MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD BY TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2020

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, G Breeze, A W Davies, P Davies, J Evans and H Hulme

In attendance: County Councillor Pete Roberts Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Rachel Powell who was on other Council business.

2. MINUTES

The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2020 as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported.

4. THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS/ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS PROVISION IN POWYS - DRAFT DISCUSSION PAPER

Cabinet was asked to give approval for an engagement exercise to develop a new vision and areas for transformation for Special Educational Needs (SEN)/ Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision in Powys. A discussion document outlined the vision for SEN/ALN in Powys and identified 6 areas where transformation was required:

- Mainstream
- Early support/assessment
- Specialist provision for pupils of statutory school age with the most complex needs
- Specialist centres'
- Specialist behaviour provision
- Provision for SEN/ALN learners up to the age of 25.

County Councillor Pete Roberts the Chair of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee advised that the Committee was broadly pleased to see this going out for consultation. The Committee did suggest that the Education Service might wish to undertake specific consultation on SEN/ALN provision for the 19-25 age group. Scrutiny was supportive of the proposed training and upskilling of staff and Teaching Assistants as long as those with experience were not excluded from working within the service area. The Education Service's responses to the recommendations from Scrutiny had been circulated to Cabinet in advance of the meeting.

Cabinet was advised that the engagement exercise would help turn the vision into a strategy. Further proposals would be brought to the Cabinet in October. Cabinet welcomed the report and thanked officers for their work.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves further engagement with stakeholders on the draft discussion paper – 'The future of SEN/ALN provision in Powys' and submission of a final vision and areas for transformation to Cabinet by no later than October 2020.

5. DRAFT WELSH LANGUAGE STANDARDS ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Cabinet received the Draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report for consideration and approval (see Appendix A). The report outlined work undertaken during 2019-20 to ensure compliance with the Welsh Language Standards under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and performance against the requirements of the Standards.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and the Welsh Language paid tribute to the Welsh Language Officer and his team for their work. She highlighted the number of officers in the council taking up Welsh language classes and the Adult Social Care Service's active offer for Welsh speaking clients. She reported that the Council continued to lobby Microsoft for a simultaneous translation service on Teams.

RESOLVED to approve the draft Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2020 for it to be published on the Council's public website by 30 June 2020.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)