

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref : CM41077

Dyddiad / Date: 22 February 2019



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Sarah Griffiths  
Chair, Cardiff Schools Budget Forum

Annwyl / Dear Sarah

**Council Budget Proposals 2019/20**

I would like to thank you for your letter following the meeting of the Cardiff School Budget Forum in December 2018. Being a regular attendee of the forum provides both myself and the Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning with a valuable insight into the views held by school representatives and this information is invaluable when discussing the significant issue of school funding with Cabinet colleagues. As a Cabinet, we continue to view school funding as one of our key priorities and will continue to do so over the forthcoming years. I have considered the points raised in your letter and have addressed as many as possible in my response below.

Regarding the investment required to the school estate, we recognise the importance of this and are committed to maximising the Council's investment in both new and existing assets. This is demonstrated by both the significantly increased level of annual asset renewal funding and a significant financial commitment in respect of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Programme. Identifying the funding required for this investment has presented, and continues to present, a challenge. In reducing the overall amount of growth to the school budget, we recognise that this has an impact upon individual school budgets, however we feel that this is a solution that enables the significant investment to proceed. In response to your request for more information on the use of funding withheld from school budgets, I am aware that officers intend to bring an update to a future meeting of the Forum.

As part of the budget for 2019/20 the Cabinet has been able to ensure that schools receive significant cash increases to their budgets, whilst recognising that schools will have to identify some efficiencies in their overall expenditure or actively look to increase income generation. Whilst the Cabinet understands that placing a 30% cap on non-demographic schools growth presents a challenge for

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**GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI**

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU**

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



individual schools it is hoped that they will be able to continue to identify creative, alternative, ways of meeting the needs of pupils, continuing the excellent work undertaken in a number of schools to date.

It is pleasing to note your comments in relation to the investment in foster care provision and your support for safe walking routes to schools. Regarding, active travel proposals, the Council and Cabinet will continue to place the views of young people at the heart of our decision making, both in terms of this initiative and more widely.

In terms of other issues raised in your letter, I recognise the impact that the delegation of the EIG matchfunding contribution will have and believe that figures have been shared with the Forum, subsequent to your letter. Although the impact will not be insignificant for individual schools, I can assure you that the decision to delegate this responsibility has not been taken lightly. In terms of the Central South Consortium, we will continue to represent Cardiff's interests as strongly as possible and will demand that value for money is maximised as much as possible. Regarding income generation and central staffing savings, the intention is not to have a detrimental impact on schools. These measures are being implemented as a way of protecting services, enabling schools to continue to receive the required level of support from a variety of services.

Regarding the Minority Ethnic Achievement and Travellers grant, I can assure you that the Cabinet continues to lobby Welsh Government for a resolution to this matter. We are aware of the importance of this funding source to Cardiff in particular and, whilst we are pleased that the funding has been committed for a further year, the absence of a clear way forward in relation to 2020/21 is a cause of great concern. We are aware that the Welsh Government is working with local authorities to deliver an alternative model of provision for Wales, however we will press for this matter to be resolved as a matter of urgency.

I hope that this response to your letter addresses the points you raised, however, as ever, I am happy to have further discussions on any specific points, should you wish. I look forward to continuing to engage with the School Budget Forum, and value its views and contribution to the Council. I want to reassure you that the Cabinet is committed to investing in schools, whilst continuing to operate within an extremely difficult financial outlook, and ensuring that individual schools are supported as they continue to prepare for what will no doubt be a very challenging period.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



**Y Cyngorydd/Councillor Christopher Weaver**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Gyllid, Moderneiddio a Pherfformiad/Cabinet member**  
**for Finance, Modernisation & Performance**