

From: [] (PSWL - Education Business Planning & Governance)
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 5:50 PM
To: [] <[]@ceredigion.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Review or Rural Schools

Hi []

This is the info that I have when [] closed a rural school in 2022 that they presented to their cabinet before consulting.

Kind regards

[]

From: [] <[]@ceredigion.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 3:08 PM
To: [] (PSWL - Education Business Planning & Governance) <[]@gov.wales>
Subject: RE: Review or Rural Schools

Good afternoon []

Thank you so much for your input – if you have examples from other authorities that would be great.

Regards

[]

From: []@gov.wales <[]@gov.wales>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 3:03 PM
To: [] <[]@ceredigion.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Review or Rural Schools

Hi []

You do need to satisfy yourselves with your legal team that you are complying with the Code. I can see that you are complying with Section 1.8 and making a proposal to the decision makers before going to consultation. I have read the document and here are my observations.

You haven't mentioned in the document that this is a school on the rural schools list in the School Organisation Code. You may want to add something along the following lines up front to demonstrate your compliance with the Code to the decision makers.

The School Organisation Code makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools, establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. Section 1.8 of the Code states that proposers are required to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school

closure proposal. The proposer is required to identify clear and specific reasons for formulating the proposal and consider these reasons as part of the decision making process on whether or not to consult. They are required to identify any reasonable alternatives to closure which might also address the reasons for the proposal and provide evidence to show that they have carefully considered all other viable options with a clear assessment of the merits and their viability before they proceed to closure.

I think you can strengthen the case around surplus places. I note that the school has 45 surplus places. With a capacity of 74 that is 60.8% which is significantly high. A higher than necessary level of surplus school places results in a drain on resources. The Welsh Government recommends a level of no more than 10% surplus places across primary and secondary schools. Welsh Government recognises schools with significant surplus places as those over 25% and over. That demonstrates that this school needs to be looked at a bit more and needs change. I think I noted during the surplus places exercise that Ceredigion has the highest level of overall surplus places, so you should look at this as part of a wider strategic impact.

Where you are looking at the impact on Quality and Standards in Education you need to refer to section 1.3 in the Code and consider the bullet points there. I can see that you have in your document but double check that everything is in there. Also when comparing schools ensuring that that if the pupils were to move to Talybont?, that they would receive the same level of education or above, by looking at Estyn reports and your own local knowledge, I can see that there has been some comparison.

Please note that these are personal points and I can't make any legal comments, I've only been able to have a quick look but hope this helps. If it will be of further help, I can look for previous proposal for a rural school closure that I have in my records and send what another local authority has done, for you to look at how they approached it?

Kind regards

[]

From: [] <[]@ceredigion.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 2:54 PM

To: [] (PSWL - Education Business Planning & Governance) <[]@gov.wales>

Subject: FW: Review or Rural Schools

Good afternoon []

We are in the process of preparing proposal papers for Cabinet to seek their approval to proceed to a statutory consultation on the closure of rural schools – copies of the draft proposal paper and

neu hi, neu'r person sydd gyfrifol am drosglwyddo'r neges hon iddo ef neu hi, mi ddylech hysbysu'r anfonwr ar eich union. Oni bai mai chi yw'r person neu gynrychiolydd y person y cyfeiriwyd y neges hon at ef neu hi nid ydych wedi eich awdurdodi i, ac ni ddylech chi, ddarllen, copio, dosbarthu, defnyddio na chadw'r neges hon nac unrhyw gyfran ohoni.

O dan GDPR y DU, Deddf Diogelu Data 2018, a Deddf Rhyddid Gwybodaeth 2000, gellir datgelu cynnwys yr e-bost hwn.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

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