



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Education**

Remotely via Teams

Tuesday, 16 February 2021 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
D W Helliwell
M A Langstone

Councillor(s)

A M Day
B Hopkins
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Councillor(s)

S J Gallagher
L James

Co-opted Member(s)

D Anderson-Thomas

Co-opted Member(s)

A Roberts

Co-opted Member(s)

Other Attendees

Jennifer Raynor

Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills

Officer(s)

Helen Morgan-Rees
Michelle Roberts
Brian Roles

Director of Education
Scrutiny Officer
Head of Education Planning and Resources

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): M Durke

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

None

2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

None

3 Letters and Minutes

The Panel reviewed the letter and agreed the minutes.

4 Public Questions

There were no public questions received.

5 Annual Budget Proposals - as they relate to Education matters

The Cabinet Member for Education Improvement, Learning and Skills, the Director of Education and the Head of Education Planning and Resources attended the meeting to discuss the Annual Budget as it relates to education matters.

6 Summarising views for feedback to Cabinet

After the discussion, with the Cabinet Member and Officers on the Annual Budget as it relates to Education, the Panel agreed the following feedback; which will be included in the Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel response to Cabinet on the 18 February 2021.

- We were satisfied overall with this year's budget as it relates to education matters.
- We welcome the capital spend and the 3.3% gross uplift in the delegated schools budget.
- We were pleased that Education continues to be one of the top priorities for Swansea Council.
- Is there provision in the budget to ensure the reimbursement of any expenses incurred by those schools that remained open throughout the Covid period?
- We asked what savings proposals there are in relation to School Transport. We were informed that the proposals that are for consultation will be put to Cabinet in March. Can they be circulated to the Education Scrutiny Panel, once they are available?
- Has the cost of the potential new footprint of ERW and the closing down of the existing ERW structure been factored into the budget moving forward?
- We would like to take this opportunity to thank Schools, Governors and the Education Department for their excellent work over the past year. Particularly how they have managed the challenges that this Covid period has brought.

7 Work Programme

- Four pupils and the Headteacher from Bishopston Primary School will attend the Panel on the 18 March to give their views on remote and blended learning.
- The Estyn Report, 'the education response to the pandemic' has been scheduled for discussion at the Panel meeting on the 22 April.

The meeting ended at 3.10 pm

Chair