

CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

17TH December,2014

Chairman: Councillor D.W.Davies

Vice Chairman: Councillor A.Jenkins

Councillors: Mrs.L.H.James, A.R.Lockyer, Mrs.K.Pearson,
Mrs.S.M.Penry, J.Warman, I.D.Williams and
Mrs.A.Wingrave

Officers In Attendance S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, N. Jarman, G.Nutt, D.Michael,
Mrs.K.Jones, Mrs.A.Manchipp, Mrs.R.Crowhurst
and A.Thomas

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

Invited Ward Member: Councillor M.Ellis

1. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor D.W.Davies

Re: Report of the Head of Transformation Item 4 Strategic School Improvement Programme-Approval to consult re location of the Council's Early Years Assessment Centre as his sister in law is employed at the school.

Councillor M.Ellis

Re: Report of the Head of Transformation Item 4 Strategic School Improvement Programme-Approval to consult re location of the Council's Early Years Assessment Centre as he is a governor of Tonmawr Primary School and confirmed his dispensation to speak but not vote thereon.

1. **PRE SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:-

Cabinet Proposals

- (i) Strategic School Improvement Programme – Approval to publish Statutory Notice re; Amalgamation of Neath Abbey Infants and Mynchallog Nedd Junior Schools

Members received the report of the Head of Transformation in relation to the above.

The Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by Cabinet.

- (ii) Strategic School Improvement Programme – Approval to Publish Statutory Notice re; Amalgamation of Central Infant and Central Junior Schools

Members received the report of the Head of Transformation in relation to the above.

Members then asked for clarification in relation to the teaching staff at the amalgamated school and were advised that the amalgamated school would have 1 governing body and 1 head teacher. Teachers would commute between the 2 sites, as appropriate.

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

(iii) Strategic School Improvement Programme – Approval to consult re: Location of the Council’s Early Years Assessment Centre

Councillor D.W.Davies reiterated his interest in this item and withdrew for the remainder of the meeting-Councillor A.Jenkins took the Chair. With the permission of the Chairman Councillor Ellis attended the meeting and spoke on this item).

Members received the report of the Head of Transformation in relation to the above. Officers confirmed that no decision had been taken on the proposals in relation to Tonmawr Primary School, and that these were still out for consultation. However it was noted that if Tonmawr Primary School did close that this would have an impact on the Early Years Assessment Centre based at the site.

The local Member expressed concern that neither he nor the school were aware that this matter was on the agenda for discussion at today’s meeting. In response, Officers advised that although there was no policy to advise schools etc., it was custom and practice to do so, but that this was seen as a separate issue to the closing of the school itself.

It was stressed however that today’s proposal was seeking permission to consult only.

The local Member stated that it was the public’s perception that a decision had already been made. The reputation of both the centre and the primary school were excellent. Officers were also asked about the effect on traffic management, with the additional taxis that would be required to transport the service users.

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

CHAIRMAN

