

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

24 APRIL 2018

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) - ESTABLISHING A LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE FOR PUPILS WITH AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDERS AT PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposals to establish a learning resource centre (LRC) for a maximum of eight pupils with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) at Pencoed Primary School.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 These proposals are related to the Corporate Plan (2016-2020) and the Education Inclusion Programme and, in particular, to the following corporate priority:

- Supporting a successful economy.

3. Background

- 3.1 In December 2011, Cabinet received an update on the review of support and provision for the inclusion of children and young people with additional learning needs (ALN).
- 3.2 Currently, in conjunction with this proposal there is also a proposal which has been approved by Cabinet to establish a Welsh-medium ASD LRC at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, this provision opened in March 2018.
- 3.3 In addition, a proposal to open an ASD LRC in one of the Welsh-medium primary schools will be submitted to Cabinet during 2018, to undergo a consultation exercise.
- 3.4 The pupil admission number (PAN) of Pencoed Primary School will increase from seventy to seventy two with the new build. However, the LRC is a dedicated space and therefore it is not included in the capacity calculation that is used to identify the PAN.
- 3.5 The Council supports the principles that, when possible, children should be educated within a mainstream school environment and as near to their home as possible. The proposal to open an ASD LRC at Pencoed Primary School would afford those children with ASD living in the east locality of Bridgend County Borough to be educated locally.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 In order to progress a proposal to establish the ASD LRC at Pencoed Primary School, consultation exercises were carried out between 9 February 2018 and 23 March 2018 with staff, governors, parents and pupils of Pencoed Primary School and also the wider community 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:

www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal.
- 4.3 Under the Statutory Code referred to above, the Council is required to publish a consultation report summarising any issues raised by consultees and the Council's response and setting out Estyn's view of the overall merit of the proposals.
- 4.4 If approved by Cabinet, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.
- 4.5 If there are no objections during the Public Notice period, then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval.
- 4.6 If there are objections at this Public Notice stage, an objections report will be published summarising the objections and the authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 6.1 The Council has a duty to consult and fully consider the implications of any proposal on all members of the local community who may be affected unfairly as a result of the proposal being carried out.
- 6.2 An initial EIA was undertaken. The full EIA can be found in Appendix (vi). The full EIA holistically evaluates the pupils affected by the introduction of the proposal.
- 6.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out and there is no negative impact on the community.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The funding for the LRC would be allocated through the mainstream school's delegated budget, via the school's formula allocation, and using a combination of

class allocation and the age-weighted pupil unit (AWPU) element. One-off funding for the set-up costs would be £5k.

- 7.2 Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs and are based on the salary of a teacher and two support staff.
- 7.3 As part of the medium-term financial strategy budget-setting process for 2017-2018, a total of £263k was allocated under budget pressures to establish additional LRCs for pupils with ASD in two Welsh-medium schools and two English-medium schools with effect from the academic year 2017-2018. This was supplemented in the 2018-19 budget-setting process by an additional £51k to meet the full year effect of the 2017-18 budget pressure application. These allocations will be used to fund the LRC at Pencoed Primary School if the proposal goes ahead.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached Consultation Report (refer to Appendix 1);
- approve the attached Consultation Report for publication; and
- authorise the publication of a Statutory Public Notice on the proposal.

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Consultation Report
Appendix (i)	Consultation Meeting with School Council
Appendix (ii)	Consultation Meeting with Parents
Appendix (iii)	Consultation Meeting with Staff
Appendix (iv)	Consultation Meeting with School Governors
Appendix (v)	Estyn response
Appendix (vi)	Full Equality Impact Assessment

Background documents

Education Inclusion Programme: Reviewing and developing support and provision for the inclusion of children and young people with ALN (report to Cabinet, December 2011).