

**Education Investment Panel (EIP)**

Online Teams Meeting: 26 February 2026 10:30 - 12:30

Minutes of Panel meeting

Present	Apologies
<u>Panel members:</u>	
Emyr Harries (EH) - Chair	REDACTED
REDACTED	
<u>Capital Programme Team Attending:</u>	
REDACTED	

REDACTED

Agenda item	REDACTED
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<b>7.3 Secondary Schools with post-16</b>	
REDACTED	REDACTED
<b>7.3.2</b>	<b>WG Official 1</b> presented an overview of the FBC as outlined in paper 7.3.2.
<b>RCT - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Cwm Rhondda – FBC</b>	<p><b>WG Official 1</b> flagged that the project involves a difficult site with unavoidable abnormal costs, but these have been validated through detailed discussions with the LA and strong market testing. The school must be built in a two-tiered layout due to the terrain, requiring extensive groundworks and ground-condition management. Cost-reduction options have been explored, and the contractor is already engaged, giving confidence that the figures are realistic. Medr queried the sixth-form size; RCT provided evidence of demand, which will be incorporated into the grant award letter.</p> <p><b>WG Official 1 recommended that Panel approve the FBC</b></p> <p><b><u>Panel Discussion/Requests</u></b> To support clearer scrutiny as oversight increases, it was asked that future Panel papers include a concise benchmarking summary that totals all abnormal costs, shows how the total compares with the benchmark, and briefly explains any remaining variance such as site constraints, school size, or additional capacity.</p> <p><b><u>Decision:</u></b> <b>Panel agreed to recommend approving the FBC to enable a grant award letter to be issued, subject to additional clarity being provided on realistic future demand and long-term sustainability of the 150-place sixth form, and alignment with wider Welsh medium tertiary planning across RCT.</b></p> <p><b><u>Action:</u></b> Team to draft MA seeking approval of the FBC and proceed to grant award letter.</p>

**ACTION – ALL BUISNESS CASES**

Team to improve the benchmarking narrative in the Panel papers by presenting abnormal costs, showing how they relate to the benchmark gap, and explaining any remaining variance.

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Date of Panel's next meetings – 5 March 2026