



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

SPECIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 JANUARY 2024

**CALL-IN: PROPOSAL TO CLOSE RHIGOS PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH PUPILS
TRANSFERRING TO HIRWAUN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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

1. MEMBERS WILL FIND ENCLOSED:

Appendix A – Cabinet Committee Report of the [18th December 2023](#) - 'Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation and Welsh Language titled Proposal to Close Rhigos Primary School with Pupils Transferring to Hirwaun Primary School' (this includes the following appendices):-

A1 – Consultation Report

A2 – Estyn Response

2A, 2B, 3A and 3B – Minutes of Meetings.

Appendix B - Copy of the Cabinet Decision for the above mentioned item.

Appendix C –Extract of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules re: Call-in

Appendix D – Copy of the Call in form received from Councillors D Grehan, A Rogers and S Trask

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To determine whether or not to refer the matter back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 18 December 2023, a report was considered by Cabinet in respect of the decision to approve the recommendations outlined below:
- Note the content of the report.
 - Note the information contained within the attached Consultation Report, attached as Appendix A to the Cabinet Report, which includes a summary of correspondence received during the consultation, including the full response from Estyn, feedback received from the online survey, and notes of the meetings held.
 - Note the feedback from Education and Inclusion Scrutiny Committee which met on 14th December 2023 provided by the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication.
 - Agree to progress the proposals to the next stage of the consultation process by issuing an appropriate Statutory Notice which will trigger the start of the Objection Period.
- 3.2 This matter was pre scrutinised by the Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee on the 14th December 2023. Cabinet Members were provided with a copy of the feedback and the comments of the Education & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee on Friday 15th December. Members can view the webcast of this meeting [here](#).
- 3.3 The decision in respect of the above was published on the 18 December 2023 and is attached at [Appendix B](#). The feedback from the Education & Inclusion Committee was attached to the Cabinet Decision Notice for publication purposes.
- 3.4 Members are able to view the Cabinet meeting where the matter was considered by clicking [here](#) to view the recording.
- 3.5 Rule 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules dealing with call-in is attached as Appendix C of this report.
- 3.6 The call-in form was received on the 21st December 2023 which complied with the relevant criteria. (A copy of the prescribed call in form is attached as Appendix D)
- 3.7 The reasons for the call-in which were considered valid by the Proper Officer are presented for the Committees consideration below.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1 Each case for Call-in must be considered on its merits and the procedure for the conduct of the meeting will be in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17.1B, as shown below:-

17.1 Procedure at call-in meetings held under Rule 17.1

1. Declarations of interest (including whipping declarations);
2. Welcome by the Chair followed by the outlining of the reason for the call-in meeting, to be undertaken by the Head of Democratic Services as per detailed below:-

Call –in matters raised for consideration by the committee supported by the Proper Officer :

1. There is a need to consider the negative impact of the proposal for pupils and the wider community of Rhigos especially in line with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 which requires RCTCBC to think about the long-term impact of decisions on communities to prevent consistent issues such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
 2. There is a need to fully respect the right of the child to have their voice heard, taken seriously, and acted upon.
 3. There is a need to fully consider aspects of the proposal which are contrary to the aims of another proposal which is currently being consulted on.
 4. The decision to proceed relied upon incomplete, out of date data.
 5. There is a need to consider the merits of alternative options put forward by the consultees, and alternative options to address surplus places.
 6. There is a need to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the potential impact of the decision both positive and negative.
 7. The feedback from the Education & Inclusion Scrutiny meeting held on 14th December 2023 was not included within the Cabinet Report nor attached as an appendix prior to the decision being made and therefore was not available for public scrutiny and response.
- 3. Chair to invite the three Members, namely County Borough Councillors:**
- D Grehan, A Rogers, S Trask who have signed the call-in form to present their submissions to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to why they consider the relevant decision should be referred back to the decision maker for reconsideration, having regard to the accepted valid reasons set out in the 'notice of call-in form.*
4. *Chair to invite relevant Director(s) to respond.*
 5. *Chair to give any Cabinet Member(s) present the opportunity to address the Committee.*
 6. *Chair to invite any other Members of the Committee to speak (and with the Chair's permission any non-Committee Members present, who are eligible to attend, and wish to speak).*

7. *If necessary, the Chair to invite any relevant Director/Cabinet Member present to respond to a Member's question.*
 8. *Chair to invite one of the three signatories to the call-in to make a final address to the Committee membership.*
 9. *Chair to put the matter to the vote.*
 10. *Legal Officer present to summarise the effect of the Committee's decision in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 17.1(e) and 17.1(f)*
- 4.2 If the proposal to refer the matter back for reconsideration is passed then the matter will be referred back to the decision maker, namely the Cabinet. If the proposal is lost then the decision will take effect from the conclusion of this meeting.
 - 4.3 The relevant Cabinet portfolio holder(s) will be invited to the meeting to answer any questions Members of the Committee may have with regards to the subject matter of the Call In.
 - 4.4 Should any public speaker requests be received, they will be considered in accordance with the Council Scrutiny participation arrangements, as outlined within the Council's Public Participation Strategy.
