

Meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1

31 March 2025

Recommendations / Information requested.

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
School Modernisation			
Recommendations:			
1	<p>The Committee acknowledged the need to be mindful of 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 and costs; procurement; land 	<p>Scrutiny to action with Chair of SOSC 1 in Forward Work Planning meeting with Corporate Director Education Early Years and Young People.</p>	

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	<p>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. 		
2	<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>	<p>This matter will be raised with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Team at Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>

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Forward Work Programme Update			
Recommendations:			
3	<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. 	<p>Actioned: Scrutiny included in the report request for report to meeting on 8 May 2025.</p>	Accepted
	<p>The Committee requested that the following be included in the scope of a report to be considered by</p>	<p>Scrutiny to action with Chair of SOSC 1 in Forward Work Planning meeting with Corporate</p>	

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4	<p>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	Director, Education Early Years and Young People.	
5	<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.• 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.	Scrutiny to action with Chair of SOSC 1 in Forward Work Planning meeting with Corporate Director, Education Early Years and Young People.	