

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Tuesday, 24th February, 2015 at 10 a.m.

PRESENT:

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)C.Leyshon – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors:

(Mrs.)J.Bunnage	M.Griffiths	B.Morgan
(Mrs.)A.Calvert	P.Jarman	B.Stephens
A.L.Davies MBE	(Mrs.)S.Jones	G.Thomas
J.Elliott	R.Lewis	L.Walker

Members making the Call-in:

County Borough Councillors

M.J.Powell
P.Jarman (also a Member of the Committee)
P.Wasley

Co-opted Members

Mr.J.Fish – Voting Elected Parent/Governor
Mr.J.Horton – Voting Elected Parent/Governor
Mr.M.Cleverley – Representing NASUWT and Teachers' Panel
Mr.D.Price – Representing UNISON
Mrs.C.Jones – Representing the National Union of Teachers and Teachers' Panel
Mr.C.Jones – Representing GMB

Cabinet Members:

County Borough Councillors

A.Morgan – Leader of the Council
(Mrs.)E.Hanagan – Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning
G.Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services and Equalities
M.Webber – Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs & Council Business

County Borough Councillors in Attendance:

C.Davies, S.Rees-Owen, M.Weaver, E.Webster and C.J.Wilis

Officers in Attendance:

Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.C.B.Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet Office & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, S.Evans-Fear and C.J.Williams.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in respect of Agenda Item 2 – “Medium Term Service Planning – School Admission Arrangements – Funding for Nursery Provision”:

- (Mrs.)J.Bunnage – “I am a Governor of Maes y Bryn, Llantwit Fardre”
 - (Mrs.)A.Calvert – “I am a Governor of two Schools”
 - J.Elliott – “I am a Governor of two schools”
 - Mr.J.Fish (co-opted Member) – “I am Chair of Govrnors at Maesybryn Primary School and I am the Vice-Chair of Governors at Coedpenmaen County Primary School”.
 - M.Griffiths – “I am a Governor of YGGG Llantrisant and Pontyclun Primary”
 - (Mrs.)E.Hanagan (Cabinet Member) – “I am a grandparent and on the Governing Body of Tonyrefail Primary School and Tonyrefail Comprehensive School”
 - G.Hopkins (Cabinet Member) – “I am a Governor of Llanhari Primary School)
 - P.Jarman – “I have a relative who works for the Council. On the 4th November, 2014, following a request I made to the Standards Committee, I was granted a dispensation in my capacity as leader of the Opposition to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and Overview and Scrutiny Committees on matters relating to all services affected by the budget process for a period leading up to and including the formal approval of the budget for 2015/2016 by the Council.”
 - (Mrs.)S.Jones – “I am a Governor of Llwynypia Primary School and the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body of Ynyscynon Early Years”
 - R.Lewis – “I am a Governor of YGG Abercynon”
- Note:** Councillor R.Lewis also declared a **prejudicial** interest later on in the meeting – “my close relative (mother) works in a school (YGG Abercynon) that could be affected by any decision taken”. Councillor Lewis left the meeting prior to any debate and decision taken.

- A.Morgan (Leader of the Council) – “I am on the Governing Body of two schools”.
- B.Morgan – “Governor on a school mentioned in the report”.
- M.J.Powell – “I am a Governor of a Primary School that maybe affected”
- S.Rees-Owen – “I am a Governor of a school that could be affected”
- B.Stephens – “I am the Chair of Governors of Dolau Primary School and Governor of Ysgol Llanhari”
- G.Thomas – “I am a Governor of Rhigos Primary School and Penderyn Primary School”.
- L.Walker – “I am a Governor of Ysgol Ty Coch School”
- P.Wasley – “I have a grandson who may be affected”
- M.Weaver – “I am on the Governing Body of Ton Pentre Primary School”.
- M.Webber (Cabinet Member) – “I will in the future have grand children that will be in the education system and I am on the Governing Body of Heol y CelynSchool”

63 INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Committee and for the benefit of those members of the public in attendance she called on the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to explain the Call-in procedure.

The Director explained the process and purpose of the Call-in. He outlined the composition of the Committee which included co-opted Members and explained that those Members who had instigated the call-in were also in attendance to outline their reasons for calling-in the Cabinet decision taken on the 12th February, 2014 in respect of – Medium Term Service Planning – School Admission Arrangements – Funding for Nursery Provision; Councillor Jarman who was one of the three signatories to the call-in is a Member of the Committee and would therefore be able to vote on the matter. He also pointed out that the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning together with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs & Council Business and the Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Services & Equalities along with the appropriate Officers were also in attendance to make comment or answer any questions of the Committee.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that before commencing the debate, it was important to agree the procedure to be adopted and he drew Members’ attention to pages 1 and 2 of the report which outlined the recommended procedure to be followed and the issues to be taken into account in considering the decision taken by Cabinet on the 12th February, 2015.

Members were advised of the information before them, namely:-

- Appendix A – Copy of the report presented to Cabinet on the 12th February, 2015.
- Appendix B – The Decision Notice of Cabinet.
- Appendix C – Extract from the Council's Constitution of Scrutiny Procedure Rules re: Call-in.
- Appendix D – Copy of prescribed Call-in form.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services briefly highlighted to the Committee the changes to the Call-in provisions following the Council's Annual Meeting in May, 2014 and clarified that two of the three Members who had instigated the Call-in were not Members of the Committee and that Councillor Jarman who was a signatory to the Call-in was a Member of the Committee and could therefore vote on the matter. The Director of Legal and Democratic Services continued by outlining the reasons given by the three Members in requesting the Call in, at Appendix D and which were reproduced in paragraph 2.7 of his report. He referred to paragraph 2.8 of the report which proposed that one of the three Members be given the right to make a final address to the Committee immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal and also explained that if the proposal to have the matter referred back to Cabinet was unsuccessful, then the Cabinet decision would take effect from the date of the meeting i.e. 24th February, 2015.

RESOLVED – to adopt the procedure as set out in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.

64 **CALL-IN – MEDIUM TERM SERVICE PLANNING – SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS – FUNDING FOR NURSERY PROVISION**

The three Members who had called-in the decision namely, County Borough Councillors M.J.Powell, P.Jarman and P.Wasley thanked the Committee for their time and proceeded to outline their reasons for the Call-in.

Following the address by the three Members, the Chair called on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning together with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs & Council Business and the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services and Equalities; and the appropriate Officers to comment on the issues raised.

Following the Committee's debate of the issue, the Chair invited County Borough Councillor M.J.Powell to sum up the argument in favour of referring the Cabinet decision in relation to the Medium Term Service Planning – School Admission Arrangements – Funding Nursery Provision to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

Following consideration of the issues and in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** – that the matter not be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration and that the decision taken on the 12th February, 2015 take effect as from the date of this meeting i.e. 24th February, 2015.

**C.Leyshon
Chair**

The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.

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