



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

28TH FEBRUARY 2023

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME - NAMING OF
THREE NEW SCHOOLS IN THE GREATER PONTYPRIDD AREA**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN
DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH
PARTICIPATION AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE, COUNCILLOR RHYS LEWIS**

**Author: Miss Non Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support & Emergency
Planning**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider the recommendations made by the relevant temporary governing bodies as to the proposed naming of the three new schools in the Greater Pontypridd area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Agrees to name the new all through 3–16 school at Hawthorn, ‘Ysgol Afon Wen’, which is the name put forward by the temporary governing body;
- 2.2 Agrees to name the new all through 3–16 school at Pontypridd, ‘Ysgol Bro Taf’, which is the name put forward by the temporary governing body;
- 2.3 Agrees to name the new Welsh Medium primary school in Rhydyfelin, ‘Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf’, which is the name put forward by the temporary governing body; and
- 2.4 Notes all three schools are due to open in September 2024.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In April 2012, Cabinet agreed a protocol document produced by the Director of Education on Council policy for the changing and setting of school names. This protocol document is attached for information, as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The headteachers and temporary governors of the three new schools have undertaken extensive consultation on new names for the three schools and have agreed on suitable names for Cabinet's consideration.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Cabinet agreed at their meeting held on 18th July 2019 to formally confirm the proposals to create new 3–16 all through schools in Hawthorn and Pontypridd and a new Welsh medium primary school in Rhydyfelin. These decisions followed an extensive consultation process and the publication of statutory notices, all conducted in accordance with statutory guidance contained in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.
- 4.2 Following these decisions, temporary governing bodies were appointed at all three schools, to oversee decisions relating to establishing the schools. Since then, the temporary governing bodies have appointed headteachers. It is anticipated that the process of appointing all other staff will commence in earnest in the spring term 2023, following the consultation and adoption of the agreed staffing structures in accordance with the Council's management of change process.
- 4.3 There is also a need for the three headteachers to commence the preparation of documentation in relation to their schools, including a new school prospectus. They are also keen to commence work around the 'branding' of the schools, i.e. the designing of school signage and logos, school uniform choices and school colours. All of this work is however dependent on new school names being determined and approved in accordance with the Council's agreed process.
- 4.4 The outcome of these consultations and the recommendations for the new names are outlined below:
- 4.5 Hawthorn 3–16 School
 - 4.5.1 The headteacher has undertaken consultation with the pupils and staff of all three schools that will close to create the new school. The temporary governing body considered the proposals and agreed on four options to consult with wider stakeholders, including all pupils, staff, governors and the community, via a survey on the RCT website.
 - 4.5.2 Following the consultation process, the temporary governing body reviewed the outcome of the consultation and noted that **Ysgol Afon Wen** had received the highest number of votes (35%). In view of this, the temporary governing body wish to recommend Ysgol Afon Wen as the name of the new school, which was the highest scoring preferred name identified by pupils and staff.

4.6 Pontypridd 3–16 School

4.6.1 The headteacher has undertaken consultation with the pupils and staff of the two schools that will close to create the new school. The temporary governing body considered the proposals and agreed on four options to consult with wider stakeholders, including all pupils, staff, governors and the community, via a survey on the RCT website.

4.6.2 Following the consultation process, the temporary governing reviewed the outcome of the consultation and noted that **Ysgol Bro Taf** had received the highest number of votes (43.1%). In view of this, the temporary governing body recommended Ysgol Bro Taf as the name of the new school, as this was the highest scoring preferred option selected by pupils and staff at the three schools.

4.7 New Welsh Primary School

4.7.1 The headteacher has undertaken consultation with the pupils and staff of the two schools that will close to create the new school. The temporary governing body considered the proposals and agreed on four options to consult with wider stakeholders, including all pupils, staff, governors and the community, via a survey on the RCT website.

4.7.2 Following the consultation process, the temporary governing body reviewed the outcome of the consultation and noted that **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf** had received the highest number of votes (39%). In light of this, the temporary governing body wish to recommend Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf as the name of the new school, as this was endorsed as the highest scoring preferred option selected by pupils and staff of the three schools.

5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

5.1 The cost of new uniforms and branding was raised in the consultation and this will be consulted upon in the spring term 2023. Every endeavour will made to ensure that new uniforms will reflect the current financial pressures faced by many families.

6. **WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Welsh Language Impact Assessments have been undertaken as part of the consultations for each of the new schools. Promotion of the Welsh language was a consideration in the proposed naming of the three new schools.

6.2 The new Welsh medium primary that will open in September 2024 will have excellent facilities and will increase the delivery of Welsh medium education in RCT.

- 6.3 All three names proposed are Welsh, which will actively encourage the use of Welsh within the community.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Although there is no statutory requirement to undertake consultation, the attached protocol document clearly outlines the Council's requirements in this regard and highlights the need for consultation with school pupils. All three schools have undertaken thorough and proper consultation with the key stakeholders associated with their schools, with pupils being at the forefront of this work.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications for the Council in respect of this proposal. All costs associated with the 'rebranding' of the schools, such as design of logos and badges is to be met from the delegated budgets of the schools themselves.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications in respect of decisions on school names.
- 9.2 New Instruments of Government will be required for the three new schools. These will be prepared in the summer 2024 in readiness for the opening of the schools in September 2024.

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

- 10.1 <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>
The proposal will also support the Well-being of Future Generations Act, in particular "A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language." The new Welsh medium primary school will develop skills, increase opportunities, and respect our status as a bilingual nation. The three schools having Welsh names will also promote bilingualism.
- 10.2 <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/ActionPlanforWelshLanguage>
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/ComplianceNoticeStandards.pdf> [gePromotionalStrategy.pdf](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/WelshServices/Relateddocs/ComplianceNoticeStandards.pdf)
This proposal will support Priority 1 – Increasing the number of Welsh speakers by establishing a new Welsh primary school therefore strengthening the statutory education system which will increase the number of confident Welsh speakers.

11. STRATEGIC OR RELEVANT TO ELECTORAL WARDS

- 11.1 The new Welsh primary school sits in the electoral ward of Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf.
- 11.2 The new all through school in Hawthorn sits in the electoral ward of Hawthorn and Lower Rhydfelen.
- 11.3 The new all through school in Cilfynydd sits in the electoral ward of Cilfynydd.
- 11.4 The new schools and associated catchments are also relevant to a number of other electoral wards within the Greater Pontypridd area.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Members are asked to consider the proposed names of the three new schools that have been put forward by their respective temporary governing bodies as detailed in this report, and to agree to their implementation, noting that all the appropriate consultation that is required has been undertaken.

Other Information:-

Contact Officer

Miss Non Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support & Emergency Planning

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
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Background Papers

None

Officer to contact:

Miss Non Morgan, Senior Manager for Governor Support & Emergency Planning

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL POLICY ON THE SETTING AND CHANGING OF SCHOOL NAMES

1. This policy relates to the official names of schools meaning the name set out in the Instrument of Government (“IOG”).
2. School names must be consistent with legal requirements the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005. Paragraph 35 of the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 is especially relevant: a copy is attached as part of this policy.
3. School names must not be misleading. Therefore, the Council shall expect that:
 - Where a school is a voluntary school and has a religious character, this is clear from the school’s name;
 - Where a school serves all or part of the primary age-range (ages 5-11) and is not a special school, one of the following phrases is used:
 - Infant School
 - Junior School
 - Primary School;
 - Where a school has “Primary” in its name it will serve all age-groups in nursery, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two;
 - Any implication or perceived implication in the school’s name is accurate:
 - Where a school is relocated, on a permanent basis, from a location in one electoral ward and/or community to a different electoral ward and/or community, the Council will request that the governing body review the IOG and the name of the school and shall not retain a name linked to its previous location that may mislead or confuse any interested parties. The governing body will have 60 calendar days to complete the review of the IOG;
 - If the governing body determines that there should be no change to the IOG and school name, it is required to inform the Council of the reasons why. Where the Council’s Cabinet has concerns over the proposed name, or if it does not meet the requirements in the Council’s policy, it will refer the matter back to the governing body for reconsideration with an explanation of their decision;

- If the governing body does not comply with this request, the Council will review the IOG and recommend to the governing body a suitable new name for the school. The Council will notify the governing body of the proposed change to the school name and the reasons for the change. The governing body will have 90 calendar days or at the discretion of the Council “reasonable time” to discuss the proposed changes with the Council in order to come to an agreement on the name. If no agreement can be reached the Council’s Cabinet will determine the change of name of the school.
- 4. If the governing body decides that the name of the school should be changed, it has to consult with pupils, parents and other stakeholders. All consultees shall be informed that the new name must not mislead or confuse anyone as to the school’s location. Best practice suggests that pupils of the school should play the lead role in determining a suitable school name. After a period of consultation with pupils, parents and other stakeholders the process for determining a school’s name shall be as follows:
 - a) An item shall be placed on the agenda of a meeting of the full governing body making clear that a change of the school’s name is proposed and specifying the proposed new name (or options).
 - b) A change to a school name must be decided by the governing body.
 - c) Where the school is a voluntary school, the new name must also be approved by the relevant diocesan authority (for Church of Wales and Roman Catholic Schools).
 - d) If the governing body agrees to the proposed school name, they shall inform the Council so that the Instrument of Government can be changed.
 - e) Where the above stages have been completed satisfactorily, the Council’s Cabinet will consider the proposed new name in accordance with the Council’s policy and arrange for the school’s Instrument of Government to be changed.
 - f) Where the Council’s Cabinet has concerns over the proposed new name, or if it does not meet the requirements in the Council’s policy, it will refer the matter back to the governing body for reconsideration, with an explanation of their decision.
- 5. For new schools, the role of the governing body outlined in 4(a) – (f) above shall be undertaken by the temporary governing body until the permanent governing body has been set up.

Extract from the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005

Review of instruments of government

35. (1) The governing after it is made.

- (2) Where on any body or the local education authority may review the instrument of government at any time review the governing body or the local education authority decides that the instrument of government should be varied, the governing body or (as the case may be) the local education authority must notify the other of its proposed variation together with its reasons for proposing such a variation.
- (3) Where the governing body has received notification under paragraph (2), it must inform the local education authority as to whether or not it is content with the proposed variation and, if not content, its reasons.
- (4) Where the school has foundation governors, the governing body must not—
 - (a) give the local education authority any notification under paragraph (2), or
 - (b) inform the authority under paragraph (3) that it is content with the authority's proposed variation, unless the persons listed in regulation 34(2) have approved the proposed variation.
- (5) If—
 - (a) whichever of the governing body and the local education authority is the recipient of a notification under paragraph (2) agrees with the proposed variation, or
 - (b) there is agreement between the local education authority, the governing body and (if the school has foundation governors) the other persons listed in regulation 34(2) that some other variation should be made instead, the local education authority must vary the instrument of government accordingly.
- (6) If, in the case of a school which has foundation governors, at any time the persons listed in regulation 34(2) disagree with the proposed variation any of those persons may refer it to the National Assembly for Wales; and on such a reference the National Assembly for Wales must give such direction as it thinks fit having regard, in particular, to the category of school to which the school belongs.
- (7) If neither sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (5) applies in the case of a school which does not have foundation governors, the local education authority must—
 - (a) inform the governing body of the reasons—
 - (i) why it is not content with the governing body's proposed variation, or as the case may be,

- (ii) why it wishes to proceed with its own variation, and
 - (b) give the governing body a reasonable opportunity to reach agreement with it with regard to the variation; and the instrument of government must be varied by it either in the manner agreed between it and the governing body or (in the absence of such agreement) in such manner as it thinks fit having regard, in particular, to the category of school to which the school belongs.
- (8) Nothing in this regulation is to be taken as requiring the local education authority to vary the instrument of government if it does not consider it appropriate to do so.
- (9) Where an instrument of government is varied under this regulation—
- (a) the instrument must set out the date on which the variation takes effect, and
 - (b) regulation 33(3) applies in relation to any variation relating to the manner in which the governing body is to be constituted as if it referred to the date when the variation is made rather than the date when the instrument is made.