

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

8 FEBRUARY 2011

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: THE OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICES ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PANDY INFANT SCHOOL AND TONDU PRIMARY, HEOL Y CYW AND PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND SARN NURSERY AND BRYNCETHIN PRIMARY

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 This report is to feed back to Cabinet the responses to public notices issued in November 2010 on the proposals to:
- (a) close Pandy Infants and allocate its catchment area for 3-7 provision to Tondu Primary;
 - (b) close Heol y Cyw Primary school and change the catchment area of Pencoed Primary to include the current catchment area of Heol y Cyw (but maintaining provision on the Heol y Cyw site for up to 3 years in the first instance);
 - (c) close Sarn Nursery and change the age range of Bryncethin Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.

This report also seeks approval to proceed with the implementation of proposals (a) and (b) above.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 The School Modernisation Programme supports many of the corporate priorities and in particular:

- Young Voices

- 2.2 In September 2006, the Authority adopted a policy of providing continuity of education from ages 3 to 11 where possible. In the same policy document 5 key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools:

1. commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
2. equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
3. inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;

4. community focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community;
5. value for money.

In the same report, the Policy and Planning Framework sets out 13 areas where the principles should be applied in practice. Those which are particularly relevant in the context of this report concern the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”) and value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

3. Background

- 3.1 Initial consultation on the proposals began in early September 2010 and closed on October 11th. Meetings were held with staff, governors and parents and the wider community affected by the proposals in the 6 schools, a total of 18 meetings in all. Officers also met with pupils of the school councils. The proposals were fully explained and responses invited either in the meetings or by sending in a response to the Corporate Director - Children. In November 2010, reports on each of the proposals were considered by Cabinet and approval was given to proceed to public notice but with amendments to the proposals for Heol y Cyw / Pencoed and Sarn Nursery / Bryncethin.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 The public notices for all 3 sets of proposals were issued on November 12th 2010 and the closing date for objections was January 12th 2011. A public notice sets out the details of a proposal to allow the public to comment generally or on specifics. A period of two months must elapse to allow any comments or objections to be made. If any objections within this period are made they must be submitted in writing to the Council. The objection(s) would then be forwarded to the Welsh Assembly Government, with the Council’s response to the objection(s), for the relevant minister to make a determination on the proposals.
- 4.2 With regard to the proposal concerning Pandy Infants and Tondu Primary, no objections were received during the public notice period. Cabinet is, therefore, now able to approve implementation of the resolution made on November 2nd 2010 which was to:
 1. close Pandy Infants School as from August 31st 2011, enlarge Tondu Primary School as from September 1st 2011 and to use the current Pandy Infants premises as part of Tondu Primary School until such time as the school can operate on a single site;
 2. alter the catchment area of Tondu Primary School to include the current catchment area of Pandy Infants School.

4.3 With regard to the proposal concerning Heol y Cyw Primary and Pencoed Primary, no objections were received during the public notice period. Cabinet is, therefore, now able to approve implementation of the resolution made on November 2nd 2010 which was to:

1. discontinue Heol y Cyw Primary School as from 31st August 2011 and make an alteration to Pencoed Primary School, whereby it is enlarged and operates a 3 – 11 provision from the Heol y Cyw premises until the end of the summer term 2014, or upon completion of the new build Pencoed Primary School if this is achieved prior to this date; the position to be reviewed in three years if the future of a replacement school remains uncertain;
2. change the catchment area of Pencoed Primary School to include the current catchment area of Heol y Cyw Primary School.

4.4 Within the public notice period, one objection was received to the proposal relating to Sarn Nursery and Bryncethin Primary, which was to:

1. close Sarn Nursery as from August 31st 2011;
2. provide nursery education at Bryncethin Primary School from September 2011 and change the age range from 4 - 11 to 3 -11 from 1 September 2011;
3. provide Bryncethin Primary School's nursery education at the Sarn site from 1 September 2011 for one year and from the Bryncethin Primary School site as from 1st September 2012 (or 1st September 2013 if the Band A funding bid is successful and new nursery accommodation is ready on the Bryncethin site).

A further objection, in the form of a petition, was received after the close of the notice period. A decision to refer the objection to the Welsh Assembly Government for a determination, in line with the statutory process, was made on January 14th 2011 under Scheme A of the Powers of Delegation. The Council's submission to the Welsh Assembly Government will respond to the letter of objection and to the content of the petition which was "to support Sarn nursery school to stay open and not cut pupil places".

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

There is no effect upon the policy frameworks or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments have been carried out for the proposals and stakeholders were given the opportunity to comment on any equality issues during the initial consultation period. There were no

significant equalities issues arising.

7. Financial Implications

A net saving is anticipated from the proposals relating to Pandy Infants / Tondu Primary and Heol y Cyw / Pencoed Primary. This takes account of the need for both Tondu Primary and Pencoed Primary to operate on split-sites in the first instance, which will incur some costs.

The directorate has put forward a budget reduction proposal of £150k (2011/2012), £210k (2012/13) and £140k (2013/14) relating to savings arising from school amalgamations. Any net saving arising from these closures will contribute to this savings proposal and will not be available for use elsewhere within the directorate

8. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to approve implementation of the proposals to:

- 8.1 close Pandy Infants School as from August 31st 2011, enlarge Tondu Primary School as from September 1st 2011 and to use the current Pandy Infants premises as part of Tondu Primary School until such time as the school can operate on a single site. Also, alter the catchment area of Tondu Primary School to include the current catchment area of Pandy Infants School;
- 8.2 discontinue Heol y Cyw Primary School as from 31 August 2011 and make an alteration to Pencoed Primary School, whereby it is enlarged and operates a 3 – 11 provision from the Heol y Cyw premises until the end of the summer term 2014, or upon completion of the new build Pencoed Primary School if this is achieved prior to this date; the position to be reviewed in three years if the future of a replacement school remains uncertain. Also, to change the catchment area of Pencoed Primary School to include the current catchment area of Heol y Cyw Primary School.

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31 January 2011

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Background documents

Council Report 13th September 2006, "LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – STRATEGY, PRINCIPLES, POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK"

Overview and Scrutiny report December 11th 2006: "LEARNING COMMUNITIES: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE" – SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROPOSALS

Cabinet Report 12th December 2006, "LEARNING COMMUNITIES: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE" – SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROPOSALS.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Education, Leisure and Community report 8th July 2007: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

Cabinet Report 13th January 2009: PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR NURSERY EDUCATION PROVISION

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People's report February 9th 2009: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

Cabinet Report 28th April 2009: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS

Cabinet Report 16th May 2009: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS

Cabinet Report 7th September 2010 - SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSED CHANGES IN 3 – 11

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010: SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PANDY INFANT SCHOOL AND TONDU PRIMARY

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010: SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SARN NURSERY AND BRYNCETHIN PRIMARY

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010: SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO HEOL Y CYW AND PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010: SCHOOL MODERNISATION
PROGRAMME: THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME
OVERVIEW and BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC
OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO WELSH ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT