



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 03 October, 2018

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillor A Morgan (Chair), Councillor M Webber (Vice-Chair),
Councillor R Bevan, Councillor A Crimmings, Councillor G Hopkins,
Councillor M Norris, Councillor J Rosser, Councillor R Lewis and
Councillor C Leyshon

Other Councillor(s) in Attendance:-

Councillor S Belzak
Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor P Jarman
Councillor G Thomas
Councillor L Walker

Agenda Item : 2

**SUBJECT: 21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals To Improve Education
Provision In The Greater Pontypridd Area**

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To note the information contained within the report.
2. To commence consultation on the following specific proposals as outlined within the report:
 - a) To close the sixth forms of Hawthorn High School, Pontypridd High School and Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School and transfer the post-16 provision to Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School or Coleg y Cymoedd, Nantgarw. It is proposed to invest £10m in improving the sixth form facilities at Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School. Those students who opt for a Roman Catholic education, can apply for sixth form provision at St David's College, Cardiff, and home to school transport will be provided by the Council;
 - b) To close Pontypridd High School and Cilfynydd Primary School and create a new 3-16 'all through' school on the site of the current Pontypridd High School site, investing £4.7m in improved facilities;
 - c) Close Hawthorn High School, Hawthorn Primary School and Heol-Y-Celyn Primary School and create a new 3-16 'all through' school on the site of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary Schools, investing £12m in improved facilities. The local authority designated ALN specialist class located at Hawthorn High School will also transfer to the new school.
 - d) Close Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and construct a new £10.7m Welsh Medium Primary School building on the site of the current Heol-Y-Celyn Primary School. The pupils attending YGG Pont Sion Norton, together with those educated through the Welsh Medium at Heol-Y-Celyn will transfer to the new school, subject to parental preference. The Heol-Y-Celyn pupils educated through the English Medium will transfer to the new 3 – 16 school at Hawthorn, again subject to parental preference.
 - e) That all the proposals be implemented by 2022.

N.B with the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillors S Belzak & L Walker spoke on this item.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

To improve the quality of the education provision available in the Greater Pontypridd area of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

To begin the required statutory consultations for the proposals, as contained within the report.

3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES/FUTURE GENERATIONS - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

The Council's Corporate Plan commits to "Continue to invest in improving school buildings, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century." The proposals considered in the report have taken into account the seven well-being goals and the five ways of working.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

As outlined within section 6 of the report, The consultation processes in respect the proposals will be undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. These arrangements stipulate that consultation must be undertaken when the proposals are at a formative stage and that consultation documents must be prepared and circulated to prescribed consultees, as well as being published on the Council website. It is proposed that the consultation period will run from the 15th October to 31st January 2019.

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

None

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

County Borough Councillor M Webber declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of Heol Y Celyn Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor A Crimmings declared the following personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the item and left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon "I am employed by Coleg y Cymoedd"

County Borough Councillor S Belzak declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of YGG Pontsionnorton & Cilfynydd Primary but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor S Bradwick declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of Aberdare Community School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

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

N/A

8. (a) IS THE DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Yes

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication i.e. **9 October 2018** to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

8.(b) IF NO, REASONS WHY IN THE OPINION OF THE DECISION-MAKER THE DECISION IS EXEMPT OR NON APPLICABLE:

I. COUNCIL / SCRUTINY FUNCTION (CALL IN IS THEREFORE NON APPLICABLE):-
Reason: N/A

II. URGENT DECISION:-
Reason N/A

8.(c) IF DEEMED URGENT - 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:

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(Mayor)

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(Dated)

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PUBLICATION

Publication on the Councils Website:- **Wednesday, 3 October 2018**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓