

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

19 DECEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICE ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO COYCHURCH PRIMARY IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

- to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Public Notice on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Coychurch Primary School, by permanently enlarging the school with effect from 1 January 2018; and
- to request that Cabinet issue a Determination as per the proposal.

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
- 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:

- i. Commitment to high standards and excellence in provision.
- ii. Equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend.
- iii. Inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils.
- iv. Community focussed schools, where the school actively engages with its local community.
- v. 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.

2.5 This report outlines the result of the Public Notice in respect of the proposed enlargement and seeks approval to continue the process to the next stage.

3. Background

3.1 In 2013, Bridgend County Borough Council made a temporary capacity increase at Coychurch Primary School (the capacity temporarily increased from 81 pupil places to 134) by installing a double mobile classroom on the school site. The temporary increase was required as the Council agreed in November 2012 that the new Linc Cymru development in the north-east of Brackla would be assigned to the catchment area of Coychurch Primary School, with effect from September 2014. It was further agreed that the situation would be in place for a period of five years and be reviewed in 2019.

3.2 Pupil numbers in the south east of the County Borough are now such that, even with the new Coety Primary School opened, the temporary Coychurch Primary School capacity increase needs to be made permanent to support the efficient admission of pupils.

3.3 On 25 July 2017, therefore, Cabinet approved the consultation on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Coychurch Primary in the form of an enlargement.

3.4 Consultation was carried out between 6 September 2017 and 17 October 2017 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code. A copy of the consultation document was also made available during this time on the Council's website:

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/consultation.aspx>

3.5 On 31 October 2017, Cabinet, having considered the outcome of the consultation with all parties as detailed in the draft consultation report, authorised the publication of that report and the issuing of a statutory notice regarding the proposal.

4. Current situation

4.1 A public notice was issued on 6 November 2017 and lasted a period of 28 days. The statutory notice detailed the proposal and gave an opportunity to submit formal written objection.

4.2 No objections were received during the public notice period. Cabinet can now determine the proposal.

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 carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

6.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation.

6.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation.

7. Financial implications

7.1 The proposal merely formalises the existing temporary arrangement in order to meet demand. The area which would be permanently incorporated into the capacity calculation (i.e. the double mobile classroom) is already within the school site and is already fully funded via the funding formula allocation.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:

- 1) consider the outcome of the Public Notice as detailed in the report above; and
- 2) approve the implementation of the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Coychurch Primary in the form of an enlargement effective from 1 January 2018.

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Background documents

Cabinet Report 13 November 2012: "SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS – COETY and COYCHURCH"

Cabinet Report 3 March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Cabinet Report 25 July 2017: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSED REGULATED ALTERATION IN THE FORM OF PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT TO COYCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL"

Cabinet Report 31 OCTOBER 2017: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION IN THE FORM OF PERMANENT ENLARGEMENT TO COYCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL"