

Meeting of the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 July 2026

Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
Healthy Eating in Schools			
Recommendation			
1	The Committee discussed the requirement within the Regulations to reduce the amount of processed food, action being taken to reduce the use of ingredients from non-sustainable sources and increase the amount of sustainable locally sourced food, and Officers advised they could link with the main suppliers to get more information on sustainability. The Committee welcomed the provision of this information and recommended that consideration be given to exploring the potential of becoming deforestation free champions and reviewing menus accordingly. (LH/ME)	Catering services are committed to purchasing 4500kg of locally sourced vegetables over the 2026/2027 school year via 'Food Sense Wales' and the 'Welsh Veg in Schools' initiative. Initial contact from 'Size of Wales' was received on 3 August 2026, and officers await confirmation of dates for further discussions linked to their Deforestation Free Nation campaign.	Accepted

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2	The Committee acknowledged that catering staff within schools know the children well and support them accordingly and discussed the importance that the new Regulations did not hamper their discretion, and issues including children not eating at home, children who have higher metabolisms and therefore may need more food, and also childhood obesity. The Committee recommended that the Authority explore with Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh Government a methodology for monitoring what children are eating and are not eating to understand if any changes to menus are required in order to balance nutrition and hunger. (LH/ME)	Officers welcome the Committee's recommendation and recognises the importance of understanding not only what food is provided through school menus, but also what children are consuming. The revised regulations place a greater emphasis on providing nutritionally balanced meals while also seeking to reduce food waste through age-appropriate portion sizes and improved menu planning. The local authority will engage with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) who act on behalf of Welsh Government, to explore the development of a consistent methodology for monitoring food consumption within schools. Any methodology developed would need to provide robust evidence to inform future menu development and continuous improvement of our school catering service. Officers will advise the Committee of progress in due course.	Accepted

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3	The Committee were advised by the Sustainable Food Co-Ordinator and Sustainable Food Project Support Officer of engagement undertaken with 11 schools on the new menu, working with schools to also deliver cooking and growing sessions, with the aim to increase the uptake of meals and recommended that consideration be given to how current food waste in schools could be reduced and the potential for redistributing food waste be explored. (LH/ME)	The local authority's Food Sustainability Team are leading discussions with schools, with 'Big Bocs Bwyd' already established in many schools with support from catering leads. There are considerable challenges around food safety and regulatory compliance that will require further investigation.	Accepted
Additional Information Requested			
4	The Committee requested a copy of new menus and if possible, some of the recipes be circulated to them. (LH/ME)	Our new menu is currently being finalised in line with final guidance from WLGA and will be circulated when ready.	
Forward Work Programme Update			

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5	a) A report on Attendance in Schools be scheduled to include: i) The Authority's position on prosecuting for non-attendance; ii) Incentives to keep children in school; iii) Variances in attendance between schools.	To be discussed in the next FWP planning meeting.	
5	That the scheduled Review of Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Support report include in its scope, the rising costs for delivering the ALN provision in schools.	Added in the scope of the Report Request	
6	A Member Briefing regarding School Modernisation be arranged in the interim, as the report is scheduled for March 2027.	To be discussed in the next FWP planning meeting.	