

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CABINET REPORT

25 JULY 2017

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

#### SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL - MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL OPENING DATE FROM 1 APRIL 2018 TO 5 SEPTEMBER 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 Pencoed Primary School from 1 April 2018 to 5 September 2018.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/other corporate priorities

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

- Smarter use of resources
- 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. The following five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools:

- 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
- 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 On 6 September 2016, Cabinet approved the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School, by relocating the school, including the Heol-y-Cyw Campus, to a new-build school on the site of Pencoed Primary School playing fields at Penprysg Road, Pencoed with effect from 1 April 2018.
- 3.2 On 4 October 2016, Cabinet authorised the invitation of tenders for the construction of the new Pencoed Primary School.
- 3.3 The Pencoed scheme was tendered via the SEWSCAP Framework, with tender submissions received on 13 February 2017.
- 3.4 Of the five tenders received, only two were compliant (the remainder disqualified) and both of the compliant tenders contained tender sums significantly in excess of the construction budget available for the scheme. Consequently, on 28 February 2017, Cabinet delegated authority to the Corporate Director, Education and Family Support to conduct negotiations, with the lowest-priced tenderer, in accordance with procurement legislation.

#### **4. Current situation**

- 4.1 It was originally anticipated that works would start on site at the end of March 2017, in order to complete the school in readiness for opening on 1 April 2018.
- 4.2 However, delays to the commencement of construction have been incurred due to the processes associated with negotiating the construction contract tendered sum with the lowest priced tenderer down to an amount that is within the approved scheme budget.
- 4.3 The delay in commencement has resulted in a planned start date of 17 July 2017. Based on this revised start-on-site date, the construction programme currently estimates completion as 16 July 2018. The September school opening date proposed will be the start of the new school year following the summer break (decant activities will take place during the school holidays, between July and September).
- 4.4 The Headteacher and the Chair of Governors have been consulted regarding the revised opening date of 5th September 2018 and both the school and the Governing body is in agreement with the proposed modification to the school opening date.
- 4.5 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(5a) 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 Pencoed will be funded by the Council and Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools Programme, for which the Council has had the necessary approval.

7.2 The project is included within the Council's Capital Programme as approved most recently by Council in May 2017. The total approved budget for the Pencoed scheme is £10.833m.

7.3 At this time, it is not expected the delay, as outlined in paragraph 4.3, will put at risk the financial profile of the project.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 It is recommended that:

- Council approves the modification of the decision to amend the opening date of the new Pencoed Primary School from 1 April 2018 to 5 September 2018.

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## **Background documents**

Cabinet Report 28 February 2017: REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT - SCHOOL MODERNISATION – PENCOED PRIMARY

Cabinet Report 3 March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Cabinet Report 6 September 2016: SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICE ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cabinet Report 4 October 2016: JOINT REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT AND HEAD OF FINANCE

SCHOOL MODERNISATION – PENCOED PRIMARY, INVITATION TO TENDER  
AND CONTRACT AWARD