



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET**

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 21 March 2019 at 10.30 am at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

#### **County Borough Councillors - Cabinet Members in attendance:-**

Councillor A Morgan (Chair)

Councillor M Webber	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor M Norris	Councillor J Rosser
Councillor R Lewis	Councillor C Leyshon

#### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive  
Mr C Jones, Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Mr G Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services  
Mr N Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services  
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services  
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources  
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services  
Ms G Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services  
Mrs. J Allen, Head Of Attendance And Wellbeing Service  
Ms L Howells, 21st Century Schools Officer  
Mr T Jones, Service Director – ICT & Digital Services  
Ms Z Lancelott, Head of Community Wellbeing & Resilience  
Mr C Nelson, Transportation Manager  
Ms A Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools

#### **Others in attendance**

Councillor S Belzak  
Councillor J Bonetto  
Councillor J Brencher  
Councillor G Davies  
Councillor M Diamond  
Councillor H Fychan  
Councillor D Grehan  
Councillor L Hooper  
Councillor P Jarman  
Councillor S Pickering  
Councillor M Powell  
Councillor L Walker

#### **133 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made pertaining to the agenda:

## **Agenda item 2 – 21st Century Schools Programme**

County Borough Councillor M Webber declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter –

- " I am on the Governing Body of Heol Y Celyn Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."
- "My Grandchildren attend a school referenced within the proposals"

County Borough Councillor A Crimmings declared the following personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the item and left the meeting when the item was discussed and voted upon "I am employed by Coleg y Cymoedd"

County Borough Councillor J Rosser declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - " I was appointed at the Council's 22nd AGM (17th May, 2017) to the Board of Governors – Coleg Morganwg (now Coleg y Cymoedd) for a 4 year term but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct".

County Borough Councillor S Pickering declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter – "I am on the Governing Body of Hawthorn High School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct"

County Borough Councillor S Belzak declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - " I am on the Governing Body of YGG Pontsionnorton & Cilfynydd Primary but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor M Powell declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of Hawthorn High School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct"

County Borough Councillor L Hooper - declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of Gwauncelyn Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct"

County Borough Councillor J Brencher - declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of Maesycoed and Coedylan Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct"

County Borough Councillor J Bonetto declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of Hawthorn High School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct"

County Borough Councillor H Fychan declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter - "I am on the Governing Body of YG Evan James and Coedylan School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct"

County Borough Councillor L Walker declared the following personal interest in respect of the matter – "My grandchildren attend a school referenced within the proposals".

Mr C Bradshaw " I was appointed at the Council's 22nd AGM ( 17th May, 2017) to the Board of Governors – Coleg Morganwg (now Coleg y Cymoedd) for a 4 year term"

### **Agenda Item 3 – Education & Inclusion Services Planned Capital Programme**

County Borough Councillor J Rosser declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Alaw Primary School and Trealaw Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor T Leyshon declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Trehopcyn Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor R Lewis declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of YGG Abercynon School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor A Morgan declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Darrenlas Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor A Crimmings declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Aberdare Park Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor M Norris declared the following personal

interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Cwmclydach Primary School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor P Jarman declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Caegarw Primary School and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

County Borough Councillor G Davies declared the following personal interests in respect of the matter – " I am on the Governing Body of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen School but my interest is not prejudicial because of the exemption contained within paragraph 12(2) (a)(iii) of the Members Code of Conduct."

**134 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - PROPOSALS TO REORGANISE PRIMARY SCHOOLS, SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND SIXTH FORM PROVISION IN THE GREATER PONTYPRIDD AREA**

The Director of Education & Inclusion Services advised Members of the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of proposals to reorganise primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form provision in the greater Pontypridd area, following the Cabinet decision on the 3rd October, 2018.

Members were referred to the appendix of the report which provided detailed information regarding the consultation process that was undertaken with the relevant stakeholders, including the rationale behind the proposals, which for the benefit of the Members the Director provided detail on at the meeting. The Director also confirmed that details of all of the consultation feedback had also been made available to the Cabinet Members from the 1st March, to ensure Members had sufficient time to review the detailed consultation responses received.

The Director informed the Cabinet Members that following the consultation period all the proposals had been revisited and the impact of the proposals on the quality and standards of education, the community, and transport arrangements, had been reassessed.

The Director advised that following the consultation it was proposed that all of the original proposals be taken forward apart from the proposal in respect of Gwauncelyn School catchment area. The Director recommended to Cabinet that the catchment area for Gwauncelyn Primary School remains within the Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School catchment area and does not transfer to the new 3-16 school for Hawthorn. She advised that since the consultation commenced in October 2018, the large brownfield site at Llanillid, Llanharan has been purchased by two major developers and the Council has entered into site master planning with the developers, to provide pre-planning advice and guidance. For the site to be developed, a new secondary school would be required, which, would have an impact on a number of other schools as the new housing development grows. Furthermore, the Council's Local Development Plan would need to be reviewed in 2021, or an equivalent plan developed

Members were advised that if the proposals outlined within the report did

proceed, it was proposed that £37.4 million be invested in building new or refurbishing / remodelling existing buildings to ensure that the pupils of Rhondda Cynon Taf have a high quality, viable and sustainable 21st Century learning environment.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning thanked the Director, her staff and the consultation team for the work undertaken in respect of the consultation. She thanked all those that responded to the consultation for the feedback, including the work undertaken by the Children & young People Scrutiny Committee and the additional meetings that were provided to assist in discussions regarding the proposals. The Cabinet Member commented that it was disappointing to note that 47% of the responses had been provided on a modified template from the original, which therefore did not provide the full views that needed to be captured adding that 109 of these forms were duplicates with different signatures, however she added that all had still been considered as part of the process.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Director and her team for the early sight of the consultation responses from the 1st March, which provided Cabinet Members the additional time needed to review the proposals and reflect on the responses.

The Cabinet Member responsible for the Welsh Language commented on the proposals adding that the investment if taken forward would provide a clear opportunity to grow the Welsh language provision within the County Borough and assist with achieving the Welsh Government target of increasing the number of Welsh speakers by 2050.

The Leader welcomed the following County Boroughs to address the Committee in respect of the proposals:

County Borough Councillor S Belzak, L Hooper, J Brencher, H Fychan, M Powell, S Pickering and L Walker.

Following the Councillors comments the Leader welcomed the following members of the public who spoke on the item:

Mrs E Haf, Ms L Chinnock-Davies, Ms L Williams, Ms C King, Mr E Mead, Ms J Warner, Ms K Bury, Ms S Churchill & Mr. J Beynon.

The Director, Education & Inclusion services responded to the comments made by both County Borough Councillors and the members of the public, advising that the proposed investment of £37.4 million would improve the quality of education provided within the County Borough for the future of the young people, adding that the rationale behind all of the proposals, as outlined within the report was compelling when looking at the data available. The Director commented on issues of sustainability adding that the current situation with deficit budgets would continue if changes were not considered. The Director also spoke of the priority in investing in Welsh medium provision across the County Borough and addressed the transport issues that had also been highlighted. The Director concluded by stating that the wellbeing of learners was paramount and it was essential that the needs of learners were met, which could only be achieved through quality investment.

The Deputy Leader thanked all of the Members and the public for their valuable contributions to the meeting and commented that no objections to the proposal had been received from parents of Heol -y-Celyn primary School. The Deputy Leader sought further clarification from the highways officer in respect of the

proposed journey for students at the YGG Pontsionnorton to which the officer clarified.

The Cabinet for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services also clarified with the highways officer the transport provision for those students seeking 6th form provision and those students who could potentially choose to attend YGG Abercynon Primary School rather than the proposed Heol-Y-Celyn. The Highways Officer added that in respect of 6th form provision, this would be provided beyond a 2mile radius and that in respect of primary schools, transport would be provided to the nearest school or catchment school by a 1.5mile radius, adding that those parents choosing to send their children to YGG Abercynon Primary from YGG Pontsionnorton would be provided transport to either of the schools.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services queried what process were in place to ensure road safety provision and any mitigating factors taken into consideration to alleviate an additional traffic. The Highways officer advised that the normal processes would be taken forward with a transport assessment and safe route assessment, which would all be undertaken before a school was opened.

The Leader confirmed with the Director of Education & Inclusion Services that there were currently surplus places with both YGG Abercynon Primary School and YGG Evan James.

The Cabinet Member for Welsh Language reflected on a decision taken by the Council in respect of the changes and investment in YG Llanhari and Ysgol Garth Olwg and the worry of the public at the time, agreeing that change was never easy, however he commented on the benefits now being witnessed and reiterated the need to invest in new facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing spoke that in his view the proposals outlined within the report were taking education forward and in the right direction and commented on the success of other 3-16 school provision witnessed across the County Borough. He added that it was important that the Council ensure that the facilities available to young learners was fit for purpose, with better facilities and learning environments being provided. He added that he appreciated the reservations held by some parents to the proposals in respect the transition but added that he felt the proposals was moving education in the right direction.

The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services clarified the Councils position in respect of the accountability of Coleg y Cymoedd. The Chief Executive advised that as a Board Member this was viewed very seriously, commenting on the recent positive Estyn inspection held at the College. The Leader also commented on this aspect, adding that due to a difference in data collection the performance of the college could not be compared to those of 6th form provision, due to a difference in the measures used to calculate the performance.

The Leader also took the opportunity to clarify the Council's Welsh education strategy provision and the Director confirmed that significant focus had been placed on the need to increase the provision across the County Borough and the significant commitment to invest £60million adding that the Council were being proactive with their developments.

The Cabinet Member for Children Services enquired over the transition and support available for all involved and the Director for Education commented on the strengthened links at school cluster level which helped bring teachers together and improve consistency in policy and practice

The Cabinet Member for Education, again reiterated her thanks for all the comments made and the clarification by officers into a number of the issues raised at the meeting. She added that from listening to the comments it was clear that all had involved wanted the same outcome for the young learners of the County Borough and that was to ensure quality education was provided. The Cabinet Member commented that to provide such quality, investment in provision and resources was essential. She added that things could no longer remain static and referred to the surplus places within 6th form provision and the deficit budgets being carried forward by schools which was unsustainable. She commented on the 3-16 education provisions and the benefits witnessed with removal of any transition period and commented on other 3-16 provisions across the County Borough which had seen significant improvements.

The Cabinet Member commented on the proposed investment into Welsh medium education and the provision of brand new facilities.

The Cabinet member also agreed with the proposal to not take forward the changes to the catchment area of Gwauncelyn for the reasons identified within the report.

The Cabinet Member concluded that taking on board everyone's comments and the robust and detailed report before Members she moved the recommendations outlined within the report.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the information contained within the Consultation Report, which includes details of items of correspondence received during the consultation exercise and notes of the various meetings held.
2. To consider the contents of the attached Consultation report and note its publication and distribution to the relevant stakeholders as required by the Welsh Government School Organisation Code.
3. That following consideration of the outcomes of the consultation, including the Equalities Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Impact Assessment, to progress the proposals to the next stage of the review process by:
  - i. Agreeing to publish the Consultation Report: AND
  - ii. Issuing appropriate Statutory Notices after the Consultation Report is published.
4. To amend the proposals in relation to catchment changes such that there will be no change to the catchment area of Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School.

**N.B.**

- Following conclusion of the item County Borough Councillor M Powell,

queried the Call In process and the Legal Officer confirmed that any or all of the recommendations could be taken forward for Call In.

- At the conclusion of this item the following County Boroughs left the meeting H Fychan, M Diamond, L Walker, S Belzak, M Powell, S Pickering.
- A number of declarations pertaining to this item were made at the meeting to which minute number 133 refers

### **135 EDUCATION & INCLUSION SERVICES PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20**

The Head of 21st Century Schools provided Cabinet Members with details of the capital works for approval for 2019/20 as part of the Council's three-year Capital Programme.

The Head of Service reminded Cabinet Members that an amount of £6.886M had been allocated to the planned capital programme (minor works) for 2019/20, as agreed by Council on the 6th March 2019. She continued by advising that continuation of the three-year rolling Capital Programme and sustaining the level of funding would continue to make significant enhancements to the quality of the Council's school premises and has been a vital part of the Council school modernisation programme which has undoubtedly contributed to improved standards. Members were advised that the 2019/20 allocation includes £1.500M of additional resources allocated to schools and Members were referred to Appendix 10 of the report which outlined further detail.

Members were referred to section 5 of the report where the proposed allocations of the planned capital programme funds for 2019/20 were outlined. It was advised that further details of the programmes of work were detailed in appendices 1 – 10 of the report.

Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning welcomed the report and the investment being taken forward within the schools identified, which she felt would help modernise the buildings and improve the environment for children to learn.

The Leader also commented on the additional investment and the significant progress made with the programme.

With the agreement of the Leader, County Borough Councillor P Jarman also spoke on this item.

Following discussions the Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the Education Capital Programme priority schemes for 2019/20 as outlined in Appendices 1-10 of the report and to approve scheme commencement.

**N.B** – A number of declaration of interest were made pertaining to this item which Minute No.133 refers.



**HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORTATION AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS  
SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Service Director, Frontline Services provided Cabinet Members with the detailed capital programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects for 2019/20.

Members were provided with the detail against the specific 2019/20 capital allocations of £15.032M in favour of Highways Technical Services and of £10.934M in favour of Strategic Projects. It was added that these allocations were being made in order to safeguard the long-term integrity of the highways and transportation network and to enhance it, so as to deal with ever increasing travel demands. Reference was also made to Welsh Government funding and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. The Service Director referred Members of section 4.1.4 of his report which provided details of the programme and funding allocation.

The Leader welcomed the investment and advised Members that the programme was a rolling programme of work with the next phase of approvals coming forward in the Autumn. He welcomed the recognised improvements to highways infrastructure based on the data in the report. The Leader took the opportunity to discuss the additional funding that had been made to the flood alleviation scheme following the effects of Storm Callum and also referenced other potential grants that may be coming forward later in the year from Welsh Government.

The Deputy Leader commented on the successful investment that had been recognised across the County Borough and made specific reference to the investment in bridge structures.

With the agreement of the Leader, County Borough Councillors P Jarman and G Davies spoke on this item.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note and approve the Supplementary Capital Programme for Highways, Transportation and Strategic Projects as detailed within the report.
2. To note that the current allocations are part of a 3-year capital programme and agreed to delegate authority to the Group Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance and Digital Services, to extend activity to deliver additional projects during the financial year where capacity exists for accelerated delivery in accordance with the purpose of the wider programme.

**N.B.**

- As County Borough Councillor R Bevan left the meeting when the item was discussed he refrained from voting on the item.
- County Borough Councillor J Rosser left the meeting during this item.

The Head of ICT provided Members with his report which looked at the proposal of relocating the Council's Datacentre facility, which forms part of a wider work programme to support the ongoing delivery of the Council's Digital Strategy 2020.

Members were advised that following the refurbishment of Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre an opportunity exists to create a new Datacentre facility and to allow for the relocation of the Council's computer systems, and infrastructure from Bronwydd. Officers from Corporate Estates and ICT have undertaken a review and due diligence with regard to the opportunity and the outcome of this review has been used to inform the proposed way forward.

Members were advised of the benefits of utilising the site and reference was made to the Council's proposal to transform Adult Social Care with Bronwydd House, the current data centre location being identified as a site for Extra Care housing developments.

Details of the proposed options for the roll out of the datacentre relocation were provided by the Head of Service.

The Cabinet Member, Corporate Services welcomed the investment into the infrastructure for digital services, commenting that any lack of investment would be a risk to the Council and that with continued investment more and improved online services would be available in the future. The Cabinet Member agreed that Option B was the best way forward.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure & Heritage Services welcomed the move to the Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre adding that this move could potentially increase the gym facilities membership within the Centre.

The Cabinet member for Enterprise, Development & Housing also spoke positively of the move, adding that this was the first office based move into the Rhondda Fach.

The Leader referenced a similar approach taken with Abercynon Leisure Centre, that had worked well, adding that the Council were maximising on the buildings capacity offering staff accommodation and leisure facilities to then both staff and the general public. The Leader reiterated the Cabinet Members comments in respect of the importance of investment into the area and the opportunity to take forward the development of the Extra Care facility at Bronwydd House.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED:**

1. To the proposals set out in Section 6 of the report for the relocation of the Councils Datacentre from Bronwydd to Rhondda Fach Leisure Centre.
2. For the Head of ICT to work in conjunction with the Director of Estates to ensure that works are undertaken in the most economically advantageous way.
3. To include the scheme in the capital programme utilising funding previously agreed and on the basis of the costs and resource

requirements outlined in section 9 of the report.

**N.B**

- Councillor Webber had left the meeting during the discussions she refrained from voting on this item.
- County Borough Councillors P Jarman and G Davies left the meeting at this juncture.

**138 PRE-SCRUTINY - PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT 2019-20**

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members of the outcome of the Pre-scrutiny undertaken by the Children & Young People Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> March in relation to the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Members were advised at the meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee Members discussed the Assessment and provided comments in respect of:

- Highways Issues in respect of parking at play areas
- Importance of play area developments within the LDP
- Raising Awareness of play schemes within School holidays
- To receive a progress review in a twelve month time

Following the update by the Director the Head of Community Wellbeing and Resilience proceeded to provide Members with details of the play sufficiency assessment.

Members were advised that the preparation of the Play Sufficiency Audit was a statutory duty of the Council and as well as establishing a baseline of provision, the Play Sufficiency Assessment enables:

- Identification of gaps in information, provision, service delivery and policy implementation
- Support the establishment of evidence to give an indication of distance travelled in relation to play sufficiency
- Highlight potential ways of addressing issues relating to partnership working
- The input and involvement of all partners increasing levels of knowledge and understanding
- A monitoring system which will involve and improve communication between professionals
- The identification of good practice examples
- Increased levels of partnerships in assessing sufficient play opportunities
- The identification of actions for the Securing Play Sufficiency Action Plan which accompanies the Play Sufficiency Assessment

Members were referred to Section 5 of the report which highlighted the findings following the assessment through a RAG system

The Cabinet Member for Children & Young people thanked the officer for the report and thanked the Children & Young People Committee for their robust scrutiny of the assessment.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the comments and observations of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee referenced in section 5 of the report.
2. To endorse the recommendations outlined within the Play Sufficiency Assessment report as attached as Appendix B of the report (and for ease of reference as listed below):
  - i. Consider the PSA for 2019-20 and the supporting action plan.
  - ii. Endorse the PSA and action plan and agree for it to be submitted to Welsh Government.
3. To endorse the publication of the play sufficiency assessment to the Welsh Government by the 31st March, 2019.

**This meeting closed at 1.45 pm**

**Cllr A Morgan  
Chairman.**