

**People Scrutiny Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017**

**Education Scrutiny Group**

**Purpose of Report:** Progress report

Since the last meeting of People Scrutiny Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016 the following work has been undertaken:

**Education Scrutiny Group**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Outcome of consultation on proposed revisions to the Authority's Fair Funding Formula for Schools and Scheme for Financing Schools**

Scrutiny observations from that meeting were given to the Cabinet/Management Team held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

This item was on the Cabinet agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Scrutiny observations on the final report are attached at Appendix A. The minutes relating to this item can be accessed at [powys.gov.uk](http://powys.gov.uk).

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Education standards report for the academic year 2015-16**

Scrutiny observations from that meeting were given to the Cabinet/Management Team held on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

This item was on the Cabinet agenda for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Scrutiny observations on the final report are attached at Appendix B. This meeting was adjourned to the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 when the matter was considered. The minutes relating to that item can be accessed at [powys.gov.uk](http://powys.gov.uk).

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Brecon High Schools and Ysgol Cedewain School Budgets**

Joint Chairs instructed the Education Scrutiny Group to provide pre-Cabinet scrutiny of a report on the budget at Ysgol Cedewain and for Audit Committee to provide pre-Cabinet Scrutiny of the budget at Brecon High School. A joint meeting of the Education Scrutiny Group with two members of the Audit Committee was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to consider both issues. In neither case was a report to Cabinet available despite this item appearing on the forward work programme for Cabinet on a number of dates. The group were given an update on the current position regarding both schools and it was explained that further work was needed before reports to Cabinet would be available on either school.

The Group will meet again to consider the matter when a report is brought to Cabinet but expressed their concern that this matter did not appear to have been addressed in a timely manner.

## **9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 - Schools Service Asset Management Plan**

Scrutiny observations from that meeting could not be formally produced in time for Cabinet/Management Team on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 but have since been submitted for consideration.

This item is on the Cabinet agenda for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. A verbal update on the outcome of this matter at Cabinet will be given to Committee.

### **School Scrutiny Panel**

It is intended to hold two meetings of the School Scrutiny Panel in Easter term.

### **ERW**

A meeting of the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group has been arranged for the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017. A verbal update on this meeting will be given to Committee.

### **Education Scrutiny Forward Work Programme**

This group will receive instructions for pre-Cabinet scrutiny work from Joint Chairs informed by the Cabinet forward work programme.

<p><b>Report contact:</b> Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer <b>Contact details:</b> 01597 826980, elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk <b>Sources/background papers:</b></p>
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### **Membership:**

County Councillors: **D. R. Jones**,  
A. Davies, E. R. Davies, M. Mackenzie, S. McNicholas K. Roberts-Jones, G. Vaughan.  
Parent Governor Representative Mrs A. Davies and Mrs L. Jenkin.  
Church Representative Mrs M. Evitts



**Education Scrutiny Working Group 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Outcome of consultation on proposed revisions to the Authority's Fair Funding Formula for Schools and Scheme for Financing Schools**

The Group made the following observations to Cabinet/Management Team on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in respect of the draft Cabinet Report.

1. Where changes are proposed for implementation 2017/18 it is **recommended that the impact is included.**
2. There are a number of proposals where the impact will be neutral (eg combining Clerical and Clerking allowance to an Administrative Allowance). However, some schools request more detail within their budget and oppose the change. It is understood that a pack is provided to schools outlining how the formula is calculated and it is **recommended that this pack should include sufficient detail of what each budget heading contains.**
3. With regard to the 0.6 lump sum for management time for small schools it is **recommended that it is made clear that this lump sum is provided for by a combination of management time and small schools protection.**
4. It appears that a number of schools have classrooms which cannot accommodate the class sizes that are proposed to be funded under this scheme. Schools in this position cannot be expected to educate pupils on a level of funding which they cannot accommodate and scrutiny have requested information on the number of schools which have classroom sizes too small for this funding level. In the meantime Cabinet are **recommended to make clear what options are available for schools with classrooms with a lower capacity than that at which it is proposed to fund.**
5. With regard to moving 'efficiencies' into Teaching Cost Allowance. The transparency in relation to class sizes is welcomed however the report notes that the proposal will have *'some impact on individual school budgets'*. It is

understood that schools of a size between 85 and 145 are most likely to struggle with the funding currently provided with the formula and are, in effect, supporting small schools through the small schools protection scheme.

The group query the fairness of a large number of pupils (in both the medium and large sized primary schools) having to experience large class sizes to protect a small number of pupils in small schools. **It is recommended that the impact of this proposal on those schools where an impact will be felt is included.**

The Working Group have had sight of the final report to Cabinet and make the following comments:

The final report addresses observation 1 however, observations 2-5 remain outstanding

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Group 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017

County Councillors D Jones, A Davies, R. Davies, M Mackenzie, S McNicholas and K. Roberts-Jones

Parent Governor Representatives A Davies and L Jenkin

Church Representative M Evitts



**Education Scrutiny Working Group – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Education Standards Report for the academic year 2016-17**

The Group welcomed this first report to Cabinet on Education Standards and made the following observations to Cabinet/Management Team on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in respect of the draft Cabinet Report.

1. The report should have a glossary.
2. The report is lacking in some comparative information and would benefit from showing trends. For example comparisons with the Welsh average are provided for some but not all outcomes. This should be consistent and the Welsh average increase/decrease should be included for completeness
3. Free School Meal levels in other authorities should be included.
4. The GCSE results from individual schools should be included.
5. The Inspection profile should include a list of schools who are in Special Measures or Significant Improvement and remain in Estyn Monitoring from previous years, along with those who have been removed from Estyn Monitoring during the period.
6. The report requires proof reading.

The Working Group have had sight of the final report to Cabinet and make the following comments:

The final report addresses observations 3, 4 and 6.

Observations 1, 2 and 5 remain outstanding although it is understood that Observation 5 is included in the report to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 entitled School Improvement. These observations remain as recommendations for future publications of this annual report to Cabinet on Education Standards.

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Group 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
County Councillors D Jones, A Davies, R. Davies, M Mackenzie and K. Roberts-Jones  
Parent Governor Representatives A Davies and L Jenkin  
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