

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 OCTOBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL - PERMISSION TO COMMENCE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to commence a statutory consultation process in respect of a regulated alteration to enlarge Coety Primary School to a 2.5-form-entry school with an 88 full-time-equivalent nursery.
- 1.2 The proposal, if approved, would come into effect from the beginning of the spring term 2025.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
 - **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** - taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Coety Primary School, which is a two-form-entry school located on Parc Derwen, was constructed during Band A of the School Modernisation Programme, and opened in November 2015.
- 3.2 The adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 16, applicable at that time, was used to calculate the size of provision required. However, a 2019 review of pupil yield rates from new housing developments demonstrated a higher pupil-yield figure compared to the rates contained in the then Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) adopted SPG16. SPG16 has since been updated and the revised rates have been adopted by the Council.

- 3.3 Additional housing has also been constructed at Parc Derwen, which was not planned as part of the original section (s) 106 for the development. The local authority has entered into a separate s106 agreement in respect of this additional housing and is awaiting payment from the developer.
- 3.4 In order to address the demand for places at Coety Primary School, officers undertook an options appraisal which identified the need to increase provision at the school. The appraisal resulted in a preferred option being identified in the form of a two-storey, four-classroom extension.
- 3.5 On 15 June 2022, Council approval was received to include the scheme in the capital programme and to utilise Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) capital resources to fund the extension. Once the s106 contribution has been received (approximately £300k in total), this funding will displace some of the BCBC funding.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 This proposal would result in Coety Primary School's capacity increasing from 420 to 525 places for pupils aged 4 to 11 years (that is, a 2.5-form-entry school). The published admission number (PAN) of the enlarged school would be 75. Also, as a result of the development, there would be an opportunity to increase the existing nursery provision from 76 full-time equivalent places to 88 full-time equivalent places.
- 4.2 The proposal to enlarge Coety Primary School requires the local authority to make a regulated alteration under the School Organisation Code 2018. A full consultation exercise is required with stakeholders including the school's governing body, staff, parents, pupils, and other interested parties. This is the first step in the statutory process. If carried through to completion, the proposal would come into effect at the beginning of spring term 2025. The consultation document will set out the implications of the proposal.
- 4.3 Following this period of consultation, a further report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to Cabinet to consider the result of that process. Cabinet would then need to decide whether to authorise the publication of a statutory notice. If such a notice were issued, it would invite formal objections during the statutory 28-day period.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal. There have been positive impacts identified, including disability and gender.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

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| Long term | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fulfils the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places.• Supports the day-to-day management and operation of the school. |
| Prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguards the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge regarding the supply of school places. |
| Integration | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensures that the curriculum can be delivered from a purpose-built facility that meets social, environmental, and cultural objectives. |
| Collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work effectively with schools and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of users and the community that it will serve. |
| Involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engagement of potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners. |

7.2 As a result of the assessment, it is considered that there will be a positive impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives.

8. Financial implications

8.1 £1.65m has been allocated in the capital programme for this project. The local authority has entered into a separate s106 agreement in respect of additional housing in the area. Once the s106 contribution has been received (approximately £300k in total), this funding will displace some of the BCBC funding. Any changes to the total cost of the scheme will be reported back to Cabinet and Council as appropriate.

8.2 Any revenue implications resulting as a consequence of enlarging Coety Primary School, including increases to the schools' delegated budget to cover a larger premises area and an increase in pupil numbers, along with any potential increases in school transport costs (which would depend on the school admission process and the applications made at that time), and will not be known until the scheme is developed further.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Cabinet is recommended to give approval to commence a statutory consultation process to make a regulated alteration to enlarge Coety Primary School to a 2.5-form-entry school with an 88 full-time equivalent nursery from the beginning of spring term 2025.

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Background documents:

None