

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 MAY 2015

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE – LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES

CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION: PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN): OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to enable the Committee to consider the Cabinet decision of 28 April 2015 in relation to the the proposals to cease one moderate learning difficulties (MLD) learning resource centre provision at Pencoed Primary School.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 These proposals are related to the Corporate Plan (2013-2017) and Corporate Improvement priority two;
- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement

3. Background.

- 3.1 In accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 17 of the Council's Constitution, three Members of the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee have requested that the Executive decision made by Cabinet on 28 April 2015 be Called-In.
- 3.2 For the purposes of informing the Committee more fully regarding the reasons for Call-In, the following appendices have been attached:
- Appendix A – Cabinet Decision Record of 28 April 2015;
 - Appendix B – Notice of Call-In Form;
 - Appendix C - Report of The Director of Education and Transformation: Provision for Pupils With Additional Learning Needs (ALN): Outcome of Consultations on Proposal for Changes to Pencoed Primary School

4. Current Situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The role of Councillors exercising Overview and Scrutiny is, amongst other things, to ensure that the development of the Council's policies and the way they are being implemented reflect the needs and priorities of local Communities in the County Borough. As such, in holding to account the Cabinet for the efficient exercise of the executive function, the Overview & Scrutiny process aims to strengthen accountability for the decisions and performance of Bridgend County Borough Council.
- 4.2 Three Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with the Committee's remit for consideration of the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to Education as well as Safeguarding and Family Support, have decided to Call-In the Cabinet decision of 28 April 2015.
- 4.3 The role of the Committee within the Call-In process is to consider the proposed decision taken by Cabinet including the reasons for the decision, factors taken into account by Cabinet when making the decision and whether the decision is in line with corporate priorities and policies. Further details as to the reasons for Call-In are provided at Appendix B and can be summarised as follows:
- Insufficient information on the effects on standards;
 - Evidence not provided on the change in the profile on children's needs;
 - Lack of evaluation of the impact of closure on pupils affected;
 - No evidence of the impact on other schools with MLD provision;
 - Inadequate responses to some of the consultees questions.
- 4.4 Following its examination of the decision, the Committee has the power to recommend that the decision be re-considered by the Cabinet, or it may ask that full Council review the decision. If referred to the Cabinet, it must be reconsidered by Cabinet within 5 working days, prior to a final determination of the matter. If the Committee does not refer the matter back to the Cabinet, or refer it to full Council, the decision may be determined on the date of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The work of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The equality implications are outlined in the Cabinet report attached as Appendix C.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The financial implications are outlined in the Cabinet report attached as Appendix C.

8. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet decision of 28 April 2015 in relation to the proposed changes to provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) at Pencoed Primary school and to determine whether it wishes to:

- i) refer the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration;
- ii) refer the decision to full Council for review;
- iii) decide not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet or to full Council.

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2014

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Background Documents:

None