

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, GUILDHALL ON
THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2018**

MEMBERS

Councillor Robert Walsh, Chair
Councillor Michael Dixon, Vice-Chair

Councillor	Sonia Benbow-Jones	Councillor	Paul Jones
"	Dana Davies	"	John McCusker
"	T Alan Edwards	"	Beverley Parry-Jones
"	Carrie Harper	"	* Rondo Roberts
"	Frank Hemmings	"	Debbie Wallice
"	R Alun Jenkins		

Mr Brendan McDonald - Church Representative
Mrs Maureen Williams - Church Representative*

Mrs Alison Fisher - Parent Governor Representative

Mr Brent Evans - Co-optee*

*Absent

Also Present – Councillors Phil Wynn

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rondo Roberts and co-opted members Mr Brent Evans and Mrs Maureen Williams.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

AGREED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2018 be signed as a correct record.

3 REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Finance submitted a report (HF/03/18s) to assist Members in agreeing a list of potential scrutiny topic areas for the next 12 months and possibly longer term.

In reviewing the work programme Members took into account the key documents appended to the report which included relevant information from the Council Plan, performance information, Principal Risk Register, Audit Plan, outcome of the recent 'Difficult Decisions' consultation and current work programme with comments from the Head of Department and Lead Member.

During discussion Members confirmed that the items listed in the current work

programme and the items suggested by the Head of Education, as outlined in paragraph 4.13 of the report, be supported for consideration.

The Committee reaffirmed its wish to schedule in consideration of the proposed budget saving proposals as a standing annual item. This was welcomed by both the Lead Member for Education and the Head of Education. Further consideration was required in respect of the most appropriate time to schedule the meeting to feed into the budget process.

In response to a question the Head of Education confirmed that the report to be considered by the Committee at its April meeting would include more detailed information in respect of vulnerable groups of learners.

The Head of Education also reminded the Committee that there was no capacity within the Education Department to prepare more than one report per Committee meeting.

Arising from debate a number of information reports were requested, as follows:

- Impact of the proposed budget savings in respect of the School Music Service.
- Minor schools works capital programme.
- Details of numbers of pupils attending out of county schools.
- Copy of the action plan following the audit of ICT in Schools.

AGREED –

- (i) That the current work programme attached at Appendix F to report HF/03/18s be agreed.**
- (ii) That the items proposed by the Head of Education as set out in paragraph 4.13 of report HF/03/18s be agreed.**
- (iii) That consideration of the budget savings proposals be included as an annual scrutiny item, to be scheduled following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.**
- (iv) That the following Information Reports be requested:**
 - **The impact of the proposed budget savings in respect of the School Music Service.**
 - **Minor schools works capital programme.**
 - **Details of numbers of pupils attending out of county schools.**
 - **Copy of the action plan following the audit of ICT in Schools.**

4 URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS - VOTING RIGHTS OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Facilitator provided an update regarding voting rights of non-statutory co-opted members of the Committee (Minute 34 refers).

Members were advised that further advice had been sought from the Council's Legal Department which confirmed that the Local Government Act 2000 did not permit non-statutory co-opted members on scrutiny committees to have voting rights. Members noted that the Act did, however, require specific individuals to be co-opted onto the scrutiny committee and provided them with voting rights in respect of items that dealt with education matters only. Therefore, unless the non-statutory co-opted member was appointed to a statutory position it would not be possible for them to have voting rights on the Committee.

Councillor Robert Walsh
Chair