

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

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 24th March 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Llanover

1. PURPOSE:

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

2. RECOMMENDATION:

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

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Governing Body of Llanfair Kilgeddin Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School requested the Local Authority undertake the formal consultation process to discontinue the school.
- 3.2 The request for closure came following a series of concerns raised by the Local Authority, ESTYN, Education Achievement Service (EAS) and Monmouth Diocesan Trust (MDT) regarding the School's performance and its ability to address the identified areas of concern.
- 3.3 In light of the above, the Local Authority commenced the necessary arrangements as detailed in the School Organisation (Wales) Code 2013 to undertake the statutory processes required for School closures.
- 3.4 On 7th October 2015, Cabinet considered a report that was seeking permission to commence consultation on the proposed closure of Llanfair Kilgeddin VA Church in Wales Primary School. The report to Cabinet outlined in detail the concerns as mentioned under 3.2 above. A list of the statutory consultees can be found in appendix 1.

- 3.5 Following the formal consultation period and the publication of a consultation report, Cabinet took the decision on 6th January 2016 to proceed to publish a Statutory Notice to discontinue the School. (Appendix 2).
- 3.6 The Statutory Notice was published for 28 days after 20th January 2016 until 17th February 2016.
- 3.7 The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires Local Authorities to publish an Objection Report following the publication of a Statutory Notice to give:
1. Details of any objections received to a proposal.
 2. The authority's response to any objections.

The Objection Report on the proposal to close Llanfair Kilgeddin Church in Wales Voluntary Aided Primary School together with the Authority's responses can be found in Appendix 3.

- 3.8 During the objection period one objection was received in relation to the proposal.
- 3.9 There have been no pupils on roll at the school since 1st September 2015, all previous pupils have transferred to alternative schools within the area.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.

- 5.3 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 5.2 above, the overall revenue savings to close the school are £45,570.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Capital Receipts will not be realised from the sale of land and buildings as they belong to Monmouth Diocesan Trust.
- 5.6 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.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The future generation's process has been completed and is at Appendix 4 of the attached consultation report.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report, as all children concerned have been enrolled at alternative Schools.

8. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members

DMT

SLT

Statutory Consultees (appendix 1) including Church in Wales Diocesan Trust, Director of Education and Local Member County Councilor Sara Jones.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The Government of Maintained School (Wales) Regulations 2005

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

School Organisation Statutory Code 006/2013

Statutory Notice to Discontinue Llanfair Kilgeddin Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School

Consultation Document and Consultation Report on proposed closure (7th October 2015 and 6th January 2016)

10. AUTHOR:

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