

**THE PROVISION OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN  
THE LLANRUMNEY AREA SOP: PRE- DECISION SCRUTINY**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 13 December 2018.

**Background**

2. There are five English-medium and one Welsh-medium primary schools serving the Llanrumney area. The current English-medium primary school capacity can accommodate 1,342 pupils (age 4-11).
3. The report is to inform Cabinet to consider of the responses received following consultation on proposals to rationalise English-medium primary school places in the Llanrumney area, including proposals to close Glan–y –Afon Primary School in August 2019.

**Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet**

4. The consultation period ran from 10 September until 22 October 2018, which involved:
  - .Publication of a consultation document and summary document
  - Meetings with staff and governors at Glan –Yr – Afon Primary Schools
  - A public meeting
  - Drop in sessions
  - A consultation response slip

- An online response Form
5. The responses received regarding the proposals during the consultation period are summarised in the report (Para 8 to 29).
  6. A summary of the outcome of the consultation outcome is attached at paragraphs 15 to 18 which covers;
    - A clear majority expressed opposition to the proposal to close Glan-yr-Afon Primary School.
    - A summary of concerns expressed by stakeholders in respect of the proposal are listed at paragraph 17, in addition respondents submitted a number of alternatives to closure which are set out in paragraph 18.
  7. The draft Cabinet report also sets out the responses to the views expressed (paragraph 19 – 29, Local Member Consultation at paragraph 30. Copies of the appendices listed with the Cabinet report can be provided should a member request copies.
  8. The Cabinet is recommended to :
    1. Note that consultation on the 2020/2021 admission arrangements will include a proposed reduction of the Published Admission Number of Glan-Yr-Afon Primary Schools from 41 places to 30 Places
    2. Authorise Officers to explore the viability of modified proposals to the closure of Glan-Yr –Afon Primary School
    3. Authorise Officers to bring a further report to Cabinet for consideration setting out details of how the provision of community English medium primary school places in the Llanrumney area can be addressed.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

9. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report to Cabinet.

### **Way Forward**

10. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), and Michele Duddridge-Hossain (Operational Manager – Planning and Provision) will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
11. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

### **Legal Implications**

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

### **Financial Implications**

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting;
- b) Provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**7 December 2018**