



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20TH JUNE 2023

**ESTYN'S REPORT ON EDUCATION SERVICES
IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To pre-scrutinise the inspection process and the outcomes of the Estyn inspection of the education services in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council in January 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members undertake pre scrutiny of the report (attached at **Appendix A & B**), thus providing Scrutiny with an opportunity to comment upon this matter prior to consideration by the Cabinet.
- 2.2. Consider areas identified, for future scrutiny and inclusion with the Committees future work programme.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Scrutiny with the opportunity to undertake pre-scrutiny of the Estyn Inspection report, prior to its consideration by Cabinet.
- 3.2 The need to provide Members with information on the outcome of the Estyn inspection, including areas of strength and development, and the opportunity to seek further clarification on any matters of interest.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. Estyn's inspection of local authorities is informed by the [Guidance handbook for the inspection of LGES 2022 \(gov.wales\)](#). The handbook sets out the way in which Estyn conducts inspections of local government education services (LGES), which has changed significantly since our last core inspection in 2012.
- 4.2. During the 2022 - 2023 Municipal Year Estyn undertook an inspection of the Education Services within Rhondda Cynon Taf, which concluded in January 2023.
- 4.3. The Cabinet report appended at **Appendix A** provides details of the inspection process which highlights the information gathering process undertaken in advance of the inspection, the citizen survey undertaken and advises upon the main forms of evidence captured as part of the inspection. This evidence included detail of the work undertaken by the Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.4. The outcome of the inspection is detailed within the Estyn Inspection report appended as **Appendix B** to this document. It is Estyn's expectation that the inspection report is scrutinised in full by the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee, so that the necessary support and challenge can be provided about the Directorate's plans for improvement.

5. PRE-SCRUTINY

- 5.1. Members are reminded that the purpose of pre scrutiny activity is to influence the decisions before they are made. The Education and Inclusion Services Scrutiny Committee continues to have the opportunity to explore and comment on a number of reports in advance of Cabinet's consideration to bring a different perspective to the decisions made and enabling Cabinet decisions to be more informed.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no Welsh language implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1. The involvement of the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee in the pre-scrutiny exercise will contribute to the quality and robustness of Cabinet decision-making.

8.2. The Estyn Inspection report will also need to be considered by the Councils Governance and Audit Committee at a future meeting.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1. The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

11. CONCLUSION

11.1. The undertaking of pre scrutiny by the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Estyn's report on Education Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, will ensure that the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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