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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 8th December 2014

Agenda Item 2

SUBJECT:
Improving Primary Education in Wattstown

**Cabinet Members Present
County Borough Councillors:**

A.Morgan (Chairman), P.Cannon, R.Bevan, A.Crimmings, M.Forey,
E.Hanagan, G.Hopkins and M.Webber

**Other Members in Attendance
County Borough Councillors:**

L.Langford, A.Davies, G.Davies and E.Webster.

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

- To Note the referral from the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee in respect of the decision to close Aberllechau Primary School on 31 December 2014 and transfer the pupils and the Learning Support Class to Pontygwaith Primary School; for the following reasons as highlighted within the scrutiny Call In's:-

1. The Equality Impact Assessment and other information considered by Cabinet does not fully address issues raised in the consultation such as the impact of employment for parents (and in particular mothers) who might be unable to work due to the extra school distance needed to be travelled.
2. The fact it is a deprived area.
3. There does not appear to be any assessment of the impact on Looked After Children.
4. Breach of due process. The proposed Highway Improvements have commenced despite the fact that the Cabinet's decision cannot be implemented until the 3rd December, 2014 to allow for Call In.
5. The decision is premature in advance of a follow up Estyn Inspection of the school within 3 months from 10th November, 2014.
6. Concerns on highway safety regarding Children's safety.

- That following further consideration on the matter, to uphold the Cabinet decision taken on the 20th November 2014 to close Aberllechau Primary School on 31st December 2014 and transfer the pupils and the Learning Support Class to Pontygwaith Primary School.

N.B – with the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillor L Langford spoke at the meeting.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

- Having re-considered the Cabinet reports of the 23rd September and 20th November, 2014 and the additional information contained within the officers report of the 8th December, 2014, following questions put to officers at the meeting, Members were content that the issues identified within the scrutiny Call In's had been addressed and upheld their original decision of the 20th November.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

- Report to Cabinet – 23rd September, 2014 & 20th November 2014.
- Statutory Notice to progress the proposal to progress to the next stage was published on 3rd October, 2014 and the 28 day statutory period to receive

objections ended on 30th October, 2014.

- Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on the 3rd December, 2014,

4. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

- In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor R.Bevan declared a personal and prejudicial interest – "I am a Governor of Pontygwaith Primary School which would be the receiving school if it was decided to close Aberllechau Primary" Councillor Bevan left the meeting when the matter was discussed and voted upon.

5. DISPENSATION TO SPEAK (AS GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE):

N/A

6. (a) IS THE DECISION URGENT AND NOT TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

N/A as in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, (Rule 17.1(e)) the decision of Cabinet on the 20th November was referred back to Cabinet by the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, following a Call In, and this is the final decision taken.

6. (b) SIGNATURE OF MAYOR OR DEPUTY MAYOR OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE CONFIRMING AGREEMENT THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION IS REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR IT BEING TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 17.2:

N/A

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(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)


.....
(Proper Officer)

8/12/14
.....
(Dated)