

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

CABINET

13 JANUARY, 2016

Cabinet Members:

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

Officers in Attendance:

S.Phillips, H.Jenkins, A.Evans, N. Jarman, G.Nutt, A.Thomas, R.Gordon,
Crowhurst and Mrs.A.Manlipp

1. **MEMBER'S DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting, as follows:-

Councillor Mrs S Miller

Report of the Head of Transformation in relation to the Strategic School Improvement Programme – Proposal to Amalgamate Melin Infant and Melin Junior Schools as she is Chair of Governors of both the Infant and Junior Schools and confirmed her dispensation to speak but not vote thereon.

2. **FREEHOLD DISPOSAL OF CYMMER SWIMMING POOL**

Decisions:

1. That the disposal of Cymmer Pool to the ownership of Llandarcy Park Ltd, a subsidiary of Neath Port Talbot College Group for the consideration of £1, be approved;
2. That the disposal, at less than market value, be approved, as this would contribute to the social well-being of the area since the purpose for which the property was being disposed of is likely to contribute to the promotion of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole or any part of the area or of all or any persons resident or present in its area in accordance with the Welsh Government consent;
3. That the premises, together with the fixtures, fittings, plant and equipment be transferred in its current state and condition;
4. That the disposal be subject to an overage agreement that the Council would benefit from any increase in value should the property be used for purposes other than a public swimming pool;
5. That pre-emption or “buy back” rights be included in the disposal contract whereby the Council would be entitled to buy back the site for £1 in the event that the premise was no longer used as a swimming pool; the rights to be exercised at the sole discretion of the Council.

Reason for Decisions:

The transfer of this facility will provide an opportunity to continue leisure provision in the Afan Valley and therefore contribute to the social well-being of the area for the reasons outlined in the circulated report.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call-in period.

3. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE MELIN INFANT AND MELIN JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

Decisions:

1. That, having given due regard to the equality impact assessment, the risk assessment, the community impact assessment and the consultation responses, as contained in the circulated report, in line with Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the statutory publication of a proposal to establish an English-medium, community primary school to replace Melin Infant and Melin Junior schools, both of which will be discontinued, be approved;
2. That the date of implementation be 1 September 2016;
3. That Notice of the proposal be published in the week commencing 18 January 2016, allowing 28 days for receipt of objections.

Reasons for Decisions:

1. In order to comply with the formal consultation requirements imposed on the Council by the School Organisation Code – Draft Statutory Notice attached at Appendix E, to the circulated report.
2. Implementation of the proposal will enable the Council to promote high educational standards and the fulfilment of every child's potential and enable the Council to meet its duty to secure efficient education in its area.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call-in period.

Consultation:

Formal consultation was required, in line with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, July 2013, which specified the procedures to be followed, including the content of the consultation document and those to be consulted.

Consultation on this proposal commenced on 19 October 2015 with comments invited until 4 December 2015. A consultation report summarising the comments of consultees together with responses to

those issues was published on 8 January, and is available on the Council's website (see list of background papers contained in the circulated report). And is also attached to this report at Appendix A. Apart from a response from Estyn, no comments/comment forms were returned.

4. **STRATEGIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE SECONDARY PHASE WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION BY MAKING SUITABLE PROVISION IN BOTH THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH WITH PROVISION IN THE NORTH PROVIDING BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PHASE EDUCATION**

Decisions:

1. that, having given due regard to the equality impact assessment, the risk assessment, the community impact assessment and the Welsh language impact assessment, as contained in the circulated report, in line with Section 53 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the implementation of the proposal to reconfigure secondary phase Welsh-medium education by making suitable provision in both the north and the south of the County Borough with provision in the north delivering both primary and secondary phase education, be approved;
2. that the date of implementation be 1 September 2017.

Reasons for Decisions:

1. In order to comply with the legislative requirements to facilitate the implementation of the proposal which will enable the Council to meet its duty to secure efficient education in its area, including supporting, promoting and sustaining Welsh language education.
2. The proposal will assist the Council in promoting high educational standards and the fulfillment of every child's potential.

Implementation of Decisions:

The decisions will be implemented after the three day call in period.

Consultation:

1. Formal consultation was required in line with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, July 2013, which specified the procedures to be followed, including the content of a consultation document and those to be consulted;

2. Following consideration of a report of 30 July 2014, the Council's Cabinet gave approval to consult on a proposal to establish a school providing Welsh-medium education in the north of the County Borough for ages 3-18 and in the south of the County Borough for ages 11-16, which commenced on 9 February 2015 until 12 April 2015. A consultation report was published on 3 July 2015.

CHAIRPERSON