

Appendix D (i)

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**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES – RULE 17**

SCRUTINY CALL IN FORM

THIS FORM MUST:

- (A) BE SIGNED BY AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS FROM AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPS (or in the case of an unallocated member(s) that unallocated member(s) and a member(s) from a political group).
- (B) BE EMAILED TO C. HANAGAN, SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS – scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk OR HAND DELIVERED TO THE PAVILIONS, CAMBRIAN PARK, CLYDACH VALE, CF40 2XX WITHIN THE TIMESCALE NOTIFIED WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION

DETAILS OF DECISION

Decision of Cabinet/Cabinet Member/Other (Please delete as appropriate)

Date of Publication of decision...18 July, 2019

Subject of Decision. 21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to improve Education provision in the greater Pontypridd area.

Decision Called in

1. DECISION MADE:
Agenda Item : 3

SUBJECT: 21st Century Schools Programme - Proposals to improve Education provision in the greater Pontypridd area.

Agreed – 1. To note the information contained within the Objection Report in Appendix A of the report, which includes a summary of the 435 objections received during the statutory notice period, and the comments provided in response to the objections and Appendices B-D being the Community, Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessments.

2. To implement the proposals as published in three of the Statutory Notices which would:

- Close Pontypridd High School and Cilfynydd Primary School and create a new 3 – 16 'all through' school on the site of the current Pontypridd High School by September 2022. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- Close Hawthorn High School and Hawthorn Primary School and create a new 3 – 16 'all through' school on the site of the current Hawthorn High and Hawthorn Primary Schools by September 2022, with the Local Authority designated ALN specialist class located in Hawthorn High School, as well as the current pupils receiving education through the medium of English at Heol y Celyn Primary School, transferring to the new school. There will be no sixth form provision at this school;
- Close Ysgol

Gynradd Gymraeg Pont Sion Norton and Heol y Celyn Primary School and open a new Welsh medium primary school on the site of the current Heol y Celyn Primary School by September 2022.

3. The associated catchment changes detailed in the explanatory notes to the Statutory Notices - such catchment changes becoming effective from 1st September 2022. This excludes the proposed change to the catchment area of Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School as agreed by Cabinet on 21st March 2019 which was not included within the Statutory Notices.

4. To note that as previously reported, the School Organisation Code makes provision for local authorities to determine their own statutory proposals, with the exception of the proposal relating to Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School. The Cardinal Newman RC Comprehensive School proposal relates only to the removal of the sixth form, the implementation (or nonimplementation) of which will not prevent or undermine the effective implementation of the other proposals. In accordance with the School Organisation Code this has been referred to Welsh Ministers for determination.

5. To note that a separate report on funding arrangements would be presented to Council in due course which would also be subject to approval by Welsh Government.

Reason for calling in decision (Please use separate sheet if necessary)		
1., 2., and 3 on the following page.		
Names	Signature	Group
Cllr. M. Powell	Mike Powell	Dem. Alliance
Cllr. M. Fidler Jones	Martin Fidler Jones	Labour
Cllr. H. Fychan	Heledd Fychan	Plaid

Date: 23.07.19

For Office use only by the Service Director Democratic Service & Communications

Date & Time of Receipt: 23/7/19 5:00 PM Officer Receiving: E. Williams

Accepted as a valid Call-in:

To be submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Signature:  Date: 24/7/19

1. The officers report and subsequent decision is totally contradictory to what the Cabinet and officers are asking the Welsh Government to fund. The report used to make the decision states that even after the officers recommendations are agreed that there will be, and I quote the Director of education's words from the cabinet meeting on the 18th of July regarding surplus spaces at the two High schools in Pontypridd that even after the implementation of the recommendations "there will be 785 secondary surplus spaces in the greater Pontypridd area" and "in essence, the council is funding one secondary school to many"! Do the administration seriously believe that the Welsh Government are going to support a spend of £34.7m to still provide a surplus high school in the area based upon the officers report?
2. Lack of scrutiny over:
 - (1) responses following initial consultation period
 - (2) Lack of scrutiny over the proposals in light of:
 - (a) responses following initial consultation period
 - (b) objections received during statutory notice period. This is particularly in light of significant opposition from the public following consultation process that residents found difficult to access. During the statutory process a resident-led website designed to facilitate resident engagement with the process 348 validly received and consented objections from members the public yet was separated out to suggest they were of a different validity to other responses received.
3. The Cabinet have failed to take into consideration that the proposals to close YGG Pont Sion Norton are removing the choice of Welsh medium education from low income families/ families without a car living in Ynysybwl, Glyncoch and Cilfynydd and will impact negatively on the wellbeing of children living in these communities as well as the growth of the Welsh language. Children and parents will face barriers in accessing school breakfast clubs and after hour activities, and face longer journey times to reach the school in an emergency or if a child is unwell.

