> A letter from the Chair of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 to the Welsh Minsters (sent on 11 March) and response (received 27 March).	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32059/SOSC1toWGREportionsizeUPFSM.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32059/SOSC1toWGREportionsizeUPFSM.pdf?LLL=-1</a> <a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32060/SOSC1toWLGAreportionsizeUPFSM.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32060/SOSC1toWLGAreportionsizeUPFSM.pdf?LLL=-1</a> <a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32222/ResponseLtrWGportionsize4Dec23.pdf?LLL=-1">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s32222/ResponseLtrWGportionsize4Dec23.pdf?LLL=-1</a>

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		<p>Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). It was therefore agreed that the Committee would write to both the Welsh Government and the WLGA and request that portion sizes be incorporated into the review and that this be based on clear evidence gathered from schools and pupils, the latter to ensure the voice of the child is heard.</p>			
<p>4 December 2023</p>	<p>Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service</p>	<p>Concerns were raised over the potential impact of UPFSM on those who could potentially be entitled to eFSM. Headteachers at the meeting reported that there had been a drop in eFSM recently which could possibly be attributed to the introduction of UPFSM. Whilst pupils would still receive a meal in both cases, pupils could be put at a disadvantage by losing out on the extra support they would be entitled to under eFSM. This includes a School Essentials Grant each year to help towards the cost of things like uniform and school supplies. It also had an impact on the amount of funding schools received to support eFSM pupils. The Committee therefore <b>recommend</b> that Primary schools and the Local Authority ensure parents are appropriately informed of the difference between the two and that the benefits of</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Business Support</p>	<p><b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.</p>	<p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0</a></p>

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		eFSM over UPFSM be advertised as widely as possible to encourage take-up and ensure no child is invertedly disadvantaged.			
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Whilst appreciating that there is a priority to rollout UPFSM, the Committee expressed strong concerns around the value for money provided with free school meals, given the menu stipulated for all schools and how suited it was to their pupils. Information viewed in school visits and gathered from Headteachers suggest that at times, the menu choices result in a lot of food wastage and also, more worryingly, instances where children are not being appropriately fed as they do not like the choices available. Acknowledging that the menus have to take account of Healthy Eating in Schools regulations, Nutritional Food Standards and are devised using the Saffron system for nutritional analysis, the Committee support the view expressed by some Headteachers that the menu choices need tweaking to address these concerns and take more account of pupil's views in the choices available to them. Members <b>recommend</b> that this be looked at as soon as possible to reduce wastage, ensure pupils are being fed appropriately, and in	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Business Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0</a>



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		order that that the new UPFSM provision is effective and achieves its overall aim.			
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Concerns were expressed over the high number of vacancies reported relating to UPFSM provision and how the Authority would fill these. The Committee <b>recommend</b> that the Directorate look at what other Local Authorities may be doing to recruit to this service area to see if there are some innovative methods and ways of advertising that could be utilised in Bridgend, including any incentives that could be considered.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	The Committee also <b>recommend</b> that the Local Authority explore, along with Headteachers and the Catering Service, how schools in close proximity to one another could potentially work together to assist with the provision of UPFSM, particularly with meeting staffing requirements given the high number of vacancies reported. Members proposed that schools could consider how staff could be shared across schools, particularly where there are low hour contracts, thereby providing more working hours, with the aim of attracting people into these positions.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School		Corporate Director of	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N</a>

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	Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	It was further <b>recommended</b> that information be sought from HR as to whether staff contracts could be combined and strengthened for those staff who may hold multiple smaller roles in schools, such as support, catering, lunchtime cover etc, and thereby multiple contracts.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services	information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N&amp;AME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0">AME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Further information as to whether notification from parents at the beginning of the week whether children would be taking up their free school meal each day of that week would assist schools with planning and reducing waste. Members recall that this used to be the standard method for most schools and wondered whether reverting back to this would provide benefits, even in so much as planning for staff cover as well as dining hall space and the number of meal sittings required.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Business Support / Team Manager Catering Services	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N&amp;AME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N&amp;AME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Clarification on the current projected overspend for Catering Services for 2023-24 as well as a breakdown of this overspend.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support.	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N&amp;AME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?N&amp;AME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLL=0</a>

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4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	The Committee welcomed the offer from Headteacher, Mr Chris Jones of Llangynwyd Primary School to receive a copy of the information gathered via a short survey sent to fellow colleagues in primary schools across the County Borough.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Group Manager Business Support / Headteacher, Llangynwyd Primary School	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Clarification on whether there would be any potential legal or financial penalties levied on Local Authorities if they were unable to deliver UPFSM in full for whatever reasons, whether this be lack of staffing or kitchen facilities for example, given the fact that this is now a statutory service.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0</a>
4 December 2023	Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) and Operational Issues within the Catering Service	Either an information report or a briefing session be arranged as soon as possible on the subject of Secondary School meal provision, given reports by one school that they have not got the capacity to feed all the pupils that request it and are therefore being sent into the local town to buy lunch instead. To further explore this issue Members have requested more visits to schools, focusing on secondary school meal provision in this instance, and the	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 16 February 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD837&amp;ID=837&amp;RPID=6733674&amp;sch=doc&amp;cat=13514&amp;path=13490%2c13492%2c13497%2c13514&amp;LLL=0&amp;LLLL=0</a>

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		capacity of the catering service to meet this need.			
18 January 2024	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-25 to 2027-28	The Committee made recommendations and requested additional information.	Scrutiny / Chair of COSC	<p><b>ACTIONED:</b> Recommendations formally reported to COSC and onward to Cabinet on 6 February 2024 for consideration and response.</p> <p>Response from Cabinet on 20 February 2024.</p>	<p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&amp;Mid=4425&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=0">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&amp;Mid=4425&amp;Ver=4&amp;LLL=0</a></p> <p><a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&amp;Mid=4426&amp;Ver=4">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&amp;Mid=4426&amp;Ver=4</a></p>