



monmouthshire
sir fynwy

CABINET DECISION RECORDING LOG

DECISION DETERMINED ON: Thursday, 24 March 2016

**DECISION WILL COME INTO EFFECT ON: 6 April 2016
(Subject to "Call-in" by appropriate Select Committee)**

CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors G. Burrows, P.A. Fox, E. Hackett Pain, P.A.D. Hobson and P. Murphy

OTHER ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

County Councillors D. Batrouni, R. Harris, S. Howarth and P. Jones

DECISION 1

SUBJECT: Recommendations from CYP Select

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE:

To refer to cabinet the outcomes of the CYP select call-in, which reviewed the funding formula report, considered by cabinet on 3rd February, specifically the

DECISION:

1. Cabinet ensure that the funding situation of Mounton House is reviewed regularly to ensure that the school is achieving its recovery plan and appropriate support is provided by the Local Authority.
2. Regular update reports to be provided to CYP Select Committee, on the financial and non - financial position of Mounton House School at which both the Executive head, chair of Governors and cabinet member will be invited to attend in line with a timetable as agreed by the cabinet member.

REASONS:

Members of the CYP select committee were concerned regarding the proposal to withdraw £250k of funding from the school, the immediacy of the proposed reduction, coupled with the current absence of a strategic review for the school.

The select committee called in the funding formula cabinet report where cabinet agreed the reduction in funding in order for the situation at the school to be considered in more depth. CYP Select considered the matter at its meeting of 22nd February and received information from both officers, the cabinet member for education, and The Chair of Governors and Executive Head of Mounton House.

The main concerns identified by the committee were:

- Timing of the proposed reduction in funding, given the current financial deficit position of the school.
- The current uncertainty regarding the future of the school given the absence of a strategic plan and the impact of the reduction in funding on staffing levels now and in the future
- Concerns that the school has not been marketed to attract additional pupils.

The Cabinet member agreed that a further meeting would be held with members of the committee to discuss the situation further and that a report would be prepared for cabinet to consider the recommendations from that meeting.

The position regarding the £250 k reduction in formula funding was clarified for members i.e. the reduction in formula funding of £250k was agreed by full council on 21st January, as part of the council budget for 2016/17 and therefore the decision to remove the funding has already been made and cannot be overturned unless a specific recommendation is made by cabinet to council to reconsider the decision.(paragraph 16 of the Constitution standing orders)

At the follow up meeting Members of the select committee were reassured that the deficit funding situation at the school was recoverable and that officers from the local authority are working closely with the executive head and are confident that the school's finances can be brought back into balance and the school will be given the necessary time to enable this to be achieved.

The future of Mounton House is yet to be determined and is being considered in phase 3 of the ALN review which is on-going. The reduction in formula funding will have no bearing on the outcome of the review.

Welsh Government guidance surrounding the use of residential placements is clear in that local authorities should look to maintain children in their own communities and therefore it is whether that marketing the school would generate additional pupils from outside the county.

The cabinet member for education agreed to ensure that a time table of reporting was put together outlining when the CYP select committee will be updated regarding the operational and funding situation at the school.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

INTEREST DECLARED

County Councillor P. Murphy declared a personal non-prejudicial interest, as an LEA appointed School Governor at Mounton House.

AUTHOR:

Nikki Wellington, Tracey Harry

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: nicolawellington@monmouthshire.gov.uk, traceyharry@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: Tel: 01633644602

DECISION 2

SUBJECT: Report on Proposal to Discontinue Llanfair Kilgeddin VA Church in Wales Primary School

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: Llanover

PURPOSE:

1. To provide a conclusion to the ongoing statutory process which proposes to discontinue Llanfair Kilgeddin VA Church in Wales Primary School.
2. To provide members with details of any objections received following publication of the statutory notice concerning the above.

DECISION:

To consider the attached objection report and agree to discontinue Llanfair Kilgeddin Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School as of 3rd April 2016.

REASONS:

1. Cabinet considered reports relating to these proposals on 7th October 2015 and 6th January 2016 which outline the key reasons why the Local Authority and Monmouth Diocesan Trust support the request from the Governing Body to close the School. The Local Authority and Monmouth Diocesan Trust believe that by closing the school, the quality of teaching and pupil attainment will be enhanced, as the Local Authority provides the conditions at other schools that will enable pupils to prosper.
2. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 now requires

consideration to be given to the objection report (appendix 3) prior to determining the final decision on the proposals to close Llanfair Kilgeddin Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. At the time of the Estyn Inspection, when comparing the number of pupils on roll against the delegated school budget, the recorded cost to educate the pupils on roll at the school was £5,928. The average cost across Monmouthshire Primary Schools during this period was £3,627 per pupil.
2. The home to school transport costs for the existing pupils currently cost £25,650 for 2015/16. This figure also includes additional transport costs for the pupils relocating to other Monmouthshire schools. These costs represent the pupils that were on roll at Llanfair Kilgeddin as at May 2015 and these costs will diminish over a maximum of a 6 year period as pupils transfer to Secondary school.
3. The current revenue savings that could be realised if the school were to close amounts to approx. £71,220. Taking into account the additional transport costs per annum as in 2. above, the overall revenue savings to close the school are £45,570.
4. The revenue savings associated with closing Llanfair Kilgeddin CIW Primary School would not bring a central saving to the Local Authority as the monies has been distributed to all schools via the Individual School Budget (ISB) formula. A small budget for Llanfair Kilgeddin has been allocated pending decision on its closure.
5. Capital Receipts will not be realised from the sale of land and buildings as they belong to Monmouth Diocesan Trust.
6. The protection of employment policy relating to the staff employed at the school has been followed and as a result any redundancy costs will be met by the School based redundancy budget. The majority of staff have been successful in obtaining alternative employment.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members

DMT

SLT

Statutory Consultees (including Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education and Local Member County Councillor Sara Jones)

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Cath Sheen

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: CathrynSheen@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01633 644530

DECISION 3

SUBJECT: Report to Undertake Regulated Alterations at Monmouth Comprehensive School to Reduce the School Capacity and Establish a Special Needs Resource Base (SNRB)

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: Dixton with Osbaston; Drybridge; Overmonnow; Wyesham

PURPOSE:

1. To conclude the ongoing statutory process on the proposal to make regulated alterations at Monmouth Comprehensive School, including a reduction to the School's capacity and the establishment of a Special Needs Resource Base (SNRB)
2. To provide members with details of any objections received following publication of the statutory notice concerning the above.

DECISION:

To agree to implement the following regulated alterations with effect from the 1st September 2017 in line with the reasons stated in paragraph 4 of this report:

1. Reduce the school capacity from 1671 places to 1600
2. Establish an SNRB at the school.

REASONS:

1. At present pupils with ALN are transported outside of the Authority to access specialist provision. Following extensive consultation on the ALN strategy the preferred and most cost effective way forward is to have specialist facilities within the four secondary schools and to create an SNRB at Monmouth Comprehensive School.
2. An SNRB at Monmouth Comprehensive School will offer an inclusive education as close to home and the local community as possible. This provision will be for pupils with moderate to severe learning difficulties which could include Autism and physical impairment and will offer a broad, balanced and relevant range of learning opportunities within a modern and inspirational environment.
3. Reduction of surplus places is one of the key criteria for Welsh Government when assessing business cases for 21st Century Schools funding. The funding for Monmouth Comprehensive School has been agreed on the basis of the new school

having a capacity of 1600 and a 55 place ALN facility.

4. In order to reduce the level of surplus places within the area through the 21st century schools programme it is necessary to reduce the capacity at all four secondary schools. The capacity is presently 1671 and as at January 2016 there were 1626 pupils on roll.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

1. The total capital investment for the additional learning needs facility is £1.2 million which has already been secured as part of the 21st century Schools funding, with 50% being provided by Welsh Government.
2. The average cost to educate a pupil with additional learning needs in a specialist placement outside of the county is £25,000 per year based on current costs and arrangements. The estimated cost to educate a pupil in an SNRB within the county, such as the one that is proposed in Monmouth, is £5,500 per year based on current costs.

CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members

DMT

SLT

Statutory Consultees (including all Local Members for the Monmouth area)

INTEREST DECLARED

County Councillor R. Harris declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as an LEA appointed School Governor of Deri View.

AUTHOR:

Cath Sheen

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: CathrynSheen@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01633 644530

DECISION 4

SUBJECT: Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

1. To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the

authority.

2. To seek Cabinet approval of the whole authority risk assessment.

DECISION:

To approve the risk assessment (Appendix 1 within report) as a realistic and evidenced appraisal of the strategic risks facing the authority over the next three years.

REASONS:

To ensure that:

1. Strategic risks are identified and assessed robustly by the authority and that risk controls are put in place that are appropriate and proportionate and supported by effective operational activity to ensure risk reduction / risk management.
2. Responsibility for strategic risk management is taken on board and that:
 - Senior managers are accountable for systematically reviewing and addressing strategic risks facing the authority
 - Cabinet as the executive takes responsibility to oversee the risk management function and ensure that decision making takes all identified risks into account
 - Audit Committee takes responsibility to scrutinise that a risk management culture and effective risk management arrangements are applied across the authority
 - Select Committees challenge officers and members responsible for the risks as an intrinsic part of holding them to account for risk management / mitigation
3. An articulate and documented strategic risk management approach is implemented so that the council is not exposed to the potential of poor regulatory assessment. This also takes on board the related issues of:
 - protecting the council's assets, resources and staff
 - improving business planning and performance and informing calculated risks
 - avoiding unnecessary liabilities and costs
 - avoiding poor reputation and loss of confidence in the council

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Resource implications are associated with some risks and in implementing actions to manage them. There are no additional resource implications as a result of implementing the strategic risk management process.

CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Select Committees

Views have been sought throughout the process and have been used to inform the development of the paper before Cabinet.

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Matthew Gatehouse, Richard Jones

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail:
richardjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: Tel: 01633644397,

matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk,

DECISION 5

SUBJECT: Acorn Project Staffing Restructure

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

DECISION:

This item was withdrawn from the agenda and will be considered at a future meeting.

DECISION 6

We resolved to exclude members of the press and public during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it contains confidential information relating to an individual.

SUBJECT: Deletion of Post from CYP Directorate

DIVISION/WARD AFFECTED: All Wards

PURPOSE:

As contained within the report.

DECISION:

To agree to recommendations within the report.

REASONS:

As contained within the report.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As contained within the report.

CONSULTEES:

HR
Member of staff affected
DMT
SLT

INTEREST DECLARED

None

AUTHOR:

Sharon Randall-Smith

CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail: sharonrandall-smith@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01633 644203