

24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Re: Consultees in relation to - Statutory School Organisation – Proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen**

Dear Cabinet Members,

I have been instructed by this Council's Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to **Statutory School Organisation – Proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen**, and for the comments to be included in the public consultation before its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting.

The Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee had the opportunity to act as consultees and gave their feedback and comments in respect of the proposal at its meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Members undertook a constructive discussion in respect of the report presented by the Director of Education and Inclusion Services.

The full discussions of the committee in respect of this item of business can be viewed [here](#).

In summary, the following points were discussed in relation to Statutory School Organisation – Proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School with pupils transferring to Coedpenmaen.

- A Member raised concerns regarding the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School when there was very limited room for expansion in Coedpenmaen Primary School and was mindful of the limited amounts of open space around the areas of both schools in the proposal, for any future new school developments, despite indications that Pontypridd had been singled out as a prime area for expansion and development, in the LDP.
- Members sought clarification with the backlog maintenance figure and the recent investment and asked that further detail be provided when the report was presented back to Cabinet.
- Members sought confirmation that the projected pupil numbers (looking at live birth data, and pupil numbers, which it was acknowledged was monitored daily) had been considered in consultation with planning colleagues in terms of the growth of population in and around the Pontypridd area, despite indications that Pontypridd had been singled out as a prime area for expansion and development, in the LDP.
- Members asked that further detail in respect of the market conditions were provided in the report back to Cabinet.

- A Member was mindful that a great deal of emphasis was put on educational outcomes, recognising that parents had to make a choice, based on what was best for their children, and that it was important, as an Education Committee, that educational outcomes, were at the forefront.
- Members asked that further exploration of the models and questions around the Federated model, be included in the proposals back to Cabinet.
- A Member, recognising the often difficult decisions needed to be taken with any school reorganisation regardless of the rationale, suggested a sharing of good practice from previous school mergers or closures, which would give Members and local residents confidence with regards to the success of previous school re-organisations.
- A Member expressed concerns in respect of the robustness of data provided within the report, commenting on the confusing format with several data sets contained within and acknowledging the data provided by local Members which was not reflected in the report. It was requested that a robust analysis of all data was provided in the report to be presented back to Cabinet.
- A Member sought reassurance that appropriate consultees were included in the consultation including, RhAG (Rhieni ar gyfer Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh Education), recognising the opportunity for Welsh Language Immersion, as referenced in the report, should the proposal go ahead.
- A Member sought clarification that for those parents that wished their children to continue their education at YGG Awel Taf, whether those in the catchment qualified for school transport.
- A Member felt concerned that Coedpenmaen Primary school didn't comply with the equality act and asked how this was being addressed and requested that this should be made clear in the final report to Cabinet.
- A Member, acknowledging the complexity of the reports in front of Members, queried the figure quoted for out of catchment, e.g., several children who attend Trallwng Infant school, are out of catchment, but it was alluded to that the catchments of Coedpenmaen PS and Trallwng Infant school overlap, so the figure quoted for out of catchment should be amended, and asked that this should be made clear in the final report.
- Members raised concern about the potential issue for on-site parking for staff, as a result of the proposal.
- A Member sought clarification if the number of pre-school aged children joining the remaining schools, could be accommodated, as it was not clear from any of the tables in the report.

- The Member sought clarification around the knock on effect for siblings of those already attending Coedpenmaen PS, should the proposal to close Trallwng Infants' School, go ahead.
- Members sought clarification around the position regarding capacity of Trallwng children who may wish to transfer to Ysgol Afon Wen or Ysgol Bro Taf and felt any capacity pressures should be indicated in the report to Cabinet.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hanagan', written over a faint circular stamp.

**Christian Hanagan**  
**Service Director Democratic Services and Communication**