

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 30 June 2015

Scrutiny Chair: Councillor David Simmons,
Chair: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Report Author: Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator

Title: Items from Scrutiny Committees- Cabinet decisions of 2 June 2015 relating to Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd & Ysgol Pentrecelyn and Ysgol Rhewl

1. What is the report about?

The conclusions reached by Performance Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the call-in of the Cabinet decisions taken on 2 June 2015 in respect of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd & Ysgol Pentrecelyn, and Ysgol Rhewl.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To inform Cabinet of Performance Scrutiny Committee's deliberations and the associated recommendations.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Cabinet:

- 3.1 receives Performance Scrutiny Committee's conclusions and recommendations in relation to both decisions that were made the subject of the call-in notices; and
- 3.2 with regards to the recommendations relating to Ysgol Rhewl endorse the additional work recommended to be undertaken, as outlined in the summary report (Appendix 1b).

4. Report details

- 4.1 Cabinet at its meeting on 2 June 2015 resolved to approve the following:

In relation to Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Pentrecelyn:

"(a) to note the findings of the formal consultation for the closure of Ysgol Llanfair and Ysgol Pentrecelyn and the opening of a new area school on the two existing sites;

(b) "approve the publication of a statutory notice for Denbighshire County Council to close Ysgol Llanfair D C and Ysgol Pentrecelyn on 31 August 2016; and the Church in Wales to establish a new Voluntary Controlled Area School on the existing sits from 1 September 2016" and

(c) note the option for parents to apply to send their children to Ysgol Pen Barras as an alternative school should they wish their children to remain within a Category 1 school.”

In relation to Ysgol Rhewl:

“(a) note the findings of the formal consultation for the closure of Ysgol Rhewl; and

(b) approve the publication of a statutory notice to close Ysgol Rhewl on 31 August 2017 with pupils transferring to Ysgol Pen Barras or Rhos Street School to coincide with the opening of the new school buildings”

- 4.2 The above decisions were published on the Council’s website on 3 June 2015. In accordance with the Council’s Call-In Procedure the decisions were not implemented immediately enabling non-Cabinet members to call-in the decision for examination, if they felt it merited detailed scrutiny
- 4.3 A ‘Notice of Call-In’ form, signed by the required number of non-Cabinet councillors, was received for the decision relating to Ysgol Llanfair D C and Pentrecelyn on 5 June 2015, and with respect to the decision in relation to Ysgol Rhewl on 8 June 2015. Both of these notices were received within the required 5 working day timescale.
- 4.4 As Cabinet’s decision of 2 June related to the Council’s education provision the Authority’s statutory education co-opted members on its scrutiny committees were permitted to participate fully in the consideration of the call-in requests as full voting members of Performance Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.5 In accordance with the Council’s Call-in Procedure Rules Scrutiny had to consider the requests within 5 working dates of their receipt. To facilitate this the Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee permitted the requests to be considered under ‘Urgent Matters’ at the Committee’s meeting on the 11 June 2015. The link below will take members to the report and appendices considered by Performance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2015:
<https://modern.gov.denbighshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=269&MId=5176&LLL=0>
- 4.6 Detailed discussion took place with respect to both Cabinet decisions and summaries of the main points raised are attached at Appendix 1 for Cabinet’s information. Appendix 1a details the points raised with respect to the decisions relating to Ysgol Llanfair D C & Ysgol Pentrecelyn and Appendix 1b details the points raised in relation to the decision affecting Ysgol Rhewl.
- 4.7 Cabinet will note from Appendices 1a and 1b that Performance Scrutiny Committee formed the view that there was not sufficient evidence with respect to either Cabinet decision for the Committee to request Cabinet to reconsider its decisions of 2 June to publish a the statutory notices. Nevertheless in the case of Ysgol Rhewl the Committee did form the view that further work should be undertaken to alleviate community and stakeholder concerns with respect to the detrimental effect the proposals could potentially have on the Welsh language in the community and the Welsh language skills of pupils from Rhewl. It also recommended that work be

undertaken with the community and stakeholders to address their concerns on matters relating to the capacity of the Glasdir site, transport management and the safety of the route for primary school pupils walking from Rhewl to Ruthin. Cabinet is therefore asked to endorse Performance Scrutiny Committee's recommendations with respect of this – as detailed in Appendix 1b.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The contents of this report supports the delivery of the corporate priority of “improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings”.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The costs associated with the recommendations put forward by Performance Scrutiny will need to be maintained within the Modernising Education Programme budget. Nevertheless, they should be minimal as they entail officer time to undertake work with stakeholders and the community.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report

No Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed with respect to this report. The EqIA assessments undertaken for the purpose of the original proposals to Cabinet on 2 June 2015 are still valid.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The opportunity for scrutiny to call-in Cabinet decisions for detailed examination forms part of the Council's governance framework. By invoking that procedure Scrutiny was able to comment and make recommendations with respect to the decisions made subject of the call-in notices. At the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11 June representatives from each affected school were also given an opportunity to address the Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The points raised will contribute to the consultation process and should not incur additional costs. The exact cost and saving implications of each proposal will become clearer as the process progresses.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of this report. There may be reputational risks to the Council if Cabinet decides not to endorse Performance Scrutiny Committee's recommendations on engaging with the community and stakeholders.

11. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.3.2(ch) outlines scrutiny's powers with respect to decisions taken but not yet implemented by Cabinet, whilst Article 6.3.4(ch) details scrutiny's powers with regards to making recommendations to Cabinet arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

Contact Officer:

Rhian Evans

Tel: 01824 712554

e-mail: rhian.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk