



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

21st December 2023

Re: Scrutiny of Service Changes Subject to Consultation

Dear Cabinet Members,

I have been instructed by this Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the consultation of **Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element** and the **Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy** before its consideration at the Cabinet meeting on 24th January 2024

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee gave feedback and comments in respect of the proposal at its meeting on the 13th December 2023. Members undertook a constructive discussion in respect of the recommendations from the Director of Education & Inclusion and the Director Highways, Streetcare and Transportation.

Members can view the full discussion and debate of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in respect of this item of business [here](#)

In summary, the following points were raised in relation to the Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element

- Members were reassured that staffing levels will be kept under review and closely monitored to ensure appropriate staffing levels are in place
- Members were concerned that families are already feeling financial pressure due to the cost of living crisis and asked for a review of costs to be undertaken if the proposals are taken forward to allow families to be able to have a more flexible approach to committing to the breakfast clubs, for example, many families do not use the breakfast club 5 days per week, therefore should be offered the opportunity to opt in on a flexible basis.
- Members were reassured to hear that every child will continue to be offered a free breakfast and that the proposed additional charge is in relation to the earlier childcare element.

Members raised the following points in relation to the Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy

- Members would like to see further clarification and information shared with residents on what is deemed as a safe walking route.

- Members raised concerns that the proposals may have a detrimental effect on attendance where families will need to travel further or incur costs to travel to their place of learning.
- Members were concerned that the proposal may have a negative impact on the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan as learners may choose to attend an English Medium Education setting that is closer to their home.
- Members asked the effect on the Councils Carbon Footprint also be considered as part of the proposal as this could see an increase in traffic on the roads.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hanagan', written in a cursive style.

Christian Hanagan
Service Director Democratic Services and Communication