



CABINET – 29TH JUNE 2016

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF THE KEY STAGE 2 SPECIALIST RESOURCE BASE FOR CHILDREN WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT AT HENDRE JUNIOR SCHOOL, AND RE-DESIGNATION OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION CLASS AT CEFN FFOREST PRIMARY SCHOOL: OUTCOME OF THE FORMAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the formal consultation process and to seek a decision on the proposals.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The report links to the Additional Learning Needs Review of specialist provision across Caerphilly County Borough.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Cabinet, at its meeting on 9th December 2015, agreed to proceed to a formal consultation process in relation to the above proposals
- 3.2 A formal consultation process (accompanied by consultation documents) took place between 4th January 2016 and 14th February 2016.
- 3.3 On 16th March 2016 Cabinet agreed to proceed to Statutory Notice. Statutory Notices related to both proposals were issued on 11th April 2016 (Appendix 1). As indicated in the School Organisation Code all consultees were notified and were given an opportunity to object to the proposals (Appendix 2). The 'objection period' finished on 9th May 2016. No objections to the proposals were received by the Local Authority.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Community and equality impact assessments were completed in relation to both proposals in accordance with the School Organisation Code. These were included in the report to Cabinet on 16th March 2016.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications related to this report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Alternative arrangements have been made with regard to all staff at Hendre Junior SRB. In relation to staff in Cefn Fforest any staff affected will be fully consulted along with trade union representatives and supported through HR processes.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 A full list of consultees is attached as Appendix 3.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet are asked to make a decision to formally approve the proposals to close the Key Stage 2 Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for children with hearing impairment (HI) at Hendre Junior School and to re-designate of the key stage 2 Social Inclusion class at Cefn Fforest Primary School.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Current provision is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be revised in order to ensure that the additional learning needs of children and young people are fully met.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 The School Organisation Code (section 1.13) 2013.
- 10.2 This is a Cabinet function.

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Consultees: Mr C Burns, Chief Executive
Mrs Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Mr Bleddyn Hopkins, Assistant Director
Councillor Derek Havard, Cabinet Member for Education
Mrs Lynne Donovan, Personnel Manager
Mrs Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services
Mrs Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Mr John Farmer, Head Teacher, Hendre Junior School
Chair of Governors, Hendre Junior School
Mrs Julie Farmer, Head Teacher Cefn Fforest Primary School
Chair of Governors, Cefn Fforest Primary School

Background Papers:

1. Consultation document on the proposal to re-designate the key stage 2 Social Inclusion Class at Cefn Fforest Primary School.
2. Consultation document on the proposal to close the Specialist Resource Base at Hendre Junior School
3. Report to Cabinet 9.12.15
4. Report to Cabinet 16.3.16

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Statutory Notices in relation to the re-designation of the Social Inclusion class at Cefn Fforest Primary School and closure to the HI SRB at Hendre Junior School
- Appendix 2: Notification letters to consultees
- Appendix 3: List of consultees for proposals relating to Cefn Fforest Primary School and Hendre Junior School