



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 DECEMBER 2023

RCTCBC CONSULTATIONS

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. For Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be consulted and to formally respond to the Council's [consultations](#) on the [Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element](#) and [Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy](#)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1. Consider responding as consultees upon the proposals detailed below in paragraph 5.
- 2.2. Consider as a Committee, to provide further comments, observations or recommendations in respect of these proposals prior to Cabinet consideration.
- 2.3. Request the Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications to provide Cabinet with the feedback of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to respond to the consultations before the 8th January 2024

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. At the meeting of Cabinet held on 20th November 2023, approval was given to begin a process of formal consultation on proposals to Continue with Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction

of a Charge for the additional childcare element and Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy

- 4.2. The consultation in respect of these proposals is being undertaken between 27 November 2023 and 8th January 2024. These arrangements stipulate that consultation must be undertaken when the proposals are at a formative stage and that Consultation documents must be prepared and circulated to prescribed consultees, as well as being published on the Council [website](#).

5. CONSULTATIONS

Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element

- 5.1 In RCTCBC, all 92 primary schools and 3 special schools provide a free breakfast club and all pupils, from nursery to year six, are eligible to attend. The Council's Education Catering Services supply the staffing and the food to primary and special schools to facilitate access to free breakfast clubs.
- 5.2 It is proposed to introduce a charge for the additional childcare element provided during breakfast club, from the start of April 2024.
- 5.3 It is proposed that a daily charge be implemented at £1 per day. Based on 190 days per year this would be rounded down to £60 per term, amounting to an annual charge for parents/carers of £180.
- 5.4 It is proposed that no charge is made in respect of pupils who have applied for and are entitled to Free School Meal provision.
- 5.5 The following documents are also attached for Members consideration:
- **Appendix A1** – Cabinet report outlining proposals to initiate the consultation on the [Continuation of Free Breakfast Club Provision in Primary and Special Schools with the Introduction of a Charge for the additional childcare element](#)
 - **Appendix A2** – [Cabinet Decision notice](#)
 - **Appendix A3** – FAQs

Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy

- 5.6 Due to the financial pressures the Council is facing the Council are considering changes to current Home to School Transport Policy, to align transport provision more closely with Welsh Government statutory transport requirements. This is necessary for the Council to: -
- maintain affordability within future financial constraints

- continue to be able to meet its statutory requirements; and
- maintain discretionary transport for its most vulnerable users (i.e. ALN pupils).

5.7 The following documents are also attached for Members information

- **Appendix B1** - [Cabinet report outlining proposals to initiate the consultation on the Review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy](#)
- **Appendix B2** – [Cabinet Decision notice](#)
- **Appendix B3** – FAQs

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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee as consultee, 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been afforded the opportunity to respond to the consultation published on the 27th November

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A NEW 3-19 SPECIAL
SCHOOL IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

14TH SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**