

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2023-2024

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	<p>Whilst acknowledging that the WESP Annual report 2022-23 predated the recent approval of the MTFS 2024-25 to 2027-28, the Committee expressed strong concern over the significant financial implications that now faced the Local Authority, which could potentially compromise the delivery of the ambitions and commitments contained in the WESP.</p> <p>An example of this relates to the proposal to increase capacity at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr and Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr as well as the development of a seedling school in Porthcawl, given the proposal in the current MTFS to reduce nursery provision to the statutory minimum from 2025-26. There was further concern relating to the Welsh medium childcare hubs and the fact that two hubs already built in Bettws and Blackmill still lay vacant and if providers could not be sought, would remain vacant. Not only was there a reputational risk to the Local Authority but also a financial risk to the Capital expenditure for further</p>	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Co-Ordinator	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1

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		<p>nursery provision and Welsh childcare provision, the latter of which also had ongoing revenue implications for the Local Authority.</p> <p>The Committee therefore recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The Five and Ten Year WESP plan be amended and updated (if possible), to reflect the recent financial implications including the impact of any proposed changes to Nursery provision and Home to School Transport provision, which was also highlighted within the future MTFS budget reductions;b) That both plans be amended to reflect the current situation of the childcare hubs, as the plan implies that those in Bettws and Blackmill are already open.c) That the concerns of the Committee relating to the reputational risk of having			

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		vacant Welsh childcare hubs as well as the ongoing financial risk of revenue funding required for this provision, be brought to the attention of the Cabinet Secretary for Education.			
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	The Committee considered the timescales of the Annual WESP report and recommended that they receive an update containing the draft Annual WESP report 2023-24, before it is approved by Cabinet in September 2024, in order that they can undertake pre-decision scrutiny and have a greater impact.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	Whilst appreciating that the individual sub-group reports contain the latest updates, the Committee recommend that the larger Five Year WESP Plan needed to contain those updates so that a full picture could be provided to the Scrutiny Committee alongside the Annual Report. If this was not possible, the Committee requested that they receive the subgroup plans with these updates.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Co-Ordinator	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education	The Committee recommended that the Annual report contain figures and	Corporate Director of	ACTIONED – response and	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDis

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	Strategic Plan (202-32)	information relating to the work being undertaken with English speaking nurseries to encourage the use of Welsh language.	Education and Family Support / Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Co-Ordinator	information circulated 8 July 2024.	playClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	Members discussed the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and through the medium of Welsh in regard to the school workforce annual census, which showed teachers skills across the board from basic to proficiency. The Committee noted that the statistics were in isolation and recommended that a comparison be undertaken with other Local Authorities of similar characteristics to assist Members in understanding the level of skills for teachers.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Co-Ordinator	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	The Committee requested clarification on the four new funding streams that have been agreed by Welsh Government as priorities in relation to Welsh Language.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education	Members discussed the subject of parental support as well as the decisions	Corporate Director of	ACTIONED – response and	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1

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	Strategic Plan (202-32)	behind parents choosing to send their children to an English medium or Welsh medium school. The Corporate Director of Education and Family Support advised he would confer with the School's Admission Team as to what information was available or could potentially be gathered.	Education and Family Support	information circulated 8 July 2024.	playClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	The Committee supported the work being undertaken and support provided to pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Welsh Medium education and felt that Members would benefit from receiving anonymous case studies where children with ALN have really excelled and achieved high educational attainment.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (202-32)	The Committee requested further information on what incentive schemes were currently being run by Welsh Government to encourage and increase the number of Welsh-medium teachers.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Annual Local Authority Scrutiny Report Central South	Members discussed their consideration of the last annual report brought to the Committee from the Central South Consortium (CSC) and recommended	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support /	ACTIONED – response and information	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1

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	Consortium 2022-23	that pre decision scrutiny of the 2025-2028 Business Plan be built into the CSC planning process to enable the Committee to provide some value into the process.	Central South Consortium	circulated 8 July 2024.	D=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Annual Local Authority Scrutiny Report Central South Consortium 2022-23	The Committee recognise the restrictions that Welsh Government has placed on the sharing and publishing of performance data in the public domain. It was however recommended, and agreed by representatives from the Central South Consortium, that it would be useful to include further detail of some of the ALPs performance analysis, such as the number of 'A' level entries, in future reports, as this would provide a more informed picture.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Central South Consortium	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
11 April 2024	Annual Local Authority Scrutiny Report Central South Consortium 2022-23	Members requested additional information on CSC grant funding; how it is divided up and allocated, as well as clarification on the associated funding formula.	Corporate Director of Education and Family Support / Central South Consortium	ACTIONED – response and information circulated 8 July 2024.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD951&ID=951&RPID=13260176&sch=doc&cat=13497&path=13490%2c13492%2c13497&LLL=-1&LLL=-1
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	The Committee highlighted that as Corporate Parents, all Councillors have a responsibility to Care Experienced Children and young people and recommended that consideration of how	Cabinet	ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the	

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		they might be affected by the HTST proposals be explored as part of the Cabinet's decision.		meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024. Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	Evidence at the meeting suggested that the proposals could have a potential impact on attendance and educational outcomes of pupils, particularly in areas of higher social deprivation. Members recommended that if possible, prior to the decision of Cabinet, information and analysis be sought from other Local Authorities to understand the level of this impact in order to inform Cabinet's decision.		ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024. Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	

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18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	<p>The Committee highlighted the importance of communication with parents as well as children and young people regarding any potential changes or ways in which they may be affected and recommended that this be a priority following any decision, in order to ensure they are aware at the earliest opportunity.</p>		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p>	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	<p>The Committee highlighted various concerns regarding some of the routes to school currently regarded as safe, such as some areas having no pedestrian crossings, routes not being maintained and the lighting along them insufficient for dark winter evenings. The Committee therefore recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That all safe routes to schools be reviewed termly; • That a mechanism be provided for parents to provide feedback on any issues with the routes so that they can be rectified quickly. 		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the</p>	

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				next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	<p>Members discussed the issue surrounding children and young people having to walk to school, potentially 3 miles under the new proposals, in various bad weather conditions, and then some pupils also potentially being wet all day resulting from continued crossing of the school site in bad weather to access their classes. The Committee expressed concern over the potential for this to affect pupil attendance on days where the weather was bad. Members also expressed concern over reports that pupils were at times having to wait significant lengths of time for BCBC contracted buses to pick them up from school which meant that pupils and teachers were often waiting outside in awful weather.</p> <p>a. The Committee recommended that the Local Authority work closely with schools and teachers to try and ensure provision is made for pupils to either dry their clothing or possibly change when arriving at school.</p> <p>b. Likewise, that provision is made to keep pupils safe and warm after school should they have to wait a while for either a</p>		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p>	

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		<p>public bus or a BCBC contracted bus to get home.</p> <p>c. Members further recommended that the Authority explore with contractors the times that they are arriving at schools to pick pupils up to minimise waiting times for both pupils and teachers.</p>			
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	Whilst appreciating that the LA's strategy is to grow Welsh Medium education and the number of placements, the Committee expressed concern over the capacity of Welsh Medium schools as well as Faith Schools to account for the potential increase in applications for these schools given that their nursery and post-16 transport provision will be protected under these proposals.		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSOC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p>	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	Should this proposal be agreed, Members highlighted that there will inevitably be an increased reliance on public buses by post-16 pupils to enable them to get to school or		ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the	

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		<p>college. The Committee therefore recommended that prior to any decision being made on post-16, the LA explore whether there are public buses going near or past each school that offers post-16 education and where there is not, the potential impact of this on pupils then opting out of post-16 education be fully understood. There was particular concern amongst the Committee of the significant impact these changes could potentially have for post-16 pupils living in the Llynfi, Ogmoredale and Garw Valleys, and the removal of transport for them leading to a potential removal of access to post-16 education.</p>		<p>meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p>	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	<p>Members recommended that the LA work with local bus companies as soon as possible to consider how they could assist with post-16 transport provision to schools and colleges across the Borough. Furthermore, that the LA also explore any opportunities with the current contracted bus companies to consider if there is anything that they would possibly be willing to provide in terms of a local bus service which would assist pupils accessing schools and colleges. Members also requested that the LA ensure all bus routes and timetables are communicated to post-16 pupils affected by this change.</p>		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1</p>	

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				meeting on 16 September 2024.	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	The Committee recommended that the LA explore with Bridgend and Pencoed Colleges whether they would be willing to support their learners in providing free bus passes to eligible pupils, similar to schemes that are provided in colleges in other Welsh LAs.		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p> <p>Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.</p>	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	Members queried whether the proposed changes to Post-16 transport would be in line with the LA’s commitments under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Whilst acknowledging that the report summarises the implications relating to the five ways of working under the Act, the Committee felt that the response does not capture the impact of children no longer being able to attend post-16 education. The Committee therefore recommend that this be fully		<p>ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.</p> <p>Reponses requested 13 August 2024.</p>	

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		considered and the impact under the Act be made clearer.		Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	The Committee expressed concern over potential vulnerable pupils who might be disadvantaged by these proposals, such as those who would not be able to afford a bus pass to access post-16 education and were then at a higher risk of becoming NEET. The Committee recommended that consideration be given to this, and the potential of a means tested scheme for pupils considered as vulnerable.		ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024. Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	The Committee recommended that clarification be sought on whether the mileage allowance of 45 pence per mile is sufficient to cover any extra costs parents/carers might incur such as any insurance costs if this was seen as a business mileage allowance. Similarly further clarification be considered as to whether this allowance would have any		ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024.	

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		potential tax or benefit implications for parents/carers.		Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	
18 July 2024	Learner Travel Consultation Outcome	<p>During their consideration of the proposals, it was acknowledged by the Cabinet Member that if the proposals were agreed it would inevitably lead to some individual issues and problems and that this was unfortunately unavoidable when looking to reduce certain areas to the statutory minimum. In order to try and respond to these issues, he reported that he would be looking to set up and chair a monitoring group that would consider the impact of any changes to HTST and respond to these as necessary. He explained that this group would engage with Officers across the various directorates when required to try and see how problems could be overcome.</p> <p>a) The Committee welcomed the establishment of this Group and recommended that it specifically look to consider some of the aspects mentioned</p>		ACTIONED – Recommendations presented to the meeting of Cabinet on 23 July 2024. Reponses requested 13 August 2024. Reponses presented to Members at the next SOSC 1 meeting on 16 September 2024.	

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		<p>in the above comments and recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular review, maintenance and issues relating to Safe Routes to School;• How schools are responding to pupils walking to school in bad weather conditions such as suitable facilities to dry or change clothes; <p>As well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impact on NEETs figure, pupil attendance, absenteeism, vehicle traffic outside schools;• Ensuring that the LA is still meeting its requirements of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act, particularly in relation to post-16 pupils;• Consideration of disabled access and parking at schools and colleges to assist families and young people with getting to and from school safely, particularly as these proposals could potentially result in an increase in traffic outside schools;• How schools are using timetabling to potentially assist its post-16 pupils in reducing the impact from these proposals, for example reducing the			

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		<p>need of a pupil to have to attend school for only one class on a specific day;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How schools were sharing best practices in the ways they were responding to these proposals and supporting their pupils with accessing education safely. <p>The Committee recommended that it was essential that school leaders were involved with any monitoring of impact from the proposed changes to HTST as well as any resulting actions.</p>			