



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 17 June, 2021

Cabinet Members Present:

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

Agenda Item : 8

**SUBJECT: 21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to Reorganise Primary
Schools, Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Provision in the Greater Pontypridd
Area**

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To note the information contained within the Report.
2. To note the impact of the Judicial Review on programme and costs.
3. To delay the implementation date of the proposals in all schools, with the exception of Cardinal Newman CS School, to September 2024; and
4. To note that Outline Business Cases for each of the projects will be submitted to Welsh Government for consideration in July 2021 with a decision expected in August 2021.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to provide Members with an update on the proposals to reorganise schools in the Greater Pontypridd area. The proposals are:

- The alteration of the age range of pupils that may be admitted to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School, from 11–19 years to 11–16 years, resulting in the removal of the sixth form provision;
- The closure of Pontypridd High School and Cilfynydd Primary School and the creation of a new 3–16 ‘all through’ School on the site of the current Pontypridd High School. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- The closure of Hawthorn High School and Hawthorn Primary School and the creation of a new 3–16 ‘all through’ School on the site of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary Schools, 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;
- The closure of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and Heol y Celyn Primary School and the opening of a new Welsh medium Primary School on the site of the current Heol y Celyn Primary School.

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

There are links to RCTCBC’s Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the priority:

- Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper
- Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education.

Due regard has been made to all seven well-being goals and the Five Ways of

Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of decisions, on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

The consultation process in respect of this proposal was undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. These arrangements were scrutinised during the Judicial Review and found to have been fully compliant by the Court of Appeal.

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

[Cabinet – 18th July 2019](#)

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct:
The Deputy Leader declared the following personal interest: "Cardinal Newman school is within my ward"; and
The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services declared the following personal interest: "I am employed by Coleg Y Cymoedd which is referenced within the Impact Assessment".

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:

No

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 The allow for the completion of the Business Cases for each of the projects by the July 2021 deadline.

8.(c) IF DEEMED URGENT - SIGNATURE OF PRESIDING OFFICER OR DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER 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:



17.06.21

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(PRESIDING OFFICER)

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(Dated)

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PUBLICATION

Publication on the Council's Website:- **Thursday, 17 June 2021**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓