



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 12th February 2015.

Agenda Item 2

SUBJECT:

Medium Term Service Planning – School Admission Arrangements – Funding for Provision of Nursery Education.

**Cabinet Members Present
County Borough Councillors:**

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

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

S. Bradwick, P. Griffiths, B. Morgan, P. Jarman, T. Leyshon, R
Lewis, M. Powell, K. Morgan, S. Rees-Owen E. Webster and M
Weaver.

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

- 1.1 To note that in officers' opinion the Council would be acting in compliance with its relevant statutory duties (as outlined in the report together with its appendices) should Cabinet proceed with implementation of the proposal as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.
- 1.2 That implementation of the proposal would ensure the provision of nursery education for children from the term after their third birthday is sufficient for the children of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.3 That following consideration of the outcomes of the Consultation, the Equalities Impact Assessment and further information collated by officers during the Consultation to implement the proposal as outlined below:-
 - That the funding arrangement for the provision of Nursery Education for Rhondda Cynon Taf be based on:-
 - Part time (half day) (15 hours per week) provision from the term after a child's 3rd Birthday (pre-nursery and nursery);
 - Full time (30 hours per week) provision from the term after a child's 4th Birthday (nursery and reception)
 - Funding up to 15 hours per week (subject to capacity) of nursery provision in private, voluntary or independent registered education providers from the term following the child's third Birthday where there is no suitable availability within a school (n.b. in this context 'suitability' shall relate to the availability of a place at a school which, in the councils opinion, is within a reasonable radius of the child's ordinary place of residence i.e. where those with parental responsibility for the child live).
 - That children already in receipt of full time nursery provision (during the 2014-2015 academic year) will continue to be funded for full time provision i.e. they will not be affected by implementation of the proposal.
 - That the provision of funding for Free School Meals is to continue for those children eligible and in receipt of either part time or full time nursery provision (reducing the saving by £0.105M in a full year which equates to £0.071M part year impact in 2015/16).
 - That the provision of Home to School Transport continue in line with the Council's current Leaner Travel Policy and in accordance with that policy, transport would only be arranged to coincide with the start and end of the normal school day and not at lunchtimes.
- 1.4 That implementation of the decision taken in respect of the proposal, as outlined in 1.3 above, takes effect from 1st September, 2015, delivering full year savings of £2.061M which equates to £1.259M part year impact in 2015/16.

1.5 That the Group Director, Corporate & frontline Services updates the draft 2015/16 budget strategy to reflect the financial implications of the decision taken, prior to Council on the 4th March 2015 and as part of this update, any savings achievable in 2015/16 should be used to reduce the level of transitional funding (i.e. use of the Medium Term Financial Planning and Service transformation Reserve) needed to deliver a balanced budget for that year.

N.B – with the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, K. Morgan and M. Powell addressed the Cabinet on the proposal before Cabinet Committee.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

- The need to consider service change proposals as part of the Council's medium Term Service Planning arrangement, specifically in the context of the need to reduce spend and enable the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibility and set a balanced budget from 2015/16 onwards.
- The need to consider all the documentation before Cabinet and information provided by Officers following additional queries at the meeting, including the results of the consultation exercise, additional information collated by officers during the consultation and the Equalities Impact Assessment.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

- As outlined within section 5 of the report, a consultation exercise was initiated by Cabinet following consideration of the proposal at a Cabinet meeting on the 10th October 2014, with the Consultation originally scheduled to run from the 21st October - 5 p.m. 16th December 2014.
- Cabinet decision taken on the 16th December 2014 to extend the consultation exercise until 5p.m. 30th January 2015, with further additional information being made available to consultees.

4. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

- County Borough Councillor R.Bevan declared a personal interest – “I previously declared an interest in relation to a family member of mine being affected by any potential changes to the current provision. This position no longer applies. I am also the Chair of governors at Tylorstown Primary School and Governor of Pontygwaith Primary School, and this interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.
- County Borough Councillor E.Hanagan declared a personal interest “Grandmother with children who will be affected and Governor of Tonyrefail Primary School and this interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption

set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.”

- County Borough Councillor M.Forey declared a personal interest “My grandson will be affected directly by implementation of the proposals.”.
- County Borough Councillor M.Webber declared a personal interest “I have grandchildren that will be affected and I am Governor of Heol Y Celyn Primary school and this interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.
- County Borough councillor A Morgan declared a personal interest - “ I am the Chair of governors at Glenboi Primary and Darren Las Primary School and this interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.
- County Borough Councillor G Hopkins declared a personal interest – “ I am a Governor of Llanharan Primary School and this interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.
- County Borough Councillor K Montague declared a personal interest – “ I am a Trustee of Friends of Ferndale – I do not receive any payments for this role and also I am Governor of Maerdy Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.
- County Borough Councillor A Crimmmings declared a personal interest – I am a Governor of Aberdare Park Primary School and this interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) of the Code of Conduct.

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

- In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor P.Jarman stated in relation to the agenda item that “On 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 the 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.”

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

YES NO ✓

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication i.e. **20th February 2015** to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

6. (b) IF YES, REASONS WHY IN THE OPINION OF THE DECISION-MAKER THE DECISION IS URGENT:

N/A

. (c) 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)

12.02.15
(Dated)