

EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL PLAN EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING 2014/15

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with details of the Financial Plan for Education & Lifelong Learning for 2014/15.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Financial Plan outlines the details of how the Directorates total available budget has been allocated.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report identifies how the Directorate intends using the allocated resources to ensure that key strategies are achieved.
- 3.2 The report also supports the Learning theme of “Caerphilly Delivers”, the local service board single integrated plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As part of the Authority’s budget process the Directorate has been given budgetary growth of 1% for potential pay award costs, excluding Teachers and other school based staff. There has also been a 1.5% increase (net of 1.5% fees and charges increases) for non pay budgets. In addition 0.9% budgetary growth has been allocated to meet the Schools Pledge (£935k - £505k funded through General Fund & £430k Additional Pupil Deprivation Grant). The Individual Schools Budgets (£94m delegated directly through the formula & £6m Post 16 grant & revenue support grant funded) will need to fund any pay, price and other growth related pressures within the cash limited protected budget.
- 4.2 The Directorate’s specific savings target for 2014-15, agreed by Council on the 26th February 2014-15, is £1.202m. The table below provides details of the agreed savings:

DIRECTORATE SAVINGS	£’000
- Music Service – more effective use of support & resources	50
- Review of Behaviour Support – provision & service	70
- Inclusion Service Review	124
- ALN Review – delivery & funding review	300
- SEN Recoupment – Regional Working	50
- ALN Advisory Support Service – vacancy mgt & review	15

- Public Libraries – reduce subscriptions budget	7
- Public Libraries – book fund reduction	50
- Public Libraries – review Corporate cleaning of Libraries	20
- Library HQ – Admin. Support – restructure / review	21
- Community Education – Youth outreach rental, change in requirement	10
- Additional Recreation – District Use Secondary / Special realignment of budget	30
- Additional Recreation – Ynys Hywel Social Inclusion – Reduction due to the now non residential nature of service	5
- Teachers Performance Mgt – realignment of budget	25
- External Audit Fees – realignment of budget	10
- School Support Finance – additional SLA income (Core to Premium)	20
- Finance – realignment of income budget	40
- Transport – Home to School / College Transport – efficiency savings on contracts	50
- LMS Contingency	270
- CRB / Police Checks	10
- Vacancy Management	25
TOTAL	1,202

- 4.3 In addition to specific Directorate efficiencies, a saving of £253k has been achieved in relation to demographic changes with regards to school pupil numbers. A further saving of £253k has been achieved as part of the £4.9m, Whole Authority / Corporate savings proposals. This relates to a realignment of the Ty Penallta furniture replacement budget (£46k), casual mileage reduction from 55p to 45p as per the current HMRC rate (£16k) and a review of the Risk Management fund (£191k).
- 4.4 Budget virements to the value of £111k have also been actioned following the transfer of management responsibility from Education & Lifelong Learning to other Directorates within the Authority. This relates to staff posts and property.
- 4.5 In total the Directorates net budget for 2014/15 is £124m (excluding Central Support Service Apportionments) of which £100m (which includes £6m Post 16 funding) forms the Individual Schools Budgets.

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

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The protections afforded to Education (Schools) through the pledge will serve to protect the most vulnerable groups for the purposes of Equalities Legislation.
- 5.2 Consultation with residents through the Council's Public Engagement Strategy and Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance, also ensures that every resident, regardless of circumstances, has the opportunity to have their views heard and considered in the Council's decision-making process.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In 2014-15 the Directorate will continue with the strategy of prudent vacancy management.
- 7.2 The budget proposals include provision to pay the living wage (minimum hourly rate of £7.65).

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

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Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Councillor Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer
Stephen R Harris, Acting Head of Corporate Finance
Councillor Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
Councillor Wynne David, Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny
Councillor DWR Preece, Vice-Chair, Education for Life Scrutiny
David A Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)
Mike Lewis, Principal Accountant Education
Sue Richards, Principal Finance Officer (Schools)
Lynne Donovan – HR Service Manager, Customer Services

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Financial Plan