

# Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Subject

Purpose: Discussion paper to re-establish school commitment sessions

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- The role of scrutiny in school improvement
- The role of scrutiny in the context of accountability
- Basic principles for engagement with schools
- Possible themes to be considered for the next academic year

### Reasons:

- As a result of Pandemic, there have been delays in arrangements for visits to schools. New guidance from the Welsh Government provides specific guidance on the responsibilities of education scrutiny
- The national guidance firmly outlines the responsibilities of democratic scrutiny in the context of school improvement and ensuring accountability for the quality of our education support services for schools
- To ensure that democratic scrutiny has the opportunity to understand the impact of the authority's support services on maintaining high quality provision in our schools.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cynghorydd Glynnog Davies

Directorate Education and Children Services

Name of Head of Service:

Aneirin Thomas

Report Author:

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Designations:

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**Executive Summary**  
**Education & Children Scrutiny Committee**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Re-establishing engagement sessions with schools.

Recent national guidance on self-evaluation and school improvement states that the focus of democratic accountability arrangements including education scrutiny should be on the quality and impact of governance and accountability arrangements with regard to schools and the effectiveness of local authority to support schools and learners.

This guidance therefore provides a new point of reference for the Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, outlining Welsh Government's expectations of them in contributing to school improvement.

It is vital that schools, especially those in need of greater support, are able to receive effective support from peers and the local authority, in order to bring about sustainable improvement. The role of this committee is key in ensuring that the appropriate support is reaching our schools and that the impact of this support is felt by practitioners and pupils alike.

**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: Aneirin Thomas Head of Education and Inclusion

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

# CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Aneirin Thomas Head of Education and Inclusion

**1. Local Member(s)**

N/A

**2. Community / Town Council**

N/A

**3. Relevant Partners**

N/A

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

N/A

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

N/A

**Include any observations here**

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
N/A		