

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT:

Closure of Libraries and Arts Central.
Cessation of face to face Adult Community Learning classes.
Establishment of distance learning for some Adult Learning courses.

1. **Originating / Department / Service** –

Learning and Skills

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers** –

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW ~~and attach appropriate Committee report /
minute/ memo~~ * (* delete as appropriate)

In response to Covid 19, Welsh Government exercised its power under the 1984 Public Health Act to close all facilities where people gather with immediate effect from the 20th March.

In response to this all libraries in the Vale of Glamorgan, the Art Gallery and face to face adult education classes were closed.

Libraries

There is social media output from all libraries and local networks are also being used to promote digital resources and share useful links on line. New resources are coming on line all the time e.g. Ulibrary, eComics are expanding to include Disney titles and ancestry has allowed us to provide access for users at home through our login accounts.

Get Back on Track and ESOL Courses

- Welsh Government and Cardiff and the Vale College do not intend clawing back grant funding.
- Most learners received homeworking packs from their tutors prior to shut down and our tutors continue to support them on line and through class WhatsApp groups.
- Wellbeing courses set up on line to offer arts and craft to keep learners engaged.
- We are linking with the government ESOL and refugee teams and posting useful links and support/ learning videos on our website.

Learn Welsh in the Vale

- Learn Welsh tutors are using a variety of online programmes to contact and continue to teach Welsh for adults learners, including Skype and Zoom.

- Tutors are maintaining contact with learners who don't have social media or interactive programmes by email and those with no internet by phone and post.
- Tutors are following National Centre for Learning Welsh (NC) guidelines to recommend the national website which is being uploaded daily with resources and tasks for learners to do at home.

Leisure Courses

- It is not possible to deliver the majority of leisure courses on line which will result in a loss of income from customers. The team are working to develop a post COVID 19 programme.

3. **Policy Framework and Budget** –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee** –

Learning and Culture

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

~~(a) — That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**~~

(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that

~~(c) — For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) — For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) — For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) — For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

Signed: ..Paula Ham.....**Date:**08 April 2020...
(Instructing Chief Officer)

Please print name: ...Paula Ham.....

I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).

Signed: D.R. Thomas..... **Date:** 15 April 2020.....
Managing Director

NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.

N.B. Cabinet: 23rd March, 2020 Minute No. 295