

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 26TH APRIL, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 22ND MARCH, 2021

**“C530 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022/2023 (DL / ER)
(SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the school admission arrangements for the academic year 2022/23 for admission to Community Schools in accordance with the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

The Council received 165 responses by the closing date of 8th February, 2021. Of the 165 individual responses 71 consultees were in support of the proposals and 94 were opposed. A summary of the key themes and issues raised during the consultation exercise was included in the consultation report attached at Appendix B.

The Council had a statutory duty to consult on school admission arrangements annually and to determine the arrangements for 2022/23 following appropriate consultation by no later than 15th April, 2021.

The Deputy Leader said this was another example where consultation responses had changed proposals.

Even during the pandemic, Council Officers had made time to ensure that meaningful, relevant and transparent engagement with stakeholders as part of the consultation process took place and schools had also engaged constructively. Councillor Burnett passed on her thanks for the positive engagement.

The Deputy Leader proposed a fourth Recommendation that expressed thanks from the Cabinet to Education Admissions staff of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and school staff in engaging to find a constructive solution to a difficult problem.

The Leader proposed a fifth Recommendation using the Urgent Decision Procedure set out in Section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution in order to meet the deadline of the 15th April, 2021.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein and noting new Recommendations (4) and (5)

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report, the consultation report and other appendices included as part of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the School Admissions Policy at Appendix A to the report, including an additional criterion prioritising admission of ex feeder pupils on roll at a primary school prior to the withdrawal of the ‘feeder system’ as part of the oversubscription criteria, until the end of academic year 2024/25 following which it would be removed, be approved.
- (3) T H A T the proposed changes to Ysgol Dewi Sant and Ysgol St. Baruc School catchment areas for 2022/23 be approved.
- (4) T H A T Cabinet expressed thanks to Education Admissions staff of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and school staff in engaging to find a constructive solution to a difficult problem.
- (5) T H A T the Urgent Decision Procedure set out in Section 14:14 of the Council's Constitution be approved in order to meet the deadline of 15th April, 2021.**

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) The Council was required to consult on school admissions annually and report on the outcome of the consultation and any proposals which arose from it.
- (3) To ensure that the Council reviews its school admission arrangements annually, keep school catchment areas under review, and to determine its admissions arrangements by 15th April, 2021 following statutory consultation.
- (4) To thank those who contributed to the positive engagement process.
- (5) The reporting of the use of the Urgent Decision Procedure is a requirement of the Council's Constitution.”**