



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 26 September, 2022

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillor M Webber, Councillor G Caple, Councillor C Leyshon,
Councillor M Norris and Councillor B Harris

Apologies for Absence:

A Morgan
A Crimmings
R Lewis

Agenda Item : 6

SUBJECT: Proposal to develop a new Special School in RCT

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To note the content of this report.
2. To review the updated data which highlights the increasing pressure on our current special school provision.
3. To agree to submit a variation to the approved Strategic Outline Programme to the Welsh Government, in accordance with the Sustainable Communities for Learning funding approval processes, to request an increase to the agreed capital funding envelope to deliver this much needed facility.
4. To agree to receive a further report setting out feedback from WG, the conclusions of the site appraisal and a proposed consultation document for consideration.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to:

1. Address the demand for additional capacity in special schools in the County Borough of RCT to accommodate the growth in learner numbers.
2. Acknowledge that the statutory duties placed upon the Council to deliver the obligations of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET Act), will compound the pressures placed on the special school sector and our capacity to make statutory provision for the learners that require it.
3. Secure appropriate provision for pupils with additional learning needs and avoid long-term budget pressures for the Council.
4. Enable us to progress with a proposal to establish a new special school.

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

There are links to RCTCBC's Education and Inclusion Services Strategic Plan for 2022 to 2025 and its mission: 'To deliver equity and excellence in Education and enhanced well-being for all'. The proposal will also support delivery against the five strategic priorities, most notably Strategic Priorities 2 and 3.

There are links to RCTCBC's Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the priority 'Prosperity'.

Due regard will be given to all seven well-being goals and the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, during project development.

The proposal will ensure that some of the Council's most vulnerable learners will have the best chance of achieving positive outcomes. The proposal will ensure more efficient and effective use of resources which promotes the development of social inclusion and positive outcomes for learners. This will also have a beneficial impact on transport costs and on carbon emissions.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

If approval is granted, the consultation process in respect of the proposal will be undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's Statutory Code – School Organisation Code (2nd Edition) (011/2018).

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

None

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

None

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 to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

The closing date for Call-In is 5pm on the 29 September 2022

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 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:

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(PRESIDING OFFICER)

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(Dated)

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PUBLICATION

Publication on the Councils Website:- **Monday, 26 September 2022**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓