

# Public Document Pack

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at The Council Chamber, Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Thursday, 14th September, 2017 at 9.30 am

**PRESENT:** County Councillor M. Groucutt (Chairman)  
County Councillor L. Jones (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: L. Brown, M. Lane, M. Powell, T. Thomas and J. Watkins

County Councillors: P. Jones, D. Blakebrough, A. Easson, R. Edwards, R. Harris, P. Pavia, J. Pratt and V. Smith attended the meeting by invitation of the Chairman.

### **Added Members:**

Dr. A. Daly - Church in Wales  
M Fowler (Parent Governor Representative)

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Claire Marchant	Chief Officer Social Care, Health & Housing
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Jane Rodgers	Head of Children's Services
Nikki Wellington	Finance Manager
Tyrone Stokes	Finance Manager
Mark Howcroft	Assistant Head of Finance
Paula Harris	Democratic Services Officer
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. P. Vernon - Welsh Government Health and Social Services Group  
Ms. L. Summers - Welsh Government Health and Social Services Group

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors: D. Jones, R. John, S. Howarth, J. Treharne and S. Woodhouse.

Mr. K Plow (Association of School Governors).

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

County Councillor M. Groucutt declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme – Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update, as he is a governor of King Henry VIII Comprehensive School.

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Country Councillor R. Harris declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme – Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update, as he is a member of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Board.

County Councillor A. Easson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of the urgent item of business regarding a presentation - White Paper: Services fit for the future - Quality and Governance in health and care in Wales, as he is a member of the Community Health Council (CHC).

County Councillor M. Powell declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme – Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update, as she is a governor of King Henry VIII Comprehensive School.

County Councillor L. Brown declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme – Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update, as she is a Chepstow area Member.

County Councillor P. Pavia declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 5.1 Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Outturn Statement, as he is a governor of St. Mary's R.C. Primary School.

Dr. A. Daly declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme – Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update, as she is the Diocesan Director of Education and church schools are her work interest.

County Councillor V. Smith declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of the urgent item of business regarding a presentation - White Paper: Services fit for the future - Quality and Governance in health and care in Wales, as she is a member of the Community Health Council (CHC).

## **2. Public Open Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## **3. Minutes:**

### **3.1. Children and Young People Select Committee minutes dated 11th July 2017**

The minutes of the Children and Young People Select Committee dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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### **3.2. Joint Select Committee Minutes dated 24th July 2017**

We received and noted the minutes of the Joint Select Committee dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

In doing so, it was agreed that the following amendment should be added to Minute 6 - Future Monmouthshire: Proposed new delivery model for tourism, leisure culture and youth services - Under sub heading Member Scrutiny, add the following:

Concern was raised regarding non – executive directors and whether they should be Council Members or not.

### **4. Actions arising from the previous meeting**

We received and noted the list of actions that had been completed arising from the Children and Young People Select Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

### **5. Children and Young People Select Committee Forward Work Programme**

We received and noted the Select Committee's forward work plan.

### **6. Council and Cabinet Business - Forward Plan**

We received the Council and Cabinet Business Forward Work Plan. In doing so the following points were noted:

- Cabinet - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017: Alternative Delivery Model – A Joint Select Committee meeting, consisting of the four select committees and the trade union representatives, had been held regarding this matter in which scrutiny had been undertaken. Members had been encouraged to forward their comments to the Head of Tourism Leisure Culture & Youth. However, County Councillor Easson had forwarded his comments to the officer but had yet to receive a response. This matter would be investigated with a view to obtaining a response.
- Review of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Schools - this matter will be brought to the Children and Young People Select Committee for scrutiny when the pertinent information is available.

### **7. Urgent Item of Business**

The Chairman agreed to take to the following urgent item of business due to limited availability of Welsh Government representatives to present the White Paper to the Council as part of the Welsh Government's consultation process.

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### **8. White Paper: Services fit for the future - Quality and Governance in health and care in Wales**

#### **Context:**

To scrutinise the White Paper: Services fit for the future – Quality and Governance in health and care in Wales.

#### **Key Issues:**

The Select Committee received a presentation by representatives of Welsh Government regarding the White Paper: Services fit for the future – Quality and Governance in health and care in Wales. All Members of the Council were invited to attend the Select Committee meeting to undertake scrutiny in respect of this issue.

#### **Member Scrutiny:**

Following the presentation, a question and answer session ensued. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- The Health Board had raised concerns regarding how new duties might be enforced.
- There is no intention for the NHS to become the dominant partner. The White Paper is looking to build on what is already legislation, i.e., partners equally working together. It is about facilitating the culture in order for health boards to work more closely with social services and local authorities.
- Local Health Boards already have duties for citizens' engagement but the White Paper wants to future proof these arrangements by making them more effective.
- Any legislative changes that might result from the White Paper will result in all costs being set out and when the bill is introduced, that document will be laid with it. Engagement with key partners will be undertaken regarding this matter at the appropriate time.
- Transparency already exists with open meetings of Health Boards. However, it was acknowledged that there is still some way to go to improve this. A system has been in place since 2011 entitled 'Putting things right' which seeks to resolve issues fairly and openly.
- There is a requirement for local Authority representation on health boards and this will continue, going forward. The current representation consists of an elected Member and Director of Social Services on the health board.
- One of the key challenges is to strengthen the citizens' voice but at the same time, not lose local representation and local links. The proposals in the White Paper seek to invest statutory function in the national body but give it a

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significant amount of freedom to decide how to operate locally. Depending on the results of the consultation, Welsh Government will have to look at whether this is right and whether something important might be lost.

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report looked at all four UK nations and the quality of the health services. No one service is performing better than the others. All services have their good points, as well as having their weaknesses. The Wales service is very well placed to take advantage of the building blocks already in place in integrated health boards to make a difference in outcomes for the population of Wales. However, there is a balance that needs to be adhered to in terms of the centralised powers that exist, as opposed to local powers that exist.
- Currently, the duty of candour does not exist in Wales. However, there exists a form of duty of candour which refers to the concerns, complaints and redress regulations which has significantly helped in being more open when things go wrong. However, the White Paper will be wider, providing a cultural openness and transparency that will be imbedded across the whole of the service.
- Broadly, the English health boards are composed in the same way as in Wales. In Wales, we are currently doing something different in which the English health boards are not currently looking at.
- A definitive time for the legislation is not currently available as the First Minister has taken a decision to only announce one year of the legislative programme at a time. This is partly due to Brexit.
- There is nothing in the White Paper which will have a major impact on cross border issues. Community Health Councils (CHCs) have their own patients in Wales, which is the same in England. However, the border is an issue, as the two different systems come together and they are not always synchronised. A protocol has existed for dealing with cross border arrangements for a number of years which is in the process of being revised due to arrangements in England necessitating that.
- In response to concerns raised regarding the CHCs, it was noted that in terms of independence and patients concerns being heard locally, this will continue to be undertaken. The intention of the White Paper is to strengthen the process and the views expressed by the public will need to be taken into account. CHC Members have already written to the Welsh Government regarding the White Paper which will be considered as part of the consultation process.
- It was noted that there is a need for patient participation groups to be included in the White Paper, which are standard in England.
- The Citizen's Voice would be an independent body and the Scottish Health Council is a model that could be examined. By changing the CHCs to a new

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model, this would help strengthen the existing process. Independent scrutiny is a vital part of this role.

#### **Committee's Conclusion:**

- On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chair thanked the Welsh Government representatives for providing a presentation regarding the White Paper, he also thanked the two CHC representatives and all Members present for their comments.
- The closing date for a formal response from the County Council is the 29th September 2017.
- The Cabinet Member will therefore respond to Welsh Government in respect of the White Paper via an Individual Cabinet Member Decision, taking into account the views expressed by Members at today's meeting.

#### **9. Revenue and Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Outturn Statement**

##### **Context:**

To scrutinise the revenue and capital outturn positions based on activity data at month 2.

##### **Recommendations proposed to Cabinet:**

- That Members consider a net revenue outturn overspend of £164,000.
- Members consider a capital outturn spend, forecast by service managers to agree with the budget.
- Members note that the low level of earmarked reserves, which will severely reduce the flexibility the Council has in meeting the financial challenges of reducing settlements and consequent need to re-design services.
- Members note the significant forecast reduction in the overall school balance at the end of 2017/18 and supports the continuing work with schools to ensure that the Council's Fairer Funding scheme requirements are met and that the overall schools balance reverts to positive position at the earliest opportunity.

##### **Member Scrutiny:**

- Concern was expressed regarding the number of schools across the County currently carrying a negative budget. In response, it was noted that across

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Wales secondary school balances are reducing and primary school balances are being maintained. There is a pressure around examination fees in secondary schools and there has been a reduction in Post 16 funding from Welsh Government. This has had a negative effect on some schools' balances. Officers are working with schools regarding recovery plans with a view to allowing the schools to recover but to be able to maintain standards.

- Chepstow Comprehensive School had been in debt to the sum of £400,000 four years ago but had now recovered over this period and was now carrying a surplus budget.
- Last year the Authority received late notification from Welsh Government regarding a reduction in Post 16 funding. For Monmouth Comprehensive School this equated to a reduction of £216,000 which comprised of 60% of the school's deficit budget. 28% of King Henry VIII Comprehensive School's budget was caused by the reduction in this grant. These reductions in schools' budgets fell outside of the management of schools. Officers are working with these schools with a view to undertaking a rapid recovery path with regard to their finances.
- In terms of the overall deficit position of Monmouthshire's schools, Monmouth Comprehensive and King Henry VIII Comprehensive schools make up the most significant element of this issue.
- With regard to Additional Learning Needs (ALN), a wide ranging review of ALN has been undertaken over the previous 12 months. That report, with the case for some financial changes, will be presented to the Children and Young People Select Committee in October 2017.
- Via the ALN review, the Authority is looking to ensure that interventions are early, in the main stream, that there are effective resource bases in the north and south of the County that pupils are able to access easily. Also, to provide more significant interventions higher up the levels of intervention that will preclude the Authority from having to send the children out of County. The most pressing need is around speech and language. New units are being looked at in the north of the County. An ALN regional advisor will be appointed shortly.
- In terms of surplus places there are challenges across the County. As at January 2017, the Chepstow whole cluster had 14% surplus places, of which 10% of that total were in the primary sector. The Authority is working with its schools and with governing bodies to ensure that the challenges of surplus places are being addressed. More regional working will take place in due course when the pressures are fully understood.
- The work of the business managers has been very good in Chepstow. The Authority has looked to support two of its clusters of schools in a pilot phase around how business managers can help all schools and this is happening in the Chepstow and Abergavenny clusters. The Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary has announced a package of funding for this across Wales. All four of

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Monmouthshire's clusters will be involved in this and the Authority is match funding the Welsh Government Grant to ensure that this takes place.

#### **Committee's Conclusion:**

- We support the recommendations proposed to Cabinet.
- Issues were raised regarding budget pressures as a result of inflation.
- Issues regarding surplus places were discussed.
- The need to ensure that provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) are not penalised as a result of budgetary pressures were discussed.

#### **10. Fair Funding Regulations (Scheme for Financing Schools)**

##### **Context:**

To scrutinise details of the current breach in the Fair Funding (Scheme for Financing Schools) Regulations and actions to address this and to seek exception for the financial year 2017-18.

##### **Key Issues:**

The Fair Funding (Scheme for Financing Schools) is the funding framework in which schools and the Local Authority operate, and is based on the legislative provisions in Section 45-53 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

In line with the timescales outlined in the Fair Funding Regulations, the Local Authority received all school budgets approved by the governing body by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017. On receipt of these, the Section 151 Officer was informed that collectively, schools were reporting a deficit of £608,000.

Primary schools reported a surplus of £74,000, whilst secondary schools reported a deficit of £667,000 and the special school and pupil referral unit a deficit of £15,000. With regard to the deficit in secondary schools, there have been particular circumstances which have contributed to this issue including the late notification of post 16 funding reductions from Welsh Government.

School balances on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 stood at a surplus of £269,000 and the collective reserve use during the year is anticipated to be £877,000. Schools have been made aware of the cumulative deficit position and are working together to both minimise the anticipated spend in year but also to try and maintain surplus budgets where they exist.



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The actions that the Local Authority has put in place are detailed below:

- Immediate work with all schools has ensured that the month 2 report details an improvement in the school balances of £180,000.
- All schools with a significant deficit have met with the Chief Officer for Children and Young People and relevant Finance officers. At these meetings the schools have outlined how they are intending to recover from the deficit with timescales.
- All recovery plans will be monitored on a monthly basis and head teachers and Governing Bodies are held to account to ensure all the savings will be made.
- Where applicable, the Cabinet Members for Finance and Children and Young People will meet with schools in the autumn term of 2017 to gain reassurance and an understanding of each recovery plan.
- Hereford College presents a significant challenge to the north of the County and is drawing students away from Monmouthshire. As an Authority, we are ensuring that we have the best teaching and learning that can be provided in Monmouthshire's schools with a range of subjects being offered to students. Post 16 provision is a real area of focus for the Authority now and in the coming years. With the four secondary schools in Monmouthshire working more closely together their strengths can be recognised and economies of scale with regard to the provision of the post 16 curriculum can be identified also.

#### **Member Scrutiny:**

- Post 16 grant comes directly from Welsh Government which goes to Monmouthshire's secondary schools for the teaching of A levels. In previous years, Welsh Government has informed the Authority as to how much of this grant should be given to each of the four secondary schools within the County. However, in recent years, this was set aside by Welsh Government allowing the Authority to develop its own formula which was mainly based on pupil numbers. When delegating the funding to the Authority, Welsh Government uses a formula and the Authority is looking to mirror that formula when allocating funding to the four secondary schools within the County. This is driven mainly by pupil numbers. Therefore, where there were schools with reducing numbers at post 16, that had an impact on the funding being provided to that school. More significantly for the Authority was that the schools already have the teachers in place to teach the curriculum that has already been planned. However, it was the lateness of the notification of the grant that had a severe impact on the Authority.
- Though this is a volatile period, there has already been a significant improvement in the first two months between budget setting and month 2. It is anticipated that improvements will continue throughout the remainder of the year.

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- The issues relating to the reduction in the post 16 grant funding were twofold. The one reason was due to the number of children staying on to study A level. The other reason was that Welsh Government does not fund units at a flat rate. The cumulative effect of these two reasons has led to a 9% reduction in terms of the overall grant.
- There is an opportunity with the two new secondary schools to maximise some of the resources that those new settings will offer with a view to retaining some more students into Monmouthshire's post 16 provision. Options are being explored with Coleg Gwent regarding ways of working together.
- The geographical location of King Henry VIII Comprehensive School does allow for some students to choose to go to Hereford College and Crickhowell School for post 16 education. However, the school is losing fewer students to these facilities with sixth form numbers increasing and an improvement in performance and examination results.
- Chepstow Comprehensive School has performed well this year showing excellent progress in A level results. Chepstow has a high level of post 16 student retention within the school.

#### **Committee's Conclusion:**

- Cabinet has taken a decision to exempt the Authority from its statutory responsibilities for fair funding provision for one year.
- To monitor measures being put in place to bring schools' budgets back into a surplus without affecting the quality of education being provided.
- To note that changes in Welsh Government legislation had meant that it was unavoidable for some schools having to carry a negative budget.

#### **11. Presentation regarding Children's Services Improvement Programme**

##### **Context:**

To provide some historical context regarding the Children's Services Improvement Plan and to identify progress that has been made.

##### **Key Issues:**

The Children's Services Improvement Plan is a three year plan which commenced in April 2016. As the plan is reaching its halfway point, Officers provided the Select Committee with an update on progress.

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### **Member Scrutiny:**

Following the presentation, a question and answer session took place and the following points were noted:

- The presentation would be circulated to the Select Committee.
- The Main group of preventative services are via Families First. Through the links with Families First and the multi-agency meetings with schools the Directorate is in touch with a whole array of services.

### **Committee's Conclusion:**

- On behalf of the Select Committee, the Chair thanked officers for providing the presentation on the progress being made.
- Congratulate officers for moving towards a position where there is greater measurability. Clear priorities are identified and data to show how progress towards priorities are being met.

## **12. Presentation regarding Key Stages 4 and 5 Outcomes**

### **Context:**

To scrutinise Key Stages 4 and 5 outcomes for the summer 2017.

### **Key Issues:**

The Chief Officer for Children and Young People outlined the following points:

- A full and comprehensive report will be scrutinised by the Select Committee at its October 2017 meeting.
- This was a new year for GCSE provision in Wales with the introduction of some key and important examinations.
- There would no longer be comparability for the Authority's key measure.
- Estyn and Welsh Government are now setting a requirement for local authorities to look at a broader set of measures for schools.
- Even with the level of change and volatility in the system, Monmouthshire's schools have performed very well during the summer.

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- Monmouthshire's ranking position last year was third. Provisional data for this year suggests that Monmouthshire is the highest performing authority in Wales in terms of the Level 2 inclusive.
- The contributing English examination was no longer English literature as this had transferred to English language.
- The Welsh Government had introduced a new mathematics paper which focussed on numeracy with very good performance across Monmouthshire's schools.
- In terms of the schools' individual performance, two secondary schools improved their Level 2 inclusive from the previous year. Monmouth Comprehensive School advanced up to 74% and Caldicot Comprehensive School advanced up to 68%.
- King Henry VIII and Chepstow Comprehensive Schools performances dropped back slightly. The key issue for both schools related to English.
- In terms of the percentage of students who achieved five A\* or A grades, the Authority moved from 19.5% to 24.2%.

#### Member Scrutiny:

- The Chief Officer for Children and Young People would pass on the Select Committee's congratulations to the four secondary school head teachers regarding the impressive examination results.
- A formal report regarding the data will be available at the October 2017 Children and Young People Select Committee meeting whereby in depth scrutiny of the data can be undertaken.

#### Committee's Conclusion:

- The Select Committee will undertake formal scrutiny of the data at the next meeting when a detailed report will be received.

#### 13. 21st Century Schools Programme - Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update

##### Context:

To scrutinise the details of the Strategic Outline Programme for Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.

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#### Key Issues:

- Band A of Monmouthshire's 21st Century Schools' Programme is well underway. Caldicot School opens later this month and Monmouth Comprehensive School is on schedule to open September 2018.
- Working with Welsh Government, the Local Authority is looking to develop Band B of the programme which will involve the building of a new Comprehensive School in Abergavenny.
- Working within Welsh Government timescales, the draft Strategic Outline Programme has been submitted.
- The key areas to be considered are that the proposal seeks to address the condition of Monmouthshire's school buildings and sufficiency, ensuring that the schools are of an appropriate size and design to meet the needs of 21st Century learning.
- The proposal will also incorporate a larger Welsh Medium primary school, recognising the increase in numbers of pupils choosing Welsh Medium Education, and a new facility, on a dual site to provide Welsh Medium secondary Education within Monmouthshire.
- Currently, there are two primary schools within the county, educating through the medium of Welsh, but once pupils reach secondary school there is no provision within Monmouthshire and as a result, pupils need to attend schools within other authorities.
- The original Strategic Outline Programme (2010) held a much wider remit. This included the development of the whole education estate. However, as a result of cost pressures identified during Band A, a greater focus has been applied to the revised Strategic Outline Programme for Band B.
- The two remaining secondary schools both require developing. However, the needs of King Henry VIII Comprehensive School are greater due to the condition of the building and the site offers greater potential to develop Monmouthshire's policy aims.
- King Henry VIII School is situated in a deprived area of Abergavenny and the school holds the highest level of free school meal entitlement within Monmouthshire's secondary schools.
- The north of the county has traditionally been a focal point of Welsh Language, with Abergavenny hosting the Welsh National Eisteddfod. The Band B programme will allow Monmouthshire to build on this and to meet the priorities of the new administration.

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- With the emergence of the City Deal and the proposal to abolish the tolls on the two Severn Crossings, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in residents within the Chepstow area, at this stage the changes are unquantified and difficult to predict. The proposal is therefore to consider the development of Chepstow School under band C, when the impact of these will be better known.

#### Member Scrutiny:

- Welsh Stream in King Henry VIII Comprehensive School has been tried in the past but has not been particularly successful. However, the Welsh Stream has been raised as a benefit to the Authority and meets Welsh Government commitments in terms of Wales having one million Welsh speakers. The Authority's regional position needs to be taken into account which will be an area for discussion, going forward.
- It was pleasing to see the two new secondary schools coming to fruition.
- It was noted that there were not many faith schools being provided in Band A. The Church in Wales attracts a higher level of funding, i.e., 85% funding for voluntary aided schools. A secondary faith school in Monmouthshire would also have the support of Newport City Council. In response, the Chief Officer for Children and Young People stated that there is an ongoing risk around affordability and the condition of existing buildings when the Authority is investing heavily in a limited number. In terms of the changes expected to be seen in a school, this will be driven by the new curriculum. Discussions around faith provision will continue to be held potentially in Band C also, which will incorporate the needs of Newport City Council with regard to their future need in the south of the County.
- A Member expressed concern regarding Chepstow Comprehensive School and that there had been no consultation around the school moving from Band B to C. Surplus places at Chepstow Comprehensive School are lower than at King Henry VIII Comprehensive School. It is anticipated that there will be a further 2000 to 2500 houses being built in the south of the County with large settlements likely between Chepstow and Caldicot. This might lead to Chepstow Comprehensive School struggling to meet the demand for future school places. The member considered that there was a strong argument for Chepstow Comprehensive School to remain in Band B, as pupil demand may outstrip supply in the future. In response, the Chief Officer for Children and Young People stated that the Authority is recognising the future demand that is likely to occur in Chepstow. However, it is the inability to quantify it at present which is the challenge for the Authority. The Authority is able to meet the investment criteria by removing surplus places in King Henry VIII Comprehensive School and in the Abergavenny area. However, in Chepstow, it is recognised that the school is not at the standard that the Authority would like it to be. At present, the Authority is unable to say what the level of need will be in the future. Currently, there is capacity in Chepstow Comprehensive School (21.5%). The Local Development Plan (LDP) will be reviewed in the near future. When changes are identified, the Authority

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will have a better understanding regarding what the level of development in the south of the County will be. Therefore, it is too early to make a judgement regarding Chepstow Comprehensive School.

- The final submission back to Welsh Government regarding Monmouthshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) will be by 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Feedback from Welsh Government is that the WESP is doing what it is required to do. In terms of the ambition, the one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050 is a significant step for Monmouthshire.
- Ysgol Y Ffin surplus places equates to 24.4%; Ysgol Y Fenni surplus places equates to 5.5%.
- In order to have an ambitious policy to have one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050 requires investment.
- Chepstow Comprehensive School faces a unique pressure, as it has a secondary school in England located close to it. Caldicot Comprehensive School is also located close to the school.
- The Chief Officer for Children and Young People will shortly be meeting with the Cluster co-ordinator.
- The condition survey relating to Chepstow Comprehensive School was undertaken some time ago but is in the public domain should members wish to see it.

#### **Committee's Conclusion:**

- The Authority is waiting on Welsh Government.
- The Select Committee will monitor progress in respect of the Chepstow cluster to ensure that the quality of education in that area is not prejudiced.
- To monitor Welsh Medium and Faith education.
- The Majority of the Select Committee supported the timeline to progress the Band B work programme.

#### **14. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee will be held on the Council Chamber, County Hall, Usk on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 10.00am.

**The meeting ended at 1.45 pm.**

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