

EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24TH JULY 2012

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL PLAN EDUCATION & LEISURE 2012/13

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION, LIFELONG LEARNING & LEISURE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with details of the Financial Plan for Education & Leisure for 2012/13, outlining how the Directorates total available budget has been allocated.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The report identifies how the Directorate intends using the allocated resources to ensure that key strategies are achieved.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 As part of the Authority's budget process the Directorate has been given budgetary growth of 1% for additional superannuation costs, excluding Teachers and other school based staff. There has been no growth for non-pay budgets. In addition 1.58% budgetary growth has been allocated to meet the Schools Pledge. The individual Schools budgets (£93m delegated directly through the formula & £6k post 16 grant funded) will need to fund any pay, price and other growth related pressures within the cash limited protected budget.
- 3.2 From 1st April 2012, the budget for the Authority's Catering Service has transferred to the Directorate of the Environment. This follows the change in Management responsibility from the 1st January 2012. The budget for Home to School and College Transport remains with the Directorate of the Environment, with any budget variances ring fenced to Education.
- 3.3 Recognition has been given to service commitments with regards to Library developments in Bargoed, Newbridge & Caerphilly.

In summary growth has been awarded as follows:

	£'000
Bargoed Library	55
Newbridge Library	50
Caerphilly Library	395
Total	500

- 3.4 The Directorate has through the budget process worked to identify efficiency savings and the following are included in the 2012-13 budget:

	£'000
<u>Learning, Education & Inclusion</u>	
Additional Support	30
Behaviour Support	60
Vacancy Management	80
Efficiency Savings Back Office	46
Reconfiguration of Statements Provision	28
<u>Community & Leisure</u>	
Vacancy Management	105
Pension Strain	21
Reduction in Operational Expenses	42
Reduction in Training Support Grants	36
Total	448

- 3.5 In addition to the above specific efficiencies, a saving of £239k has been achieved in relation to demographic changes with regards to school pupil numbers and approximately £57k in relation to changes with regards to the end of essential car user allowances and mileage rate changes.
- 3.6 In total the Directorates net budget for 2012/13 is £127m (excluding Central Support Service Apportionments) of which £99m (which includes £6m post 16 grant funding) forms the individual school budgets.

The detailed Financial Plan pages are included in **Appendix 1**.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct equality implications to this information report, therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken, as all operational work undertaken to implement the Directorate's key strategies will be assessed individually as appropriate.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None at present, but the budget will be kept under review during the year.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In 2012-13 the Directorate will continue with the strategy of prudent vacancy management.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 As detailed below.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

Author: Jane Southcombe, Senior Group Accountant, Education & Leisure
Email: southj@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Councillor Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning
Nicole Scammell, Head of Corporate Finance
Nigel Barnett, Director of Corporate Services
Councillor Keith Reynolds, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Councillor Wynne David, Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny
Councillor DWR Preece, Vice-Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny
Geraint Willington, Principal Admin Officer (LEI)
Sue Richards, Principal Finance Officer (Schools)
David A. Thomas (Senior Policy Officer Equalities and Welsh Language)