

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT:

Re-purposing of schools to provide childcare.
Establishment of childcare hubs and closure of non-hub school buildings.
Provision of free school meals through a voucher system.

1. **Originating / Department / Service** –

Learning and Skills

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers** –

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW and attach appropriate Committee report / minute/ memo * (* delete as appropriate)

In response to Covid 19, Welsh Government took a decision to close all schools for educational purposes by 20th March. It was announced that schools in Wales would be repurposed from 23rd March to provide childcare for vulnerable children and the children of critical key workers.

All schools in the Vale of Glamorgan remained open for this purpose. However, it became apparent that this approach could not be sustained due to reduced staff capacity resulting from illness and self-isolation.

On 25 March, discussions commenced with Headteachers on the development of a hub childcare model. A new hub model will commence on Wednesday 1 April based in 14 schools across the Vale. The provision will be made available from 7am – 7pm, 7 days a week. It will also be offered during the Easter period including the bank holidays.

As a result of the social distancing requirements and restrictions to individual journeys, the current system of distributing free school meals has become unsustainable. A voucher system is being introduced from 1st April. Those eligible for free school meals will be sent 10 days supply of vouchers fortnightly. The daily value of the voucher is £3.90. The cost of provision over the Easter period is to be met by Welsh Government.

3. **Policy Framework and Budget** –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee** –

**Learning and Culture
Corporate Resources and Performance**

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

~~(a) — That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**~~

(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that

~~(c) — For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) — For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) — For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) — For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

Signed: ..Paula Ham.....**Date:**01 April 2020...
(Instructing Chief Officer)

Please print name: ...Paula Ham.....

I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).

Signed: D R Thomas..... **Date:** ...1 April 2020.....
Managing Director

NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.

N.B. Cabinet: 23rd March, 2020 Minute No. 295