



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mary Jones
Chair, Scrutiny Programme Committee

BY EMAIL

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Our Ref / Ein Cyf: CR/SH
Your Ref / Eich: SPC/2014-15/11
Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad: 30 March 2015

If you require this or any other information in another format e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me

Dear Mary

I have been asked to respond to those questions raised at your scrutiny panel that are relevant to my portfolio.

1. On 16 February 2015 your committee agreed to ask *whether a Children's Rights Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to proposals at Parkland Primary School. If not, why not?*
2. On 15 March 2015 you received further correspondence from a parent, complaining about *a lack of proper / formal consultation in keeping with the Council's commitment to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.*

You will be aware that it was announced in Council on 24 February 2015 that a review of the sale of surplus land would be undertaken. Following the outcome of this review, further reports on the sale of land may be forwarded to Cabinet.

Letters forwarded to your scrutiny committee seem to imply that the panel should 'initiate a Children Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA)'. I believe this is misleading. This administration is already absolutely committed to making the principles of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child a reality for all children and young people in Swansea.

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- In July 2012, Council agreed this principle when we adopted our council priorities.
- We continue to support those schools that wish to become rights respecting.
- We have included children and young people in our annual budget and other consultations.
- In November last year, we formally adopted our Children & Young People's Rights Scheme, including the new Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

The Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) has now been embedded into our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). These are completed as a legal duty as part of the Equality Act 2010.

The new section on Children's Rights specifically asks those completing the form to demonstrate the impact of the proposal on the articles within the UNCRC. This section was only added to this process in November 2014, when we formally launched the CRIA, so is relatively new.

I believe that all members have a responsibility to be aware of our UNCRC commitments. Further information about Equality and Equality Impact Assessments can be found on the Council's website link <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/sep> and <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/eia>.

Council formally launched our Children & Young People's Rights Scheme in November 2014 and given that the sale of land has not yet been formally considered by Cabinet or Council, a Children's Rights Impact Assessment has not yet been carried out in relation to proposals at Parklands Primary School.

Any further reports on sale of school land should consider a CRIA.

Yours sincerely

COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE RICHARDS
DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

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