

Overview & Scrutiny Budget Consultation 2015/16

Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 23 January, 2015

Section	Issue/Question	Response
EDUCATION & YOUTH		
	Is there any proposals to raise Council Tax	At this stage there are no proposals to raise Council Tax above 3%. This would be considered as a last report to meet the budget gap.
	In the 2010/11 budget proposals what was the overall cut to the education budget.	This was 2%.
	Has any work been carried out to present to the Welsh Government the impact reduced budgets would have on class sizes.	Whilst reviewing the funding formula last year, one of the factors taken into account was class sizes. Locally the Council has done a lot of modelling work to show how funding reduction would impact schools.
	Continuing see increased reference to schools using the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to pay for services.	This was dependent on the eligibility criteria and needed to be reflected in the schools own funding formula.
	The documents show a budget reduction of 2.5% in Post 16 education provision, is this correct?	Yes that is correct.

<p>1. Cease Cognitive Ability Test</p>	<p>Concern over proposals as the CAT test is a useful tool to track each child individually.</p>	<p>Consultation has been undertaken with the Teacher Federation who agree that this test is nice to have but not essential. Little difference between the data from the CAT test as is received through GCSE examination results.</p>
	<p>Concern that the loss of the CAT test would be a significant loss.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>6. Primary & Early Years Education</p>	<p>Not clear how the savings would be met through the early entitlement of the Foundation Phase Grant.</p>	<p>Appreciate that the savings of £317k is a high figure, but this has been considered with great thought and method to improve ways of working.</p> <p>There was the opportunity to maximise and use another funding stream.</p> <p>It was agreed that this be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme, in order to track the impact of this proposal.</p>
<p>8. Further remodelling of Music Service to move to 'full cost recovery'</p>	<p>Concern that this would be the tipping point of what was affordable including the cost of exam fees. The School Music Service provides pupils with a number of skills.</p>	<p>The School Music Service was highly valued and this was reflected in the document. Other services have sustained similar levels of reduction in funding.</p>
	<p>There are no comments on schools that may be willing to subsidise the</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	School Music Service but for those where this is not viable this would have a net effect on parents.	
13. Pupil Referral Service	Concern over the reduction of Pupil Referral Unit provision which was felt to be an investment in children's future.	The proposal would ensure a consistent approach across all School in Flintshire. It was agreed that this be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme, in order to track the impact of this proposal.
	Would like to see this matter closely monitored to ensure no negative impact on pupils.	
ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE (1)		
6. Sports Development – Lets Walk Cymru	This is a small amount of money for something that has such a large impact. There are also a number of healths benefits to the work carried out by a large number of volunteers. Could this proposed efficiency saving be reduced to £10k.	Still see walking as important due to the health outcomes. It is important to retain the generic support the Council provides but this can be done in a more cost effective way.
THEATR CYMRU	There is a need for more productions to be put on at Theatr Clwyd.	Acknowledged.
	Support to provide more in-home productions and changes to business practices.	As above.