

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
25<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder  
for Education**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor David Meredith**

**I understand that two consultants have been engaged to assist with the drafting of a revised Authority Fair Funding School Policy. As these appointments are on top of having engaged a permanent Director of Education can the Cabinet Member for Education make a statement on the Department's use of consultants?**

**Answer**

The consultant being used in support of the Formula Review is Susan Fielden. She is working on a commission from the Resources Directorate team. Susan is recognised as an expert in her field- having advised the UK government on funding policy and having worked closely also with ASCL- the Association of School and College Leaders in analysing education funding. Susan's engagement was a one day visit to undertake a "Health Check" and offer an opinion on the current Schools Funding Formula.

The Education Directorate or Schools Service has made comparatively little use of consultants. At the moment there is one highly experienced part time short term consultant supporting key school improvement and ALN/ Inclusion strategy changes. He has been secured on short term funding which has enabled the Director to fulfil a key leadership role in development of the Corporate Leadership and Governance Plan in response to regulatory concerns.

The other main situation in which the Education Directorate or Schools Service has used consultancy over recent times has been in the technical development of business cases to secure Welsh Government capital funding for major projects of benefit to local communities.

The use of consultancy within the Directorate is therefore very limited and in each case has allowed a legacy of increased skills and experience amongst our local workforce.

The Resources Directorate - Finance are currently looking to engage some interim support to fill the Schools Finance Manager vacancy. This may be filled by either agency or a consultant depending on what is available.