



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 18 July, 2019

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 J Cullwick; Councillor G Davies,
Councillor M Diamond; Councillor H Fychan; Councillor E Griffiths;
Councillor L Hooper, Councillor M Powell &
Councillor M Weaver

Agenda Item : 3

**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 Objection Report in Appendix A of the report, which includes a summary of the 435 objections received during the statutory notice period, and the comments provided in response to the objections and Appendices B-D being the Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments.
2. To implement the proposals as published in three of the Statutory Notices which would:
 - 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 by September 2022. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
 - Close Hawthorn High School and Hawthorn Primary School and create a new 3 – 16 ‘all through’ school on the site of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary Schools by September 2022, with the Local Authority designated ALN specialist class located in Hawthorn High School, as well as the current pupils receiving education through the medium of English at Heol y Celyn Primary School, transferring to the new school. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
 - Close Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and Heol y Celyn Primary School and open a new Welsh medium primary school on the site of the current Heol y Celyn Primary School by September 2022.
3. The associated catchment changes detailed in the explanatory notes to the Statutory Notices - such catchment changes becoming effective from 1st September 2022. This excludes the proposed change to the catchment area of Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School as agreed by Cabinet on 21st March 2019 which was not included within the Statutory Notices.
4. To note that as previously reported, the School Organisation Code makes provision for local authorities to determine their own statutory proposals, with the exception of the proposal relating to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School. The Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School proposal relates only to the removal of the sixth form, the implementation (or non-implementation) of which will not prevent or undermine the effective implementation of the other proposals. In accordance with the School Organisation Code this has been referred to Welsh Ministers for determination.
5. To note that a separate report on funding arrangements would be presented to Council in due course which would also be subject to approval by Welsh Government.

6. To note that following the decision to proceed with the proposal to construct a new Welsh medium primary, a separate report to establish a new ALN learning support class at the new Welsh medium school would be presented in due course.

N.B. With the agreement of the Chair, the following County Borough Councillors and Members of the public spoke on this item:

County Borough Councillors: H Fychan, S Belzak, M Powell & L Hooper.

Members of the Public - Rev. E Williams; Ms B Lises & Ms H Gulliford.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to advise Members of the outcome of the recent publication of four Statutory Notices in respect of proposals to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the greater Pontypridd area.

The need to implement the proposals in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (the School Organisation Code).

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 a learning environment fit for the 21st Century."

As outlined in section 9 of the report the proposals considered in the report contribute to all 7 well-being goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 and due regard has been made to the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been undertaken in accordance with the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which was introduced on the 1st October 2013 and recently updated in November 2018.

Consultation took place between 15th October 2018 and 31st January 2019 and full details of this process were published in a Consultation Report, which was presented at the meeting of Cabinet held on 21st March 2019 and subsequently published on the Council website

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

Cabinet – [3rd October, 2018.](#)

Children & Young People – [December 2018.](#)

Cabinet – [21st March, 2019.](#)

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

County Borough Councillor M Webber declared the following personal interests 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."
- "My Grandchildren attend a school referenced within the proposals"

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 J Rosser declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - " I was appointed at the Council's 22nd AGM (17th May, 2017) to the Board of Governors – Coleg Morganwg (now Coleg y Cymoedd) for a 4 year term 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 R Lewis declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – "I am on the Governing Body of YGG Abercynon but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

Mr C Bradshaw " I was appointed at the Council's 22nd AGM (17th May, 2017) to the Board of Governors – Coleg Morganwg (now Coleg y Cymoedd) for a 4 year term"

County Borough Councillor H Fychan declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of YG Evan James and Coedylan 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 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 M Powell declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of Hawthorn High School & Coedpenmaen 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 L Hooper - declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I have a Family Member who will be affected"

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. **24 July 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 PRESIDING MEMBER OR DEPUTY PRESIDING MEMBER 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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(PRESIDING MEMBER)

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(Dated)

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PUBLICATION

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APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓