

# **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION CABINET BOARD**

## **JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF ENVIRONMENT & EDUCATION, LEISURE AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

**19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015**

### **SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: GLYNCORRWG, BRYN, COEDFFRANC  
WEST, SANDFIELDS EAST.**

#### **RATIONALISATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES:**

##### **Purpose of Report**

To ask Members to agree the closure of Glyncorrwg and Llandarcy Community Centres and for them to be declared surplus to requirements, and also to note the key holder arrangement for Bryn Community Centre.

##### **Background**

As part of the Forward Financial Plan, the decision was taken to review the current stock of eleven Community Centres / Community Education Enterprise Centres.

In order to assess the potential impact of the proposed changes, a structured consultation was undertaken. This included an extensive review of the existing operation combined with a series of public meetings across the County Borough.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. This EIA was included in the original review of Community Facility Provision report that went to ECRB 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

It was made clear throughout consultation that issues relating to the future use of the centres for community use were a huge concern.

### **Glyncorrwg Community Centre:**

In 2014 a community group entered into a lease of the Noddfa Community Centre in Glyncorrwg. The Glyncorrwg Community Centre remained open and continued to be managed by the Local Authority.

As part of a review of community facility provision, a public consultation exercise has been carried out and as part of this exercise it was hoped that another community group could be identified to take on a lease of Glyncorrwg Community Centre. Unfortunately no such group has come forward.

The proposal is to close the Community Centre.

On a positive note the three existing user groups can be accommodated in the Noddfa Centre and other local facilities.

### **Llandarcy Community Centre:**

A number of years ago, The Llandarcy Community Centre ceased to operate as a Community Centre since when it has provided office accommodation for Neath Port Talbot Youth Service. The Youth Service will be relocated in the near future, and the proposed is for the Centre to then close.

### **Bryn Community Centre:**

The Authority has been approached by Bryn Residents Action Group (B.R.A.G) who have expressed an interest in entering into a key holder licence agreement to take over the majority of the day to day opening and closing responsibilities.

This would allow the premises to continue to be run as a Community Centre thereby ensuring wherever possible no loss of services to the local community.

Terms and Conditions have been agreed for the licence agreement and the Head of Legal Services instructed by the Director of Environment under his Delegated Powers and it is anticipated the licence agreement will be completed for the end of March 2015.

### **Sandfields Community Education Centre:**

Sandfields Community Education Centre will be closed in December 2015 and then demolished as part of the development of the new Comprehensive School.

Where possible existing user groups will transfer to the new Comprehensive School or alternative facilities.

### **Appendices**

None.

### **Recommendations**

In light of the original report on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, Members are requested to approve the closure of Glyncorrwg and Llandarcy Community Centres. and for both to be declared surplus to requirements, and passed to the Director of Environment to consider the most appropriate way of disposing/dealing with the premises.

In addition Members are requested to note the key holder arrangement for Bryn Community Centre

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To secure saving proposals in line with the Directorates Forward Financial Plan.

### **List of Background Papers**

None

### **Officer Contact**

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## **COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

### **RATIONALISATION OF COMMUNITY CENTRES:**

#### **(a) Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3-day call-in period.

#### **(b) Sustainability Appraisal**

##### **Community Plan Impacts**

Economic Prosperity	- no impact
Education & Lifelong Learning	- Negative
Better Health & Wellbeing	- Negative
Environment & Transport	- no impact
Crime & Disorder	- no impact

##### **Other Impacts**

Welsh Language	- no impact
Sustainable Development	- no impact
Equalities	- Negative
Social Inclusion	- Negative

#### **(c) Consultation**

This item has been subject to external consultation, as per the original report