



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 18 December, 2023

Cabinet Members Present:

Councillor A Morgan (Chair), Councillor M Webber (Deputy Chair),
Councillor G Caple, Councillor A Crimmings, Councillor R Lewis,
Councillor C Leyshon, Councillor M Norris and Councillor B Harris

Other Councillor(s) in Attendance:-

Councillor D Grehan

Agenda Item : 4

**SUBJECT: Consultation on the proposals to realign Additional Learning Needs
mainstream Learning Support Class Provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf**

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To consider the information contained within the report and the Objection Report in Appendix 1, which includes details of objections received during the Statutory Notice period, and the comments given in response to the objections.
2. To implement the proposals as published in the Statutory Notices which includes:

Proposal 1: Relocation of the Observation and Assessment LSC at Penrhiwceiber Primary School to Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from September 2024.

Proposal 2: Transfer the LSC for pupils in years 3-6 with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) at Abercynon Community Primary School to create a through provision in the Primary Phase at Perthcelyn Primary School taking effect from September 2024.

Proposal 3: Establish one Early years Assessment and Intervention LSC for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs at Abercynon Community Primary School taking effect from April 2024.

Proposal 4: Establish two Welsh medium Primary Phase LSCs at the new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin (YGG Awel Taf) for pupils with significant ALN taking effect from September 2024.

Proposal 5: Establish one LSC for pupils in years 7-11 with ASD at the new 3-16 school on the Hawthorn Primary/High School site (Ysgol Afon Wen) taking effect from September 2024.

3. To the publication of the relevant Decision Notices in respect of any proposals taken forward as required by the School Organisation Code.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to advise Members of the outcome of the publication of the Statutory Notices in respect of the proposal to realign Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).

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

The proposals will support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan for 2020-2024 specifically:

- People:
 - Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do:
 - Improving the social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people by increasing the range of specialist services available.
- Places:
 - creating the capacity for meeting the needs of residents within their communities.
- Prosperity:
 - Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education:
 - Improving outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

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 Priority 2: Supporting educational settings to deliver a transformational curriculum, high quality teaching and learning and improved outcomes for all.
- Strategic Priority 3: Ensuring equity and support for vulnerable learners and their families.
- Strategic Priority 5: Delivering 21st Century Learning Environments and innovative services for our learners and communities.

The proposals will ensure there is renewed capacity to focus on prevention which is a key statutory requirement of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and a key element of the Council's Corporate Plan. Due regard has been made to all seven wellbeing 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.

The proposal could contribute towards achieving some of the seven wellbeing goals by:

- **A Healthier Wales** – Accommodation at the proposed host schools will continue to support opportunities for enhanced outdoor spaces. As well as supporting the full range of curriculum activities these facilities are also available for community use.
- **A More Equal Wales** – Providing enhanced opportunities for pupils to access specialist provision.
- **A Wales of More Cohesive Communities** – All host schools are fully accessible and integrated community school with a dedicated area designed within so that the local community can safely use the facilities, both during and after the school day.

- **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language** – establishing new primary phase Welsh medium LSC provision will support of the Council's WESP.
- **A Globally Responsive Wales** – pupils will have access to extra-curricular activities which encourage healthy lifestyles for the school and wider community.

The proposal could contribute towards achieving some of the five ways of working by:

- **Long Term** – To ensure that the Council undertakes its statutory duties in relation to the ALNET Act (2018) that requires local authorities to keep under review the arrangements for supporting pupils with ALN within their area and consider whether these are sufficient, including a statutory requirement to take all reasonable steps to create a bilingual system of support for pupils with ALN.
- **Prevention** – The Council believes that the proposal represents the best opportunity to safeguard and sustain educational standards for the future and provides a platform for further improvement.
- **Integrations** – Host schools are fully accessible and integrated community schools.
- **Collaboration** – The Council will continue to work effectively with internal and external partners to ensure the changes brought about by these proposals will meet the short and long term needs of pupils, parents/carers, staff and the wider community.
- **Involvement** –The proposal is made in accordance with the [School Organisation Code \(2nd Edition\) \(011/2018\)](#) and seeks the views of a prescribed list of stakeholders including pupils, parents/carers, staff and the wider community. As such face to face meetings will be arranged with the staff, school councils and governing bodies.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been undertaken under the arrangements outlined within the School Organisation Code 2018. The consultation took place between the 5th June 2023 and the 14th July 2023 and full details of this process were published in a Consultation Report, which was presented at the meeting of Cabinet held on the 11th September 2023 and subsequently published on the Council website.

Further information in respect of the consultation can be found at section 8 of the report.

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

[Cabinet – 15th May 2023](#)
[Cabinet – 18th September 2023](#)

6. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

The Deputy Leader, County Borough Councillor M Webber declared the following personal interest in respect of the item: "I am a Governor of Heol y Celyn Primary School and I am an Interim Governor of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf."

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 21 December 2023

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 Council's Website:- **Monday, 18 December 2023**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓