

Appendix 2

Phase 4 of the consideration for potential re-organisation of post-16 provision across Bridgend County Borough Council

Background

1. In 2016, Bridgend County Borough Council ('the Council'), as part of a wider review of all its school estates, began a review of post-16 provision across Bridgend County Borough ('the County'). A post-16 Board was established to lead and report on this review. As an initial step, the Post-16 Board (the Board), the student councils in all our secondary schools and Bridgend College set out to define the ambitions that should underpin the provisions for post-16 education across the County. They all agreed that learners, wherever they are taught, should experience:
 - High-quality teaching and learning that enables them to secure strong performance and high standards of achievement in examinations
 - A broad curriculum offer underpinned by excellent impartial careers advice and guidance
 - Positive relationships with staff who are inspirational with learners and experts in their work
 - First-class support for learners whether in a personal capacity or through the facilities available to support their studies
 - A good range of extra-curricular activity and have access to work experience.

At the heart of the review into post-16 education is the ambition to develop a skilled and well-educated workforce by providing outstanding 16-18 education – 'Supporting a successful economy'. These young people will provide the skilled adults employers are seeking and will underpin the growth of employment opportunities, the economy and wealth in the local economy.

What is the current position for post-16 provision across the County?

2. The current education provision for 16-18 year olds in Bridgend is as follows:
 - Sixth forms present in each secondary school varying in size from 61 to 347 (January 2018 PLASC data) predominantly delivering A levels for 1572 learners
 - Sixth forms present in the two special schools with pathways for 102 learners
 - Bridgend College and Pencoed Comprehensive School working in partnership to develop collaborative provision known as Penybont Sixth Form College
 - Bridgend College provides a range of vocational pathways for 1,907 learners 16-18 (October 2017)
 - Options X and Y timetabled in common (two afternoons per week for each option) across all eight English-medium sixth forms and Bridgend College
 - Twilight provision at Bridgend College
 - Welsh-medium provision enhanced through extensive collaboration between YGG Llangynwyd in Bridgend and YGG Llanhari in RCT

- Faith-based provision available in Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School
 - 5 work-based training organisations provide 60 to 70 places on Engagement, Level 1 and Traineeship programmes for Year 11 leavers
 - A handful of Year 11 learners will go on to Foundation Apprenticeships
 - In 2015 approximately 29 learners from Year 11 went into employment
3. From a variety of reports and professional dialogue amongst the local education community including secondary headteachers, college principal, the Education and Family Support Directorate and other stakeholders, there has been general agreement that the current provision does not best meet the stated ambitions for post-16 education across the County. Among the reasons for this are the size of sixth forms, post-16 funding, standards of achievement, range of subjects offered, access to digital learning and staffing. Details on these issues are provided in the body of the main report. There is a consensus that change is needed.