



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Dyddiad/ Date 29th June 2022
Rhif Ffôn/ Direct Line 01639 763309
E-bost/ Email leader@npt.gov.uk
Cyswllt/ Contact
Eich cyf / Your ref
Ein cyf/ Our ref SH/SC

Mr Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Dear Minister

On the 22nd October 2021, the Cabinet of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council approved the implementation of a proposal to establish an English-medium 3-11 school with a specialist Learning Support Centre (LSC) for 16 pupils with a statement of special educational needs relating to Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), in new build premises to accommodate pupils from the current catchment areas of Alltwen Primary, Godre'rgraig Primary and Llangiwg Primary, all of which will be discontinued on 31st August 2024.

Following local government elections in May 2022, a new administration was subsequently formed on the 7th June 2022, comprised of a coalition of independent members and members of Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales, with myself as Leader. As part of our programme for the new administrative term, the coalition wishes to review the decision that has been taken in respect of the Swansea Valley school reorganisation to establish if alternative ways to bring 21st Century School standards to the Swansea Valley can be achieved which would be more acceptable to the community.

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Swyddfa'r Arweinydd Y Cyngor
Steve Hunt, Arweinydd y Cyngor
Y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ
Ffôn 01639 763309

Leader's Office
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Officers have sought advice from Leading Counsel in this matter who has advised that in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the local authority can determine not to implement this proposal if it satisfied either that the implementation of the proposal would be unreasonably difficult and/or that circumstances have so altered since the proposals were approved that implementation of the proposals would be inappropriate. However, Leading Counsel has also advised that in accordance with Section 55(6) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, the local authority must obtain the agreement of the Welsh Ministers before making such a determination.

I would therefore request a meeting with you to establish what information the Welsh Ministers would require in order to consider giving consent to the review we propose to conduct. I am keen that the Council's officers work co-operatively with your officials to enable this work to progress as quickly as possible. Once the Welsh Ministers' response is to hand, the Council's Cabinet will then meet to take any decisions necessary.

I look forward to meeting with you in the near future. In the meantime, I will arrange for officers to liaise with the Welsh Government's Director of Education to provide a background briefing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. K. Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Leader of the Council