

**SCRUTINY OF SERVICE CHANGES SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION
(EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES – SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE)**

The following Overview and Scrutiny 2022-2027 Committee Councillors were present online:-

Councillor J Edwards (Chair)

Councillor B Stephens	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor R Bevan	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor R Davis	Councillor Sera Evans
Councillor S Emanuel	Councillor Sheryl Evans
Councillor C Middle	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor G L Warren	

Co-Opted Members in attendance:-

Mr M Veale

Officers in attendance:-

Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Ms A Richards, Service Director for 21st Century Schools and Transformation
Mr P Griffiths, Service Director – Finance & Improvement Services
Mr S Williams, Director for Highways, Streetcare and Transportation Services
Ms L Kidner, Business Manager, Catering
Mr A Critchlow, Temporary Head of Streetcare Services
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Ms S Daniel, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Item ID	28399
Item Title	Declarations of Interest
Summary	In accordance with the code of conduct there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

Item ID	28400
Item Title	Minutes
Summary	<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the 31 October 2023 and 13 November 2023 were approved as true and accurate reflections of the meetings.</p> <p>Councillor Sera Evans requested that full names are used in the minutes for Councillor Sera Evans and also Councillor Sheryl Evans to avoid confusion over attendance.</p>

Extract from the minutes

Item ID	28448
Item Title	SCRUTINY OF SERVICE CHANGES SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION
Summary	<p>The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the report to Members to seek their feedback to formally respond to the Council's consultations on the Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element and Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy</p> <p>Following discussion, the following feedback, questions and comments were received from Members:</p> <p>Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element</p> <p>A Member asked what the impact on staff will be who run the current Breakfast Club Service and will the staffing levels be able to accommodate any change to the service.</p> <p>The Director of Education and Inclusion Services explained that whilst the impact on staff is difficult to predict at this stage, the impact is not anticipated to be significant and if the demand for the provision increases the service will need to ensure there are appropriate staffing levels in place. The Director acknowledged that recruitment within Catering Services is challenging and having vacancies in this service is fairly typical, and provided reassurance that this will be monitored closely.</p> <p>The Director of Education and Inclusion Services advised that so far, the Community Engagement events had not been well attended but significantly higher responses had been received online. The Director fed back that the emerging themes show that some respondents have asked for flexibility around the charging of 5 days per week as many do not use the service every day. The Director commented however that flexible charging arrangements would come with added administration costs so a balanced view will need to be taken. Several other Members echoed this point as not all families will need to use the facility 5 days per week. Members asked that this element be reviewed and a more flexible option considered prior to a final decision being taken.</p> <p>A Member was concerned that we are adding to the financial pressure of families who are already struggling with the cost of living crisis and asked if there were alternative options that can be explored.</p> <p>The Director of Education and Inclusion Services replied that the Authority does already provide a range of support for families and provided reassurance that the proposal will maintain the current free school breakfasts that are typically available from 8.30am. The proposed charge is</p>

for the childcare provision from 8am. The Director added that the consultation feedback will be captured and will be reported to Cabinet for consideration as part of the decision making process.

In response to comments around the timing element where some schools start their provision later, the Director of Education and Inclusion Services advised that the start / finish times are determined by each individual school and in line with their school day. The Director continued that the service will work with the school leadership teams to ensure a consistent approach is taken and provided reassurance that each school will provide the opportunity for all pupils from nursery to Year 6 to access a free breakfast meal, regardless of start / finish times.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to (specifically in respect of the proposal: Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element): :

1. Consider responding as consultees upon the proposals detailed below in paragraph 5 (of the 'RCTCBC Consultations' report).
2. Consider as a Committee, to provide further comments, observations or recommendations in respect of these proposals prior to Cabinet consideration.
3. Request the Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications to provide Cabinet with the feedback of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.