



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14TH SEPTEMBER 2023

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSALS TO REALIGN ADDITIONAL LEARNING
NEEDS MAINSTREAM LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS PROVISION WITHIN
RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To pre-scrutinise the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of the proposal to realign the mainstream Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members undertake pre scrutiny of the report (attached at **Appendix A & 1**), thus providing Scrutiny with an opportunity to comment upon this matter prior to consideration by the Cabinet.
- 2.1. Request the Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications to feedback the comments, observations and/or recommendations of members to Cabinet Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Scrutiny with the opportunity to undertake pre-scrutiny of the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of the proposal to realign the mainstream LSC provision within RCT, prior to its consideration by Cabinet.
- 3.2 The need to provide Members with information on the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of the proposal to realign the mainstream LSC provision within RCT, in order to progress the proposal in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (School Organisation Code

(2nd Edition) (011/2018) so that an improved continuum of ALN provision can be achieved in RCT.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. At the meeting of Cabinet held on 3rd May 2023, approval was given to begin a process of formal consultation on a proposal to realign the mainstream Learning Support Class (LSC) provision within Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT).
- 4.2. The consultation in respect of these proposals was undertaken between 5th June and 14th July 2023 under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. These arrangements stipulate that a Consultation Report must be prepared prior to the publication of any statutory notices which will progress the proposal. It further states that this Report must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the consultation period, which is 12th January 2024 in this instance.
- 4.3. The Cabinet report appended at **Appendix A**, includes the Consultation Response Report at **Appendix 1** which provides details on the purpose of the Consultation Report, who was consulted with, what was consulted on, the consultation process, the summary of responses to the consultation, summary of key these raised and LA responses, Estyn's response to the proposal from RCT regarding LSCs, which would take affect from April 2024 and the conclusion.
- 4.4. It is Estyn's expectation that the inspection report is scrutinised in full by the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee, so that the necessary support and challenge can be provided.

5. PRE-SCRUTINY

- 5.1. Members are reminded that the purpose of pre scrutiny activity is to influence the decisions before they are made. The Education and Inclusion Services Scrutiny Committee continues to have the opportunity to explore and comment on a number of reports in advance of Cabinet's consideration to bring a different perspective to the decisions made and enabling Cabinet decisions to be more informed.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS/SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

7. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no Welsh language implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1. The involvement of the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee in the pre-scrutiny exercise will contribute to the quality and robustness of Cabinet decision-making.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1. The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1. The undertaking of pre scrutiny by the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee in respect of the outcome of the recent consultation in respect of the proposal to realign the mainstream LSC provision within RCT, will ensure that the Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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