



Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 11-10-2022

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 28-09-2022 and considered the following documents:

- Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Capital Project.

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

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed:
 - The proposed new building for the school.
 - The consultation with local people as to whether the library should be moved to the new complex.
- The Committee noted:
 - That the estimated cost of replacing the leisure centre was £6m, whilst improvements to bring the existing building to acceptable standards and maintenance over 10 years was in the region of £3.5m.
 - That any refurbishment to the leisure centre needed to be flexible to take account of service users' needs.
 - That if Band B funding was used for the leisure facility it would mean that the Council could not build other schools elsewhere.
 - That pupil projections had been revised for the new school from 620 originally to 540 and that numbers included those projected to be attending the school from across the border with other counties as well. The revised projection had been accepted by the school and also took account for some growth in future.
 - That the future retention, repurposing or possible sale of Canolfan Hyddgen was being considered as part of the wider discussions in relation to the proposal.
 - That the size of the 3G pitch at the school would be dependent on the inclusion (or not) of the library in the complex.
- The Committee requested that:
 - Potential capital receipts from the sale of existing buildings as well as lifetime costs which were included in the economic case be included in the main Cabinet report which was accepted by officers.
- The Committee remained unconvinced about the case of not including the leisure facility within the campus, but also understood the impact of its inclusion on the funding available for other schemes. In addition, whilst Welsh Government were pushing net carbon zero schemes, it was accepted that this could not be achieved in a leisure facility with a swimming pool.
- The Committee expressed concern:
 - That the project be progressed as soon as possible in view of increasing costs due to delays.

- That there needed to be good management of the build to overcome issues on previous projects, for example with the build of Brecon High School where remedial work had to be undertaken after the school was occupied, are addressed.
- That the unintended knock-on impact on funding schemes in following Welsh Government's policy on the co-location of facilities, be brought to Welsh Government's attention.

Scrutiny's Recommendations to Cabinet	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<p>1 Potential capital receipts from the sale of existing buildings as well as lifetime costs which were included in the economic case be included in the main Cabinet report which was accepted by officers</p>	<p>Accepted – information was included in the Cabinet report</p>		
<p>2 That the project be progressed as soon as possible in view of increasing costs due to delays</p>	<p>Accepted – the new SOC/OBC will be submitted to Welsh Government for consideration at it's Capital Panel meeting in December. Following approval, the next stage will be to tender for a design and build contractor.</p>		
<p>3 That there needed to be good management of the build to overcome issues on previous projects</p>	<p>Accepted – bringing a design and build contractor in at an early stage will enable the project to be fully resourced and managed, under the supervision of PCC officers.</p>		
<p>4 That the unintended knock-on impact on funding schemes in following Welsh Government's policy on the co-location of</p>	<p>Accepted – this will be discussed with Welsh Government colleagues at the next progress meeting.</p>		

facilities, be brought to Welsh Government's attention			
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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 11-12-2022

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 28-09-2022:

County Councillors:

G. Thomas, A Davies, B. Davies, G.D. Jones, A. Kennerley, C. Kenyon-Wade, I McIntosh, D. Meredith, L. Roberts, L. Rijnenberg, J. Brignell-Thorp, D. Bebb.

Co-Opted Members:

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