



Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on 24th October 2023:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on the 17th October 2023 and considered the following documents:

- Cabinet Paper – Irfon Valley Proposal
- Appendix A – Options Appraisal Irfon Valley
- Appendix B – Irfon Valle Community Impact Assessment
- Appendix C – Impact Assessment Irfon Valley

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys and Finance and Corporate Transformation and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee noted:
 - The concerns from the Governing Body to the Schools Service to look into the recent fall in numbers and the impact on the financial sustainability of Irfon Valley CP School.
 - That the Governing Body were not part of the review process, nor did they have any involvement in any decisions that have been made.
 - And were supportive of the consultation process proceeding in regard to the potential closure of Irfon Valley CP School.
 - That the previous safeguarding recommendations from Estyn relating to Health and Safety matters had been addressed.
 - There were no concerns of the quality of education provision or management standards at Irfon Valley CP School, with reason given for falling numbers was the lack of afterschool provision.
- The Committee requested that:
 - The Admissions Teams be flexible in their approach when dealing with any potential resettlement of pupils and when considering home to school transport.
 - That a Powys-wide vision document be made available to the to inform of the direction of travel for the whole schools transformation programme.
- The Committee remained unconvinced about
 - The future potential use of the site, given the lack of service delivery and opportunities in the more rural areas of the county.
- The Committee expressed concern:
 - Regarding the admissions policy and request this be reviewed at the earliest opportunity.
 - The cost of transport within the report at £46k, was this in relation to all pupils or the current number of 19 remaining in the school.

Scrutiny's Recommendation to Cabinet is that:	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1 Assurance that the admissions policy will be flexible and reviewed at the earliest opportunity.			
2 Clarity is sought in relation to the transport costs held within the report.			
3 Clarity is sought on the future potential use of the site.			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e., by 18/12/2023.

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 17/10/2023:

County Councillors:

R.G. Thomas, G.D. Jones, A.W Davies, B Davies, D. Meredith, G. Morgan, S McNicholas, L. Roberts, G Preston,

Co-Opted Members:

K. Chedgzoy, S. Davies, M. Evitts.