

COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2024

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION 2

Proposed by: Councillor Sarah Merry
Seconded by: Councillor Lee Bridgeman

After 'This Council notes'

Add the following:

- 1. Education has been a key priority of the current administration.*
- 2. Education in Cardiff made strides in education over the last ten years going from below the Welsh average on many of the key performance indicators to above – progress that was recognised during the latest Estyn inspection. Cardiff has also recently been recognised as the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK for prioritising the voices of children and young people*
- 3. Cardiff has the highest delegation rate to schools in Wales and education and social services accounted for 66% of the council's budget in 2023/24 with the council has seeking to protect funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children.*
- 4. Funding of our schools not only comes from the local authority but a significant component comes from grants from Welsh Government which have reduced in value over the last few years. We are waiting to hear the outcome of the reorganisations of grants being undertaken to simplify the process for schools but this must protect funding for our most vulnerable pupils.*

Combine bullet points 1-5 and delete and amend as below

- 5. In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset **Insert** this is a situation repeated across the UK. With many other schools **Delete** were able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves. **Delete** The proportion of schools having to set a deficit budget is unprecedented. Given the concerns expressed about the significant budget gap for the council as a whole in 2024-2025 and warnings given to the council's school budget forum,*

*there are widespread **Insert** with widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit. The teacher's pay increase should be fully funded by the Welsh Government*

6. Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.
7. Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic **Insert** and the cost of living crisis and are dealing with multiple demands and pressures as a result. These demands include the need to: improve attendance which at the end of the 2023 academic year was 6% below pre-pandemic levels in secondary schools and 5% in primary schools; engage with families to increase support for vulnerable pupils; improve help for the mental health and well-being of children and young people. **Insert** *We note the importance of the partnership working between education youth and children's services at a time when budgets are under pressure.*
8. Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs **Insert** *The Welsh Government should ensure it adequately funds curriculum and ALN reform*
9. **Insert** *We thank school leaders for their work on the budget forum and working parties given the concerns about addressing the current financial situation. It is absolutely essential that while calling for more funding for education we continue to work together with our schools to protect children and young people and to continue to deliver improvements in education through innovative practice such as that shown by Cardiff Commitment*
10. **Delete** *The current Medium Term Financial Plan places the council on a continuing trajectory of significantly increasing its level of borrowing together with associated revenue costs, whilst the Cabinet has also recently committed to fund around half of its agreed £27.3 million capital contribution towards the planned new Indoor Arena through undertaking additional borrowing, and this is having a significant knock-on effect on the availability of revenue funding for key council services including for schools' delegated budgets. £1.5 million of annual revenue funding is already contained within the council's base revenue budget to cover borrowing costs associated with the Indoor Arena project and the Cabinet has now agreed that the revenue provision for this borrowing in the budget should increase to £2.9 million a year during the construction phase and early years of the*
11. **Insert** *This council notes the recent letter to the UK Government by 40 MP's asking for further funding for local authorities and calls on the council to continue to lobby Welsh Government and the UK Government over the importance of funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children*

This Council believes that:

- 1) All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.

- 2) This requires a level of delegated funding that will avoid damaging job losses and safeguard the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all their pupils.
- 3) The Welsh Government should develop a longer-term Covid-19 recovery plan that recognises the impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have, on each and every school ***Insert and work collaboratively with local Government to address the impact of Covid 19 and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people***
- 4) ***Delete Action is needed if Cardiff is to protect its status as the UK's first city to be awarded Child Friendly City Status. Insert Cardiff will continue to ensure that in line with our Child Friendly City Status the voices of young people are heard when deciding funding priorities.***
- 5) A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable. ***Insert Cardiff Council will continue to prioritise Education funding, and will work with and engage with our school leaders and Governors to support them in setting balanced budgets whilst maintaining and improving standards and protecting the best interests of our children.***

Delete

This Council calls on the Cabinet to bring forward a funding strategy as part of the Council's future budget consideration that ensures Cardiff's schools can be more adequately funded in order that the proportion of the city's schools that need to set deficit budgets can be substantially reduced

Insert

This Council calls on the Council to write to both the UK and Welsh Government in line with the recent letter by 40 Conservative MP's to Rishi Sunak for further funding for councils to avoid cuts in services.

This Council calls on the Council to sign up to the NAHT's 'In this Together' pledge – committing to work with the education workforce to lobby for more funding to better education for all.

The amended motion would read as follows:

This Council notes:

1. Education has been a key priority of the current administration.
2. Education in Cardiff made strides in education over the last ten years going from below the Welsh average on many of the key performance indicators to above – progress that was recognised during the latest Estyn inspection. Cardiff has also recently been recognised as the first UNICEF Child Friendly City in the UK for prioritising the voices of children and young people
3. Cardiff has the highest delegation rate to schools in Wales and education and social services accounted for 66% of the council's budget in 2023/24 with the council has seeking to protect funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children.
4. Funding of our schools not only comes from the local authority but a significant component comes from grants from Welsh Government which have reduced in value over the last few years. We are waiting to hear the

outcome of the reorganisations of grants being undertaken to simplify the process for schools but this must protect funding for our most vulnerable pupils.

5. In financial year 2023-2024, one special school, 35 primary schools and two secondary schools set deficit budgets at the outset this is a situation repeated across the UK. With many other schools able to set a balanced budget only through the one-off use of their reserves. with widespread fears that the situation will only worsen with even more schools falling into deficit. The teacher's pay increase should be fully funded by the Welsh Government
6. Employee costs account for between 80% and 90% of schools' budgets.
7. Schools are still continuing to work hard to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis and are dealing with multiple demands and pressures as a result. These demands include the need to: improve attendance which at the end of the 2023 academic year was 6% below pre-pandemic levels in secondary schools and 5% in primary schools; engage with families to increase support for vulnerable pupils; improve help for the mental health and well-being of children and young people. We note the importance of the partnership working between education youth and children's services at a time when budgets are under pressure.
8. Schools' leaders and teachers are heavily involved in the implementation of curriculum reform and reform to the provision for pupils with additional learning needs The Welsh Government should ensure it adequately funds curriculum and ALN reform
9. We thank school leaders for their work on the budget forum and working parties given the concerns about addressing the current financial situation. It is absolutely essential that while calling for more funding for education we continue to work together with our schools to protect children and young people and to continue to deliver improvements in education through innovative practice such as that shown by Cardiff Commitment
10. This council notes the recent letter to the UK Government by 40 MP's asking for further funding for local authorities and calls on the council to continue to lobby Welsh Government and the UK Government over the importance of funding for education and services for our most vulnerable children

This Council believes that:

1. All schools must have the resources necessary to maintain a high quality of education.
2. This requires a level of delegated funding that will avoid damaging job losses and safeguard the capacity of schools to meet the needs of all their pupils.
3. The Welsh Government should develop a longer-term Covid-19 recovery plan that recognises the impact that the pandemic has had, and continues to have, on each and every school and work collaboratively with local Government to address the impact of Covid 19 and the cost of living crisis on our children and young people
4. Cardiff will continue to ensure that in line with our Child Friendly City Status the voices of young people are heard when deciding funding priorities.
5. A situation where schools increasingly need to rely on setting deficit budgets to operate is simply not sustainable. Cardiff Council will continue to prioritise Education funding, and will work with and engage with our school leaders and

Governors to support them in setting balanced budgets whilst maintaining and improving standards and protecting the best interests of our children.

This Council calls on the Council to write to both the UK and Welsh Government in line with the recent letter by 40 Conservative MP's to Rishi Sunak for further funding for councils to avoid cuts in services.

This Council calls on the Council to sign up to the NAHT's 'In this Together' pledge – committing to work with the education workforce to lobby for more funding to better education for all.