



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 24 January, 2024

Cabinet Members Present:

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

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor G Caple

Agenda Item : 4

SUBJECT: Continuation of free Breakfast Club provision in Primary and Special Schools with the introduction of a charge for the additional childcare element

1. DECISION MADE:

Agreed –

1. To note the information contained within the attached Consultation Report, which includes feedback received from the online surveys, emails and letters, the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13th December 2023 and the frequently asked questions posted on the Council's website;
2. To the preferred fee of £1 per day, rounded down to £60 per term, for the additional childcare element, which is available prior to the commencement of free breakfast club provision, to be implemented from the start of the spring term 2024 or as soon as is practicable thereafter; and to confirm the ability to access this provision for up to three days per week only, at a term time fee of £40;
3. That eFSM pupils should be exempt from the proposed charge and agree a further category of concession whereby parents/carers would only pay for the first two children of primary age, living in the same household, accessing the provision;
4. That the additional income to be generated is ring fenced and reinvested back into school budgets as part of the Council's proposed 2024/25 Revenue Budget Strategy; and
5. To delegate authority to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services to undertake and conclude the necessary actions to implement the decision of Cabinet.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

The need to advise Cabinet on the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of a proposal to introduce a charge for the additional childcare element, which is available prior to the commencement of free breakfast club provision in primary and special schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf, noting eligible Free School Meal (eFSM) pupils would be exempt from any charge.

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

There are links to Making a Difference, the Council's Corporate Plan for the years between 2020 and 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:**
 - Ensuring RCT is one of the safest places in Wales, with high levels

of community cohesion where residents feel safe:

- Supporting the voluntary, community and faith sectors to help build active communities, 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 all children and young people.

There are links to the Council's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services Strategic Plan for the years between 2021 and 2024, specifically:

- **Strategic Priority 3:**
 - Ensuring equity and support for vulnerable pupils and their families.

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 take into account the long term impact of decisions, on communities and to take steps to address and prevent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.

The charging proposals could contribute towards achieving some of the seven well-being goals by:

- **A Prosperous Wales** - Should the proposal proceed, the continuation of the childcare element of breakfast clubs will allow working parents/carers to be economically active.
- **A Healthier Wales** – the proposal will be a fully accessible service, providing good nutrition and a social context for young people to socialise with their friendship groups and an opportunity to play before the start of the school day.
- **A Wales of More Cohesive Communities** – Fully accessible breakfast clubs, integrated into our local community schools with a dedicated area to play and eat breakfast before the start of the school day.
- **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language** – the provision of breakfast clubs will allow a daily opportunity for staff and pupils to develop their Welsh language skills.
- **A Globally Responsive Wales** – The proposals could build upon the good working breakfast club practices and initiatives already in place to further develop extra-curricular activities to encourage healthy lifestyles for the school community.

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

- **Long Term** – The proposal allows parents/carers to continue to be economically active, contributing to the long-term aim of a viable economy for Wales.
- **Prevention** – The Council believes that the proposal continues to support pupils with a free healthy breakfast, improving the health and concentration of children, assisting in raising standards of learning and attainment and to get the best possible start to the school day.
- **Integrations** – The proposal will provide a fully accessible and integrated service providing dedicated support for children with additional learning needs to participate in everyday school life.
- **Collaboration** – The Council will continue to work effectively with the governing body and parents/carers to meet the needs to the wider community.
- **Involvement** – The proposed changes will seek the views of stakeholders including pupils, parents/carers, staff and the wider community.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

The consultation was conducted in-house and the consultation period commenced on 27th November 2023 and ended on 8th January 2024.

The Headteacher, Chair of Governors and Breakfast Club Staff members in all Primary and Special schools in RCT were emailed a letter to share with parents/carers on the proposal.

An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation in the online survey.

The online survey was available on the Council's website for anyone to complete for the duration of the consultation period. Frequently asked questions were also available and can be viewed in Appendix 3 to the report. A consultation email address and telephone number were also available for enquiries.

Public engagement events were held at Rhondda Sports Centre, Llantrisant Leisure Centre and Michael Sobell Sports Centre, where officers were available to answer any questions on the proposal.

5. PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL:

[Cabinet - 20th November 2023](#)

[Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 13th December 2023](#)

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 January 2024

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:- **Wednesday, 24 January 2024**

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓