

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the special meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Services Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 2nd April 2014 at 9.30 am.

Present:

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

County Borough Councillors:

(Mrs) J Bunnage	A L Davies MBE	(Mrs) A Calvert	J Elliott
P Jarman	(Mrs) S Jones	R Lewis	B Morgan
G Smith	B Stephens	L G Walker	C Williams

Co-opted Members:-

Mr J Fish – Parent Governor
Mrs S Sevany – Parent Governor
Mr D Price – Unison

Members making the Call in:-

County Borough Councillors:

G Holmes
K Privett
P Wasley

Cabinet Members:-

(Mrs) E Hanagan

In attendance as Observers

(Mrs) T Bates	R Bevan	(Mrs) G Bonetto	S Bradwick
M Powell	(Mrs) J S Ward	(Mrs) M Webber	D Weeks

Officers in Attendance:

Mr S Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr C Lee – Group Director, Corporate Services
Mr P J Lucas – Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mr C Bradshaw – Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
Ms K May – Democratic Services Manager
Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

67 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M Adams, S Evans Fear, M Griffiths and G Thomas. Apologies for absence were also received from the following co-opted members: Mr J Horton, Mrs C Jones; Mr A Minton and Mr C Jones.

68. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Committee.

County Borough Councillor K Privett, signatory of the call-in, raised concerns in relation to the short period of time Members had to consider the documentation given its volume. The Director of Legal & Democratic Services explained that the matter had to be dealt with as a matter of urgency and pointed out that the bulk of the documentation was not new having been provided for the Cabinet meeting held on 19th March 2014.

For the benefit of those members of the public in attendance the Chairman 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 the Cabinet decision in. He also pointed out that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning and the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning were also in attendance to 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 19th March 2014 in relation to the Review of the School Catchment Areas.

Members were advised of the information before them, namely,

- Appendix A – Copy of the report presented to Cabinet on the 19th March 2014
- 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 duly completed by three Scrutiny Members.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services highlighted the reasons given by the three Members in requesting the Call in, at Appendix D and which were reproduced for ease of reference at 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 membership 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 ie 2nd April 2014.

RESOLVED –To adopt the procedure as set out at paragraphs 2.6 to 2.10 of the report

69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, the following declaration of personal interest was made in relation to Agenda Item 2;

Mr J Fish – Co-opted Member – “I am a parent governor of Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School and Chair of Governors of Maesybryn Primary School which would form part of the new primary cluster.”

70. CALL-IN – REVIEW OF SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA

The three Members who had called-in the decision namely County Borough Councillors G Holmes, K Privett and P Wasley were afforded the opportunity to address the Committee and they proceeded to outline their reasons for the Call-in.

Following the address by the three scrutiny Members the Chairman called on the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning to comment on the issues raised.

Having heard the arguments from those Members who had made the Call in and the responses from the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning the Chairman invited the Committee to ask any questions they may have of the Director and Cabinet Member before opening the debate.

The Committee having debated the issue, the Chairman invited County Borough Councillor G Holmes to sum up the argument in favour of referring the Cabinet decision in relation to the review of catchment areas back to the Cabinet for re-consideration.

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 19th March 2014 take effect as from the date of this meeting i.e. 2nd April, 2014.

C Leyshon
Chairman

The meeting closed at 10.45 am.

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