

Mrs. Mairwen Goodridge  
c/o Cymer Afan Comprehensive School  
School Road, Cymer  
Port Talbot  
SA3 3EL

19<sup>th</sup> June 2018

To Members of Cabinet,

Re: Decision on the Future of Secondary Education in the Upper Afan Valley

On behalf of my Governing Body, I wish to take this opportunity to express my concern at the pending decision concerning the future of Secondary school education in the Upper Afan Valley.

I was very disappointed with the final report from Officers of the Authority, on which you will be basing your decision on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June. This report, I feel fails to acknowledge the huge number of concerns raised during the consultation process by pupils, parents, staff and members of the community. This is evident in that no amendments whatsoever have been made to the proposal.

I urge members of cabinet to explore all alternative avenues before accepting this proposal. The closure of Cymer Afan Comprehensive School will have a detrimental impact on the community now and for years to come.

We appreciate that the Local Authority has to consider value for money. However, we feel that the additional spend per secondary pupil is justified to meet the needs of deprivation in the area and the lack of opportunities and facilities available to our children. The well-being and safeguarding of the pupils in the Upper Afan Valley has to come first and be more important than cost.

As a Federation of 3-16 schools, we feel that we have offered a number of cost saving alternatives to the authority and we ask that members recognise this and request the alternatives are explored further.


The proposed closure of Cymer Afan Comprehensive is to be a year after the opening of Ysgol Cwm Brombil. Under this proposal, I do not feel that staff have been given fair access to jobs, pupils have not been given a fair opportunity of transition, and governors have not had a fair opportunity to have a voice in representing the Upper Afan Valley.

Andrew Thomas acknowledged in two of the public meetings that in hindsight Cymer Afan Comprehensive School should have been involved in the initial consultation of Ysgol Cwm Brombil from the very start. This, I feel, is evidence that the local authority are not proposing this closure because it is in the best interest of our pupils but because it is a cost saving exercise.

I feel that the community has lost so many of its amenities in recent years. The community deserves to have a new all through school, but at the very least, it deserves the facility to educate their children locally. I hope that the decision you will make is sincerely in the best interest of the pupils, parents, staff and the wider community.

All stakeholders of the school will continue to work with the authority to ensure that the interest of all parties are met.

Yours Sincerely



Mairwen Goodridge  
Chair of Governors