

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th May 2016
Report Subject	Report back from the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny call in meeting - Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education & Youth
Report Author	Member Engagement Manager
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A decision of the Cabinet - Record No 3255 School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain the 19th April meeting was called in. The call in meeting of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 28th April.

Having considered the decision, the committee chose Option 4, to refer the issue to Council. The Council considered the issue at a special meeting on Tuesday, 10th May and recommended that the original Cabinet decision should stand.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the cabinet notes the decision of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee call in meeting with regard to Record No 3255 School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain
2	That the Cabinet notes that the decision of the Council at the special meeting held on 10 th May 2016.
3.	That the decision be implemented.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CALL IN
1.01	<p>At the meeting of the Cabinet which was held on 19th April 2016, a report <i>School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – Ysgol Maes Edwin</i> was considered. The recommendations of that report , which were approved were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Cabinet is requested to consider the responses from the statutory objection period for Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain; and (b) Cabinet is requested to determine whether to implement the proposal for school organisational change at Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain.
1.02	<p>The decision of the Cabinet, which was published as Record No 3255 is as follows:</p> <p><i>That Ysgol Maes Edwin be closed as of 31/08/16 with pupils transferring to other schools in accordance with parental preference.</i></p>
1.03	<p>That decision was called in by Councillors Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Dave Mackie, Hilary Isherwood, Paul Cunningham and Vicky Perfect on the following grounds:</p> <p><i>The decision is against the best interests of the pupils, parents and staff of Ysgol Maes Edwin.</i></p> <p><i>We believe that this decision is not in the best interests of the children involved because it would mean that they would have to travel to schools which are outside their village and thus further away. Ideally, children should be able to walk to their school.</i></p> <p><i>Closing this school will impair or even destroy the vitality of the local community by removing the school which is at its centre. One such facilities go, economies of scale arguments tend to be made against for their return in any form.</i></p> <p><i>Rural areas, by their nature tend to have small schools. We know that their ability to attract more pupils is often hampered by house prices within those rural areas. Those house prices mean that our young people often have to leave the villages and gravitate towards the towns when they want to set up their own homes and start families. We believe that our rural and village schools need to be treated sympathetically to keep them, to prevent our villages becoming dormitories, rather than communities.</i></p>
1.04	<p>The call in was heard by the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the 10.00 meeting on Thursday 28th April 2016 The choice of the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny committee was option 4, referral to Council. Prior to making that decision, the committee was</p>

	<p>advised that the decision is an ‘executive decision’ and that a referral to Council could not alter the decision. The Council has power to consider the referral and to make comments on it but must then refer the issue back to the Cabinet. In the report to the special meeting of county Council, the following was emphasised: The decision on this remains with the Cabinet which is not bound to act on any recommendation which is made to it by Council.</p> <p>Council decided that the original Cabinet decision which was : <i>That Ysgol Maes Edwin be closed as of 31/0816 with pupils transferring to other schools in accordance with parental preference</i> should stand</p> <p>The Cabinet is therefore advised of the decision of council and the decision can be implemented. This is not subject to any further call in.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	As identified in the previous report to the Cabinet on this issue.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Report of the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) on School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – Ysgol Llanfynydd. considered at Cabinet on 19th April.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Robins, Member Engagement Manager Telephone: 01352 702320 E-mail: Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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7.01	Call in: under section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview & Scrutiny committee can review a decision which has been made but not implemented. This is known as a 'call in'.