

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DECISION NOTICE

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

On 6 November 2017, after a period of consultation, Bridgend County Borough Council published a statutory notice of its proposal to make a regulated alteration to Coychurch Primary School of Main Road, Coychurch, Bridgend CF35 5HN by enlarging the school. The school is currently maintained by Bridgend County Borough Council. No objections to the proposal were received during the public notice period. On 19 December 2017, Cabinet carefully considered the published proposal, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Cabinet determined to approve the proposal.

As a result, Coychurch Primary School will permanently enlarge. The school's capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 133 pupils aged 4-11 (with a nursery capacity of 18 pupils*), effective from 1 January 2018.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet was satisfied that this proposal is sound in education, financial and strategic terms.

Summary

In summary, Cabinet has approved the proposal as they believe that it will:

- maintain the standard of education provision;
- ensure pupil places are suitably located; and
- lead to a greater efficiency in the resourcing of education.

The reasons for the decision in respect to the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

Quality and standards of education

Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales) is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.

The proposer has outlined purposefully the advantages of the proposal in addressing the increasing demand for English-medium primary school places in the area.

Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools

This proposal will meet the demand for pupil places within the area.

Resourcing of education and other financial implications

In 2013, Bridgend County Borough Council made a temporary capacity increase at Coychurch Primary School by installing a double mobile classroom on the school site. This increase to the capacity of the school has been implemented on a temporary basis until now.

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. The area which would be incorporated into the capacity calculation is within the existing school building and is already therefore fully funded via the school's funding formula allocation.

This decision is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in the Council's constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a call in of the decision take place, all stakeholders would be informed.

*The number of nursery places are not part of the capacity of the school and are not statutorily binding in the same way as an admission number. As a consequence of the school operating a mixed nursery-reception, the numbers admitted to the school's nursery will be subject to fluctuation, depending on the number of pupils admitted to reception. The school must ensure it complies with infant class size legislation of 30 pupils. The admission authority will determine whether the nursery places are allocated on a full or part time basis.