

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

15 March, 2017

Chairman: Councillor D.W.Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor A.Jenkins

Councillors: C.Clement-Williams, D.Jones, Mrs.K.Pearson,
L.M.Purcell, S.Rahaman and J.Warman

Officers In Attendance S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, G.Nutt,
A.Thomas, C.Millis, D.Michael, R.Gordon and
Mrs.A.Manchipp

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

Councillor R.G.Jones

Invited Member:

1. DECISION MAKING DURING THE PRE ELECTION PERIOD

Committee noted the report of the Head of Legal Services in relation to the decision making process in May 2017. The Head of Legal Services advised Members of a typographical error on line 6 of the recommendations where it referred to 2012, which should read 2017. Members then asked whether the reference to 'Normal Report Format' included the Equality Impact Assessment. The Head of Legal Services confirmed that this was the case.

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

2. STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME- PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR PRIMARY AGE PUPILS

Committee received the Report of the Head of Transformation in relation to the above. Members then raised the following:-

- The number of places that would be available. Officers advised that although only 13 primary school places were currently required, staffing levels meant that it was likely that 14-16 places would be made available but that this would be based on demand and subject to the results of the scoping exercise;
- Members asked whether the provision would impact on the performance statistics of the host school and were advised by Officers that whereas Learning Support Centres would have an impact as the pupils would be solely on the roll of the host school, Pupil Inclusion Centres would not impact to the same degree as the pupils would be dually registered, that is, both on the roll of the host school and the sending school;
- In relation to the term 'reasonable travelling distance', Members asked for clarity over how this could be applied given that pupils could be travelling from the furthest parts of the County Borough. Members were advised that Officers would look to identify a site for the provision that would limit the impact of travel distance and costs. The location would, however, be subject to the willingness of the Head Teacher and the school governors to host the facility and would also be dependent on the results of the scoping exercise.

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

CHAIRMAN