

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

14 March 2019

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
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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 12 March 2019 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the **School Categorisation report**.

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar for the presentation of the report, together with the answers to Members questions. Members welcomed the report and were particularly pleased with Cardiff Schools Categorisation improved results, together with the briefing paper on the “future accountability Measures and update on Curriculum Developments. The Members also wished you to pass on their appreciation to the Directorate and School Staff for their hard work in helping in improve the educational outcome of pupils in Cardiff.

In respect of the work of the Consortium in the improving education outcome in Cardiff, the Committee welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback to the Director on their views on the respective roles of the Local Authority and Consortium in improving outcomes, together with the Member’s views on the operation of the Consortium. The Committee agreed to reiterate their comments in this letter, which included:

- There seemed to be a lack of governance, overlaps in duties, lack of clarity in responsibility, and concerns over quality of service.
- Lack of acknowledgment of problems, lack of validity of outcomes, concerns around value for money
- Regional tensions

- Better School to School linkage, across the region
- Improve workforce planning across the region
- Co-ordination of new legislation

I hope that these comments mentioned above will be welcomed by the Directorate and be of use and support in improving outcomes for Cardiff's pupils, as such the Committee does not require a response to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN
Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning