



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 25 February, 2021

Cabinet Members Present:

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

Other Councillor(s) in Attendance:-

Councillor L Walker

Agenda Item : 7

**SUBJECT: 21st Century Schools Programme - Update on the Proposals to improve
Education Provision in the Cynon Valley**

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To note the progress made to date on the projects; and
2. To note and approve the variations to the Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun proposals since the last report *and agree to propose the required Council contribution via prudential borrowing be submitted to Council (subject to the approval of the Final Business Case).*

Note: text in italics was added at the meeting

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to provide an update to Members on the projects to improve education in the Cynon Valley, following the report brought before Cabinet in September 2018, these were:

- The investment in a new school for Hirwaun Primary School;
- Improving Welsh medium education provision in the Cynon Valley by:
 - Increasing the supply of places in the Upper Cynon Valley by making Penderyn Primary School, currently a dual language school, a Welsh medium Primary School;
 - Investing £4.5M to improve and increase the capacity of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar to meet the demand for Welsh medium school places;
 - Investing £12.1M to increase the capacity and improve the educational facilities at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun to meet the demand for Welsh medium places.

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 contribute to all seven wellbeing 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. This is well documented in the Business Cases submitted to the Welsh Government.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

The consultation processes in respect of the Hirwaun/Penderyn proposals was undertaken as outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. Cabinet approval to proceed with these proposals was granted in April 2019.

A formal school organisation consultation on the proposals to extend Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun is not required as the increase in capacity at both schools is below the threshold at which a statutory consultation is necessary. We will, however, continue to undertake local, informal consultation with both schools, including with pupils, staff and governors throughout the duration of the projects,

This has commenced in respect of the works at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun as the staff, pupils, governors and local residents have been engaged in the PAC (Pre-Application Consultation) in relation to the plans for the new facilities. The consultation for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar is currently underway and will end shortly.

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

None

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services, County Borough Councillor R Lewis declared the following personal interest: 'I am Chair of Governors YGG Abercynon, which is referenced within the report'

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. **3 March 2021** 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 on the Councils Website:- **Thursday, 25 February 2021**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓