

Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

Os yn galw gofynnwch am - If calling please ask for

Jeremy Patterson

Stephen Boyd

Chief Executive

Ffôn / Tel: 01597 826374

Ffôn Symudol / Mobile:

Llythyru Electronig / E-mail: steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk

CABINET

Tuesday, 22nd November, 2016

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K

1.	UNLICENSED SCHOOL BUDGETS	C218- 2016
-----------	----------------------------------	-------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education and County Councillor Wynne Jones, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 3 - 4)

This page is intentionally left blank

Education Scrutiny Working Group – Observations on Unlicensed School Deficit Budget Cabinet Report November 2016

The Education Scrutiny Working Group met on the 16th November 2016 and considered the Cabinet report on Unlicensed School Deficit Budget Report which is due for consideration on 22nd November 2016. The Group make the following observations:

- Concern that the schools had been given a deadline of May 1st to submit budget plans, these were not all forwarded promptly and the position was not reported to Cabinet until 5th July 2016. The schools with unlicensed budgets were given until 16th September 2016 to submit their recovery plan. This deadline has clearly been exceeded if it has not been possible to submit a report to Cabinet until 22nd November 2016.
- The aim of both Finance and the Schools service is to bring forward budget planning, this is being included in the revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools which is welcomed. It appears that some schools are delaying addressing their problems as there has been no particular requirement to meet deadlines in the past. The scrutiny group would support the service in requiring far earlier action to be taken.
- Scrutiny welcome the work being undertaken by schools finance to provide more benchmarking information and to ascertain what level of funding schools need to be financially viable. There is concern that dual stream schools may be in a difficult position and that if this is the case then this will become apparent by the work that is being undertaken. Scrutiny are concerned that there is a lack of support and challenge around the impact of curriculum planning and staffing levels in the secondary sector in the schools service and would expect that the schools service make available the necessary expertise to work with the finance service to help complete this research.
- Scrutiny are concerned that a small number of schools seem unwilling or unable to balance their budget and would suggest that, if a school is cannot produce a balanced budget then action needs to be taken promptly by the authority to address the position.
- Scrutiny would recommend that the Portfolio Holder ensures that the schools finance service have a clear timetable that is worked to in providing information to schools which will ensure that schools are in a position to produce a budget within the timescale required.

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Group 16th November 2016:
County Councillor D R Jones, A W Davies, S McNicholas, K M Roberts-Jones,
G P Vaughan
Parent Governors: Mrs A Davies, Mrs L Jenkin
Church Representative: Mrs M Evitts