



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Schools**

Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 17 December 2018 at 4.30 pm

Present: Councillor M Sykes (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
B Hopkins
J A Raynor

Councillor(s)

M Durke
L James
L J Tyler-Lloyd

Councillor(s)

L S Gibbard
S M Jones

Co-opted Member(s)

A. Roberts

Other Attendees

Jennifer Raynor

Cabinet Member - Education Improvement, Learning & Skills

Officer(s)

Helen Morgan - Rees
Michelle Roberts
Brian Roles
Kelly Small

Head of Education Achievement & Partnership
Scrutiny Officer
Head of Education Planning and Resources
Head of Funding and Information Unit

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day, S J Gallagher, F M Gordon, L R Jones and M A Langstone

Co-opted Member(s): D Anderson-Thomas

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Cllr Mo Sykes declared a personal and prejudicial interest to Item 4 and left the room for that item.

Cllr Louise Gibbard Chaired Item 4.

2 Pre-decision Scrutiny School Organisation Linked to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan (Felindre Primary School)

After a questions and answer session with the Cabinet Member and officers on the proposals to Cabinet, the Panel concluded that

A full consultation has been completed and the issues have been addressed fully.

The closure of Felindre is part of a wider and longer term Welsh Education Plan which will be of benefit to pupils in Swansea in the longer term.
All the alternative Welsh language schools offer a good education.
The majority of pupils come from outside of the catchment area of Felindre, so the effect of the closure on the community will be minimal, the community have a thriving village hall.

The Panel therefore reluctantly accept the proposals to Cabinet as contained in the report, agreeing that the proper process has been followed, the Equalities Impact Assessment has assessed the impact of the proposals, that there has been a high level of consultation and all alternatives to closure have been explored.

3 Pre-decision Scrutiny of Small Schools Review (Craig Cefn Parc Primary School)

After a questions and answer session with the Cabinet Member and officers on the proposals to Cabinet, the Panel concluded that

The Panel felt that a full consultation has taken place and all options have been reviewed and revisited based upon this.

The Panel shared the concern that the school has been in and out of the Amber category for much of the last five years and that substantial improvements have not been made in order to improve outcomes at the school. They therefore recognise that on current educational performance Clydach Primary School will provide better educational outcomes and opportunities for pupils.

Councillors also understand the complexities in the catchment of the school with both a Faith Primary School and a Welsh Primary School nearby. We accepted that pupil numbers at Craig Cefn Parc Primary School, based on predictions, are not likely to increase in the short or medium term.

We appreciated the concerns raised about children using school transport but are satisfied that the same precautions will be in place as in other schools where pupils are unaccompanied.

The Panel also understand the importance of ensuring that Swansea makes the most efficient and effective use of resources for the interest of all pupils within the local authority area.

The Panel reluctantly accept the proposals to Cabinet as contained in the report, agreeing that the proper process has been followed, the Equalities Impact Assessment has assessed the impact of the proposals, there has been a high level of consultation and that all alternatives have been considered.

The meeting ended at 6.20 pm