

**Action Plan Following Recommendations for Improvement from WAO Review of Education Finance**

WAO Proposal	Responsible Officer	Actions	Deadline for Action
<p>P1 In order to provide the necessary challenge to secondary schools with regard to their financial planning, the Council should ensure that it has the capacity to analyse and evaluate schools' curricular planning.</p>	<p>Head of Schools / Secondary Challenge Advisors / Schools Finance Team</p>	<p>A1a To develop and agree a curriculum planning model to be used in each sector</p>	<p>31/12/2017</p>
<p>P2 The Council should work with schools to explore means of improving the efficiency and effectiveness with which schools procure goods and services.</p>	<p>Interim Professional Lead Commercial Services</p>	<p>A2a Analyse the spend data we have for 2016/17 to identify high expenditure areas. Look for buying patterns so that expenditure can be aggregated. Look for significant spend with a supplier. E.g. Supply Teacher Insurance</p>	<p>31/12/2017</p>
	<p>Interim Professional Lead Commercial Services</p>	<p>A2b Encourage the use of existing Corporate Contracts</p>	<p>On going</p>
	<p>Interim Professional Lead Commercial Services</p>	<p>A2c Improve Contract Management – a Schools Service Contract Manager is being recruited.</p>	<p>31/10/2017</p>
	<p>Interim Professional Lead Commercial Services</p>	<p>A2d Review Contract options</p>	<p>31/03/2018</p>
	<p>Interim Professional Lead Commercial Services</p>	<p>A2e Establish Corporate contracts where none exist.</p>	<p>On going</p>
	<p>Interim Professional Lead Commercial Services</p>	<p>A2f Provide support and training for schools including strategic forward planning for purchasing e.g. ICT</p>	<p>31/03/2018</p>

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<p>P3 In order to further embed resource management as a key component of school improvement, the Council should agree with schools: a consistent template for recording key financial information within School Development Plans; and a system whereby schools' financial health might be assessed and reported annually.</p>	<p>School Finance Manager / Senior Challenge Advisors</p>	<p>A3a</p>	<p>Schools finance to meet with challenge advisors to review current information recorded in School Development Plans and develop a new template for recording key financial information which is consistent across all schools</p>	<p>31/01/2018</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager / Senior Challenge Advisors</p>	<p>A3b</p>	<p>Communicate with schools to ensure they are aware of the new template and the requirements for completion and inclusion within the school development plans</p>	<p>30/05/2018</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager / Senior Challenge Advisors</p>	<p>A3c</p>	<p>Implement requirement for all schools to include new financial template within their School Development Plans</p>	<p>01/09/2018</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager</p>	<p>A3d</p>	<p>Review current reporting of school balances to allow comparison of individual schools planned and actual balances to enable an assessment of financial health</p>	<p>31/12/2017</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager / Senior Challenge Advisors / Schools HR</p>	<p>A3e</p>	<p>Termly meeting with Schools Finance Team, Challenge Advisors and Schools HR Team to discuss and review schools. Monthly one to one meetings with HR Team and Finance Team to discuss individual schools</p>	<p>01/09/2017</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager</p>	<p>A3f</p>	<p>Secondary school benchmarking has been carried out and will enable schools to draw comparisons on spend with other similar schools across Powys and Wales</p>	<p>31/10/2017</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager</p>	<p>A3g</p>	<p>Further develop the benchmarking of primary schools financial information to enable schools to draw comparisons on spend with other similar schools across Powys</p>	<p>31/02/2018</p>
	<p>School Finance Manager</p>	<p>A3h</p>	<p>Further develop the benchmarking of primary schools financial information to enable schools to draw comparisons on spend with other similar schools across Wales</p>	<p>31/10/2018</p>

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P4	In order to improve its clarity and transparency, the Council should review its Service Level Agreement with schools for Financial Services, ensuring that the optional element includes only those services that are not statutory functions of the Council.	Schools Finance Manager	A4a	Review the current Service Level Agreement that is in place that was developed with schools and make necessary changes to ensure that statutory functions are not included in the optional elements of the Service Level Agreement	30/11/2017
		Schools Finance Manager	A4b	Consult with Schools on changes to the Service Level Agreement	31/01/2018
		Schools Finance Manager	A4c	Implement new Service Level Agreement	31/03/2018
P5	In order to ensure a common understanding of financial data, the Council should ensure that data reported to members is consistent with that reported to Welsh Government, and that any necessary variance between the two sets is fully explained.	School Finance Manager	A5a	Review data presented to Cabinet in Finance Reports in respect of reporting loans to ensure that figures presented in reports can be easily reconciled and understood compared to figures reported to Welsh Government	30/11/2017
P6	In order to achieve an affordable and adequately resourced school system, the Council should increase the pace and scale of change in implementing its Schools Organisation Policy, 'Planning Education Provision'. In particular, the Council should work with partners inside and outside Wales to ensure that learners aged 16-19 are able to access a suitable curriculum in the language of their choice.	Director of Education / Head of Schools / Senior Manager Schools Transformation	A6a	To undertake a Transformation seminar with Cabinet to agree work programme, to review options for the recommissioning of post 16 education and to implement a work programme arising from A1a	12/10/2017
			A6b	Commence planning and implementation	01/11/2017
			A6c	Commence new delivery model	01/08/2018