

**Call In Request:**

**Cabinet Decision CAB/15/84, made 21/03/2016.**

**Change to the Welsh Medium catchment areas of Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf through transfer of Ysgol Pencae catchment from Ysgol Plasmawr to Ysgol Glantaf catchment to take effect from September 2017.**

**I would like to Call In this decision for the following reasons:**

**1) The change is ill conceived. It is a short term answer to Welsh medium secondary provision in the catchment areas of both Ysgol Plasmawr and Ysgol Glantaf.**

- The combined projected demand for places from within the Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr catchment areas exceeds the combined number of places available at entry September 2019, yet figures for past 2017 were not taken into account in making the decision. This is despite the fact that they were taken into account in the decision not to proceed currently with changes to the English medium high school catchments of Fitzalan High School and Cantonian High School and associated English medium primary school catchment areas.
- Only the projected demand for 2017 at Ysgol Glantaf and Ysgol Plasmawr was consulted on that is where there would be 201 pupils looking for places at Ysgol Glantaf which has 240 places at present and 210 pupils looking for places at Ysgol Plasmawr which currently has 180 places available.
- The decision taken to move Ysgol Pencae catchment area from Ysgol Plasmawr is a short term measure to deal with more demand for places at Ysgol Plasmawr and less demand than places at Ysgol Glantaf in 2017. It takes no account of projected demand for 2019 when Glantaf would be full with 240 pupils seeking places at Glantaf.
- Even if Ysgol Pencae catchment is moved into Ysgol Glantaf catchment, Ysgol Plasmawr would be full by 2020/2021 .

**2) Several key stakeholders have expressed their concerns that the change could have unwelcome consequences for the social and academic wellbeing of pupils.**

- The proposal to remove Ysgol Pencae Primary School from the Plasmawr catchment area would mean that Ysgol Glantaf would then receive all three best performing Welsh medium primary schools, leaving Plasmawr with a less well mixed population. The change would adversely affect the socio economic balance of Plasmawr, and risks creating a perception among aspirational parents that Ysgol Glantaf is an “elite” school. Many people consider

Free Schools Meals data is a crude method of judging socio economic mix and does not give an accurate representation of Cardiff areas.

- Removing Ysgol Pencae from the Plasmawr catchment could impact negatively on pupils' ability to engage socially through the medium of Welsh.
- Removing Ysgol Pencae from the Plasmawr catchment could have a negative effect on sixth form provision.

### **3) The consultation exercise disregards the views of a large majority of people.**

The number of objections received is similar to those received in the consultation on changes to catchment areas of the English medium schools, but whereas the Cabinet were recommended to not proceed currently with changes to the English medium school catchment areas, the Cabinet approved the changes to the Welsh medium catchment areas. Moreover, large numbers of objections from pupils were also disregarded.

- Catchment areas have already been subject to considerable change in recent years. Further short term changes are unnecessarily disruptive, will be detrimental to confidence in Welsh medium schools secondary provision and most importantly will not address the issue of medium to long term sufficiency of Welsh medium secondary school places in the catchment areas of the two schools and across the City.

### **4) The decision should be called in and officers advised to carry out a review of options for Welsh medium secondary provision in the existing catchment areas of the two schools and across the City.**

- Key stakeholders should be offered the opportunity to air their views on the catchment area changes in the Call In process.
- The decision should be withdrawn and, as with the English medium high school catchment area changes in this part of the City, the changes should not be proceeded with until such time as an early review can be conducted.

**Councillor Dianne Rees**  
**Member of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**  
**5 April 2016**