

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Tuesday, 24th February, 2015 at 11.35 a.m.

PRESENT:

County Borough Councillor (Mrs.)C.Leyshon – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors:

(Mrs.)J.Bunnage	P.Jarman	B.Stephens
A.L.Davies MBE	(Mrs.)S.Jones	G.Thomas
J.Elliott	R.Lewis	L.Walker
M.Griffiths	B.Morgan	

Members making the Call-in:

County Borough Councillors

S.Rees-Owen

M.Weaver

L.G.Walker (also a Member of the Committee)

Co-opted Members

Mr.J.Fish – Voting Elected Parent/Governor

Mr.J.Horton – Voting Elected Parent/Governor

Mr.M.Cleverley – Representing NASUWT and Teachers' Panel

Mr.D.Price – Representing UNISON

Mrs.C.Jones – Representing the National Union of Teachers and Teachers' Panel

Mr.C.Jones – Representing GMB

Cabinet Members:

County Borough Councillors

A.Morgan – Leader of the Council

(Mrs.)E.Hanagan – Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning

County Borough Councillors in Attendance:

C.Davies,

G.Hopkins (Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services & Equalities)

M.Webber – Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs & Council Business

C.J.Wilis

Officers in Attendance:

Mr.S.Merritt – Chief Executive
Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate & Frontline Services
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
C.Hanagan – Service Director, Cabinet Office & Public Relations
Ms.K.May – Head of Democratic Services

65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L.M.Adams, S.Evans-Fear and C.J.Williams.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in respect of Agenda Item 2 – “Medium Term Service Planning – Service Change Proposal – the Music Service.

- (Mrs.)J.Bunnage – “I am a Governor of Maes y Bryn, Llantwit Fardre”
- Mr.M.Cleverley (co-opted Member) – “My daughter also benefits from the Music Service”.
- J.Elliott – “I am a Governor of two schools”
- Mr.J.Fish (co-opted Member) – “Two of my daughters receive music lessons from the music service and are also members of the RCT ensembles and four counties orchestra”.
- M.Griffiths – “I am a Governor of YGGG Llantrisant and Pontyclun Primary”
- (Mrs.)E.Hanagan (Cabinet Member) – “I am a grandparent and on the Governing Body of Tonyrefail Primary School and Tonyrefail Comprehensive School”
- G.Hopkins (Cabinet Member) – “I am a Governor of Llanhari Primary School)
- Mr.J.Horton (co-opted Member) – “I have a daughter who benefits from the music system in school and externally”.
- P.Jarman – “I have a relative who works for the Council. On the 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 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.”
- Mr.C.Jones (co-opted Member) – “I am an elected Member of Bridgend County Borough Council”
- (Mrs.)S.Jones – “I am a Governor of Llwynypia Primary School and the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body of Ynyscynon Early Years”
- R.Lewis – “My mother works at YGG Abrcynon”

- A.Morgan (Leader of the Council) – “I am on the Governing Body of two schools”.
- B.Morgan – “Governor on a school mentioned in the report”.
- S.Rees-Owen – “I am a Governor of a school that could be affected”
- B.Stephens – “I am the Chair of Governors of Dolau Primary School and Governor of Ysgol Llanhari”
- G.Thomas – “I am a Governor of Rhigos Primary School and Penderwyn Primary School”.
- L.Walker – “I am a Governor of Ysgol Ty Coch School”
- M.Weaver – “I have grandchildren who are in school and benefit from the Music Service. I am on the Governing Body of Ton Pentre Primary School”.
- M.Webber (Cabinet Member) – “I will in the future have grand children that will be in the education system and I am on the Governing Body of Heol y Celyn School”

67 **PROCEDURE**

The Director explained the process and purpose of the Call-in. He outlined the composition of the Committee which included co-opted Members and explained that those Members who had instigated the call-in were also in attendance to outline their reasons for calling-in the Cabinet decision taken on the 12th February, 2014 in respect of – Medium Term Service Planning – Service Change Proposal – the Music Service, Councillor Walker who was one of the three signatories to the call-in is a Member of the Committee and would therefore be able to vote on the matter. He also pointed out that the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning together with the appropriate Officers were also in attendance to make comment or answer any questions of the Committee.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that before commencing the debate, it was important to agree the procedure to be adopted and he drew Members’ attention to pages 1 and 2 of the report which outlined the recommended procedure to be followed and the issues to be taken into account in considering the decision taken by Cabinet on the 12th February, 2015.

Members were advised of the information before them, namely:-

- Appendix A – Copy of the report presented to Cabinet on the 12th February, 2015.
- Appendix B – The Decision Notice of Cabinet.
- Appendix C – Extract from the Council’s Constitution of Scrutiny Procedure Rules re: Call-in.
- Appendix D – Copy of prescribed Call-in form.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services briefly highlighted to the Committee the changes to the Call-in provisions following the Council’s

Annual Meeting in May, 2014 and clarified that two of the three Members who had instigated the Call-in were not Members of the Committee and that Councillor Walker who was a signatory to the Call-in was a Member of the Committee and could therefore vote on the matter. The Director of Legal and Democratic Services continued by outlining the reasons given by the three Members in requesting the Call in, at Appendix D and which were reproduced in paragraph 2.7 of his report. He referred to paragraph 2.8 of the report which proposed that one of the three Members be given the right to make a final address to the Committee immediately before a vote is taken on the proposal and also explained that if the proposal to have the matter referred back to Cabinet was unsuccessful, then the Cabinet decision would take effect from the date the meeting i.e. 24th February, 2015.

RESOLVED – to adopt the procedure as set out in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.

68 **CALL-IN – MEDIUM TERM SERVICE PLANNING – SERVICE CHANGE PROPOSAL – THE MUSIC SERVICE**

The three Members who had called-in the decision namely, County Borough Councillors S.Rees-Owen, M.Weaver and L.G.Walker thanked the Committee for their time and proceeded to outline their reasons for the Call-in.

Following the address by the three Members, the Chair called on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills & Lifelong Learning together with the appropriate Officers to comment on the issues raised.

Following the Committee's debate of the issue, the Chair invited County Borough Councillor S.Rees-Owen to sum up the argument in favour of referring the Cabinet decision in relation to the Medium Term Service Planning – Service Change Proposal – the Music Service to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

Following consideration of the issues and in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules the Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** – that the matter not be referred back to the Cabinet for reconsideration and that the decision taken on the 12th February, 2015 take effect as from the date of this meeting i.e. 24th February, 2015.

**C.Leyshon
Chair**

The meeting closed at 12.37 p.m.