

Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1**Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet for 2024-25**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	Members requested more information on what other local authorities were doing to set a balanced budget which Officers advised once they had the wider Wales view they would be content to share with the Committee.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 9 May 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s35466/ResponsestoSOSC1RequestsJan2025.pdf
16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	<p>Members discussed the implications of Legal Services for schools expressing their concerns with more complex casework involving behaviour, attendance, health and safety legislation.</p> <p>Headteachers advised they have external arrangements with legal services who are knowledgeable and are able to turn things around in a timely manner to support schools. Headteachers stated that the conflict came where the Local Authorities' legal team may not agree with the external legal advice which could be a challenge for the schools. The Committee requested that this is investigated further as to whether the external legal support was sustainable, manageable, affordable and whether the support was sufficient for today's demands on schools.</p>	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 9 May 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s35466/ResponsestoSOSC1RequestsJan2025.pdf

APPENDIX B

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16 January 2025	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29	The Committee requested more Information with regards to the Welsh Governments revenue support grant and Other grants that might be forthcoming.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Response and information circulated 9 May 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s35466/ResponsestoSOSC1RequestsJan2025.pdf
31 March 2025	School Modernisation	<p>The Committee acknowledged the need to be mindful of if its own role in monitoring, managing and mitigating school modernisation projects on behalf of the local authority, so that projects are delivered on time and on budget and requested that a strategic and forward-looking report be submitted for consideration by Members at a future meeting, that would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ An audit of the condition of all schools in Bridgend County.▪ An analysis of the lessons learned from the school modernisation projects that have happened or in the process of being planned and built, including the impact of wider political and economic forces. The report would need to consider such issues as the role and value of price caps; risk management and mitigation, including the impact of ecological ones on project timing	Scrutiny / Chair SOSC 1/ Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Provisionally scheduled to 9 Feb 2026 meeting on the Committee's Forward Work Programme	Complete.

APPENDIX B

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		<p>and costs; procurement; land acquisition; the impact of design changes to projects; and project management and oversight, especially in terms of the contribution made by Cabinet and the Corporate Management Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The future demography of the County Borough, and the impact of new and proposed housing developments, and the potential knock-on impact on school catchment areas and pupil numbers.▪ The future of school modernisation and project finance in Wales.			
31 March 2025	School Modernisation	<p>The Committee recommended that given the significant challenges of the population growth in the County in line with the new developments within the Local Development Plan and that Bridgend is a strategic growth area equidistant between Cardiff and Swansea, there is a need to address issues of future school development with the Welsh Government, in particular in the first instance, issues about flexibility in planning for prospective pupil numbers, and the future of Welsh Government programmes and finance for school modernisation need to be raised and discussed.</p>	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response. Chased.	

APPENDIX B

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31 March 2025	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee requested that the following be included in the scope of the report on Pupil Behaviour, Exclusions and Attendance to be considered by Members at the meeting 8 May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An update on Keeping Learners Safe including, if appropriate, any update on the proposed working group set up by the Cabinet Member regarding Pupil safety (conclusions, if any at this stage, or some clarity about the membership and workings).• The impact of the waiting list for specialist provision on challenging behaviour and exclusions at mainstream schools.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED - Scrutiny actioned in Forward Work Planning meeting with Scrutiny Chair and Corporate Director.	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions Report reported to SOSC 1 on 8 May 2025.
31 March 2025	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee requested that the following be included in the scope of a report to be considered by Members at a meeting early in 2025/26 Forward Work Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Development Plans.• Additional Learning Needs.• Specialist Provision	Scrutiny / Chair SOSC 1/ Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Scrutiny actioned with Forward Work Planning meeting with Scrutiny Chair and Corporate Director.	Complete.
31 March 2025	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee requested that plans for the submission of the following reports and member briefings be agreed and presented in a future iteration of the FWP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School improvement plans – Meeting at the start of 2026.	Scrutiny / Chair SOSC 1/ Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	ACTIONED: Scrutiny actioned with Forward Work Planning meeting with Scrutiny Chair and Corporate Director.	Complete.

APPENDIX B

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School performance - Estyn reports – Member Briefing – To include school-level detail. School deficits –in the form of a report to the committee or a Member Briefing. 			
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	<p>The Committee discussed the financial challenges for the local authority, the number of schools with deficit budgets and the impact these are having on the reduction of therapeutic and other support staff.</p> <p>a. Members expressed concern regarding the impact the complex budgetary situation was having on counselling and early intervention services and recommended that a referral be made to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) to ensure that these matters are prioritised for funding in the next budget round and that if budgetary savings are required that these are found elsewhere.</p>	Scrutiny / Chair of COSC	Scrutiny actioned referral to COSC / Scrutiny Budget Working Group.	Link to COSC Forward Work Programme
		<p>b. In addition, given the adoption of a minimum operating model across all projects funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund, the directorate's Inspire+ projects, which provide vital support to vulnerable pupils and young people, many of whom face behavioural challenges and/or attendance issues in both school and community settings, Members</p>	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	

APPENDIX B

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		requested the figures on how the fund is split between directorates be shared with COSC / Scrutiny Budget Working Group.			
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee recommended that the local authority, through the Communication and Relationships Team, other agencies and schools to explore and share best practice in respect of pupil behaviour, attendance, and exclusions. In particular, Members expressed a need to embed trauma-informed practice in schools and to promote an understanding of boundaries, values, and what it means to be part of a good school community. Members highlighted that this should take account of findings in the latest Estyn thematic report, <i>"Fostering mutual respect – promoting positive behaviours in secondary school"</i> , that strong leadership, consistent behaviour management, and community engagement were key to helping improve pupil behaviour across secondary schools in Wales.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee recommended that training in classroom management and conflict resolution be provided as part of a programme of continuous professional development for teachers including strategies and techniques to handle disruptions and to strengthen relationships and foster a positive culture.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	

APPENDIX B

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8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	Members expressed concern about the <i>'disparities across schools in Bridgend which suggests uneven implementation of effectiveness of attendance strategies across different school settings'</i> and heard from headteachers that a positive school culture was best built from within at each school and an example was provided of the 'Bryntirion Way' developed at Bryntirion Comprehensive. The Committee therefore recommended that consideration be given to providing schools with an opportunity to share best practice and strategies and to develop a 'Bridgend Way' to improve the consistency of implementation of attendance strategies across the borough.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee expressed concern regarding the impact of the long waiting lists for specialist provision at Ysgol Bryn Castell and the Bridge on the mental health, safety and wellbeing of learners awaiting such provision and learners and staff in mainstream schools and recommended that this issue be added to the Corporate Risk Register.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee expressed their disappointment that given the importance of integrated working, there was no attendance from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) at the meeting and recommended that correspondence be sent	Scrutiny	Email sent and information requested from CAMHS for response. Chased.	

APPENDIX B

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		to the Health Board expressing their disappointment and requesting the following information: a. The referral route and criteria for support from CAMHS, and; b. The current waiting lists and capacity.			
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee acknowledged that the number of fixed-term exclusions in relation to care-experienced children were disproportionately high for the year 2023-24 and recommended that a report be presented to the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting regarding the support and guidance to learners in this situation.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee acknowledged that missing data in the Tables throughout the report were due to issues of General Data Protection Regulations and requested that the missing data be shared with Members of the Committee on a confidential basis. Members also requested that the data be broken down into year groups, to assist their understanding of the extent to which these issues were affecting younger and / or older pupils.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee requested available data regarding the extent to which violent incidents are impacting on teaching staff sickness absence or leaving the profession.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	

APPENDIX B

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8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee requested written feedback be circulated to Members of the Committee on the outcomes from the National Behaviour Summit taking place on 22 May 2025.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee requested that the slides shared by the Health and Well-being Promoting Educational Settings Programme Co-ordinator for Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board during the meeting be circulated to Members.	Scrutiny / CTM UHB.	ACTIONED: Requested slides circulated on 25 June 2025.	https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s35468/B/CBCPositionupdateMay2025.pptx.pdf
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee expressed concern that despite Welsh Government guidance advocating for trauma-informed schools, only 22% of educators in Wales reported receiving related training and requested the corresponding percentage of Bridgend educators trained, highlighting the risk that untrained staff may misinterpret trauma symptoms as defiance; potentially triggering exclusionary procedures.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	The Committee were advised that a new Managed Moves Protocol has recently been launched so there is little data available, however, a previous Protocol was in place and Members requested those historical figures.	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	

APPENDIX B

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8 May 2025	Pupil Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusions	<p>The Committee requested regular updates be provided on:</p> <p>a. The work of the Weapons-Related Incidents in Bridgend Educational Settings Strategy Group, and;</p> <p>b. Directorate-level management information on pupil behaviour, attendance and exclusions that is provided to monthly senior management team meetings.</p>	Corporate Director - Education, Early Years and Young People	Recommendation circulated requesting response	
8 May 2025	Forward Work Programme Update	<p>The Committee requested that the following items be added to their FWP:</p> <p>a. Bridgend Youth Justice Service and Youth Services.</p> <p>b. The future school modernisation planning process (to include an update on the progress of increasing specialist provision) and school maintenance.</p> <p>c. Digital learning and online safeguarding (to include the use of mobile phones/devices).</p> <p>d. A closure report on the Education and Family Support Strategic Plan, 2023-2026.</p> <p>e. Validated exam outcomes (due in January 2026).</p> <p>f. School budgets.</p>	Scrutiny / Chair	ACTIONED - Scrutiny actioned and report scheduled in Forward Work Planning meeting with Scrutiny Chair and Corporate Director.	Complete.