

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

22 February, 2017

Chairman: **Councillor D.W.Davies**

Vice Chairman: **Councillor A.Jenkins**

Councillors: A.Carter, Ms.C.Clement-Williams, M.Harvey, Mrs.L.H.James, Mrs.D.Jones, A.Llewelyn, A.R.Lockyer, Mrs.K.Pearson, L.M.Purcell, S.Rahaman and J.Warman

Officers In Attendance S.Phillips, A.Evans, G.Nutt, A.Thomas, R.Gordon, Ms.C.Furlow, Mrs.R.Crowhurst and Mrs.A.Manchipp

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.H.Thomas, M.L.James, E.V.Latham, Mrs.S.Miller, P.A.Rees, P.D.Richards, J.Rogers, A.J.Taylor and A.N.Woolcock

1. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:-

Councillor P.A.Rees

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Establish a Secondary Education Nurture Centre at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School as he is Governor at the school and confirmed his dispensation to both speak and vote thereon.

Councillor J.Rogers

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Open a 3-16 School to Replace Groes Primary School and Dyffryn School as he is Governor at Groes Primary School and confirmed his dispensation to both speak and vote thereon.

Councillor A.J.Taylor

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Open a 3-16 School to Replace Groes Primary School and Dyffryn School as his daughters attend the schools under consideration and withdrew for the meeting during the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor A.Carter

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Establish a Secondary Education Nurture Centre at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School as he is Governor at the school and confirmed his dispensation to both speak and vote thereon.

Councillor A.Llewelyn

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Establish a Secondary Education Nurture Centre at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School and the Proposal to Open a 3-16 School to Replace Groes Primary School and Dyffryn School as he is a parent/ Governor at other schools

included in the Programme and confirmed his dispensation to speak thereon.

Councillor A.Jenkins

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Establish a Secondary Education Nurture Centre at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School as he is Governor at the school.

Councillor Mrs.K.Pearson

The report of the Head of Transformation re: the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Open a 3-16 School to Replace Groes Primary School and Dyffryn School as her Grandson attends Groes Primary School.

2. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME -
PROPOSAL TO OPEN A 3-16 SCHOOL
TO REPLACE GROES PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DYFFRYN
SCHOOL**

The Scrutiny Committee supported the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

3. **PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SECONDARY EDUCATION
NURTURE CENTRE AT CEFN SAESON COMPREHENSIVE
SCHOOL**

Committee received the report of the Head of Transformation in relation to Proposal to Establish a Secondary Education Nurture Centre at Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.

(At this point on the meeting, Councillor J.Warman disclosed an interest in this item as he is a Governor at Cefn Saeson).

Members then raised the following points:-

- Whether the 16 places planned for the new centre would be enough and were advised that this was in addition to the current main provision at Ysgol Hendrefelin. Once the SENC was established the two facilities would provide for pupils who expressed their needs differently. In addition, other planned places were available at alternative settings as part of the Council's overarching inclusion strategy. The SENC would complement existing support arrangements to form part of a suite of provision across the area with the aim of keeping it within the County Borough.
- Members sought clarification of the wording within the report, in particular the phrase 'externalising their needs' and were advised that this phrase has been used in the report as a pragmatic description of pupil behaviour where the reaction to a situation of stress and anxiety resulted in an outward expression of emotion, while the phrase 'internalising' would refer to those pupils who dealt with their emotions by becoming withdrawn.
- Clarification was also sought on the financial responsibility of the originating school wherein it was noted that it was necessary to maintain the links between the pupil and the originating school in order to ensure that the transition back to mainstream education was as smooth as possible. In order to achieve this it would be necessary for teaching staff to visit the nurture centre to monitor the progress being made. In relation to the financing Members noted that formal discussions with secondary schools had yet to be finalised. However, the Pupil Deprivation Grant would probably transfer with the child but other streams of finance would likely remain with the 'home' school in order to maintain the school place. In relation to financing the Nurture Unit itself the Authority had allocated sufficient finances.
- Members asked whether the Unit would be classed as part of Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School during the Estyn inspection and were advised that the governance aspect of both facilities would be taken together but that performance and attendance would not.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

4. **DRAFT ADDENDUM TO CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
2016-19 CONTAINING IMPROVEMENT AND WELL-BEING
OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2017 - 30TH
SEPTEMBER 2017**

Committee received the report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Democratic Services on the above and raised the following issues:

- Members asked whether the figures contained within the report could be made clearer for the public.
- In relation to the proposal to introduce new bus corridors, Members were advised that the Strategic Bus Corridor had already been approved and that Transport Bids had already been submitted to improve the service. There was therefore already a commitment by the Authority to undertake this.
- Members were concerned at the amount of legislation and the resultant financial cost and officers' time and were advised that there was an enormous burden on officers to comply with the various pieces of legislation which in places overlapped each other.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by Cabinet.

CHAIRMAN