



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Fiona Gordon

BY EMAIL

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JR/SH

7 March 2016

**If you require this or any other information in another format
e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me**

Dear Cllr Gordon

Schools Scrutiny performance Panel 23 February 2016

I refer to your letter of 2 March 2016.

I am glad to read that the Panel members recognises that the local authority is facing financially difficult times and that any music service has to be affordable to schools and parents if it is to be sustainable.

You state that you are unclear about the rationale for considering splitting the service at present shared with Neath Port Talbot. The rationale is stated in the consultation document. The document describes in some detail, the background, the reason for the proposal and the case for change. It would be useful to know in more detail what you would like clarifying before we next meet.

Discussions with Neath Port Talbot Council have been ongoing for a number of months. I can assure you there has been full communication between Neath Port Talbot Council and Swansea Council. The consultation document agreed by both Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Councils can be found on their websites.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD
JENNIFER RAYNOR
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION /
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- 2 -

I note the Panel's suggestion that the music service needs a more formal footing including better clarity about who is responsible for what. Both the City & County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Council are in agreement with that point.

West Glamorgan Music Service has had three years to find efficiencies and work with the needs of schools. Despite one short period of making savings, the Music Service charges are still too high for all schools to pay. This is the case with the subsidy in place. To assist in finding ways to deliver a music service schools and parents can afford, a business manager will be appointed to deliver a sustainable service. Additional funding has been set aside to enable this process to proceed. As school governors you will be aware that schools may use their delegated budgets and the Pupil Deprivation Grant for free school meals pupils for services they think can support education.

Yours sincerely,

COUNCILLOR JENNIFER RAYNOR
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

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