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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting MONDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2017, 9.30 AM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

8 **Correspondence after the meeting** (Pages 3 - 12)

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My Ref: Scrutiny/CYP/MJH

Date: 14 February 2017



Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance
City of Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Graham

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - Corporate Plan and Draft Cabinet Budget proposals

Thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13 February 2017. The Committee would also like me to thank Councillor Lent, Councillor Merry, Christine Salter and relevant Directors and Officers for their attendance. The Committee welcomed the presentations on the Corporate Plan, Cabinet draft Budget proposals overview and the draft budget proposals for each directorate, however the Committee was disappointed that they were only able to receive the budget papers over the weekend prior to the meeting at 9.30am on Monday. The Committee considered that this did not provide them with sufficient time to effectively scrutinise the proposals.

The Committee considered the information presented and the answers provided to Members' questions, during the way forward section of the meeting. We agreed to provide you and the Cabinet Members with the following comments, concerns and recommendations.

Firstly the Committee raised concern at the drop in the level of contingency from £4M to £3M. Members noted that the reduction was due to the lower level of savings being proposed this year. Members suggested that the contingency should remain at £4M as it was becoming more difficult to find and achieve savings.

The Committee was disappointed that the Corporate Plan did not reference any commitment to reducing the level of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Cardiff. The Members recommended that a commitment to address and reduce the number of young NEETs must be included in the Corporate Plan. The Committee also expressed its disappointment and concern that Cardiff's NEETs data, as at 31 October, is still not available for the Committee to review and assess.

The Committee also wished to highlight the following points:

- Members wish to seek assurance that the increase in Social Work Capacity, £439,000 Financial Pressures (line 28) will actually increase social worker numbers by 16 FTE, as at present the service has a 25% vacancy rate, which has remained static for some time;
- The Committee also wish to seek assurance that the additional £300,000, Financial Pressure for Direct Payments will enable the Personal Assistants and Agency care workers to receive the Living Wage rate;
- Members were concerned that the reductions in school transport (addressable Spend savings line 1 – 5) would adversely affect school attendance.
- The Committee noted that within the Financial Resilience Mechanism, is an extra one-year funding of £200,000 for the Challenge Cymru transitional arrangements. The Committee felt that funding for just one year may not provide the appropriate support to the eight schools that will lose funding, and that additional transitional funding should be considered for future years;
- Members expressed some concern on line 47 (Education – reduction in budget for the Education Central Welfare Team), the Committee considered that this staff capacity should be used to further support the reduction in Neets;
- The Members also expressed concern that the 30% cap on School Non Pupil number growth had imposed a £1.8 million cut on Cardiff's Schools, when there were increasing pressures for improved results.

I will be copying this letter to all the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors as well as the Chair of Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee in advance of its meeting on Wednesday 15 February and it is possible that these points will be raised with you in greater detail at that meeting.

I hope that these comments will have been of assistance to you and the Cabinet in agreeing the Budget proposals on Thursday 16 February and look forward to a positive response to the points raised in the letter, from you and the other Cabinet Members, within the next month.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cook', with a horizontal line underneath.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD COOK
Chair – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Cc

Councillor Lent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families

Councillor Merry, Cabinet Member for Education

Christine Salter, Section 151 Officer

Tony Young, Director of Social Services

Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning

Chair of Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Rita Rohman

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM36991

Dyddiad / Date: 16th February 2017

Cllr Richard Cook
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Richard

**Children And Young People Scrutiny Committee - Corporate Plan and Draft
Cabinet Budget Proposals**

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2017 and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to meeting on 16 February 2017.

This response to your letter relates to multiple Cabinet portfolios and directorates and has been written in consultation with all Cabinet Members and Directors that have responsibility for the relevant functions.

The following paragraphs set out responses to your specific points.

The General Contingency budget was established in 2014/15 to reflect the quantum of savings required and the risk and planning status of the savings being put forward in that year. The directorate savings in 2014/15 were exceptionally high, totalling £43.8 million. The General Contingency was set at £4 million in 2014/15 and has been maintained at this level for the following two years. Whilst it is acknowledged that the position facing the Council in achieving budget savings in 2017/18 and in future years remains challenging, the overall level of directorate savings are now significantly lower than when the General Contingency was established. Also, work on identifying and reviewing budget savings now takes place earlier in the budget cycle allowing directorates more time to develop robust proposals and for due diligence to be undertaken during the budget process. This is reflected in the high level of directorate saving proposals (95%) shown as either realised or having a detailed plan in place. On that basis it is felt that a reduction in the General Contingency to £3 million can be achieved and remains prudent.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO :

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office, Ystafellau / Rooms 111 & 112, County Hall, Glanfair Iwerydd /
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The Council welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Cyflawni ein gweledigaeth o ddod y brifddinas orau i fyw ynddi yn Ewrop

Mae'r Cynghor yn gwestawi gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a bwlhau yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu o chi yn eich dewis iuth broed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond os ydych chi'n gwybod i chi'n un swd weli genych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu ondhw oedi.

Line 47 Education Welfare Service – the Education Directorate has noted your concerns and will be working with the team to manage this reduction and explore any other funding opportunities that may enable displaced staff in the wider area of work to deliver the 'Cardiff Commitment'.

30 % cap on Non Pupil number growth – your comments are noted however as highlighted in the introduction from Councillor Merry, Cardiff schools have continued to be protected from general efficiency savings and the 3.3% increase in funding for schools delegated budgets is against a backdrop of significant cuts in Directorate budgets and no expectation from Welsh Government for any form of protection for schools.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance
Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Corfforaethol a Perfformiad

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

14 February 2017

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
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Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13 February 2017, to provide a verbal briefing on the **recent maintenance issues at three Secondary Schools**. I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar for his briefing and answers to Members questions.

The Committee welcomed the briefing report and noted that the pupils from Willows High School were already back in the school. The Members did however express concern to hear that there were some uncertainties around responsibility for maintenance work and the Committee requested a further report setting out the landlord / tenant responsibilities, once these had been agreed.

The Committee also enquired as to the anticipated cost of the maintenance work and associated disruption to pupils, however this was not available at the meeting. I would therefore be pleased if this information is made available for the Committee, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD COOK
Chair – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

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Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM36984

Dyddiad / Date: 15th March 2017

Councillor Richard Cook
17 Pencisely Crescent
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Annwyl/Dear Richard

Scrutiny 13 February - Maintenance Issues Update

Thank you for your letter following the scrutiny meeting held on 13th February 2017. You requested further information on costs and the impact of disruption to pupils.

Current Costs to remedy maintenance issues

Cantonian

£1.5m capital costs for rewire of key areas of the affected block, and installation/ground works for the provision of a demountable block.

£1.4m revenue costs over 3 years for the hire of the demountable block.

Willows

£280k capital costs for temporary rewire and associated work
£240k hire of temporary accommodation whilst full rewire is to be undertaken – period of 25 weeks

A full rewire is currently being tendered and costed.

Glyn Derw/Michaelston Federation

£420k revenue costs to rewire block A, and therefore bring accommodation back into use.

Impact of disruption to pupils

Cantonian

Pupils were out of school for one week

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Glyn Derw/Michaelston Federation

Pupils were taught as follows between dates of 27/1/17 – 17/2/17

Year 7 had two closure days and were taught at Cardiff and Vale College, Barry
Years 8 and 9 had two closure days and were then back on the school site
Year 10 had three closure days and were taught off site at Motorpoint Arena for one day and Cardiff City Stadium for two days
Year 11 had one closure day and then returned to school

Over half term, a 5 day programme of revision sessions was facilitated by teachers.

Pupils were able to access support for English, Science, Welsh, Art, Drama, PE, History, Health and Social Care, Child Development and Hair and Beauty

The number of pupils that attended ranged from 7 on Monday to 43 on Wednesday.

A further programme of revision and support is being planned for the Easter break, including intensive support for mathematics

Willows

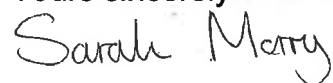
All pupils except year 11 were off site for three weeks. There were three closure days in total. Venues used by the school included Butetown Pavillion, Cardiff City Stadium, County Hall, ACT and Wales Millennium Centre.

Staff at all schools worked hard with the support of officers from the Council and Central South Consortium, to minimise disruption to pupils learning. Many pupils found the opportunity to have lessons in different venues to be a positive and exciting experience.

Work is underway to clarify and confirm with all schools the respective responsibilities of the Council and schools with regard to school estate management.

Yn gywir

Yours sincerely



Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education
Aelod Cabinet Dros Y Addysg