



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**A meeting of the CABINET will be held at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions,
Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX
Tuesday, 9th April, 2019 at 2.00 pm**

**Contact: Emma Wilkins - Principal Executive & Regulatory Business Officer (Tel No.
01443 424110)**

Councillors and members of the public wishing to request the facility to address the Cabinet on any of the business as listed below, must request to do so by 5pm on the Friday, 5 April 2019 Councillors and Members of the public should stipulate if this address will be in the medium of English or Welsh. It must be noted that the facility to address the Cabinet is at the discretion of the Chair and each request will be considered based on the agenda items being considered, the public interest/interest of the member in each matter and the demands of the business on that day. To make such a request please email:- ExecutiveandRegulatoryBusinessUnit@rctcbc.gov.uk

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the Cabinet Committee on the 19th March, 2019 as an accurate record.

(Pages 5 - 12)

3. SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP: RECYCLING IN COMMUNITY AREAS

To receive the report of the Service Director, Democratic Services & Communication providing the Cabinet with the interim report of the Public Service, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Working Group established to deal with 'Recycling in Communal Areas'.

(Pages 13 - 20)

4. 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION PROVISION IN THE CYNON VALLEY

To receive the report of the Chief Executive advising Members of the outcome of the recent publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of proposals to improve education provision in the Cynon Valley.

(Pages 21 - 30)

5. PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR THE LLANILID HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

To receive the report of the Director, Education & Inclusion Services advising Members of the outcome of the recent publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of proposals to establish new primary education provision to serve the new housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan.

(Pages 31 - 38)

6. REVIEW OF LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS REVISION IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

To receive the report of the Director, Education & Inclusion Services advising 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).

(Pages 39 - 60)

7. PLANNING FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION PLACES

To receive the report of the Director, Education & Inclusion Services updating Members on the demand and supply of Welsh Medium Education places in the County Borough.

(Pages 61 - 68)

8. HIGH STREET RATE RELIEF SCHEME 2019/20

To receive the report of the Director of Finance & Digital Services providing details of the High Street Relief Scheme 2019/20.

(Pages 69 - 76)

9. TO CONSIDER PASSING THE FOLLOWING UNDER-MENTIONED RESOLUTION:

"That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of the Schedule 12A of the Act".

10. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

To receive the report of the Director, Finance & Digital Services seeking Cabinet to appoint a strategic partner to create a scalable Centre of Excellence for Revenues and Benefits Services following the completion of the procurement process.

(Pages 77 - 84)

11. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any urgent business as the Chairman feels appropriate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. S. Jones', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Service Director , Democratic Services & Communication.

Circulation:-

Councillors: Councillor A Morgan (Chair)
Councillor M Webber (Vice-Chair)
Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Crimmings
Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor M Norris
Councillor J Rosser
Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon

Officers: Chris Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Andy Wilkins, Director, Legal Services
Christian Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Gio Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Nigel Wheeler, Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services
Paul Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Richard Evans, Director of Human Resources
Simon Gale, Director of Prosperity & Development
Barrie Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Derek James, Service Director – Prosperity & Development



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 19 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, 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
Mr D James, Service Director – Prosperity & Development
Ms W Edwards, Service Director – Community Services
Ms M Warburton, HR Advisor, Equality & Diversity Team
Mr D Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

123 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

124 MINUTES

The Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 14th February, 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

125 COUNCIL CORPORATE AND SERVICE SELF ASSESSMENTS

The Chief Executive provided Cabinet Members with the details of the corporate and service self-assessments that had been carried out by service areas for the 4th consecutive year. The Chief Executive commented that the process focuses on impact and outcomes of the services being delivered, which subsequently leads to improvements.

Members were advised that the corporate self assessment was based on the

Wales Audit Office questions that are posed to local authorities as part of the WAO's Corporate Assessment audits, and this had been positively received by the WAO.

Members were referred to section 6 of the report which outlined key priority areas going forward for the Council.

The Chief Executive concluded by advising that the assessments were a valuable tool which would better inform the Councils improvement planning arrangements to ensure it delivers its services efficiently and effectively.

The Leader spoke of the Self-Assessment process with the challenge of the assessments by the Chief Executive and respective Cabinet Members, commenting that the process allowed useful 2 way dialogue and provided a clearer picture of the work and planning of each service. The Leader commented that although it was a lengthy process it was very beneficial for all involved with clear outcomes for improvement for the benefit of the residents of RCT.

The Deputy Leader echoed the value of the process.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the corporate self-assessment is an accurate and robust reflection of the position of the Council and its services.
2. That the Chief Executive present the report to the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee for their review at the next possible meeting.
3. That the areas for improvement identified in the corporate and service self assessments are incorporated into the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2018, which is audited by the Wales Audit Office.

126 ANNUAL EQUALITY REPORT 2017/18

The Equality & Diversity officer provided Cabinet Members with information on the Council's Annual Equality Report, for the year 2017/18.

Cabinet Members were referred to Appendix 1 where the equality report for 2017/18 was displayed. The officer explained that the Annual Equality Report had been developed to fulfil the Council's legal duties and obligations to report on its progress in delivering the general and specific equality duties. The officer explained that positive responses had been received from all service areas of the Council and that areas for improvement would continue to be monitored.

The Deputy Leader took the opportunity to thank the officer and her team for their continuous hard work in ensuring that RCT CBC promotes equality and diversity across all service areas.

Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To publish the Annual Equality Report 2017/18.

127 REVIEW OF THE ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Head of Regeneration and Prosperity provided Cabinet with a summary of the current Enterprise Support Programme which offers financial assistance to small and medium sized enterprises with development ambitions and a commitment to creating jobs. The Head of Service explained that the proposals outlined within the report proposed changes to the current criteria to ensure that the Programme can be more flexible and responsive to business needs whilst supporting sustainable economic growth. It was added that a wider range of performance indicators would be included which could be used as a more effective measurement of growth and the contribution that the investment makes to the local economy.

Members were referred to section 5 of the report which provided a review of the current programme and Members were provided examples of where the requirement for job creation had proven to be very restrictive to potential applicants, with the Head of Service advising that in some circumstances it had not been possible to support a deserving proposal as the enterprise would not be employing additional staff.

Detail of the proposed revisions to the programme were further outlined with details of the benefits to the scheme also being outlined.

The Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Housing welcomed the revision to the programme commenting on the uncertainty for small business in respect of Brexit and the benefits the revisions would have to encourage business growth. The Cabinet Member referenced the business 'birth' and 'death' rates highlighted in the report, commenting that the number of small business in RCT was double that of the Welsh national average.

The Leader also welcomed the revisions and the support being provided to small business to assist with sustainability.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised criteria set out in paragraphs 6.1-6.5 of the report are approved

128 ADULT COMMUNITY LEARNING

The Head of Community Learning provided Cabinet with an overview of the adult community learning service with information about adult community learning in Rhondda Cynon Taf; the range of provision offered, the contribution it makes to the wider Council agenda, the impact it has on learners and the changes that are proposed by Welsh Government for the future.

Members were advised of the major changes to be introduced to the grant funding provided by Welsh Government from September 2020 onwards that will have an impact on the provision offered and the Officer commented that it was important that the Cabinet were aware as approval may be required at a later date for any proposed changes to future governance and delivery of adult community learning in the County.

The Head of Community Learning continued her update by advising of the current provision and advising that In 2017/18, the number of learners enrolled on courses that were accredited came to 2,860. Members were informed that in the 2017/18 academic year 96% of learners completed their courses while 93% attained a qualification. These both exceed the national comparators.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning welcomed the report before Cabinet and spoke of the importance of the service provision and the large number of learners utilising the service. The Cabinet Member welcomed the consultation currently being undertaken by Welsh Government in relation to funding as any of the proposed formulas taken forward would have a benefit on the service. The cabinet member also referenced the case studies within the report which provided a good illustration of the soft outcomes achieved.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services queried whether any courses were provided online and the Head of Community Services acknowledged that this was a consideration but due to the open access courses available and to avoid duplication learners were referred to these courses instead.

The Leader of the Council queried when news on the funding formula would be made available and also queried the provision of community learning courses provided within the medium of welsh. The Head of Community Learning advised that news of the funding was imminent and also advised of the large number of courses already provided through the medium of welsh, although was happy to review once the funding had been finalised.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. To provide comment as appropriate on the current provision of adult community learning in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the potential changes to future funding arrangements.

129 LIBRARY SERVICE STRATEGY 2019-21

Through her report, Members were provided with the opportunity to review the Library Service Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf's Library Service and its associated Action Plan which supports the wider Council and Welsh Government agenda.

The Head of Community Learning reference the progress made against the previous action plan and the Customer Satisfaction Surveys results which indicated a very high level of satisfaction with customer care across all aspects of the service (with between 96% and 99% of respondents indicating that they felt the service they received was 'good' or 'very good').

Members were provided with details of the enhancements and refurbishments taken forward at Libraries across the County Borough including the provision of new Libraries and the utilisation of the Community Hubs.

The Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Well-being & Cultural Services endorsed the strategy and commented on the use of libraries by local communities. The Cabinet Member spoke of his gratitude to the Head of

Service and the Library staff who were seen by many as the face of the Council and the positive survey level results. He welcomed the investment to the service across the authority and spoke of the changing nature of the service which was proactively adapting to the needs and requirements of the residents of the County Borough.

The Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning spoke highly of the library staff in place and welcomed the refurbishments taken forward within the Libraries across the County Borough.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To approve the library services strategy action plan.

130 COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT - 31ST DECEMBER 2018 (QUARTER 3)

The Director, Finance & Digital Services provided Cabinet Members with an overview of the Council's performance, both from a financial and operational perspective, based on the first nine months of this financial year (to the 31st December 2018).

The Director discussed in detail the Executive Summary of the report which included financial data and progress against the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. The officer also drew out exceptions highlighted within each of the detailed sections for Members benefit.

The Cabinet Member, Corporate Services commented on the concerns and pressures with adult services and commented that although there was a current underspend within children services this could fluctuate at any time due to any potential 'out of County' Children Looked after placements. The Cabinet Member referenced the 36% PI currently not on target but provided reassurance to Members on the rationale for such performance. The Cabinet Member concluded his address by thanking the officer for the report which he felt was a positive position for the Council.

The Leader reiterated the concerns in respect of adult social services and the funding made available by Welsh Government which he hoped to see continue.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

Revenue

1. To note and agree the General Fund revenue position of the Council as at the 31st December 2018 (Section 2 of the Executive Summary of the report) and note the incorporation of additional one-off Welsh Government funding to support sustainable social services into this position.
2. To approve the virements listed in Sections 2a - d of the Executive Summary of the report that exceed the £0.100M threshold as per the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

Capital

3. To note the capital outturn position of the Council as at 31st December 2018 (Sections 3a – f of the Executive Summary of the report).
4. To note the details of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators as at the 31st December 2018 (Section 3g of the Executive Summary of the report).

Corporate Plan Priorities

5. To note the quarter 3 position regarding progress made against the agreed Corporate Plan priorities (Sections 5 a – d of the Executive Summary of the report), Other National Measures (Section 5e of the Executive Summary of the report) and comparison of 2018/19 targets set against prior year and 'All Wales Average' performance information (Section 5f of the Executive Summary of the report).

131 SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS - HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services referred Members to the report before them which provided Cabinet Members with the conclusions and recommendations of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Working Group which conducted a review in relation to the provision of EMI nursing beds across the County Borough.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language thanked the Committee for its work and agreed to attend the next meeting of the Committee to provide a formal Cabinet response.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the review undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee attached as Appendix 1 of this report.
2. In principle to each of the recommendations outlined below, subject to further consideration by the Cabinet Portfolio holder for this area, following which a detailed response is provided to the relevant Scrutiny Committee:-
 - I. That Scrutiny continue to monitor delayed transfers of care performance, and in particular issues relating to the availability of EMI nursing care home provision ;
 - II. That Cabinet ensure the recommendations in the Cwm Taf Market Position Statement are being delivered in particular those aimed at the more specialised provision and need for more provision linked to complex care i.e. dementia and nursing dementia.

132 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services provided Cabinet Members with an update on the proposed list of matters requiring consideration by Cabinet over the 2018 – 19 Municipal Year, commenting that utilising the programme assists with openness and

transparency of the decision making process within the Council and gives greater opportunity for Pre-Scrutiny.

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report and were advised that the programme is a live document to allow for any additional / deletion of reports throughout the year.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED**:

1. To approve the Work Programme for the 2018-19 Municipal Year (with appropriate amendment where necessary) and receive a further update on a 3 monthly basis.

This meeting closed at 11.20 am

**Cllr A Morgan
Chairman.**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9th APRIL 2019

RECYCLING IN COMMUNAL AREAS – SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIROMENT, LEISURE & HERITAGE SERVICES

Author: Mrs Sarah Handy- Graduate Scrutiny Officer (Tel: 01443 424099)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with the interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group established to deal with 'Recycling in Communal Areas' following a report from the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services to the Public Service, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the [27th of September 2018](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

2.2 Acknowledge the Interim report of the Scrutiny Working Group;

2.3 Consider the Interim recommendations put forward by the Scrutiny Working Group, as set out below;

2.4. That a community recycling engagement event, as set out in paragraph 4.6, is held at one of the following areas, which have been identified as areas of poor recycling and high levels of black bag waste, in partnership with the Social Housing Landlords and the Council's Streetcare Services team:

- Fernhill;
- Penrhys; or
- Rhydyfelin

2.5 Subject to 2.4, consider progressing an appropriate pilot scheme in one of the above areas, such as the coloured refuse bags scheme/ or the 'Red/Amber/Green' letter scheme, as referred to in paragraph 4.6.

2.6 Direct the Council's legal department to undertake meetings with the

Housing Associations in respect of data sharing and/or Service Level Agreements, as set out in paragraph 4.7; and,

2.7 That Waste Services are consulted on major planning applications, as appropriate and as referenced in paragraph 6.2.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 At the meeting of the Public Service, Communities & Prosperity Working Group held on the 27th of September 2018, Scrutiny received a presentation in respect of Communal Area Recycling from the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services who outlined the barriers facing the service area, particularly when collecting from bin collection points (BCP's) across the County Borough.

3.2 In order to meet the Council's statutory recycling target of 70% by 2024/25, the Council needs to implement various changes to its collection methods and targeting communal areas could mean the Council captures material that is more recyclable and in turn increase its percentages.

3.3 Scrutiny learned that the key issues for consideration in respect of the communal area recycling are lack of ownership, the inability to identify offenders of contamination and the potential for becoming magnets for fly tipping. The Director advised the Committee that for all residents to comply with the waste allowances and guidelines, those areas of concern would need to be reviewed and potentially a long term waste strategy could be set up.

3.4 Following consideration of the report, Members agreed to establish a Working Group to look at how the Council could reduce black bag waste and increase quality recycling at communal bin collection points. Subsequently, nominations were sought from the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee for those Members who wished to sit on the Working Group and it was agreed that the inaugural meeting would be held on the 15th November 2018.

3.5 The Working Group Members comprised of County Borough Councillors S. Bradwick (Chair), C. Williams (Vice Chair), S. Owen-Jones, G. Hughes, M. Weaver, W. Owen, W. Treeby, S. Pickering, G. Stacey, D. Grehan.

3.6 At its inaugural meeting, the Scrutiny Working Group looked to establish two sub groups to oversee two specific programmes of work:

- (i) Recycling and the role of Social Landlords; and
- (ii) Recycling Enforcement issues

3.7 At that meeting, nominations were also sought for each sub group. It was agreed that a nominated chair, with the support of a lead officer, would organise the sub group's activities.

3.8 Upon completion of the review of the two sub groups, it was resolved that all

members of the Scrutiny Working Group would reconvene to review the remaining areas under the remit of the terms of reference. At the end of the review, the Scrutiny Working Group will formulate its findings and present its recommendations to the Executive.

4 SOCIAL LANDLORDS SUB GROUP

4.1 Members of the social landlords sub group met on four occasions, i.e 29th November 2018, 13th December 2018, 24th of January 2019 and 7th February 2019. The Social Landlords sub group's membership comprised of County Borough Councillors S. Bradwick (Chair of the sub group), D. Owen, G. Hughes, M. Weaver, W. Owen.

4.2 At its inaugural meeting, held on the 29th of November 2018, Members resolved to invite the six major Social Landlords in the County Borough to attend a meeting of the Working Group. The sub group quickly identified a list of proposed trial areas and Members acknowledged that any changes to the Council's recycling policy would depend on successfully educating residents.

4.3 At subsequent meetings, Members of the Working Group considered the relationship between Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and communal area recycling and the role of Supplementary Planning Guidance in relation to waste management.

4.4 On the 7th of February 2019, Members welcomed the following representatives from the Housing Associations to a meeting of the Working Group:

- Rhondda Housing
- Cynon Taf Housing
- Trivallis
- Newydd Housing
- Hafod Housing
- Wales and West

4.5 Following discussion, it was proposed that;

- Consideration is given to the development of a Service Level Agreement and/or data sharing agreement;
- That key trial areas are identified; and,
- That the Council work collaboratively with the Housing Associations in respect of fly tipping and waste management.

4.6 On the 22nd of February 2019, officers from Waste Services met with representatives from Trivallis to discuss running a joint community recycling engagement event. The recycling engagement event would involve door knocking and letter dropping to promote recycling in the designated area and to identify if there are any barriers to recycling efficiently. The event could be utilised to distribute free nappy waste bags, food bins and to trial the 'Red/Amber/Green' letter scheme. The status of the letters indicate how well residents are recycling.

4.7 Should a data sharing agreement be established, it would focus on identifying the culprits of contamination through sharing information with the Housing Associations in respect of fixed penalty notices.

4.8 On the 21st of March 2019, Members of the Working Group agreed with the proposals in relation to a community engagement event and agreed that the Council's legal department undertakes meetings with the Housing Associations in respect of data sharing.

4.9 It is anticipated that when the trials are completed a wider strategy will be developed and implemented.

5. ENFORCEMENT SUB GROUP

5.1 Members of the enforcement sub group included Councillors T Williams (Chair), D Grehan, S Pickering, G Stacey and W Treeby and in total met on three occasions, i.e 29th November 2018, 13th December 2018 and the 21st February 2019.

5.2 The Enforcement Sub Group considered the following;

- The development of an appropriate pilot scheme, such as coloured refuse bags; a project plan will be developed to outline the timescales for identification of the trial areas, a communication timeline, a 'go live' date, follow up consultation and monitoring;
- That further investigation is given to the option of CCTV as a deterrent in overcoming repeat contamination in recycling;
- That successful prosecutions in respect of those residents who continuously refuse to recycle should be promoted and publicised by appropriate means to act as a deterrent to other residents; and
- That communication is improved between the individual service areas in respect of recycling, street waste and particularly recycling in communal areas so that all departments are working towards a common vision and goal.

5.3 An update report was presented to the overarching Scrutiny Working Group on the 21st of March 2019 outlining the work of the Enforcement Sub Group and has informed the Working Group's recommendations to the Executive.

6. WAY FORWARD

6.1 The Council has to meet its statutory recycling targets to avoid financial penalties. The fines are significant, and therefore changing the way the current service provision is conducted in communal areas will have a positive

impact on the municipal targets to capture more recyclable material and in turn increase its percentages.

6.2 At its previous meeting, the two sub groups joined together as one. Members of the Working Group received an update from the Waste Services & Strategic Ops Officer and Planning Policy Team Leader in relation to Supplementary Planning Guidance and waste management. In conclusion, the Scrutiny Working Group agreed to the following proposals;

- Waste Services will be consulted on major planning applications, as appropriate, and that consideration will be given to all other planning applications as to whether aspects of the proposals require consultation with Waste Services.
- Such consultation would also allow for the consideration of a condition to be formulated for temporary storage of refuse provision during the development phases of a site; and,
- Alongside this, Waste Services will seek to prepare leaflets/information packs, and liaise with the developers on how to inform residents on new build housing estates with regards to waste storage and collection.

6.3 Officers from Waste Services will continue to meet with representatives from the six major Housing Associations on a one to one basis and feedback to Members of the Working Group at every opportunity and, with the agreement of Cabinet, community engagement events will be rolled out.

6.4 Following its work, the Scrutiny Working Group will produce an evaluation report with clear recommendations to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered as part of the Working Group's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 There are no consultation implications arising, as yet, from this report. However, where appropriate through the process, engagement and involvement with key stakeholders will be considered as part of the development of any specific recommendations.

9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of the

Working Group's recommendations as will any subsequent implementation arrangements going forward.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

10.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular "Place – creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work":

- Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive...
- Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents...

These proposals are also consistent with the Well-being Goals under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- A healthier Wales – a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

as amended by

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9th APRIL 2019

List of Background Papers

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER
FOR ENVIROMENT, LEISURE & HERITAGE SERVICES**

Item – Recycling in Communal Areas Working Group Report

Freestanding Matter

Contact Officer: - Mrs S. Handy, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale,
CF40 2XX, Tel. No. (01443) 424099.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9 APRIL 2019

21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION PROVISION IN CYNON VALLEY

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR J ROSSER)

Authors: Andrea Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools and Lisa Howell, Business and School Organisation Manager.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the outcome of the recent publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of proposals to:

- Improve and increase education provision in Hirwaun by investing in a new school for Hirwaun Primary School;
- Improve Welsh medium education provision by increasing the supply of places in the Upper Cynon Valley by making Penderyn Community Primary School, currently a dual language school, a Welsh medium Primary School;

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

2.1 Note the information contained within the attached Objection Report at Appendix A, which includes a summary of the 9 objections received during the Statutory Notice period, and the comments given in response to the objections.

2.2 Agree to implement the proposals as published in the Statutory Notice which will:

- create a new school for Hirwaun Primary School by September 2021;
- change the category of Penderyn Community Primary School from a dual language school to a Welsh medium school from September 2021;
- continue to allow new English medium admissions to Penderyn Community Primary School until such time that the change in category of Penderyn Community Primary School, from a dual language school to a Welsh medium school, comes into effect.

2.3 Note that a separate report on funding arrangements will be presented to Council in due course.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (the School Organisation Code).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will recall that, at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th September 2018, approval was given to begin a process to formally consult on a proposal to improve and increase education provision in Hirwaun by investing in a new school for Hirwaun Primary School; and improve Welsh medium education provision by increasing the supply of places in the Upper Cynon Valley by making Penderyn Community Primary School, currently a dual language school, a Welsh medium Primary School.
- 4.2 Following the conclusion of the consultation period, and at a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet held on January 24th 2019, a decision was taken to progress to the next phase of the statutory process and to publish the Statutory Notice.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equality, Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessments were prepared in respect of this proposal and were published on the Council's website together with the Consultation Document that outlines the proposal in detail. Copies of all impact assessments are attached as an appendix to this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which was introduced on 1st October 2013 and recently updated in November 2018.
- 6.2 Consultation took place between 1st October 2018 and 31st December 2018 and full details of this process were published in a Consultation Report, which was presented at the meeting of Cabinet held on 24th January 2019 and subsequently published on the Council website.

7. THE STATUTORY PROCESS

- 7.1 The Statutory Notice for this proposal referred to:
- create a new school for Hirwaun Primary School by September 2021;
 - change the category of Penderyn Community Primary School from a dual language school to a Welsh medium school from September 2021;
- 7.2 If the proposals are agreed, the Council must publish a Decision Notice that formally outlines the reasons for the implementation of these proposals.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 If the proposal proceeds, it is proposed that a new school building be constructed to accommodate the new Hirwaun Primary School and it is estimated that the cost of this work will be approximately £10.4m. This will be funded by the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, which includes a 65% contribution from Welsh Government. The Council's 35% share of the capital costs will be met through prudential borrowing which will be subject to a further report to Council.
- 8.2 Any revenue and capital costs that accrue in completing the consultation and preparing financial business cases for Welsh Government approval will be met from within existing budgets.
- 8.3 The Welsh Government has approved in principle the Strategic Outline financial business case to construct a new Hirwaun Primary School. A Full Business Case will be submitted to the Welsh Government in April.

9 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Council's Corporate Plan commits to "Continue to invest in improving school buildings, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century." The proposals considered in the report contribute to all 7 well-being goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Members are asked to formally approve the proposal as consulted upon and agree to:
- create a new school for Hirwaun Primary School by September 2021;
 - change the category of Penderyn Community Primary School from a dual language school to a Welsh medium school from September 2021;

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

09.04.19

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR J ROSSER)

Item: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE EDUCATION PROVISION IN CYNON VALLEY

Background Papers

Cabinet – [20.09.18](#)

Officer to contact:

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT

PROPOSAL: TO IMPROVE EDUCATION PROVISION IN CYNON VALLEY

1. Purpose of the Objection Report

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, statutory document 006/2013. Its purpose is to:

- Inform the outcome of the publication of the statutory notice published for this proposal, which were published on February 13th 2019 for a period of a minimum of 28 days; and
- Include a summary of the statutory objections received and the local Authority's response to them.

2. The Statutory Notices

The Statutory Notice to progress this proposal, which was published on February 13th 2019 is reproduced below:

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Education and Inclusion Services, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon CF45 4UQ

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), having consulted such persons as required, proposes to:

1. Increase the capacity of Hirwaun Primary School and construct a new school building. School to continue to be maintained by RCTCBC, to be located on the existing Hirwaun Primary School site, for boys and girls aged 3-11 years:
Hirwaun Primary School, Glannant Road, Hirwaun, Aberdare CF44 9NF
2. Amend the language category of the current Penderyn Community Primary School from a dual language status to a Welsh medium primary school. The school will continue to be maintained by RCTCBC, and will be for boys and girls aged 3-11 years.
Penderyn Community Primary School, Pontprenllwyd, Penderyn, Aberdare CF44 9JW

RCTCBC undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish these proposals. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website at <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/SchoolConsultations/SchoolsConsultations.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposals by 1st September 2021.

The current capacity of Hirwaun Primary School is 265 plus Nursery, and the increased capacity of Hirwaun Primary School shall be 390 plus Nursery. The admission number for pupils aged 4 to the Reception Class at the new school, in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented, will be 55. There will be 60 nursery places.

There will be no change to the capacity of Penderyn Community Primary School, this will remain at 231. The admission number for Penderyn Community primary School will remain at 33.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with RCTCBC's Transport Policy. At present, RCTCBC provides free transport for pupils who attend their relevant Primary, Infant or Junior School, if they reside beyond 1.5 miles walking distance to that school, or if there is no available walking route. The relevant school is the catchment school or the nearest school.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which these proposals were published, that is to say by March 15th 2019, any person may object to the proposals. Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 21st Century Schools, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ, e-mail schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk.

RCTCBC will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within 7 days of the determination of the proposal.



Signed:
Gaynor Davies
Director of Education and Inclusion Services
For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Date: 13th February 2019

3. Details of Objections Received

During the Statutory Notice period a total of 9 objections were received by the closing date of March 15th 2019. They consisted of letters, e-mails and 3 petitions. Details of which are listed below:

- Parents of pupils currently attending Penderyn Community Primary School (4)
- Parent of pupils attending Hirwaun Primary School (1)
- A pupil currently attending Penderyn Community Primary School (1)
- A petition from parents (47 signatories)
- A petition from residents (171 signatories)
- An on-line petition via Change.org (176 signatories)

Cabinet members will have to opportunity to read and digest all of the objections received during the Objection Period prior to the meeting of Cabinet on April 9th 2019. All objections will be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and the factors as set out in the Code.

4. The Objections and our Responses

- **Penderyn will not be a true community 'village' school.**

There is no reason why any community links will be adversely affected by these proposals. A Community Impact Assessment has been undertaken and was appended to the Consultation Document. This is available to view on the Council's website.

- **Hirwaun's Estyn Report was poor. Hirwaun's School Categorisation is red where as Penderyn's is yellow and so RCT are not complying with the Code as 'like for like' education is not being offered**

This process has been undertaken in full compliance with Code. As specified within the School Organisation Code Estyn are a statutory consultee and their full response in relation to the proposals was included within the Consultation Report. A summary of their conclusion is below.

Summary/ Conclusion

The proposer is Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, and the proposal relates to the construction of a new school building for Hirwaun Primary School (Hirwaun PS) and a change of language medium status - to Welsh medium only - at Penderyn Community Primary School (Penderyn CPS) from September 2021.

Overall, the proposal is likely to have a beneficial impact on the standard of education provision in the area.

Hirwaun Primary School has continued to make good progress and continues to be closely monitored by the Director of Education and Challenge Advisors. Ongoing support and monitoring is being provided and Estyn will return to re-inspect this year.

- **Concerns were raised that pupils will be unsettled if they move to a new school midway through the primary phase**

Meaningful and successful transition is an integral part of ensuring that pupils settle into their new school environments with little disruption. Advice and support will be provided by the local authority to both Hirwaun Primary School and Penderyn Community Primary School to ensure that the transition process is as smooth and worry free as possible for the pupils.

- **Children are being discriminated against as they cannot be taught English in their local school**

School Organisation and School Admissions are administered through Statutory Codes and are requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. We ensure that all of our procedures are in line with this code which ensures we undertake

due diligence so that no pupil is unfairly disadvantaged or discriminated against. This consultation has been carried out in accordance with this code.

- **It is likely to result in job losses for the English medium staff currently employed at Penderyn. This is not acceptable.**

The impact upon staff is still unknown, however RCT's Human Resources Department will discuss any concerns with staff members on an individual basis.

- **Limited Public Transport would prevent parents picking up their children from school in an emergency.**

There is an hourly direct bus from Penderyn to Hirwaun.

The need for emergency collections should be infrequent, however all schools have statutory responsibilities to ensure the safety and well-being of children is paramount, as stipulated in the Education Act 2002.

All schools and staff members are aware of their responsibilities in terms of safeguarding, and schools have procedures in place to deal with issues should they arise. Staff have a duty of care to make sure that all pupils are cared for and will act appropriately under any circumstances, emergency or not.

- **Why can't the English medium catchment area change to keep English medium education at both schools?**

RCT have a statutory obligation to manage school places to meet demand where required. The demand in this area does not justify this.

- **There will be an increase of traffic and therefore pollution**

There is no evidence that traffic and therefore pollution levels will increase as a result of these proposals.

- **Why are class sizes in the new school so large? I don't want my child in a class of 50 or 60 pupils.**

The capacity of the school and class sizes will be designed for 30 pupils in line with Welsh Government guidance.

- **The pupils will be disrupted while the new school is being built.**

The contractors that will be undertaking the works on site will be experienced in working on live school sites.

The health and safety of the pupils and staff will be paramount at all times, and the contractors will work collaboratively with the school and the Council to ensure that

any disruption is minimised. The Council has significant experience in managing construction on operational school sites, and the processes and procedures that we have adopted on other projects have been very successful.

- **The Council has engineered the situation so that the number of pupils being taught in English in Penderyn has reduced.**

This is categorically not the case, and there is no evidence to support this claim.

The school admission policy and associated criteria that is applied in Penderyn is consistent throughout RCT, and is fully compliant with the statutory School Admissions Code. In addition, all current transport arrangements in this area, and transport arrangements that will be delivered in the future, are in line with RCT's Home to School Transport Policy. Again, a consistent approach has and will continue to be adopted.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9 APRIL 2019

PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR THE LLANILID HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR J ROSSER)

Authors: Andrea Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools and Lisa Howell, Business and School Organisation Manager.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the outcome of the recent publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of proposals to establish new primary education provision to serve the new housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note that no objections, or comments were received in response to the publication of the statutory notice to progress this proposal;
- 2.2 Agree to implement the proposal to increase the capacity of Dolau Primary School and construct a new extension to the current school.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To implement the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (the School Organisation Code).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will recall that, at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 20th September 2018, approval was given to begin a process to formally consult on a proposal to establish new primary education provision to serve the new housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan. This will be

achieved in the first instance, by treating the new building that will be provided by the housing developers as an extension to the dual-language provision at the existing Dolau Primary School.

- 4.2 Following the conclusion of the consultation period, and at a subsequent meeting of the Cabinet held on January 24th 2019, a decision was taken to progress to the next phase of the statutory process and to publish the Statutory Notice. A copy is attached at appendix A.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equality and Community Impact Assessments were prepared in respect of this proposal and were published on the Council's website together with the consultation document that outlined the proposal in detail. Copies of both reports have been provided to Cabinet previously.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which was introduced on 1st October 2013 and recently updated in November 2018.
- 6.2 Consultation took place between 1st October 2018 and 31st December 2018 and full details of this process were published in a Consultation Report, which was presented at the meeting of Cabinet held on 24th January 2019 and subsequently published on the Council's website.

7. THE STATUTORY PROCESS

- 7.1 The Statutory Notice which is included at Appendix A for this proposal

referred to:

- Increase the capacity of Dolau Primary School and construct a new extension to the current school. The school will continue to be maintained by RCTCBC, to be a dual language school for boys and girls aged 3-11 years:

- 7.2 If the proposals are agreed, the Council must publish a Decision Notice that formally outlines the reasons for the implementation of these proposals.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The capital cost of constructing the new school will be met by the housing developers (Persimmon Homes) as part of their Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) responsibilities.

9 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 9.1 The Council's Corporate Plan commits to "Continue to invest in improving school buildings, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century." The proposals considered in the report contribute to all seven well-being goals in the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Members are asked to formally approve the proposal as consulted upon and agree to increase the capacity of Dolau Primary School and construct a new extension to the current school.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People

Background Papers

The appendices to the report are:

- Decision Notice

Contact Officer

**Lisa Howell, Business and School Organisation Manager
01443 744 062**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT FOR CABINET

APRIL 2019

PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR
THE LLANILID HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION
SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR J ROSSER)

Item:

Background Papers

Cabinet – [20.09.18](#)

Officer to contact:

Appendix A

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education and Inclusion Services Directorate, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon CF45 4UQ

Notice is given in accordance with sections 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), having consulted such persons as required, proposes to:

Increase the capacity of Dolau Primary School and construct a new extension to the current school. School to continue to be maintained by RCTCBC, to be a dual language school for boys and girls aged 3-11 years:

Dolau Primary School, Bridgend Road, Llanharan, Pontyclun CF72 9RP

RCTCBC undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish these proposals. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website at

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/SchoolConsultations/SchoolsConsultations.aspx>

It is proposed to implement the proposals by 1st September 2021.

The current capacity of Dolau Primary School is 441 plus Nursery, and the increased capacity of Dolau Primary School will be 921 plus Nursery. The admission number for pupils aged 4 into the Reception Class at the new school, in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented, will be 131. There will be 124 part time nursery places.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with RCTCBC's Transport Policy. At present, RCTCBC provides free transport for pupils who attend their relevant Primary, Infant or Junior School, if they reside beyond 1.5 miles walking distance to that school. The relevant school is the catchment school or the nearest school.

Within a period of 28 days of the date on which these proposals were published, that is to say by March 20th 2019 any person may object to the proposals. Objections should be sent to the Director of Education and Inclusion Services, 21st Century Schools, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4UQ, e-mail schoolplanning@rctcbc.gov.uk.

RCTCBC will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within 7 days of the determination of the proposal.



Signed:
Gaynor Davies
Director of Education and Inclusion Services
For Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Date: 18th February 2019

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The construction of 1,850 dwellings is considered to be the first phase of what is likely to be a much larger development in forthcoming years for this area.

The new school building will form part of the education provision that will serve this wider area and its provision will be delivered under the management and guidance of Dolau Primary School. At a point in time, the Council will make an assessment of the requirements and demand for school places, including the likely language medium choices being expressed by parents, and will consider establishing the new school building as a new school in its own right.

The Headteacher of Dolau will be able to utilise the new building to accommodate classes between the two buildings as he sees fit to make the best use of all available resources. The school will then 'grow' as more houses are constructed.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9TH APRIL 2019

REVIEW OF LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR MRS J ROSSER)

Author: Ceri Jones – Head of Inclusion Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is 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).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the information contained within the report and the Objection Report in Appendix A, which includes details of objections received during the Statutory Notice period, and the comments given in response to the objections.
- 2.2 Agree to implement the proposals as published in the Statutory Notices which will:
 - 2.2.1 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Treorchy Comprehensive School with effect from 1st September 2019.
 - 2.2.2 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties in Ysgol Nant Gwyn with effect from 1st September 2019.
 - 2.2.3 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Caradog Primary School to Cwmbach Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1st September 2019.

- 2.2.4 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Penrhys Primary School to Maerdy Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1st September 2019.
- 2.2.5 Re-designate 1 Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties in Darran Park Primary School and 1 Foundation Phase Observation and Assessment Class at Llantrisant Primary School to become 2 Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSCs for pupils under statutory school age with significant presenting needs with effect from 1st September 2019.
- 2.2.6 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.7 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Penrhys Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.8 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Difficulties in Penywaun Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.9 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Pontygwaith Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting no pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.10 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019 noting two pupils would be affected by this proposal.
- 2.2.11 Agree to an amendment of the proposal in relation to the closure of the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Caradog Primary School. It is proposed the LSC will now close on 31st August 2023 and not the 31st August 2019. This will ensure that no pupils would be affected by this proposal. No further pupils will be placed in the provision.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 and 2.2 above agree to the publication of the relevant Decision Notices in respect of any proposals taken forward as required by the School Organisation Code.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in the Welsh Government legislative guidance (The School Organisation Code) so that an improved continuum of SEN provision can be achieved in RCT.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Members will recall that, at the meeting of Cabinet held on 15th January 2019, approval was given to issue Statutory Notices in relation to the realignment of mainstream Learning Support Class Provision within RCT.
- 4.2 The LSC proposals seek to address key issues that have been identified:
- significant surplus capacity in some primary provisions;
 - insufficient provision in the secondary sector;
 - the absence of cross phase specialist provision on some school sites means that some learners experience unnecessary transitions;
 - some LSCs would benefit from relocation to fully accessible schools that have benefited from the 21st Century School Modernisation and investment;
 - ensuring there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of learners in the early years.

The realignment ensures these issues are addressed particularly that of surplus places currently available in LSC provision, ensuring resources are better utilised and re-directed to enhance existing provision to better meet needs of RCT pupils and to address identified gaps in provision.

5. STATUTORY NOTICES

- 5.1 Statutory Notices were issued on the 13th February until 15th March 2019 relating to the following proposals:-
- 5.1.1 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Treorchy Comprehensive School with effect from 1st September 2019.
- 5.1.2 Open Key Stage 3/4 LSC provision for pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties in Ysgol Nant Gwyn with effect from 1st September 2019.
- 5.1.3 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Caradog Primary School to Cwmbach Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1st September 2019.
- 5.1.4 Relocate the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties from Penrhys Primary School to Maerdy Primary School, creating a cross phase provision from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 with effect from 1st September 2019.
- 5.1.5 Re-designate 1 Foundation Phase LSC for Complex Learning Difficulties in Darran Park Primary School and 1 Foundation Phase Observation and Assessment Class at Llantrisant Primary School to become 2 Early Years Assessment and Intervention LSCs for pupils under statutory

school age with significant presenting needs with effect from 1st September 2019.

- 5.1.6 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019.
 - 5.1.7 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Penrhys Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019.
 - 5.1.8 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Social, Emotional, and Behavioural Difficulties in Penywaun Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019.
 - 5.1.9 Close the Foundation Phase LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Pontygwaith Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019.
 - 5.1.10 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Heol y Celyn Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019.
 - 5.1.11 Close the Key Stage 2 LSC for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties in Caradog Primary School with effect from 31st August 2019.
- 5.2 In respect of the proposals outlined in paragraph 5.1.6 - 5.1.9 no pupils would be affected by the proposals and in respect of the proposal at paragraph 5.1.10 two pupils would be affected. Parents will be consulted regarding educational provision. These two pupils will be offered either a bespoke package of support to remain within mainstream provision at Heol y Celyn Primary School or placement in the LSC at Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School. In respect of 5.1.4 as agreed by Cabinet on the 15th January 2019, the one remaining pupil currently accessing the Foundation Phase LSC at Penrhys Primary School will be offered a bespoke package of support to remain within mainstream provision in Penrhys Primary School.
- 5.3 Following completion of the Statutory Notice period an objection report has been produced which includes officer observations and comments in respect of the objections received. This report is attached as Appendix A to the report.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As detailed in previous reports, Welsh Language and Community Impact Assessments were not required for these proposals. An Equality Impact Assessment was published on the Council's website together with the consultation document at the appropriate time.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 If the proposal to realign LSC provision within RCT is authorised to proceed, resources will be re-directed to address the identified gaps in existing provision. In closing some provisions redundancy costs may arise. However, the Council seeks to minimise these costs by redeploying displaced members of staff wherever possible. It is therefore not possible at this point in the process to identify any possible redundancy costs.
- 7.2 The enhanced provision in key settings will be central to supporting the needs of some learners on dual placements who may require more enhanced support to meet their needs when in mainstream and support to manage very challenging behaviour within LSC provision for learners with severe SEBD.
- 7.3 The funding will also be used to develop outreach opportunities from our special schools so as to enhance the capacity of mainstream and LSCs to effectively meet the additional learning needs of learners in the early years.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Section 316A of the Education Act 1996 specifies that children with SEN should normally be educated in mainstream schools so long as this is compatible with them receiving the special educational provision that their learning difficulty calls for; the efficient education of other children, and the efficient use of resources.
- 8.2 Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 also requires the LA to ensure that SEN provision is kept under review. Sections 1:20 and 1:21 of the SEN Code of Practice for Wales (2002) also requires LAs to evaluate the effectiveness of school funding arrangements in supporting and raising the achievement of children with SEN.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 9.1 The proposals will ensure that two of the Council's three key priorities will be met. These include:
- Economy: Building a strong economy
 - People: Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- 9.2 The proposals will ensure that some of the Council's most vulnerable pupils will have the best chance of achieving positive outcomes. The redirection of valuable resources from SEN settings which have surplus places will enhance opportunities for providing successful inclusion in local community schools. The proposals will ensure more efficient and effective use of Council 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.

- 9.3 Organising services so that they are focussed on early intervention and prevention is a key statutory requirement of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act and a key element of the Council's Corporate Plan. These proposals will ensure there is renewed capacity for early intervention and prevention thus minimising the need for statutory processes and intervention.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Following consideration of the objections received during the Statutory Notices period an amendment to one of the original proposals is suggested. Due to the number of pupils that potentially would be accessing Key Stage 2 (KS2) LSC provision it is proposed to continue with the relocation of the Foundation Phase LSC to Cwmbach Primary School with effect from 1st September 2019, but not to close the KS2 provision in Caradog Primary School at this time. This would provide continuity in learning for eight KS2 learners in this school who have already experienced a number of school changes, as they progress through the last phase of their primary education.
- 10.2 Members are now asked to consider the contents of the Objection Report, at Appendix A to the report, and agree to its immediate publication and consider whether or not to implement the proposed changes to LSC provision within RCT with the exception of the closure and relocation of the KS2 provision at Caradog Primary School which is proposed to remain open until August 2023. This would allow existing year 2 learners to transfer to the KS2 provision in Caradog Primary School should they wish to, as transition will have already commenced in this setting. The residual four learners in Caradog Primary Foundation Phase LSC provision will be provided the opportunity to either remain in the mainstream provision of Caradog Primary School or transition to the newly established Foundation Phase LSC in Cwmbach Primary School. All learners live closer to Cwmbach Primary School and all will continue to be eligible for home to school transport.
- 10.3 If the proposals are agreed as outlined in the report, the Council must publish a Decision Notice that formally outlines the reasons for the implementation of these proposals.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OBJECTION REPORT

**PROPOSAL: THE REALIGNMENT OF MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS (LSC)
PROVISION WITHIN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

1. Purpose of the Objection Report

This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, statutory document 011/2018. Its purpose is to:

- Inform the outcome of the publication of the twelve statutory notices published for these proposals, which were published on 13th February 2019 for a period of 28 days;
- Include a summary of the statutory objections received and the local authority's response to them.

2. The Statutory Notices

The twelve Statutory Notices to progress this proposal, which were published on 13th February 2019 are reproduced below:

Notice 1 - Learning Support Class (LSC) at Caradog Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provisions at Caradog Primary School, Clifton Street, Aberdare, CF44 7PB, so that there are no Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 193, the pupil capacity of the school is 194 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 194.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Cwmbach Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

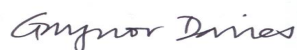
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Caradog Primary School currently has 2 LSC's designated to support 8-10 Foundation Phase pupils and 10 Key Stage 2 pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. Cwmbach Primary School will host a cross provision for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties.
5. For those pupils affected by this proposal suitable arrangements will be put in place in consultation with all involved to ensure appropriate provision is made.

Notice 2 - LSC at Cwmbach Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Cwmbach Primary School, Llangorse Road, Cwmbach, Aberdare CF44 0HS by providing 8 places for Foundation Phase (aged 3 – 7) pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 255, the pupil capacity of the school is 272 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 272.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. This will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site.

Notice 3 - LSC at Darran Park Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Darran Park, Brook Street Ferndale CF43 4LE by providing 8 Early Years Assessment and Intervention places for pupils (aged 3-5) with Special Educational Needs. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.


The current number of pupils at the school is 313, the pupil capacity of the school is 359 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 359.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. The proposal to enhance current Early Years LSC provision will enable children of non-statutory school age to receive early assessment and intervention within a mainstream LSC context and timely access to specialist support to inform reintegration placements or more long term specialist placements.

Notice 4 - LSC at Heol Y Celyn Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provisions at Heol y Celyn Primary School, Holly Street, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, CF37 5DB, so that there are no Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Needs at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers' responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 320, the pupil capacity of the school is 388 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 388.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Heol y Celyn Primary currently has a Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class for Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. There are currently no pupils attending the Foundation Phase LSC provision.
5. Two pupils are potentially affected by the KS2 proposals. For those pupils affected by this proposal suitable arrangements will be put in place in consultation with all involved to ensure appropriate provision is made.

Notice 5 - LSC at Llantrisant Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Llantrisant Primary School, Coed Yr Esgob, Llantrisant, CF72 8EL

by providing 8 Early Years Assessment and Intervention places for pupils (aged 3-5) with Special Educational Needs. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 96, the pupil capacity of the school is 155 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 155.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. The proposal to enhance current Early Years LSC provision will enable children of non-statutory school age to receive early assessment and intervention within a mainstream LSC context and timely access to specialist support to inform reintegration placements or more long term specialist placements.

Notice 6 - LSC at Maerdy Community Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required,

proposes to establish SEN provision at Maerdy Primary School, Graigwen, Maerdy, CF43 4TW, by providing 8 places for Foundation Phase (aged 3 - 7) pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 237, the pupil capacity of the school is 260 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 260.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. This will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site

Notice 7- LSC at Penrhys Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the Foundation Phase SEN provisions at Penrhys Primary School, Penrhys,

Tylorstown, Ferndale, CF43 3PL, so that there remain two Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at the School. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 94, the pupil capacity of the school is 130 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 130.

Should local children require a Foundation Phase Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Maerdy Community Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.


Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Penrhys Primary currently has a 2 Foundation Phase and 2 Key Stage 2 Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. There is currently 1 pupil attending the 2 Foundation Phase LSC's provision.
5. For those pupils affected by this proposal suitable arrangements will be put in place in consultation with all involved to ensure appropriate provision is made.

Notice 8 - LSC at Penywaun Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provision at Penywaun Primary School, Coed Glas, Penywaun, Aberdare, CF44 9DR, so that there are no Learner Support Classes for pupils with Social, Emotional Behavioural Difficulties at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 169, the pupil capacity of the school is 253 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 253.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Glenboi Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

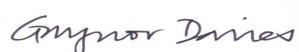
Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.

2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Penywaun Primary currently has a Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class for Social, Emotional Behavioural Difficulties.
4. The class for pupils with SEBD has not been operational since 2017. No Learners will be affected by this proposal.
5. The Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder remains unaltered.

Notice 9 - LSC at Pontygwaith Primary School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to discontinue the SEN provision at Pontygwaith Primary School, Graig Street, Pontygwaith, Ferndale, CF43 3LY, so that there are no Learning Support Classes for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties at the school. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations.

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 31st August 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 167, the pupil capacity of the school is 182 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 182.

Should local children require a Complex Learning Difficulties Class the nearest is at Maerdy Primary School. Alternatively, a supported mainstream placement could be explored if this was in accordance with the child's needs and parental wishes.

Pupils will be provided with transport in accordance with the Council's Learner Transport Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed

Gwynor Davies

Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. Pontygwaith Primary School currently has a Foundation Phase Learning Support Class for Complex Learning Difficulties.
4. The class has not been operational since September 2017 due to diminishing numbers, no pupils will be affected by this proposal as there are no learners currently in the provision.

Notice 10 - LSC at Porth Community School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Porth Community School, Cemetery Road, Porth, CF39 0BS, by providing 10 places for Key Stage 2 (aged 7 - 11) pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 901, the pupil capacity of the school is 1129 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1129.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand Key Stage 2 Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision in the Local Authority. This proposal will provide a cross phase provision on an accessible single school site

Notice 11- LSC at Treorchy Comprehensive School

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Treorchy Comprehensive School, Pengelli, Treorchy, CF42 6UL, by providing 14 places for Key Stage 3/4 (aged 11 – 16) pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 1643, the pupil capacity of the school is 1687 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1687.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand KS 3/4 Complex Learning Difficulties provision in the Local Authority.

Notice 12- LSC at Ysgol Nant Gwyn

Statutory Notice

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Rhondda Cynon Taf, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to establish SEN provision at Ysgol Nant Gwyn, Llewellyn Street, Penygraig, CF40 1HQ, by providing 12 places for Key Stage 3/4 (aged 11 – 16) pupils with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties at. The school is currently maintained by Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Rhondda Cynon Taf undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposers responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019.

The current number of pupils at the school is 997, the pupil capacity of the school is 1200 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 1200.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 15th March 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Access and Inclusion Service, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ.

Rhondda Cynon Taf will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.

Signed



Director of Education and Inclusion Service, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Date – 13th February 2019

Explanatory Note

1. Improving the quality of education and raising standards is one of the Council's main priorities. It is considered that improving standards and educational outcomes for some of our most vulnerable learners will improve their life chances, access to the world of work and other education pathways. Ensuring that our support classes are well matched to the needs of learners is important in helping them to make progress.
2. Whilst the quality of LSC classes in Rhondda Cynon Taf is good, there is a need to modernise and develop the type of LSC classes to increase opportunities for mainstream inclusion and to further improve results for vulnerable groups of learners.
3. There is a need to expand KS 3/4 provision for Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties and Complex Learning Difficulties in the Local Authority.

3 Details of Objections Received

A total of 16 objections were received by the published closing date, namely 5pm on 15th March 2019. They consisted of letters and emails relating to the following notices:

| Notice | School | Objections | Objections received from |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| 1 | Caradog Primary School | 14* | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents of pupils currently attending Caradog Primary School (12)• RCT National Education Union (1)• Green Meadows Riding Centre (1) |
| 2 | Cwmbach Primary School | 0 | |
| 3 | Darran Park School | 0 | |
| 4 | Heol Y Celyn Primary School | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCT National Education Union |
| 5 | Llantrisant primary School | 0 | |
| 6 | Maerdy Community School | 0 | |
| 7 | Penrhys Primary School | 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RCT National Education Union |
| 8 | Penywaun Primary School | 0 | |
| 9 | Pontygwaith Primary School | 0 | |
| 10 | Porth Community School | 0 | |
| 11 | Treorchy Comprehensive School | 0 | |
| 12 | Ysgol Nant Gwyn | 0 | |

*It is noted that several copies of the same objection correspondence was sent to numerous councillors and senior LA officers, however they have been recorded as only one objection in line with School Organisation Code requirements.

Cabinet members will have to opportunity to read and digest all of the objections received during the Objection Period prior to the meeting of Cabinet on April 9th 2019. All objections will be conscientiously considered alongside the arguments in respect of the proposals and the factors as set out in the Code.

Additionally a petition was received on 7th March 2019 consisting 1886 signatories from concerned residents of Caradog Primary School, of which 1294 were formal signatories and 592 were submitted via an on-line petition. The petition sought support to oppose the proposed relocation of the

Foundation Phase LSC at Caradog Primary to Cwmbach Primary School and the closure of the Key Stage 2 LSC at Caradog Primary School.

4 The Objections and our Responses

| Issue raised | LA Responses |
|--|---|
| Impact upon pupils | The change in provision has some implications for a relatively small number of pupils who currently attend LSCs. To minimise any potential negative impact upon individual pupils, parents will be provided with the opportunity to discuss whether they wish for their child to attend the nearest comparable specialist provision or to remain in their current mainstream schools with a bespoke package of support. |
| Transition of current LSC pupils to new LSC settings | The proposals will minimise unnecessary transition for pupils with significant needs, provide continuity in their educational placements and ensure that a higher number of specialist LSC provisions provide equity for pupils in LSCs so that they remain in one setting until transition to secondary provision in line with their mainstream peers. Robust transition plans will be put in place for any pupils directly affected by the proposals, which will be planned collaboratively with parents and staff and involve additional support from specialist members of staff from Access and Inclusion. |
| Loss of LSC provision from within current school setting and loss of teaching staff | The LA recognises how much the LSCs and their pupils are valued by their host school settings proposed for change and how much they have added to the inclusive ethos of the schools. However the proposals aims to enhance LSC provision within the LA as outlined in the rationale for change. It is pleasing to note the positive comments on the quality of provision. The Council has well established Human Resource policies and procedures that give reassurance to staff and employers about the management of organisational change. |
| <p>Concerns regarding the quality and suitability of relocated LSC provision where LSC provision has currently been considered to be effective</p> <p>Suitability of class - negative aspects of Cwmbach Primary School, class size, equipment, rooms, toilets</p> | <p>The LA has no evidence to suggest that the mainstream schools to which the LSCs are proposed to relocate will not be able to provide high quality, inclusive educational and extracurricular opportunities to the pupils in the LSCs. The schools currently successfully host LSCs and the proposed relocations would merely enhance their LSC provision. The proposed mainstream schools which will host the relocated provisions have strong leadership teams whose performance will be scrutinised and challenged in accordance with established quality assurance processes within RCT and the wider Central South Consortium. Access and Inclusion also has well established Quality Assurance processes for monitoring and challenging the performance of all of its individual LSCs and this process would continue following the proposed relocations of provisions.</p> <p>Cwmbach Primary is a 21st Century School that has benefited from significant investment. It is fully compliant with the Equality Act, but any further modifications required to meet individual pupil need will be undertaken as required. The school already has LSC provision and is well equipped to meet learner's needs.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| LSCs currently hosted by smaller mainstream school settings are deemed to provide better provision | The LA has a number of LSCs that have been successfully based in large school settings over many years where high quality provision is made for pupils in the LSC. This includes small group inclusion opportunities, both educational and social, and where all of the benefits of having a LSC are equally evident, valued and effective in both large and small school environments. The size of the school has not been a key factor in determining whether a LSC for pupils with Complex Difficulties is successful or effective. There is no evidence to suggest that pupils in the LSCs find larger school settings overwhelming or that there is a detrimental impact upon the educational progress or wellbeing of the pupils. |
| Failed links to re-alignment documentation | No concerns regarding the links were raised during the consultation period. A significant number of parents and other stakeholders were able to access and respond to the consultation process via the on-line link which suggest that links were accessible. |
| Concerns regarding correspondence to parents | This was investigated and it is acknowledged that the original correspondence from the LA was not distributed to all parents as requested by the LA on the 19 th October 2018. However, the Headteacher did send a subsequent letter to all parents on the 9 th November 2018 providing details of the proposed re-alignment and links to the documentation. This notification provided parents with the required 42 days consultation period as detailed in the School Organisation Code. |
| Key Stage 2 class capacity at Cwmbach Primary School | The LA acknowledges that there has been an unexpected increase in relation to demand for the KS2 provision. In light of this a further review of projected numbers has been undertaken. |
| Acknowledge Cwmbach as a Modern 21 st Century School | It is pleasing to note that whilst objections were submitted regarding the proposed changes, stakeholders acknowledged the excellent facilities available in the 21 st Century modernised provision at Cwmbach Primary School. |

5 Late Correspondence

Following the publication of the Consultation Feedback Report and prior to the publication of Statutory Notices 8 letters/emails were received raising concerns over the proposal to close the Key Stage 2 LSC in Caradog Primary School. Additionally 20 consultation proformas were also received reporting that they disagreed with the proposal. However no further areas of concerns were highlighted in these submissions other than those reported above.

6 Conclusion

The objections received from stakeholders has been used to inform the final report presented to Cabinet April 2019.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9th APRIL 2019

PLANNING FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION PLACES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION (COUNCILLOR JOY ROSSER)

AUTHOR: Gaynor Davies: 01443 744001

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the demand and supply of Welsh Medium Education places in the County Borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the current position in terms of the supply and demand of Welsh Medium primary and secondary schools places across the County Borough;
- 2.2 Notes the action being taken by the Council to increase the supply of Welsh Medium places where the demand is projected to exceed supply;
- 2.3 Approve the proposal to undertake a feasibility study and submit a business case to Welsh Government to either refurbish the existing Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda facilities or relocate the School to new 21st century facilities to be built in the Rhondda and to report back to Cabinet at a future date;
- 2.4 Approve the proposal to undertake a feasibility study to identify a suitable site to build a new school for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn Y Forwyn, and to report back to Cabinet at a future date;
- 2.5 Commits to opening a new Welsh Medium Primary School to serve planned housing developments to the south of Llantwit Fardre/Church Village, if the developments proceed;
- 2.6 Agrees to undertake a feasibility study to explore the opportunities to increase the availability of Welsh Medium primary school places in the Cynon Valley, south of Aberdare, and to report back to Cabinet at a future date.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To continue to assess and meet the demand for Welsh Medium education places across the County Borough.

4. THE AVAILABILITY OF WELSH MEDIUM PROVISION IN THE COUNTY BROUGH

4.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility ensure that there is a sufficient supply of suitable school places to meet statutory requirements for early years, primary, secondary and post 16 provision for parents that choose to educate their children through the medium of English or Welsh. To meet this requirement, the Council has responsible for the pupil admissions of English medium schools and Welsh medium schools and funds a number of voluntary aided schools that manage their own admissions.

4.2 The Council is also required to produce a Welsh Education Statutory Plan (“WESP”), which covers the period 2017-2020 and was approved by Cabinet in 2016. The WESP sets out the Council’s vision and objectives to increase the number of Welsh learners; improve the quality of the provision and the educational outcomes; and ensure there is suitably trained and qualified educational workforce. This Plan is reviewed annually.

4.3 Since 2012, the Council has:

- Opened a new 240 place primary provision at Ysgol Llanhari;
- Increased the capacity of YGG Llwynceilyn by 100 places; and
- Increased the capacity of YGG Tonyrefail by 120 places.

4.4 The current position in terms of the supply and demand for Welsh medium primary schools is as follows:

| <u>School</u> | <u>Capacity (R-Y6)</u> | <u>Pupils (R-Y6)</u> | <u>Occupancy</u> | <u>Capacity Nursery</u> | <u>Nursery Pupils</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| YGG Abercynon | 352 | 273 | 77.56% | 50 | 40 |
| YGG Aberdar | 372 | 361 | 97.12% | 53 | 45 |
| YGG Bodringallt | 172 | 94 | 54.81% | 24 | 26 |
| YGG Bronllwyn | 236 | 204 | 86.44% | 33 | 32 |
| YGG Castellau | 263 | 224 | 85.17% | 37 | 37 |
| YGG Evan James | 346 | 264 | 76.30% | 49 | 38 |
| YGG Garth Olwg | 324 | 302 | 93.21% | 46 | 49 |
| YGG Llantrisant | 338 | 270 | 79.88% | 48 | 42 |
| YGG Llwynceilyn | 336 | 267 | 79.46% | 47 | 39 |
| YGG Llyn y Forwyn | 197 | 160 | 81.05% | 28 | 38 |
| Ysgol Llanhari | 194 | 159 | 81.96% | 27 | 31 |

| <u>School</u> | <u>Capacity (R-Y6)</u> | <u>Pupils (R-Y6)</u> | <u>Occupancy</u> | <u>Capacity Nursery</u> | <u>Nursery Pupils</u> |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| YGG Pont Sion Norton | 267 | 256 | 95.88% | 38 | 43 |
| YGG Tonyrefail | 330 | 169 | 51.12% | 35 | 30 |
| YGG Ynyswen | 300 | 234 | 78.00% | 42 | 48 |
| Dolau Primary (including Welsh Unit) | 441 | 424 | 96.15% | 63 | 74 |
| Heol-Y-Celyn Primary | 388 | 315 | 81.19% | 55 | 44 |
| Penderyn Primary | 231 | 208 | 90.04% | 32 | 26 |
| Total | 5,087 | 4,184 | 82.23% | 707 | 682 |

4.2 The majority of the Welsh medium primary schools have sufficient surplus places to meet the demand for places. However, there are a number of schools where demand is close to outstripping the supply. Members will be aware that the Council has or is currently taking action to address these issues, for example:

- The Council has committed to invest £3.3m at YGG Aberdar to provide a further 60 places;
- The Council has brought together the primary and secondary schools at Garth Olwg to become a 3-19 school, to enable the primary provision to expand into the surplus space available in the secondary school;
- The Council is currently consulting on building a new Welsh medium school for the pupils of Pontsionnorton and Heol Y Celyn to provide an additional 90 spaces;
- Dolau Primary School – the Council recently consulted on expanding the Welsh and English medium provision available in the area, as a result of planned housing development in the area. This new provision will provide a further 540 primary places;
- Penderyn – the Council is in the process of consulting on increasing the number of Welsh medium places available at this dual language School by making it a Welsh medium school only.

4.3 Furthermore, the Council has also committed to increasing the quality and availability of early years Welsh medium provision by spending £3.5m on:

- The creation of a new childcare facility at YGG Aberdar;
- The relocation of an existing childcare facility at Ysgol Llanhari from a former house to a new location on the school site;
- Significantly improving the facilities for an existing childcare facility at YGG Evan James;

- Relocating an existing childcare facility at YGG Ynyswen to a new location on school site;
- Relocation of an existing childcare facility to YGG Abercynon;
- Replacement of mobile single classroom with a permanent two classroom extension at YGGG Llantrisant.

4.4 The current position in terms of the supply and demand for Welsh medium secondary schools is as follows:

| | Capacity | No of Pupils | Surplus Places | % Surplus Places |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| YG Garth Olwg | 1,110 | 810 | 300 | 27.0 |
| YG Llanhari | 914 | 472 | 442 | 48.4 |
| YG Rhydywaun | 1,038 | 971 | 67 | 6.5 |
| YG Cwm Rhondda | 1,023 | 732 | 291 | 28.4 |
| Total | 4,085 | 2,985 | 1,110 | 26.9 |

- 4.5 Similar to the primary schools, other than YG Rhydywaun, there are sufficient surplus places to meet the future demand for school places. Members will recall that before Christmas 2018, Cabinet approved a £10.2m investment to improve the facilities and increase the capacity of YG Rhydywaun by a further 162 places, creating a 1,200 capacity school.
- 4.6 The two tables, the investments already approved and the potential investments planned, subject to the outcome of statutory consultations, evidence that the Council has the capacity to meet increases in the demand for Welsh medium education for the foreseeable future.

5 FUTURE PLANS TO DEVELOP AND ENHANCE WELSH MEDIUM PROVISION

- 5.1 The Council has a comprehensive planned maintenance programme and continues to invest in maintaining the fabric of all schools. However, we have a number of Welsh medium schools where the site limits further development and where the outdoor and recreational facilities are limited.
- 5.2 To improve these schools, and bring them up to a 21st Century Schools standard alternative sites have to be considered. Two such schools, which both previously housed English medium schools, are Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda and Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn Y Forwyn. The site suitability and the current buildings need to be replaced in the near future.

- 5.3 The Council has applied for Mutual Investment Model (“MIM”) 21st Century funding which is targeted at new build schools on vacated land sites. In order to be well-placed to secure such funding, it is recommended that the Council undertakes feasibility studies to identify a range of options to either refurbish the two existing schools using other capital funding or considers the relocation of the schools to new 21st century facilities to be built on alternative sites but in their current respective Rhondda Valley. In doing so a further report will be presented to a future Cabinet meeting.
- 5.4 The Council has received a number of significant housing development planning applications over the past year adjacent to the Church Village By-pass, south of Church Village/Llantwit Fardre, and further applications are planned. Inevitably, the Council will have to increase the number of school places in the area and a new school will probably be required. It is proposed that any new such school is a Welsh Medium school, in order to meet the potential primary place supply issues that could arise at Ysgol Garth Olwg. Initially this new school could be a one form entry primary school.
- 5.5 Currently, across the County Borough, the number of Welsh medium schools varies significantly from 9 in the former Taf Ely area, to 5 in the Rhondda and only 3 in the Cynon Valley, with one in Abercynon and two north of Aberdare town centre. With the new housing development in Mountain Ash, and further developments planned on the former Phurnacite site, it is proposed that we undertake a feasibility study to explore the opportunities to increase the availability of Welsh Medium primary school places in the Cynon Valley, south of Aberdare, and to report back to Cabinet at a future date.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Council has an excellent track record of planning for school places, ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet local need and parental choice for English and Welsh medium provision. This report seeks to put in place further plans to ensure there is sufficient capacity to grow the existing Welsh medium provision and to improve the quality of the educational experience by providing 21st Century School learning environments.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There are no formal consultation requirements arising from these proposals at present. However, if Cabinet decides to proceed with options to relocate new schools, or significantly increase the capacity of schools, the Council will have to meet the requirements of the School Organisational Code and undertake statutory consultations.

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report. The costs of undertaking the feasibility studies will be met from within existing 21st Century School budgets.

10 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report.

11 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 11.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the Council's priorities set out in its Corporate Plan and in particular "Rhondda Cynon Taf's children and young people will receive a great start in life." In respect of the seven Well-being goals, this report is consistent with: A prosperous Wales; A more equal Wales; A Wales of cohesive communities; and A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers:

None

Contact Officer

Gaynor Davies - 01443 744001

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9TH APRIL 2019

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION IN
DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION
(COUNCILLOR JOY ROSSER)**

Item: **PLANNING FOR WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION PLACES**

Background Papers:

Officer to contact: Gaynor Davies 01443 744001

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9TH APRIL 2019

**NON-DOMESTIC RATES
WALES HIGH STREET AND RETAIL RATES RELIEF 2019-20**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR M NORRIS)**

Author(s): Mr Matthew Phillips, Head of Service (Revenues & Benefits)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with information about the latest (extended) Wales High Street and Retail Relief Scheme (“the scheme”) that will provide rate relief for businesses, which has been announced by the Welsh Government (WG) and is effective from 1st April 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note the details of the scheme detailed in this report; and
- b) Agree that for the financial year 2019/20, the scheme shall apply to the types of premises described in this report and that the Director of Finance & Digital Services be authorised to apply the relief to qualifying ratepayers.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that all qualifying businesses that will benefit from this WG scheme receive the appropriate level of relief on their rates bill in a timely manner.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This purpose of the scheme is to:
- a. Continue to support businesses in Wales that are responding to the challenges of the changing retail environment i.e. internet shopping, with many high street traders having to adapt to changing consumer preferences in how people shop;
 - b. Contribute to the development of sustainable and vibrant town centres; and
 - c. Help businesses who continue to be affected by the independent revaluation exercise undertaken in 2017 by the Valuation Office Agency.

- 4.2 The scheme for 2018/19 included a maximum award of either £250 (for premises with a rateable value up to £12,000) or £750 (for premises with a rateable value of between £12,000 and £50,000). The scheme provided total relief of £137,350 to 504 business ratepayers in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2018/19.
- 4.3 WG has announced that for 2019/20 the scheme will provide relief of up to £2,500 on the business rates bill for all occupied retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less (subject to State Aid limits). Details of the types of businesses that will benefit from the scheme are set out in Appendix 1 and those that are not entitled to relief under the scheme are set out in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 It is estimated by WG that the 2019/20 scheme will provide support to around 15,000 small and medium sized businesses across Wales. In Rhondda Cynon Taf, it is estimated that around 1,200 businesses could qualify for approximately £1.8M of support through this scheme.
- 4.5 As this is a temporary measure, the relief will be provided by reimbursing local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers (under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988).
- 4.6 As the rate relief will be awarded by councils under existing Discretionary Rate Relief powers and as this is a 'national policy', local Discretionary Rate Relief policies adopted by councils do not need to be amended.
- 4.7 It will be for individual Councils to decide to grant relief under section 47 but WG will reimburse Councils for the relief that is provided in line with this guidance (using a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003).

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The matters set out in this report are factual; there are no equality and diversity implications. Once adopted, the Council is obliged to comply with the Welsh Government's rules in applying the Scheme.

6 CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in the report.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications to the Council in adopting this scheme. The full value of the rate relief awarded will be reimbursed to the Council through an initial payment early in 2019/20 and a final 'top up' payment once the 2019/20 scheme closes on 31st March 2020.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The proposed discretionary High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme is in accordance with the Council's statutory powers under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and Welsh Government statutory guidance. The eligibility criteria and the nature of the rates relief is prescribed by the Guidance and the cost to the Council in terms of the reduced income is funded by Welsh Government grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 8.2 For the scheme to be applied in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Council needs to formally resolve to adopt the scheme locally in exercise of its discretionary powers under section 47(1) (a) of the 1988 Act and the Director of Finance and Digital Services will administer the scheme and make the necessary determinations in accordance with the Council's 'officer scheme of delegation'.

9 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 The proposals are aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities, one of which is 'Building a strong economy', and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and in particular "A more prosperous Wales".

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Wales High Street and Retail Relief scheme will provide much needed financial support to approximately 1,200 local businesses in Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2019/20 in the form of a reduction in their Non Domestic Rates bill, of up to £2,500.

Appendix 1

Examples of the types of retail premises that **may** qualify for assistance under the Wales High Street and Retail Relief Scheme:

- Properties that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public:-
 - Shops (such as: florist, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off licence, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc.)
 - Opticians
 - Pharmacies
 - Post offices
 - Furnishing shops/ display rooms (such as: carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
 - Car/ caravan show rooms
 - Second hand car lots
 - Markets
 - Petrol stations
 - Garden centres
 - Art galleries (where art is for sale/hire)
- Properties that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:-
 - Hair and beauty services
 - Shoe repairs/ key cutting
 - Travel agents
 - Ticket offices e.g. for theatre
 - Dry cleaners
 - Launderettes
 - PC/ TV/ domestic appliance repair
 - Funeral directors
 - Photo processing
 - DVD/ video rentals
 - Tool hire
 - Car hire
 - Cinemas
 - Estate and letting agents
- Properties that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public:-
 - Restaurants, including drive through/drive in restaurants
 - Takeaways
 - Sandwich shops
 - Cafés
 - Coffee shops
 - Pubs
 - Wine Bars

Appendix 2

Examples of the types of retail premises that **will not** qualify for assistance under the Wales High Street and Retail Relief Scheme:

- Properties being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:
 - Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points, ATMs, bureaux de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
 - Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
 - Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents, financial advisers, tutors)
 - Post office sorting office
 - Tourism accommodation, e.g. B&Bs, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
 - Sports clubs
 - Children's play centres
 - Day nurseries
 - Outdoor activity centres
 - Gyms
 - Kennels and catteries
 - Show homes and marketing suites
 - Employment agencies

In addition, the following properties will not be eligible to relief under the scheme:

- a) Properties with a rateable value of more than £50,000
- b) Properties that are not reasonably accessible to the visiting members of the public
- c) Properties that are not occupied
- d) Properties that are owned, rented or managed by a local authority
- e) Properties that are in receipt of mandatory charitable relief

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

9TH APRIL 2019

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER (CLLR M NORRIS)**

Item: **NON-DOMESTIC RATES - WALES HIGH STREET AND RETAIL RATES RELIEF
2019-20**

Background Papers

NONE

Officer to contact:

MR MATTHEW PHILLIPS, HEAD OF SERVICE (REVENUES & BENEFITS)

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