

**Scrutiny Budget Working Group Requests for Additional Information 2025**

<b>Scrutiny Request for Additional Information:</b>	
<b><u>Chief Executive's Directorate - Additional Information Requested:</u></b>	
<b>A</b>	<u>Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)</u> The Group discussed the Council's Service-Level Agreement and contribution to the CAB (£194k) and recognised the assistance and preventative measures it provides for residents. However, Members queried the extent of the CAB's presence in towns (particularly in Maesteg) and <b>requested</b> further information regarding the frequency of sessions and appointments and the number of cases being dealt with for residents of Bridgend County Borough in order to assess demand for the service.
<b>B</b>	<u>Shared Regulatory Services (SRS)</u> The Group discussed the payment to SRS (£1.089m) and <b>requested</b> a more detailed breakdown setting out what it funds and what is statutory and what is non statutory.
<b>C</b>	<u>Communications and Marketing</u> The Group discussed the £1.664m net budget for communications and marketing and <b>requested</b> a detailed breakdown of what it includes.
<b><u>Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate – Additional Information Requested:</u></b>	
<b>D</b>	<u>Closing a Small School</u> The Group <b>requested</b> a briefing note setting out the steps required to be taken to close a small school.
<b>E</b>	<u>Nursery Provision (EEYYP 3)</u> The Group discussed the number of private nursery places currently provided in the County and <b>requested</b> the number of nursery places provided in Bridgend schools, in order to understand the potential shortfall if the budget reduction proposal not taken progressed last year regarding reducing provision of nursery provision was to be reconsidered in future years.
<b>F</b>	<u>Childcare Offer for 3 and 4-year-olds</u> The Group discussed the Council's childcare offer for 3 and 4-year-olds which is more generous than the statutory minimum of 10 hours and the significant cost of private childcare and <b>requested:</b>  i. confirmation as to whether the Council could reduce provision to the statutory minimum and charge parents to top up/uplift their childcare hours by use of school provision at a cheaper rate than private provision;

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	<p>ii. if so, that an exercise be undertaken exploring the income generation possibilities and/or savings the model would achieve; and</p> <p>iii. information regarding whether there are any other local authorities that provide the statutory provision and whether they offer any uplift and at what cost.</p>
<b>G</b>	<p><u>Governor Vacancies</u></p> <p>The Group <b>requested</b> the number of community and parent governor vacancies at each Bridgend school.</p>
<b><u>Communities - Additional Information Requested:</u></b>	
<b>H</b>	<p><u>Reviews</u></p> <p>The Group discussed the Cemeteries Review due to be completed by August 2026 and the Fleet Services Review due to be completed by Spring 2027 and <b>requested</b> further narrative to include the terms of reference and key issues that are being considered in each review and firm timescales of their likely completion in order that the outcome reports can be added to the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme. The Group also discussed the significant overspend in Fleet Services and <b>requested</b> that this review be expediated if possible.</p>