



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 24 January, 2019

Cabinet Members Present:

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

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor R Bevan and Councillor T Leyshon.

Other Councillor(s) in Attendance:-

Councillor S Bradwick
Councillor G Caple
Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor Hooper

Agenda Item : 5

**SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO RE-ALIGN LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION
WITHIN RCT**

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To note the information contained within the consultation report (as attached to the report), which includes details of items of correspondence received during the consultation exercise and notes of the various meetings held.

2. To note that Rhondda Cynon Taf will maintain its current level of significant financial investment in its Learning Support Class (LSC) provision whilst realigning its current provision to address identified gaps in existing provision.

3. To progress the following proposals to realign the mainstream Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) by issuing the appropriate statutory notices.
 - a) To create a new Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with SEBD at Ysgol Nant Gwyn;
 - b) To create a new Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at Treorchy Comprehensive School.
 - c) To re-designate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at Darran Park Primary and Foundation Phase Observation and Assessment Class at Llantrisant Primary to become Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSCs for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs;
 - d) To relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Caradog Primary School to Cwmbach Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2.
 - e) To close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Caradog Primary School – 8 pupils would access specialist placement at Cwmbach Primary School
 - f) To close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School – no pupils would be affected by the closure
 - g) To close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Penrhys Primary School – no pupils would be affected by the closure;

- h) To close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Social, Emotional, Behavioural Difficulties in Penywaun Primary School – no pupils would be affected by the closure;
 - i) To close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Pontygwaith Primary School – no pupils would be affected by the closure;
 - j) To close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School – the class would have only 2 pupils in 2019 and in discussion with the pupil's parents, alternative provision would be provided for the two pupils;
4. To not progress the proposal outlined in paragraph 2.3.5 of the report in respect of the relocation of Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Communication Disorders based at Hafod Primary School to Porth Community School (3-16 provision) creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4, but to instead create a new Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Communication Disorders in Porth Community School so that learners are provided with the opportunity to benefit from an all through education from foundation phase to key stage 4 provision in this setting. The Council has previously consulted on this model as part of proposal to establish a new 3-16 school in Porth Community School. Progressing in this way would maintain stability for Hafod learners whilst also creating continuity in provision for learners in Porth Community School.
5. To progress with the proposal outlined in 2.3.4 to relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Penrhys Primary School to Maerdy Primary School. However, in partnership with the family, the one remaining child currently accessing the Foundation Phase LSC will be offered a bespoke package of support to remain within mainstream provision in Penrhys Primary School (should this be the preferred option for the family), prior to progressing to the school based Key Stage 2 LSC in Penrhys Primary School.

N.B with the agreement of the Leader, County Borough Councillor Caple spoke on this item.

** It was noted at the meeting that the report presented to Members contained an error in the numbering in respect of the recommendations sequence. It was confirmed that the proposals listed under Recommendations 2.3 should run from 2.3.1 to 2.3.12 consecutively.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (the School Organisation Code) so that an improved continuum of SEN provision can be achieved in RCT.

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

The proposals will ensure that two of the Council's three key priorities will be met. These include Economy: Building a strong economy and People: Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.

The proposals will ensure that some of the Council's most vulnerable pupils will have the best chance of achieving positive outcomes. The redirection of valuable resources from SEN settings which have surplus places will enhance opportunities for providing successful inclusion in local community schools. The proposals will ensure more efficient and effective use of Council resources which promotes the development of social inclusion and positive outcomes for learners. This will also have a beneficial impact on transport costs and on carbon emissions.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. A consultation ran from the 19th October to the 21st December 2018 and full details are outlined with the consultation report attached to the report.

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

[Cabinet](#) – 3rd October, 2018.

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

County Borough Councillor R Bevan declared the following personal interest in respect of the item- "I am on the Governing Body of Pontygwaith 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 S Bradwick declared the following personal interest in respect of the item- "I am on the Governing Body of Caradog 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 G Caple declared the following personal interest in respect of the item- "I am on the Governing Body of Porth Community School and Hafod 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”

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. **30 January 2019** 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:- **Thursday, 24 January 2019**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓