



# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### To review and monitor the Schools' Development Fund

Whilst the 2018/19 Settlement secured from Welsh Government resulted in a better position than that anticipated, Carmarthenshire Council faced real term reductions which, in conjunction with significant additional costs, made the budget process extremely difficult. Decisions had to be made in respect of prioritisation of services and the inclusion of substantial budget reductions of over £6m.

Following this process and consideration of the feedback from the budget consultation the Council revisited some of its initial budget proposals. The Executive Board decided to protect schools ensuring that they received a standstill budget for 2018/19 rather than the planned reduction. Schools received the same amount of funding as they did in 2017/18 (£108.7m). Whilst this standstill budget was a positive outcome, when considering reductions to other service budgets, it was recognised that it would be a challenge budgetary position for some of Carmarthenshire's schools.

In addition to the standstill budget the Council set aside a £500,000 'invest to save fund' to support schools in making efficiency improvements. It was planned that the **Schools' Development Fund** would assist schools to make savings in their budgets to manage the financial situation. It would facilitate changes in the way schools work, which could include working in more efficient ways, working together to share costs or, as a last resort, reduce the workforce.

The Fund would operate on a similar basis to the Council's Development Fund however it was agreed that the application process needed to be adjusted to enable schools to have easier access to the fund to facilitate the pace of change and generate future savings to their budgets.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: *Edy Morgan*

Director of Education and Children's Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities <b>NONE</b>	Legal <b>NONE</b>	Finance <b>YES</b>	ICT <b>NONE</b>	Risk Management Issues <b>YES</b>	Staffing Implications <b>NONE</b>	Physical Assets <b>NONE</b>
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### Finance

500k was allocated as part of the 2081/19 budget for the development of a fund to support schools.

### Risk Management Issues

Repayment of funding needs to be monitored closely and any slippage addressed or the fund will not be available to other schools as and when required.

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: *Edy Morgan*

Director of Education and Children's Services

1. Scrutiny Committee- NA
1. Local Member(s)- NA
2. Community / Town Council- NA
3. Relevant Partners- Headteachers/Chairs of Governors- information in regard to Fund has been shared.
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations- information in regard to Fund has been shared at the Education, Children & Schools Employee Relations Forum

### Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

**THERE ARE NONE**