

By: Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services
To: Scrutiny Committee – 8 March 2016
Subject: Proposal to Close Pent Valley Technology College – 15/00114

Summary: Notification of a call-in of decision number 15/00114 was received from Mr Cowan on 24 February 2016 which was supported by Mr Latchford. This report sets out the reasons behind the call-in and the options for the Scrutiny Committee.

1. Background

1.1 On 23 February 2016 the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform took a decision to issue a public notice to close Pent Valley Technology College from September 2016 for current years 7, 8, 9 and 11 from 31 August 2016 and for all years from August 2017.

2. Reasons justifying the call-in – from Mr G Cowan and Mr R Latchford

2.1 Full details and breakdown of how much this closure is going to cost.

2.2 If proposal to close the school goes ahead what does KCC intend doing with the school, and how much will it cost to mothball it?

2.3 If and when it reopens, how much will it cost KCC to transfer to an Academy/Free school?

2.4 How have KCC allowed this school to fall into such a financial shortfall, when was it first recognised there was such a financial problem, and what have KCC done to try and alleviate the problem much sooner?

2.5 When did the pupil numbers start to fall? Was it at the point of KCC announcing the possible closure? It is so often the case when parents hear such announcements that they look elsewhere to send their children to other school because of the fear of the possible closure announcement.

2.6 What was the full response to the Public Consultation? This should be highly relevant to any decision made by the Cabinet.

3. Reports attached

3.1 Record of Decision 15/00114 – Proposal to Close Pent Valley Technology College

- 3.2 “Proposal to Close Pent Valley Technology College” report to Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee - 17 February 2016
- 3.3 Consultation Document – Consultation on a Proposal to Close Pent Valley Technology College
- 3.4 Equality Impact Assessment

4. Witnesses

- 4.1 The names of the witnesses attending the meeting has yet to be finalised but is expected to include Mr Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform and Mr D Adams, Area Education Officer.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Committee may decide to:

- (a) Make no comment
- (b) Express Comments but not require reconsideration of the decision.
- (c) Require Implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by the decision maker in light of the Committee’s comments.
- (d) Require implementation of the decision to be postponed pending review or scrutiny of the matter by the full Council.