

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5(1)
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION & LEISURE

JCC MEETING – SCHOOLS

Wednesday 18th July 2013

PRESENT:

Keri Cole	Manager - Learning, Education and Inclusion
Lisa Haile	HR Manager
Donna Jones	Health & Safety Manager
Bleddyn Hopkins	Assistant Director, Education
Mererid Lewis Davies	UCAC
Michelle Matthews	ATL
Ravi Pawar	ASCL
Pamela Ireland	NUT
Matthew Ferris	NASUWT
Neil Funnell	GMB
June Jones	GMB

APOLOGIES

Sandra Aspinall	Director of Education and Life Long Learning
Gary Enright	UNISON
Juan Garcia Robert	UNISON
Philip Jones	NAHT

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1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES LH welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies that were received were noted as above.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meetings held on 11th April 2013. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.	
3.	Matters arising from the previous minutes No matters arising. LH advised that she would update those present on the status of the Sickness Absence and Leave of Absence Policies to be recommended to schools at the end of the meeting.	
4.	21st Century Schools – Bleddyn Hopkins	

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	<p>BH confirmed that the Council submitted a programme of improvements to Welsh Government in 2011 as part of its '21st Century Schools' funding bid. The successful bid, which requires match funding includes:</p> <p>1) The accommodation of 200 secondary education children from the Bedwas Town and Aber Valley areas. This part of the project is now complete. Using St. Ilan and Fleur De Lys schools, the parents and learners met last week.</p> <p>2) The enhancement of Welsh Medium provision within the area. This includes the provision for up to an additional 900 secondary places, including 6th form, on the former St. Ilan School Site.</p> <p>This involves expanding Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni on the former St. Ilan Site, in addition to its present location at Fleur De Lis. Also the relocation of YGG Caerfilli onto the same site.</p> <p>This is part of an overall strategy to develop a 3-16 campus with many shared facilities on site, and the opportunity to offer some post-16 provision as well. The existing Fleur De Lis site will be the main 16-19 campus.</p> <p>3) 'Islwyn West' - The existing Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Schools will cease to operate. These pupils will benefit from a new school development on a new site (Oakdale Plateau 3) or transfer to Blackwood Comprehensive following a review of the catchment areas. The new school will be designed for a capacity of 900 pupils, plus provision for pupils with additional learning needs. Consultations with pupils; Governors; Parents; Staff and the Community will take place. The outcomes of the consultation process will be reported back to Cabinet in 2014. If there are any objections, the Council will make a determination. The proposal is for the new school to open September 2016.</p> <p>4) A new 3-19 school in Rhymney with improved community facilities. Under this proposal, Abertysswg and Pontlottyn Primary Schools would move onto the comprehensive school site, with the possibility of Fochriw also being included.</p> <p>5) The former ALDI site is also being considered for the transfer of Upper Rhymney Primary School onto this site. A rebuild of this facility into a new school would cost half of what a brand new build would cost.</p>	

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	<p>The 21st Century School Programme and all accompanying reports are transparently documented and available to see on the Caerphilly website.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Cwmcarn Update</p> <p>DJ gave a brief update on the current position:</p> <p>The project to clear the asbestos is going well. We have looked at increasing the number of contractors on site in order to fully and safely completely works in anticipation of a 2nd September 2013 return date.</p> <p>The costs of temporary accommodation and the implications of temporary accommodation including traffic management considerations are also being looked at. The hope is that temporary accommodation will not be necessary if all continues to go well.</p> <p>The intention is for the pupils to return to school on the 4th September 2013 allowing 2 inset days to allow for unpacking, etc.</p> <p>NF asked if there had been additional costs incurred. DJ confirmed that there had been accelerated cost. Double decontamination units and facilities to enable the completion of works. This additional cost was much less than what temporary accommodation would have cost. There is also the potential to make some savings on the estimated overall project cost, which will assist toward this.</p> <p>Following the question, would the school be 100% safe by September 2013, DJ confirmed that there would be air monitoring on site to ensure adequate levels before staff return. Bleddyn Hopkins is leading on the project to move every-one back in and all is going well. The project is being monitored to ensure that works are going to plan.</p> <p>Following the question, what about other schools, will they be subject to the same test levels? DJ confirmed that air sampling will be taken throughout the Summer and that by the end of term, schools will have gone through a series of testing. The testing will be in schools that are similarly constructed, i.e. schools built around the 60's and 70's when asbestos was used in construction. These are the buildings that would have to be deconstructed to remove it.</p> <p>RP asked who would be the contact when schools are closed and if remedial work is necessary.</p>	

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	<p>DJ confirmed that she will ensure that key contacts will be available and that the message will go out to schools this week. Two schools had been tested in December and no issues were identified, they will be tested again now along with others.</p> <p>Following the question who is undertaking the testing? DJ confirmed Santia and that the testing is taking place back in the laboratory.</p> <p>RP asked about the contention that has related to these tests in the past. The testing prior to the temporary closure of Cwmcarn School had been called into question.</p> <p>DJ confirmed that the test undertaken originally had picked up all countable fibres. A ratio of 3:1 in terms of a similar construction to asbestos fibres counts as a countable fibre. Chalk and some manmade fibres could result in a potential discrepancy.</p> <p>The testing that has been undertaken since fibre discriminates. This testing will only pick up amosite fibres.</p> <p>Following the question, can we can be sure that the results will be reflective of the environment in schools?</p> <p>DJ confirmed that where the schools are in good condition, the environment should not be an issue. Cwmcarn school however was not in a good condition. The school will only be able to return following a series of tests.</p> <p>There will be briefing sessions in the Autumn term relating to Asbestos Management. The Unions will be invited along. The actual 'management of asbestos' is moving forward all of the time. More rigorous management is required. Caerphilly is further forward than other Authorities in this regard.</p>	
6	<p>Model Pay Policy</p> <p>LH confirmed that the policy before you has had regard to all union policies in its development. Working with the 5 other Local Authorities in the South East Wales Consortium, this is our attempt to incorporate all of that advice into one model policy.</p> <p>Newport Council circulated the model policy before we did and this has in some way been helpful. A number of Unions have reported back through that process and their feedback is being shared with the 5 Authorities. It was</p>	

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	<p>agreed in principle that we would continue to look at this policy with the Unions over the Summer holiday period.</p> <p>Headteachers are in agreement with this and support working together to adopt a common policy.</p> <p>Concerns were shared that the Policy before them appeared to reflect the Headteacher's point of view and that some things did not necessarily seem fair. The document was however a good starting point.</p> <p>All agreed that the work scheduled for the Summer holiday period should take place and that a revised model policy be brought before the next JCC.</p>	
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>LH confirmed that the Sickness Absence Policy and the Leave of Absence Policy that had been debated at length at these JCC meetings would now be recommended to Schools.</p>	
8	<p>Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, 19th September 2013, 2.00 p.m. Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen</p>	