

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

4 OCTOBER 2016

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

#### SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT OF AFON Y FELIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

##### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to seek approval from Cabinet to consult on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Afon Y Felin Primary School in the form of an enlargement with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

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

- 2.1 This report supports the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020:

- Supporting a successful economy, and
- Smarter use of resources.

- 2.2 On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend.

- 2.3 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice. 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

Particularly relevant in the context of this report is the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”).

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 As at January 2016, Afon Y Felin Primary School had 22 nursery pupils and 95 pupils aged 4-11 on roll.

- 3.2 In the academic year 2015/16, the capacity of the School was calculated as 117 in respect of pupils aged 4-11.
- 3.3 Currently the published admission number in respect of pupils admitted to reception is 15.
- 3.4 Prior to the commencement of this academic year, it became apparent that there would be a significant increase in pupil numbers for 2016/17. As at September 2016 there were 110 pupils aged 4-11 and 23 nursery aged pupils on roll at the School.

#### **4. Current situation / proposal**

- 4.1 In order to accommodate the increased pupil numbers and avoid overcrowding it has become necessary for the School to utilise a space within the existing accommodation for teaching purposes. This has resulted in an increase to the capacity and this change has been implemented on a temporary basis this academic year.
- 4.2 It is considered that there is a need to formalise this temporary arrangement in order to meet potential future demand from the area.
- 4.3 The capacity of the school five years prior to the date of the proposed implementation i.e. 2011/12 was 96. The re-designation of spaces at the school will result in the capacity increasing to 131 which is greater than 25% of the capacity as at 2011/12. As a result, the published admission number in respect of pupils admitted into reception will increase to 18. In order to formalize this increase in capacity it is necessary to undertake a regulated alteration to enlarge the school under the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, as set out in the School Organisation Code (the Code).
- 4.4 In order to bring about a change of this nature, the Code requires that a consultation exercise with the school governing body, staff, parents, pupils and interested parties is undertaken. This is the first step in the statutory process. If carried through to completion, this proposal will come into effect 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The consultation paper will set out the implications of the proposal.
- 4.5 The necessary statutory processes will be followed. If Cabinet approves, an initial 6 week consultation period will be conducted to allow all interested parties to comment on the proposals contained in the consultation paper. This would be done by publishing the proposals and inviting responses.
- 4.6 Following this period of consultation, a further report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to Cabinet to consider the result of that process. Cabinet would then need to decide whether to authorise the publication of a statutory notice. If such a notice were issued, it would invite formal objections during the statutory 28 day period.
- 4.7 At the end of the statutory notice period there would then be a further report to Cabinet on the outcome of the statutory notice process and any objections received. If there are no objections in response to the public notice, Cabinet would be recommended to make a final decision. If there are any objections, an objections report containing a formal response will be prepared and submitted to Cabinet.

Cabinet will need to give consideration to and approve the objections report and also make a final decision on whether or not the proposals should be implemented. The approved objections report would then be published, followed by a decision notice. All proposals would therefore follow due process and comply with all statutory requirements and Welsh Government guidance.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

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

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment initial screening has been carried out.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 The area which would be incorporated into the capacity calculation is within the school building and is already fully funded via the funding formula allocation. Should additional pupils be admitted to the school additional funding for staff may be required. This will be either funded through the funding formula or the retrospective adjustment once those pupil numbers have materialised.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve that a consultation exercise be conducted with the governing body, staff, parents, pupils and interested parties on a proposal to make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Afon Y Felin Primary School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. The outcome of the consultation will be reported back to Cabinet.

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## **Background documents**

Cabinet Report 3rd March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Equality Impact Assessment