



## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and considered the following documents:

- **Consultation Document 2023-24 School Funding Formula Review**
- **Formula Review 2023 Consultation Responses and Proposals Report**
- **Impact Assessment Amendments to the School Funding Formula**

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 welcomed:
  - Efforts made on tackling child poverty, through the work of the RADI programme and the utilisation of grants awarded.
- The Committee requested that:
  - There was a continued emphasis on communication by the Cabinet, the Schools Service and schools in respect of families applying for FSM provision. This could provide a gateway for other available benefits, of particular importance for Powys' most disadvantaged learners.
  - A review of the progress and possible outcomes of the School Funding Formula to be brought to Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee, with input from Head Teachers across the sectors.
  - That the School Budget Forum as part of their deliberations for future recommendations consider the TROCHI immersion across Powys within the Schools Funding Formula.
- The Committee remained unconvinced about
  - Responses to schools, learners and their families for LA IDP's being received within 35days, as was not evidenced nor experienced of some Committee members.

Scrutiny's Recommendation to Cabinet are that:	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<p><b>1 The responsibility on schools to ensure accurate data was submitted to obtain necessary and appropriate funding through the formula, must be stressed by the Schools Service.</b></p>			
<p><b>2 For Powys CC to provide a functioning and equitable TROCHI service across the County, there has to be consideration within the School Funding Formula which is driven by both the Cabinet and Council.</b></p>			

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 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on :

County Councillors:

R G. Thomas, A W Davies, B Davies, D. Bebb, D. Meredith, L. Roberts, G Preston, S McNicholas, C Robinson

Co-Opted Members:

K. Chedgoy, S. Davies, M. Evitts.