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## AGENDA

**Committee** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022, 4.30 PM

**Venue** REMOTE VIA MS TEAMS

**Membership** Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chair)  
Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Joyce, Melbourne, Molik, Phillips,  
Mia Rees and Singh

Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative) and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

*Time approx.*

**1 Apologies for Absence**

4.40 pm

To receive apologies for absence.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

**3 Minutes (Pages 5 - 6)**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of 22 February 2022.

**4 School Organisation Planning: Admission Arrangements 2023/2024**

4.35 pm

*(Papers to follow)*

To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to the 2023/34 School Admission Arrangements.

- |           |  |         |
|-----------|--|---------|
| <b>5</b>  | <b>School Organisation Planning: Provision for children and young people with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition</b>   | 5.05 pm |
|           | <i>(Papers to follow)</i>  |         |
|           | To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to the Provision for children and young people with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition.                |         |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>School Organisation Planning: Provision for children and young people with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs.</b>  | 5.35 pm |
|           | <i>(Papers to follow)</i>  |         |
|           | To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to the Provision for children and young people with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs                                 |         |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>School Organisation Planning: Expansion and redevelopment of Pentyrch Primary School</b>  | 6.05 pm |
|           | <i>(Papers to follow)</i>  |         |
|           | To undertake the pre-decision scrutiny of the Cabinet proposals in relation to the expansion and redevelopment of Pentyrch Primary School.   |         |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Committee Business Report</b> <i>(Pages 7 - 20)</i>   | 6.35 pm |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Way Forward</b>   | 6.45 pm |
|           | To review the evidence and information gathered during consideration of each item and agree Members comments, observations and concerns to be passed on to the relevant Cabinet Member by the Chair. |         |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Urgent Items (if any)</b>   |         |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Date of next meeting</b>  |         |
|           | The date of the next meeting of the Committee will be agreed by Council at its annual meeting on 26 May 2022.  |         |

**Davina Fiore**

**Director Governance & Legal Services**

Date: Wednesday, 2 March 2022

Contact: Mandy Farnham,

02920 872618, Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk

***This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg***

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 FEBRUARY 2022

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),  
Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins and Molik

Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative)  
and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

110 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative), Cllr Mia Rees, Councillor Mike Phillips and Mia John (Cardiff Youth Council Representative).

111 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were received in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

112 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 18 January were approved as a correct record of the meeting as proposed by Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative) and seconded by Cllr Robert Hopkins.

113 : DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2022 - 2025 & DRAFT BUDGETARY  
PROPOSALS 2022 - 2023

The Chair welcomed Councillor Chris Weaver (Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance), Chris Lee (Corporate Director, Resources), Ian Allwood (Head of Finance) and Matthew Jones (Group Accountant) to the meeting to provide Members with a **Corporate Overview** of the draft budget proposals.

Members were provided with a presentation outlining:

- the Corporate Plan;
- Covid 19 – the current year context and Welsh Government (WG) support;
- the provisional settlement overview;
- the draft revenue budget, including savings, employee implications of savings and policy growth, fees and charges;
- Use of the financial resilience mechanism in 2021/22;
- Reserves;
- the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2023/24 – 2026/27 and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA);
- Capital Programme Development for 2022/23 – 2026/27;
- Cardiff Council's Capital Strategy 2022/23; and
- The Capital Investment Programme 2022/23 – 2026/27 and funding

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought information as to whether the withdrawal of EU funding as a result of Brexit was already having an effect or would only make an impact in future years. Members were advised that it was difficult to distinguish between the impacts of Brexit and of Covid. There have been issues with labour shortages and movement of goods across national boundaries that have affected Council programmes. Officers advised that money had been set aside to cover both short- and long-term price pressures.
- Members sought clarification on whether the £9.3 million uplift to the delegated schools budget represented a real-term increase or was accounted for by the growth in pupil numbers and employee costs. Members were advised that it reflected the rise in pupil numbers.
- Members queried whether the end of the Hardship Fund meant that ongoing costs would have to be covered by school budgets. Members were advised that in all services the budget accounted for new standards but where there were significant pressures on PPE or cleaning regimes for example these would be covered in part by contingency.
- Members sought clarification on the implications of the national policy on free school meals and when they would become apparent, and further what the implications on the Pupil Development Grant would be. Members were advised that the full details were not yet apparent but that the Welsh Government (WG) aspiration appeared to be that no Local Authorities would be worse off as a result of the policy. The transition to free school meals would be phased. The Council is continuing to engage with WG for further details.
- Members asked when WG was likely to give earlier notice on grants coming into schools, and whether there would be relaxation on schools recording budget surpluses. Members were advised that school budget surpluses were, in some cases, linked to late receipt of grants, and that this could be repeated. The Council is pragmatic about budget surpluses held as a result of receipt of additional money, but in rare cases, where a school does not have a plan for use of the surplus, the Council could not rule out intervention.
- Members discussed the engagement of young people in the budget consultation and how the impact of money spent on young people's projects would be measured. Members were advised that while the response to the budget consultation had been disappointing, account was taken of all available information on the impact of the pandemic on young people. In

relation to performance and outcomes, information is sought from external bodies as well as Council sources in order to identify the most effective initiatives.

- In relation to Children's Services, Members sought clarification on the savings that were anticipated from external spend. Members were advised that the principal savings were expected to arise from existing policies in relation to foster placements and different levels of preventative care.
- Members enquired about the resilience of the revenue for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme. Members were advised that the Capital Programme had been tested for resilience. The £40 million capital target has been in place for a number of years and includes school and other assets. The Council has been prudent in its assumptions on when it will be delivered. Sensitivity analysis regarding borrowing rates has been carried out. In the school programme there has been some significant slippage regarding asset renewal and the priority is to address this. In relation to the SOP there have been conversations with WG which has enabled the purchase of the Ty Glas site.
- Members sought clarification in respect of the net budget for Children's Services for 2022-23 and how it compares with the previous year. Members were advised that there was a significant increase; £8.4 million. There have been conversations between Children's Services and Accountancy regarding planning and service delivery and calculating costs, presumed savings and required investments.
- Members sought clarification on staffing in Children's Services. Members were assured that investment in additional resources was already costed in.
- Members enquired as to when the findings of the Progressive Review into Youth Services would be available to inform decisions about how money set aside under the Financial Resilience Mechanism might best be used, and whether annual one-off additional spending on Youth Services would be continued. Members were advised that the review would change the way Youth Services operates. There has been one-off additional spending over the past 2 years due to the challenging circumstances of the pandemic.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) and Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services) to the meeting to provide Members with information in relation to the budget proposals and relevant parts of the Corporate Plan as they relate to **Children's Services**.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members enquired about the implications on the Council's work with children's home providers and out of county placements of the WG's commitment to end profit in the children's care sector. Members were advised that a wide range of provision had been opened over the past year. There was increased emphasis from WG on providing resources for children's care provision. Representations had been made to WG by the heads of Children's Services across Wales indicating that whilst there was agreement in principle with the policy it was important that it was phased in to avoid a shortfall in provision. Research is being undertaken to determine a sustainable model for Cardiff. Meetings had been set up with providers to explore various models and reassure providers of the Council's continuing desire to work with them. The aim is to work towards improving outcomes for children. Enterprises in the private and not-for-profit sectors have the experience to assist the Council in setting up its own care homes. A national training programme will be required to address staffing shortages and competition for staff between local authorities.
- Members were advised that the Council was heavily reliant on the independent sector for fostering and as a consequence it is not be possible to move to an all in-house model in a short time scale without a significant increase in funding. Concerns had been expressed in the media about the lack of funding to keep children in the family. It is important to focus on the needs of families with children with disabilities.
- Members enquired about the risk that efficiency savings related to the Reviewing Hubs might not be achieved. Members were reminded that the role of the Reviewing Hubs was being expanded to encompass all children on care plans with the aim of providing the appropriate level of support at the earliest opportunity. There are risks associated with the availability of support and staffing shortages.
- Members enquired about the risks associated with appropriate placement funding and shifting the balance of care. Members were advised that in recent weeks the market has become more challenging and children have had to be placed further afield. The Council continues to monitor the market on a weekly basis.
- Members questioned the number of additional places for children delivered in the current year and the plans for the next year. Officers advised that Oakway provides 2 emergency places for children awaiting their 12-week assessment. The Council is using its capital resources to provide additional short-term emergency and respite accommodation. In addition, the Council is adopting the with North Yorkshire Model to develop Edge of Care residential accommodation and a 'hub and spoke' model to provide children moving on from care with multi-agency wraparound support. There have additionally been negotiations

with 2 national providers to secure access to further beds.

- Members were pleased to note the successful recruitment of staff but sought further information on the retention of staff. Officers commended the work of staff involved in recruitment. Members were advised that retention had been positive overall; every effort was made to encourage members of staff to remain in post but there was always some natural churn. Residential staff were now included in recruitment and retention and more people had come forward to work in children's homes.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Neil Hardee (Head of Services to Schools) and Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships and Performance) to the meeting to provide Members with information in relation to the budget proposals and relevant parts of the Corporate Plan as they relate to **Education**.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought an update on the replacement measure for Pupil Development Grant. Members were advised that there was no further information from WG. Cabinet Members have raised the matter with Ministers. While there is support for the principle it is imperative that additional resources be provided.
- Members discussed whether the Council was being sufficiently bold in their planning for additional ALN places. Officers advised that the Council was working towards the information contained in the available data. Future growth is anticipated, and the Council will respond appropriately. It is anticipated that the establishment of further provision will be constrained by the physical characteristics of sites.
- Members commended the Directorate on a well-deserved positive Estyn report. Members referred to the Estyn recommendation for additional counselling support and enquired about the resources required to meet that additional support, and whether that support was sustainable. Officers advised that additionality is being built into the service. The Council will be responding to the recommendation in due course.
- Members sought clarification as to when the outcome of the progressive review of youth services would be available which will inform the deployment of additional resources. Officers advised that the review would commence on 7 March 2022; the first phase would focus on the deployment of additional resources received in the Budget settlement and will be undertaken in the first 2 weeks of March.

- Members enquired as to whether the evaluation of the Summer of Smiles was available and how the programme was expected to be developed following that evaluation. Officers advised that the evaluation would be forwarded to the Committee once it was available. The evaluation will feed into the forthcoming summer activities. It is unlikely that there will be match funding from WG this year and the activities will therefore be targeted on supporting the most vulnerable children and young people in the city.
- Members sought clarification on the budgetary proportion of Children's Services and SEN out of county placements. Officers advised that the information was not available but that where a child was placed out of county and had a Statement of SEN the cost of meeting those needs was met by the host authority.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations captured during the way forward.

#### 114 : EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills), Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning) and Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships and Performance) to the meeting in relation to this item.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members sought clarification on how the Council planned to take forward its work with the Central South Consortium to ensure it is focused on Cardiff's priorities, particularly in relation to the Cardiff Commitment and the provision for vulnerable learners. Officers advised that the Council had met with senior leaders in the Consortium and shared with them its objectives which will feed into performance objectives for schools.
- Members enquired as to whether senior managers had discussed with head teachers and WG how schools will address the absence of a national accountability and assessment framework. Officers advised that the Council now has a more intelligent system for evaluating schools and that the new accountability and assessment framework would be built into it when it became available. The Council is in discussion with WG on the progress of the new framework.
- Members discussed the support being provided to schools to engage in the Rights Respecting Schools programme with more than 70 schools involved. The strength and capacity of governing bodies is being built to enable them to participate in holding



schools to account. The Council is working with the Swansea University Human Rights Observatory and UNICEF UK to ensure the proper evaluation of its work on children's rights.

- Members queried what was preventing the remaining schools joining the Rights Respecting Schools programme. Officers advised that participation in the programme was gradually increasing. Support was being offered to schools to enable them to engage in the programme and assist them in progressing through its stages. Subsidies have been offered to help with registration fees. The Council is confident that all schools will eventually join the programme.
- Members requested information about the communication with parents in relation to the evaluation of schools and reform of ALN provision. Officers advised that the evaluation system is more intelligent and requires careful communication with parents. A school-based approach will be needed to ensure that parents understand the new system. Monitoring indicates that 92% of schools are ready for the ALN reform. The ALN reform is school is being supported by the Directorate and Central South Consortium.
- Members enquired about progress in respect of community-focused schools and the Team around the Schools approach. Officers advised that pilots were currently being undertaken at 3 schools. Capacity for future rollout would need to be assessed. There will need to be a link with the locality-based approach of Children's Services.
- Members asked about the roll-out and implementation of the Cardiff 2030 strategy and were advised that the strategy was being reassessed in the light of the pandemic. The intention is not to alter the vision but to restate the short to medium term objectives to achieve the greatest impact in light of current knowledge. The Statement of Intent will be republished with a 3-year operational plan in readiness for the new academic year.
- Members sought information about the work being undertaken to ensure coordination between secondary schools and primary schools pursuing the new curriculum. Officers advised that the new curriculum was locality based, so primary and secondary schools in the same cluster will be working on a similar skills-based curriculum. Collaborative working between both Primary and Secondary schools is important in constructing the new curriculum. The curriculum may vary between different primary schools while having similar components. Although the implementation has been deferred schools remain focused on working towards it.
- Members were advised that there was a governor training tool that is used to audit the training required by governors.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations captured during the way forward.

115 : SCHOOL ORGANISATIONAL PLANNING: CARDIFF WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills), Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning) Richard Portas (Director of Schools Organisation Planning) and Catherine Canning (Policy Officer for School Organisational Planning) to the meeting in relation to this item.

The Cabinet report seeks authorisation to proceed to submit the final WESP to WG for approval following the completed public consultation.

Members were asked to comment or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions are summarised as follows:

- Members enquired about the capacity in terms of physical resources to deliver against the WESP targets. Officers advised that the target of 50% of schools being Welsh medium was within the context of a declining birth rate. In terms of buildings and sites it was a matter of looking at proposals sensibly within this context.
- Members discussed expanding Welsh Medium education provision beyond the 3-18 age range, including in higher education and linking to the world of work. Officers advised that this was covered by Outcome 5 of the WESP. Action plans will be put in place by September 2022 and there will be a formal review after 2 years. There will be close liaison with universities and colleges in developing the proposals. Research is required to discover the learning pathways and decision making in early years and throughout education and the transition to work. The Council provides research, planning and action elements. The 10-year plan provides an opportunity for long-term strategic planning.
- Members expressed concerns about what was required to upskill the teaching profession to be able to deliver the WESP targets, particularly in the context of Covid. Officers advised that a National Workforce Development Plan was expected within a few months. There is currently a lack of consistent methods to record whether members of the teaching workforce can either teach Welsh or teach fluently in Welsh. Research is required to discover a consistent recording method and feed the information into the national policy position.

- Members sought information on plans to recruit good Welsh-speaking teachers into English medium schools. Officers advised that in considering expansion of Welsh medium education the workforce element has to be borne in mind and sustainable growth in training across Wales was required. There is a strong immersion unit for teaching staff and there is the opportunity to broaden its scope.
- Members noted that the training and recruitment of Welsh-speaking teachers was a Wales-wide problem, and that Cardiff was ahead of some other LAs in addressing it. It is not desirable to draw teachers from other LAs so a national approach is required. It is also important to have good senior leaders in Welsh medium education.
- Members referred to the model being trialled at Plasdwr for enhanced Welsh through the English stream and sought information both on how progress would be monitored and on plans to further develop and extend the model. Officers advised that good progress was being made on the school. The Council was looking to map out the model in more detail ahead of the appointment of a head teacher. The model is based on research from the Basque country where a number of different models have been used to successfully grow use of the Basque language to high levels. Discussions are underway around external research into the success of the model.
- Members noted that even a top-grade GCSE results in Welsh did not necessarily make an English first language student confident in using Welsh. There are different approaches to acquiring the language practiced in Welsh and English medium schools. It is not desirable for a large proportion of the population to feel disadvantaged because of their inability or lack of confidence in using the language.
- Members asked whether the Action Plans due by September 2022 would contain greater detail on how the WESP outcomes would be achieved than in the Strategic Plan. Officers advised that the document was a 10-year strategic plan and so providing full details on all actions were not possible. However, greater clarity has now been provided. The Action Plans need to be submitted and approved by Welsh Government by September 2022. The Strategic Plan contains details about how the Action Plans will be set out.
- Members enquired about the strategy of making Welsh medium the prime option presented to parents considering an education place, and ensuring parents had confidence in continuing in the Welsh medium from nursery through to secondary school. Officers referred to the high transfer rate from Welsh to English medium and highlighted the importance of promoting Welsh medium education and the wider context of support for the Welsh

medium option.

- Members discussed the need for understanding the reasons parents were not progressing their children into Welsh medium secondary education, as parents might have valid concerns that needed to be addressed. Officers advised that a tailored approach was required with particular research into communities with a low take-up of Welsh medium to assess how take-up might be raised.
- Members enquired about research from Welsh speaking teachers about their learning pathways. Officers advised that a rounded approach to research was being undertaken and that the suggestion would be considered.
- Members discussed whether it was intended to raise the number of fluent Welsh speakers or to accept a number of people who had some understanding of Welsh but lacked confidence in using it. Officers advised that there needed to be a balance between growing Welsh within the English medium and immersion options. The Plasdwr model is intended to increase Welsh fluency within the English medium sector and there is an expectation that there will be significant amount of teaching in Welsh within the model.

#### RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations captured during the way forward.

#### 116 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairman agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

#### 117 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were tabled.

#### 118 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 4.30 pm via MS Teams.

The meeting terminated at 2.35 pm

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD  
CARDIFF COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**8 MARCH 2022**

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**CYPSC COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT**

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**Background**

1. This report sets out a summary of the Committee's business and sets out the following:
  - A correspondence update arising from recent scrutiny meetings;
  - Update on the Scrutiny of the Replacement LDP; and
  - CYP contribution to the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.

**Correspondence update**

2. Following most Committee meetings, the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments and recommendations regarding the issues considered. Set out below is the latest position in terms of correspondence:

**November 2021**

- *Response received* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair's letter regarding the Intervention and Reviewing Hubs Briefing (*letter amended in December 2021*).

**December 2021**

- *Response awaited* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair's letter regarding the Valleys, Vale & Cardiff Adoption Collaborative Annual Report 2020/21

- *Response awaited* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair’s letter regarding the YJS Update; Children’s Services Update and Q2 Performance

### **January 2022**

- *Response awaited* – from Councillor Hinchey to the Chair’s letter regarding the Cardiff Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2022-2027

### **February 2022**

- *Response received* – from Councillor Weaver to the Chair’s letter regarding the Corporate Plan and 2022/23 Budget Proposals
- *Response awaited* – from Councillor Merry to the Chair’s letter regarding the Education Performance Report and WESP.

3. Copies of the public Chair’s letters and responses received can be found on the Council’s website page for the relevant Committee meeting, with a hyperlink provided at the top of the page, entitled ‘*correspondence following the committee meeting*’.

### **Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Inquiry**

4. In September 2021, the five Scrutiny Committees individually considered the draft report titled ‘*Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan: Vision, Issues and Objectives, and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report*’ prior to its consideration by Cabinet. Following these meetings, a collective letter capturing the concerns and observations from all five committees was sent to Cabinet.
5. Going forward the five Scrutiny Chairs considered it would be good practice to pool scrutiny expertise from all committees and continue a culture of collaboration. This was supported by the Scrutiny Committees at their October meetings, where Members agreed to progress scrutiny of the next stage of the

RLDP via a Task and Finish Group with representation from all 5 Scrutiny Committees to ensure that all aspects affected by the RLDP could be considered.

6. Following this Committee's meeting 9 November 2021, Karen Dell'Armi expressed an interest in representing the Committee on the joint task group. This was subsequently agreed by the Chair, Councillor Lee Bridgeman.
7. The Task and Finish Group held their first meeting on 2 November 2021, where they considered the areas they wished to explore in their examination of the next stage of the RLDP, which is the consultation around the proposed Strategic Options. They developed terms of reference, which were agreed by all five committees at their meetings in November 2021 and are attached at **Appendix A**.
8. Since then, the Task and Finish Group has held five meetings to hear evidence from the following:
  - Councillor Wild – Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning & Transport
  - Simon Gilbert – Head of Planning
  - Stuart Williams – Group Leader, Local Development Plan
  - Stuart Hardisty – Hardisty Jones Associates – *Employment & Economic Modelling*
  - Andrew Fowler – Edge Analytics – *Population Modelling*
  - Grace Boden – Edge Analytics – *Population Modelling*
  - Andy Robinson - Natural Resources Wales
  - Geoff Hobbs - Natural Resources Wales
  - Richard Mann – UWHA
  - Huw Owen - Alzheimer's Society
  - Adrian Field - For Cardiff
  - Sheila Hendrickson-Brown – Cardiff Third Sector Council
  - Gladys Hingco – Principal Scrutiny Research Officer.
9. As part of the Inquiry, Scrutiny Research issued a Call for Evidence, seeking stakeholder views on the consultation process and on the strategic options. A

total of 18 responses were received. Two summaries, one focused on the consultation process and one on the strategic options, were presented to the Inquiry by Scrutiny Research, highlighting key findings from the responses.

10. Following the meeting in November 2021 to consider the consultation process, the Task and Finish Group sent a letter to Cllr Wild, Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning and Transport, setting out recommendations aimed at improving the ongoing consultation on the Strategic and Delivery Options. A response to this letter was received, accepting all the recommendations bar one, which was partially accepted.

11. The final evidence gathering meeting was held on 31 January 2022. At this meeting, the Task and Finish Group were informed that the scrutiny officer supporting the Inquiry was leaving the authority mid-February 2022 and that therefore there was limited resource to complete the usual Inquiry Report.

12. The Task and Finish Group considered the next stages of the Inquiry and decided it was best for the scrutiny officer to:

- focus on capturing the key findings for the Inquiry and to formulate these into matrices, indicating the evidence supporting the findings
- draft a letter to Cllr Wild, highlighting the headline findings and including the recommendations sent earlier regarding the consultation process. In addition, the matrices would be shared as attachments to evidence these findings and recommendations
- share the non-confidential Call for Evidence submissions with planning officers, to enable them to be counted and considered as consultation responses on the Strategic Options.

13. The Task and Finish Group are scheduled to meet 2 March 2022 to review the letter, key findings, recommendations, and attachments. Following any amendments, these will be presented to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee at a special committee meeting 16 March 2022, for amendment and agreement,



as the host committee for the Inquiry. Once agreed by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, the letter and its attachments will be sent to Councillor Wild and officers for their consideration when developing the consultation process for the preferred strategy and when developing the preferred strategy itself.

## **Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22**

14. The Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to report annually to the Council on their work during the past year and make recommendations for future work programmes. Since 2020/21 this constitutes one combined Scrutiny Annual Report capturing the work of five scrutiny committees.
15. The Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 will be considered by Full Council in June 2022. It is currently being drafted and will be presented for consideration by all Chairs of Scrutiny, prior to the ending of their term of office in May 2022.
16. In preparation for the final draft each committee is requested to agree the pages that will be included for that committee. A draft page is therefore attached at **Appendix B** for this committee approval. As previously the page will set out membership, purpose, and achievements over the year.
17. The final Scrutiny Annual Report to Council will focus on the difference made to residents, visitors, staff, and businesses over the year, highlighting how Scrutiny has influenced the way Council services are delivered; improve stakeholder understanding and interest in Scrutiny; explain how Scrutiny facilitates engagement and encourages public participation; and highlight the value of Member-led/ stakeholder informed decision making.
18. As this is the final meeting of this committee in the current administration, to inform the Annual Report, Members views are sought on the committee's greatest achievements over the 5-year period.

19. If agreed by Council the report will be available for download bi-lingually from the Council's website, in standard or large print version and will also offer a translation in other minority languages if requested.

## **Way Forward**

20. During the meeting, Members will have the opportunity to reflect on the correspondence update.

21. The Committee is asked to note the proposed way forward for collating the findings and recommendations to date of the Joint Task and Finish Group for the inquiry into the RLDP Strategic Options.

22. The Committee is also asked to consider, if necessary amend, and approve the draft Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee page of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22, attached at **Appendix B**. Members are also requested to highlight the Committee's greatest achievements over the past 5 years.

## **Legal Implications**

23. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements

imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

24. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to;

- 1) reflect on the correspondence update.
- 2) Note the proposed way forward for collating the findings and recommendations to date of the Joint Task and Finish Group inquiry into the Replacement LDP Strategic Options.
- 3) Consider, if necessary amend, and approve the draft Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee page of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22, attached at **Appendix B** and highlight the committee's greatest achievements for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**02 March 2022**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION SCOPING EXERCISE SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>PROPOSED TOPIC: Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan</b>	
<b>PROPOSED TYPE OF SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION: Joint Inquiry</b>	
<b>Proposed Terms of Reference</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To explore, scrutinise and act as a consultee on the Strategic Options for the Replacement LDP focusing on how these have addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Accessibility and Inclusivity</li> <li>○ One Planet Cardiff.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To review the Council's consultation process to date; to examine its effectiveness and make recommendations for future consultation on the next stages of the Replacement LDP</li> <li>• To understand the supporting rationale for the projected growth provided by Welsh Government in order to consider whether the evidence base is robust, realistic, and viable.</li> <li>• To consider how Cardiff's replacement LDP and the Strategic Options are aligned with regional planning.</li> <li>• To hear and consider views of stakeholders to inform the recommendations of Scrutiny on both the Strategic Options and the Council's consultation processes.</li> <li>• To coordinate and provide a single joint response from the Scrutiny Committees.</li> <li>• To make recommendations that will inform the decisions and considerations that the Council's Executive will make in the development of the Preferred Strategy.</li> <li>• To make recommendations that will inform any future scrutiny of the replacement LDP.</li> </ul>
<b>Task &amp; Finish Recommended.</b>	Yes
<b>Stakeholders</b>	Cabinet Members Senior Managers External Stakeholders TBC
<b>Number of meetings required</b>	
<b>Meeting 1</b> Mid November 2021	<b>Consultation Process – Strategic Options</b> To examine the consultation document and explore the consultation processes planned for engagement around the Strategic Options. To have a particular focus on the plans and approaches for involving hard to reach and under-represented groups.

	Desktop based research on best practice consultation to enable Members to compare, contrast and assess the Council's own consultation.
<b>Meeting 2</b> Beginning December 2021	<b>Internal Evidence on Strategic options</b> To receive a presentation from the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers on the Strategic Options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Role of Scrutiny</b> - To examine the Strategic Options.</li> </ul> To receive information regarding the evidence base provided by Welsh Government to consider its robustness realism, and viability of projected growth and examine the rationale behind the options being presented. <p>To receive information on how Cardiff's replacement LDP and the Strategic Options align with regional planning.</p> <p>To explore the Strategic Options through focus on the two areas identified; 'Accessibility and Inclusivity' and 'One Planet Cardiff'; to ascertain how these have been addressed in the Strategic Options put forward.</p> <b>Invitees</b> Cllr Wild, Andrew Gregory, Stuart Williams, Simon Gilbert
<b>Meeting 3</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> week January	<b>External Evidence on Strategic Options</b> To hear evidence from key stakeholder witnesses to help inform the T&F Group's views and recommendations on the strategic options. <p><b>Selected stakeholder witnesses will be invited to attend the meeting to provide verbal evidence to the T&amp;F Group on their views of the strategic options.</b></p> External Stakeholder witnesses TBC
<b>Meeting 4</b> 3rd week January 2022	<b>External Evidence on Strategic options</b> <b>Part 1</b> <b>Stakeholder Research</b> Report of the key findings of the Call for Evidence from key stakeholders – written summary of main points provided by Gladys Hingco, Principal Scrutiny Research Officer. <p><b>Part 2</b>  Discuss evidence received with Cabinet Member and Senior Officers</p>
<b>Meeting 5</b>	<b>External Evidence on Consultation Process</b>

<p>4<sup>th</sup> week of January 2022</p>	<p>Explore views of stakeholders on the consultation processes undertaken in developing the Strategic Options as well as the Vision, Issues &amp; Objectives/ISA. This meeting will assess the effectiveness of the consultation approach and processes that have been adopted by the Directorate. The findings of this meeting will inform the recommendations that will be made on the future consultation on the Preferred Strategy.</p> <p><b>Selected stakeholder witnesses will be invited to attend meeting to provide verbal evidence to the T&amp;F Group on their views of the strategic options</b></p> <p><b>Stakeholder Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting of the summary findings of the Call for Evidence from key stakeholders – provided by Gladys Hingco, Principal Scrutiny Research Officer.</li> </ul> <p>External stakeholders TBC</p>
<p><b>Meeting 6</b> February 2022</p>	<p><b>Sum Up Meeting</b></p> <p>Consideration of all information received during the inquiry and agree way forward for draft report/recommendations</p> <p><b>Consideration of draft report/recommendations</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed Reporting Arrangements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation to be undertaken by middle of February 2022</li> <li>Report to be considered by the Scrutiny Committees – end of February/March 2022</li> <li>Report from Scrutiny to Cabinet - March 2022</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Potential Outputs/Outcomes from this investigation</b></p> <p>As a key consultee, the T&amp;F will produce a report that will outline and illustrate Members views on the strategic options being consulted on at this stage of the development of the RLDP process. The recommendations of this report will be informed by consideration of evidence and views from selected stakeholders who have contributed to the scrutiny of the RLDP's strategic options and will assist the Directorate and Cabinet in the development of the Preferred Strategy.</p> <p>The findings and recommendations of the T&amp;F will also inform Scrutiny's, Cabinet's, and the Directorate's views on future consultations of the next stages of the development of the RLDP.</p>	

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## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chair)

Councillors Stephen Cunnah; Robert Hopkins; Heather Joyce; Sian-Elin Melbourne; Bablin Molik; Mike Phillips; Mia Rees; Kanaya Singh

Co-optees: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative); Carol Colbert (Church in Wales Rep); Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Rep); Mia John (Cardiff Youth Council Rep); 1 x parent governor vacancy

### Our Purpose

- We work to improve the Council's services and policies in the area of children and young people, which includes Schools; Children's Social Services; Youth Services and Justice; and relevant support services (Education and Schools support services etc.)
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with in this area, including how resources are spent;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area such as Cardiff 2030 Vision for Education & Learning; Century Schools Programme; Social Care Commissioning Strategy; and Corporate Parenting Strategy are developed and put in place; and
- We make recommendations to the Council's decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

### Our Achievements

- **Youth Justice Service** – the Committee continued to monitor progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service, following the inspection of the service in 2020. The Chair of this Committee sits on the Youth Justice Advocacy Panel so has an overview of the strategic direction of the YJS. In addition, during 2021 the Committee received bi-monthly reports on progress relating to staff and capacity; partnership learning and work; "All Our Futures" Strategy; progress of quality assurance work, including case audits; quarterly performance reports, including an overview of organisational health; case studies; and victim engagement feedback. The Committee also held an informal session with young people in the YJS to gauge their views on the Service. The Committee will continue to be an integral part of monitoring and reviewing improvements to the Service, and more importantly, improving outcomes for young people within the Service. The Service has been 'de-escalated' from Stage 3 to Stage 1 by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales; and will be subject to a further inspection in March 2022.

**Children's Services** – during 2021, the Committee monitored demands and challenges faced by Children's Services as part of its recovery and renewal work, arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee held a number of open and transparent discussions with Members, officers and partners and acted as a "critical friend" and support for the Service in relation to demands on the service; pressures; complexities of the challenges faced by the Service; resource needs; shifting the balance of care; remodelling of services; and during 2022, Members of the Committee will work with the Service in the development and implementation of a 3-year Children's Services Strategy.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme** – the Committee continued to undertake a range of policy development and pre-decision scrutiny in relation to the 21st Century Schools Programme, including progress in relation to Band B Schools. They made a number of observations in relation to developments in Cathays High School; Pentyrch Primary School; Willows High School; ALN Provision; Admission Arrangements; and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The Committee will continue to challenge the Service to ensure the future proofing for schools in Cardiff.

**Quotes:**

*The children and young people's scrutiny committee provides strong and timely scrutiny on a number of relevant issues facing education in the local authority, including sensitive school organisation proposals and a range of school support services..... The scrutiny committee follow up areas of focus in their work programme and write to the cabinet member to express their observations with suitably challenging recommendations.*

**Estyn – inspection of Cardiff Education Services – November 2021**

*There is greater clarity about the purpose of the partnership..... These arrangements have ensured greater accountability and commitment to the work of the YJS. We were also pleased to see oversight from local councillors, such as the chair of the scrutiny committee and the children's committee lead member.*

**HMIP (in relation to the Youth Justice Service)**