

Request: Email correspondence between the Education Department of Wales and Neath Port Talbot Borough Council with regards to the Swansea Valley Primary School, including those around the business case. You also asked to see the emails between NPTBC and Jeremy Miles MS, Minister of Education and Welsh Language and the previous Minister of Education, Kirsty Williams MS.

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 30 June 2020 17:26

To: 21stcenturyschools

Cc: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Good afternoon,

Please find attached Swansea Valley Combined Strategic Outline and Outline Business Case, along with the completed Project Cost template, hopefully in time for the Business Case Scrutiny Group on July 15th.

Could you please let me know whether it is likely to be considered on that date, and whether there is any more information needed before then?

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Attachment: SOC/OBC (Doc-1a-b)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 10:24 AM

To: 21stcenturyschools; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1],

Hope you are keeping well.

Thanks for the submission; to confirm, we will consider this business case at BCSG this month. Would it be possible to have a project benefits template too?

Many thanks,

[Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 20 July 2020 09:28

To: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]

Subject: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Bore da

ATISN 17512 Appendix A

Please find attached the addendum following BCSG last week. Very grateful if you could come back to us by Monday 27 July, please get in touch if you have any queries. We are still waiting for a few colleagues' comments so will forward these on once received.

Thank you

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Attachment: Addendum 1 for completion (Doc-2)

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 24 July 2020 15:22

To: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)],

Please find attached addendum responses as requested.

Please let me know if there is anything else required?

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Attachment: Completed addendum 1 (Doc-3)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 24 July 2020 15:29

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Thanks [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

I will share with the scrutiny group members.

There will be more queries next week, I'm afraid between absence and leave not all assessors were able to give comments in time for this addendum, apologies for making more work for you, but I will send a second addendum out next week!

[Redacted – WG Official 6 (SCfL)] did mention also we need an updated forecast with this project included too please

Thank you

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 24 July 2020 15:37

To: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)],

I did wonder if there was more to come!! Send it along when its ready and we will try our best to get it back to you as soon as possible.

I think I sent an updated funding forecast last week, but no problem to send again, please see attached.

Thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 24 July 2020 15:51

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Will do, hopefully I'll have all comments by early next week.

Thanks for sending the forecast through, I think there may be an issue as the overall total on the forecast (£82.7m) is higher than your approved SOP of £67m.

I will check this and get back to you at the same time as the addendum next week

Thank you

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 31 July 2020 11:01

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Please find attached further queries from Sports Wales and Welsh in Education Colleagues.

Please also be aware that there is a potential funding issue with this scheme as the project cost would take you over your agreed Programme envelope (£67m). We have had a number of requests for SOP revisions where delivery partners are asking for funding in excess of their envelope. At this early stage of the Band B wave of funding, and in light of Covid-19 pressures, the Investment Panel is not currently approving increases to Programme envelopes. We are asking delivery partners to

consider their priorities, with any schemes that fall in excess of the original funding envelope sitting on a "reserve" list pending availability of funding above that envelope.

More than happy to discuss further,

Many thanks

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Attachment: Addendum 2 for completion (Doc-4)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 05 August 2020 08:18

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Hi all

In order for the business case to be considered by panel next week, we need a SOP revision too, to explain how the project is deliverable within your current programme envelope. The Panel is currently not approving increases in envelopes at this early stage of Band B and in light of Covid-19 pressures, therefore your revised SOP would need to re-prioritise and may mean moving different project(s) to a reserve list.

Could I please talk on the phone with one of you this morning to discuss this please?

Many thanks

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 05 August 2020 10:39

To: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)],

Apologies for not responding to you sooner, we will get back to you as soon as possible with a response.

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 06 August 2020 13:10

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RNPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Good afternoon [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Just to inform you, Panel will now be considering extensions to SOPs funding envelopes. After next Wednesday's discussion at Panel I will contact you to advise you on next steps.

Many thanks

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 06 August 2020 13:28

To: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: RNPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - Addendum

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)],

Many thanks for this information, that's excellent news.

I will get the second set of addendum queries back to you tomorrow morning, please let me know if there is anything else needed.

Thanks again

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Sent: 06 August 2020 13:37

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - breakdown of costs

That's great

Thanks [Redacted – NPT Official 1] – we do need further breakdown of costs, would you be able to complete the following tables by tomorrow morning please?

Element	Cost (£)
School building (630 + 45 FTE nursery)	
Additional nursery spaces (25 extra FTE nursery)	
ASD Unit	
Swimming Pool	
Abnormals	3,430,000
TOTAL	22,705,000

Abnormal costs	Cost (£)
TOTAL	3,430,000

Many thanks

[Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 07 August 2020 12:48

To: [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - breakdown of costs

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)],

Please find attached addendum responses and completed breakdown of costs, as requested.

Please let me know if anything else is required.

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Attachment: Completed Addendum 2 (Doc-5)

Attachment: Cost Breakdown (Doc-6)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Sent: 07 August 2020 14:54

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - breakdown of costs

Thanks very much [Redacted – NPT Official 1]. I just have a couple of additional queries re the costs for you to consider. The first is in respect of the abnormal costs: could you provide some more information about the items highlighted in yellow and why they are needed? In particular, I would welcome a justification of the off-site costs, as our programme does not normally cover expenditure outside the curtilage of the school.

Abnormal costs	Cost (£)
Additional off site parking	150,000

Services upgrade	200,000
Safe routes	50,000
S278	50,000
Ground water	500,000
Existing playing field	200,000
Contamination	2,000,000
Off site playing field provision	100,000
Demolition of changing rooms	80,000
Resurfacing	100,000
TOTAL	3,430,000

My second query relates to the cost of the school building itself which appears higher than the 21st Century Schools standard. Could you please provide justification for the element which exceeds the standard cost?

Please let me know if you have any queries. It would be good if you could get the information back to us by close of play on Monday please.

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 4:22 PM

To: [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT - Swansea Valley Primary - SOC/OBC - breakdown of costs

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)],

Please see attached responses to the queries raised on Friday regarding the costs, these should address the issues raised.

Please let me know if there is any further information needed.

Best wishes

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Sent: 13 August 2020 20:26

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 6 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 8 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1],

Just to let you know that the Investment Panel have agreed to recommend approval of the SOC/OBC. However this approval is subject to the submission of a SOP variation in order to reflect the increase to NPT's overall Band B Programme.

The Panel also gave approval on the proviso that the replacement pool should be accessible to local schools and not just for use of the leisure centre, due to the nature of the 21CS grant. They also wished to have confirmed that the community facilities would remain open out of hours/school holidays. I understand that there is an aim for the pool to have increased usage by local schools but would appreciate to have this assurance.

More than happy to discuss – I am back in the office on Monday.

Many thanks,

[Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Sent: 19 August 2020 11:53

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 6 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 8 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1],

In addition to the below, our Welsh in Education colleagues have asked for a copy of the first stage impact assessment which was referred to in the addendum.

Also as we are arranging our next round of catch up meetings with delivery partners, would you and your team (including finance) be available to meet either 1 or 3 September? Our WM and Childcare colleagues would look to join us too as we are now combining our meetings to hopefully provide us and local authorities with a more effective way to cover all the grant streams going forward.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

[Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:21 PM

To: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 6 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 5 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 8 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; Andrew Thomas (NPT);

[Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)],

I hope you are well.

When we met last week I assured you that I would send in the details requested below along with our SOP variation. We are still working on the SOP variation but I fully expect to get it across to you in the next few days. In the meantime please find attached First Stage Integrated Impact Assessment in relation to the Welsh Language.

I can also confirm that the community facilities referred to in the Swansea Valley scheme are indeed intended to be used out of hours by the community, and that the schools in the area and wider afield will have access to the pool and other facilities. The current pool is already used by the schools in the area and it is our aim that this scheme would provide more opportunities for these schools as well as expanding it to include other schools who do not currently use it, through improved location and better facilities.

I trust this answers your queries but please let me know if any further information is need?

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Attachment: Draft Impact Assessment (Doc-7)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:18 PM

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1],

Following BCSG last week, please find attached the addendum which includes the queries raised by policy colleagues at the meeting.

Very grateful for your response to these queries by Tuesday 24 November if possible, so that I can ensure my colleagues are content prior to the Panel meeting on 9 December.

Any questions, please get in touch.

Thanks,

[Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Attachment: Addendum for completion (Doc-8)

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 9:10 AM

To: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Cc: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley SOC/OBC

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)],

Please find attached responses to the addendum queries. You will note that these are the same responses as we have submitted previously, as we are unable to complete the WLIA until we have all available information following consultation. In all our previous school reorganisation schemes we have always used consultation to gather information for the various impact assessments needed, with the result that our Members have had as much information as possible to support them in the decision making process.

Please let me know if there is anything else needed.

Best wishes

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Attachment: Completed Addendum (Doc-9)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 2:01 PM

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 3]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]; [Redacted – WG Official 2 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 3 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]

Subject: RE: NPT Band B Swansea Valley FBC

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1],

The Panel considered the FBC last week and recommended approval. We are now proceeding with seeking the Minister's final approval.

The Panel noted that this approval would be subject to a satisfactory WLIA before any draw down of funding could be released.

If you have any queries regarding the development of the WLIA please contact our Welsh in Education colleagues, [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)] or Bethan Webb (Deputy Director – Welsh Language)

Wishing you and the team a Merry Christmas.

Thanks,

[Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]

From: 21stcenturyschools

Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 3:53 PM

To: A Evans

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; [Redacted – NPT Official 8]; [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)];

[Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 7 (SCfL)]

Subject: Grant Award Letter - Ysgol Newydd Swansea Valley - Neath Port Talbot - 21/12/20

Dear Mr Evans

Award of Funding in relation to 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme; Reference B-NPT-0004, Ysgol Newydd Swansea Valley, NPT

Attachments – Grant agreement letter and Word document for signatures.

Please find attached a grant award letter, signed by [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)], on behalf of the Welsh Ministers. Please also see a Word version of the last page of the grant award letter which should be signed and dated by Neath Port Talbot County Council.

Once this page has been signed please create a PDF version. Retain one copy for your records and, **as soon as possible**, return one copy, together with the PDF copy of grant award letter to me at 21stcenturyschools@gov.wales

Please note that until the agreement is signed by both parties we have no binding agreement in respect of the agreements to the projects, and the Welsh Government shall have no liability in respect of any activities you choose to undertake in relation to the agreement.

Please also note the clause at 1(b) that states this agreement is subject to the Welsh Language Impact Assessment being completed satisfactory.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted – WG Official 12 (SCfL)]

Attachment: Grant award letter (Doc-10)

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 16 June 2021 13:00

To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Subject: Swansea Valley LIA

Good afternoon [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)],

Many apologies for not sending this last Friday as promised, but please find attached WLIA for our Swansea Valley proposal along with the link to the full report and appendices on NPT website - <https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/documents/g9947/Public%20reports%20pack%2016th-Jun-2021%2014.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10> .

Please let me know if you would like anything further?

Best wishes

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 4:28 PM

To: Andrew Thomas; [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10

(Cymraeg 2050)]; Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Subject: WLIA Swansea Valley proposal

Dear Andrew and [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Thank you for sharing the WLIA for the Swansea Valley proposal. The document certainly provides more information than the initial WLIA, however, I have some real concerns regarding this assessment. I have listed some areas of concern below and also as comments on the enclosed attachment:

- I'm not aware that any consultation has taken place with stakeholders, for example, the Welsh Language Forum. No forum meetings have been held for over 12 months.
- The WLIA doesn't fully address the possible impact and therefore fails to offer appropriate mitigating actions
- There is recognition in the WLIA that the area is a linguistically sensitive area. I would expect a plan to look specifically at this situation and a report with recommendations to inform this WLIA. The process of safeguarding this area is incomplete

I'm more than happy to arrange a meeting to discuss the way forward and to set out our expectations if that would be useful to you.

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Oddi wrth: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Anfonwyd: 08 July 2021 10:13

At: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Andrew Thomas (NPT)

Copi/Cc: Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD); [Redacted – NPT Official 5]

Pwnc: RE: WLIA Swansea Valley proposal

Bore da [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)],

Thank you for your email. We have been considering your comments and feel it would be beneficial for us to meet to discuss further.

Would you like to contact Andrew's PA [Redacted – NPT Official 5] with your availability, and she will be able to check diaries and set this up for us?

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 11:41 AM

To: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Cc: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 1 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – WG Official 4 (SCfL)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 2]; [Redacted – NPT Official 6]; [Redacted – NPT Official 4]

Subject: NPT WLIA Advice

Bore da Bethan

I hope you are well.

Following our meeting on 27th July to discuss amendments to our WLIA I think you were going to send us some information and /or provide contact details for someone who might be able to assist us? I don't think we've received anything from you yet – as you know we are due to take a report to our members in September so are keen to get working on this and would be grateful for any assistance you can give us.

We have been working on this from our side since we met and if possible would like to send you some of our thoughts for further advice?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Bethan Webb](#)

Sent: 07 September 2021 09:54

To: Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – External 1]

Subject: YML/FW: Cwm Tawe

Annwyl Andrew, [Redacted – NPT Official 1],

Further to our meeting and subsequent email, you agreed to us commissioning [Redacted – External 1] to undertake a specific piece of work in the Cwm Tawe area looking in particular looking what needs to be included in a comprehensive Welsh language Impact Assessment.

This email confirms that we have formally commissioned [Redacted – External 1] to do the work and have provided him with an overview of the work to be undertaken. This email is to formally introduce you both to [Redacted – External 1] (copied in) so that you can arrange to meet to progress the work.

Diolch both.

All the best

Beth

Oddi wrth: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Anfonwyd: 20 September 2021 11:50

At: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Pwnc: RE: Cwm Tawe

Bore da Bethan,

Hope you are well.

I and my colleague [Redacted – NPT Official 6] met with [Redacted – External 1] last week and we both felt it was a very informative and productive meeting. I know that he is now working on the report and that he will then be sending it to you for consideration.

As you are aware we are at the last stages of our process and we need a final decision before the end of next month to enable us to meet construction deadlines if we are to open in 2024. As a result it

would be greatly beneficial for us to have sight of the report to assist us with our documentation for the meeting on the 20th, thus ensuring that all our elected Members are fully aware of the concerns and possible mitigating actions around the development of the Welsh language before the decision is made. I am particularly anxious that other aspects – such as the WESP and our application for the Welsh medium Capital grant all tie in together with our aspirations for mitigation, making sure that we have absolute Member approval across all areas.

As a result then I wonder whether it would be possible for us to have the report as soon as it is completed, or at the very latest by 10th October? Happy to discuss further if required.

Many thanks,

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Sent: 06 October 2021 17:31

To [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Subject: YML/FW: Cwm Tawe

Redacted – NPT Official 1],

Apologies – I missed this email! Inboxes just get so full these days.

[Redacted – External 1] will be sending his final draft to us this week – we will than get it to you as soon as we can thereafter.

I am assuming we will need to arrange a meeting before your cabinet meeting to go through the report?

Will keep you posted.

Diolch yn fawr

Beth

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 10:14 AM

To: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Subject: RE: Cwm Tawe

Bore da Bethan,

Thank you for your response, good news that [Redacted – External 1] has completed the work.

As you note in your email we are working under a very tight deadline. I'm anxious about getting the information in enough time to give it proper consideration and include in our report, which I need to have completed by next Wednesday ready for the meeting on the 20th October.

We would welcome a meeting at your earliest convenience –if you let me know your availability I would be happy to check diaries here? In the meantime it would of course be helpful to have sight of the report before we meet, to allow us time to consider it properly.

Diolch yn fawr

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Sent: 08 October 2021 14:01
To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]
Cc: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD); [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Subject: Cwm Tawe

Good afternoon [Redacted – NPT Official 1]
Please see attached a draft copy of [Redacted – External 1] report. We understand that you are working to a tight schedule and would therefore appreciate early sight of this draft document. We will share the final bilingual document with you in due course but in the meantime I hope that this draft report is helpful to you.

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]
Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 3:22 PM
To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Cc: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD); [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Subject: RE: Cwm Tawe

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)],

Many thanks, I am so pleased to have this in time for us to properly consider its content.

Best wishes

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: Lloyd, Owain
Sent: 22 October 2021 11:06
To: Andrew Thomas (NPT)
Cc: Harries, Emyr (EPS); Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD); [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Subject: 21st Century Schools and college Programme - Ysgol Newydd Swansea Valley (B-NPT-0004)

Dear Andrew

Please find attached letter regarding the above project.

Kind regards

Owain

Owain Lloyd

Attachment: Letter to NPT dated 22 October 2021 (Doc-11)

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]
Sent: 30 March 2022 14:10

To: Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Andrew Thomas (NPT) ; [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Subject: RE: WLIA

Prynhawn da Bethan,

I hope this email finds you well.

Further to your email below around [Redacted – External 1] draft report I wondered whether the report was finalised and if a Welsh language copy was available? If so, would it be possible to send onto us as we didn't receive anything after the draft copy?

RhAG have requested a copy of the report from us although I'm aware they have already requested a copy from you, and in case they have received a copy I would like to ensure that we are providing the same version, just for clarity.

Many thanks for your assistance

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Sent: 30 March 2022 14:50

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Subject: RE: WLIA

Prynhawn da [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Please find attached the Welsh and English version of the final report.

Cofion gorau

[Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 30 March 2022 16:00

To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Subject: RE: WLIA

Many thanks [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)], much appreciated.

A quick read through suggests that it isn't noticeably different to the draft version, but just for clarity could you confirm that RhAG received a copy of the report from WG as requested and that this is the version they received?

Diolch

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 9:08 AM

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; Webb, Bethan (EPS - WLD)

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; Andrew Thomas (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Subject: RE: WLIA

Bore da [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Just to confirm, RhAG did receive a copy of the final report from WG as requested.

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Oddi wrth: Cllr. S K Hunt

Anfonwyd: Dydd Iau, 30 Mehefin 2022 16:16

At: Minister for Education and Welsh Language; Miles, Jeremy (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd)

Copi: Andrew Thomas (NPT); Karen Jones (NPT); [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; Cllr. Nia Jenkins (NPT); Cllr. Martyn Peters (NPT)

Pwnc: Swansea Valley Schools Proposals

Dear Minister,

Please find attached a letter in the relation to proposals for schools in the Swansea Valley area and the undertaking of a review of the original decision.

Kind Regards

Cllr. S K Hunt

Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Attachment: Letter to Minister for Education and Welsh Language (Doc-12)

Response from Minister for Education and Welsh Language dated 28 July 2022 (Doc-13)

From: Andrew Thomas (NPT)

Sent: 24 October 2022 12:49

To: Lloyd, Owain (ESJWL - Education Directorate)

Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 9]; [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Subject:

Owain,

Further to our conversation this morning please find attached a letter which sets out our position and request of WG

Kind regards Andrew

Attachment: Letter to Owain Lloyd (Doc-14)

From: Andrew Thomas (NPT)

Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 9:10 AM

To: Lloyd, Owain (ESJWL - Education Directorate)
Cc: [Redacted – NPT Official 9]; [Redacted – NPT Official 1]
Subject: FW: appeal

Owain,

I hope your well.

Further to the decision of the High Court recently we have been working through the implications for ALL LA's across Wales when they embark on school reorganisation proposals, (please see attached). The court's interpretation of the term 'affected' leaves us in a very difficult position nationally and I cannot believe, when the Code was drafted, it was the intention of WG to include in the Consultation Document details of schools if even there is the 'mere chance' it is affected, which is the test the Court has applied.

Also have you had any advice from your lawyers whether or not you will support our appeal?

Regards Andrew

Attachment: Note regarding 'affected schools' (Doc-15)

Response from Owain Lloyd dated 11 November 2022 (Doc-16)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 11 (Education)]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 1:14 PM
To: Andrew Thomas (NPT)
Subject: Swansea Valley schools reorganisation

Dear Andrew

Please see as attached letter sent on behalf of Owain Lloyd, Director of Education and the Welsh Language.

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 11 (Education)]

Attachment: Letter to Andrew Thomas (Doc-17)

From: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Sent: 01 February 2023 10:16
To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; [Redacted – NPT Official 6]
Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]
Subject: Swansea Valley schools reorganisation proposal

Bore da Redacted – NPT Official 1] a [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Hope you are both keeping well.

Following on from Owain Lloyd's letter to Andrew Thomas on the 20 January 2023 I wonder if we could arrange a meeting to discuss the above consultation and the supporting Welsh Language Impact Assessment?

I would be grateful if you could confirm if any of the following dates are available for you to meet with myself and [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]:

6 Feb, 10-11

8 Feb, 9.30-10.30

9 Feb, 11.30-12.30

12 Feb, 1-2

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: 06 February 2023 13:35

To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Subject: RE: Swansea Valley schools reorganisation proposal

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)],

Hope all well with you.

I understand that Andrew had a conversation with Owain last week and they agreed that it would be beneficial for us all to meet up to discuss this in detail, preferably face to face if it could be arranged?

I'm not sure if that was meant to be in addition to us meeting or instead of us meeting – do you know anything about it?

Many thanks

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Sent: 13 February 2023 13:37

To: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]; [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Subject: RE: Swansea Valley schools reorganisation proposal

Hi [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Apologies for the delay in responding to your message.

Owain outlined in his letter to Andrew that Welsh Government officials would be in touch 'to better understand which of the suggested mitigating actions would be implemented should the proposal be approved and ahead of any consideration by Ministers as to whether the "satisfactory completion of a Welsh Language Impact Assessment" condition has been met.'

Although a face to face meeting would be useful it could prove to be challenging to find a date and time that would be convenient for Andrew, Owain, Emyr and Bethan in the next week or two. Therefore, in order to progress matters could we start discussions via e-mail and plan a face to face meeting once we have checked availability? If you could offer a few possible dates then I will be able to confirm availability this end.

In the meantime, are you able to let us know when your report in response to the recent consultation will be available?

Kind regards

[Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 1]

Sent: Friday, February 17, 2023 4:43 PM

To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]

Cc: [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Subject: RE: Swansea Valley schools reorganisation proposal

Hi [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)],

My turn to apologise for the delay in responding – it's been such a busy week with half term approaching, although every week seems to be busy!

The consultation report is due to be published around the middle of March, I will send you a copy at the same time.

I appreciate the difficulties trying to arrange a meeting, I will indeed have a look at diaries when we all return from leave and get back to you with some possible dates. [Redacted – NPT Official 6] and I are happy to catch up with you and [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)] on teams or by email while we try and sort a date if it helps?

Let me know how you would like to proceed, I'm taking some leave next week but will check emails.

Best wishes

[Redacted – NPT Official 1]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 7]

Date: 16 March 2023 at 3:29:53 PM GMT

To: "Miles, Jeremy (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd)"

Cc: [Redacted – Senedd Staff 1]

Subject: Letter for the attention of Jeremy Miles, Minister for Education & Welsh Language

Good afternoon

Please find attached letter for the attention of Jeremy Miles from Cllr Steve Hunt, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council.

Best wishes

[Redacted – NPT Official 7]

Attachment: Letter to Minister for Education and Welsh Language dated 16 March 2023 (Doc-18)

Response from Minister for Education and Welsh Language dated 6 April 2023 (Doc-19)

From: Andrew Thomas (NPT)
Sent: 20 March 2023 10:30
To: Lloyd, Owain (ESJWL - Education Directorate)
Subject: School reorganisation proposal , Swansea Valley

Owain, I trust you are well,

As you will be aware we have recently finished the consultation on a new build school for the Swansea Valley and a report will be taken to Cabinet for a decision on whether to progress the proposal to the statutory objection period towards the end of April.

If the proposal is rejected at this point could the allocated sum of £14,758,250 Welsh Government funding towards the project cost of £22,705,000, be used to fund an alternative proposal? If not, could you confirm what the next steps would be for the Council in terms of securing grant funding for any alternative proposal. I know how busy you and your officers are at the moment however I would be grateful for a swift response so Members have as much accurate information as possible when they take their next decision.

Regards Andrew

From: Lloyd, Owain (ESJWL - Education Directorate)
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:08 PM
To: Andrew Thomas (NPT)
Subject: RE: School reorganisation proposal , Swansea Valley

Hi Andrew

Thanks for the query and here's a response for you to share with Members.

The Welsh government funding currently allocated to the Swansea Valley project forms part of the Local Authority's Band B funding envelope. Therefore, if the Local Authority was to determine that the project was not to progress, the funding in principle would remain allocated to NPT.

However, the Local Authority would need to submit a Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) variation, which would then need to be considered by the Education Investment Panel and the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. The revised proposal would be subject to approval of a three stage business case process.

Hope this helps

Cofion

Owain

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 6]
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 9:37 AM
To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – External 2]
Subject: Adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad

Boew da bawb,

Dyma'r ddolen gyswllt ar gyfer yr adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad yng Nghwm Tawe.

<https://www.npt.gov.uk/1890>

Cofion,

[Redacted – NPT Official 6]

From: [Redacted – NPT Official 6]

Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 12:04 PM

To: [Redacted – WG Official 9 (Cymraeg 2050)]; [Redacted – WG Official 10 (Cymraeg 2050)];

Subject: Cwm Tawe

Bore da,

Rwy'n siwr eich bod wedi clywed erbyn hyn ond cafodd cynnig Cwm Tawe ei wrthod gan y Cabinet neithiwr (cyfnod 3 diwrnod 'call-in' yn dechrau nawr).

Byddaf mewn cysylltiad os oes unrhyw newyddion pellach.

Cofion

[Redacted – NPT Official 6]