

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET REPORT

28 MARCH 2017

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

#### SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL - MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL OPENING DATE FROM JANUARY 2018 TO FEBRUARY 2018

#### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to request Cabinet approval to modify the decision in respect of the opening date of the replacement Brynmenyn Primary School from 1 January 2018 to 26 February 2018.

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

- 2.1 The school modernisation programme supports many of the corporate priorities, in particular:

- smarter use of resources; and
- supporting a successful economy.

- 2.2 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools:

- a commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;
- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focussed schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and
- value for money.

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

- 2.4 The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of this proposal 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 and the provision of local schools, planning new provision to reflect changes in the distribution of the population.

#### 3 Background

- 3.1 In order to relieve the pressure on primary school places in the Valleys Gateway area, it was proposed to build a new school for Brynmenyn Primary School on land

adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It was also proposed to make a regulated alteration to Brynmenyn Primary School in the form of an enlargement to the school.

- 3.2 In June 2015, Cabinet approved the consultation report regarding the outcome of the consultation process and approved the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.
- 3.3 The statutory public notice was issued on 25 June 2015 and the closing date for objections was 22 July 2015. No objections were received in this regard and in September 2015, Cabinet determined to implement the proposal as published with effect from 1 January 2018.
- 3.4 Following a competitive tender process utilising the SEWSCAP framework, BAM Construction Ltd were appointed for the initial pre-construction stage and subsequently submitted a price for the construction of the school.
- 3.5 On 1 November 2016, Cabinet approved the awarding of the contract to BAM Construction.

#### **4 Current situation**

- 4.1 It was originally anticipated that works would start on site at the end of November 2016, in order to complete the school in readiness for opening on 1 January 2018.
- 4.2 However, delays to the commencement of construction were incurred due to the processes associated with the discharge of pre-commencement planning conditions and the awarding of the contract.
- 4.3 The delay in commencement has resulted in a start on site date for mobilisation of 16 January 2017 with construction subsequently commencing on 13 February 2017. Based on this start-on-site date, the programme issued by the contractor currently estimates completion as 29 January 2018.
- 4.4 As is the nature of construction projects, there are likely to be delays on site due to unforeseen issues. Therefore it is anticipated that completion is likely to be nearer to February half term. Modifying the opening date to the week after February half term (i.e. 26 February 2018) will allow time for the school to decant from their existing provision into the new school building.
- 4.5 The views of the school's governing body have been sought with this regard and they are in agreement with the proposed modification to the school opening date.
- 4.6 The proposal by the local authority was determined pursuant to Section 53 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and as such does not require the agreement of the Welsh Ministers. Section 55(5) (a) of the Act permits a local authority to determine that proposals which have already been determined can be modified if implementation of the proposals on that date or those dates would be unreasonably difficult.

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

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

## **6 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

## **7 Financial implications**

- 7.1 The cost of constructing the new school for Brynmenyn will be met from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme, for which the Council has had the necessary approval and the Council's Capital Programme.
- 7.2 The original budget allocation for the scheme was agreed as £8.15 million, of which £325,000 has been allocated for external Highways works. Council has since approved an increase in the budget allocation of £535,066 which consists of Section 106 monies from nearby housing developments. Therefore, the total approved project budget is now £8,685,066. The Welsh Government will provide half of the funding for the eligible elements of the scheme with the remainder coming from capital receipts that Council has agreed will be ring fenced for the School Modernisation Programme and relevant Section 106 payments.
- 7.3 Any increase in funding due to the increased floor area in the new school will be met from within the overall Individual Schools Budget (ISB). Any efficiency savings due to the school being more sustainable and energy efficient, or alternatively increased running costs, will have to be met from the school's delegated budget.

- 7.4 There are no financial implications due to the proposal to change the opening date.

## **8 Recommendation**

- 8.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve the modification of the decision to amend the opening date of the new Brynmenyn Primary School from 1 January 2018 to 26 February 2018.

**Lindsay Harvey**

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**March 2017**

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## **Background documents**

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

Cabinet Report 12 December 2006: "Learning Communities: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE" – SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROPOSALS"

Cabinet Report 2 November 2010: "THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO Welsh Assembly Government"

Cabinet report 21 February 2012: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME REVISED BAND A SUBMISSION TO Welsh Government"

Cabinet Report 13 January 2015: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON PRIMARY PROVISION IN THE VALLEYS GATEWAY AREA"

Cabinet Report 3 March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Consultation Document 23 March 2015: "PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT TO BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND RELOCATE IT INTO A NEW BUILDING ON SURPLUS LAND ADJACENT TO COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN"

Cabinet Report 16 June 2015: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT TO BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND RELOCATE IT INTO A NEW BUILDING ON SURPLUS LAND ADJACENT TO COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN"

Cabinet Report 1 September 2015: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL ON LAND ADJACENT TO COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN AND MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT"

Decision Notice 7 September 2015: "PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRYN ROAD, BRYNMENYN, BRIDGEND, CF32 9LA IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT TO THE SCHOOL AND RELOCATING THE SCHOOL TO A NEW BUILDING ON LAND ADJACENT TO COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN"

Cabinet Report 27 October 2015: "PROCESS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THE CONTRACTOR FOR BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL"

Cabinet Report 10 May 2016: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE TENDER PROCESS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL"

Cabinet Report 1 November 2016: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF THE SECOND STAGE OF THE TENDER PROCESS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL"

