

### Consultation with Governing Bodies of Directly Affected Schools

TO: Chair of Governors Corneli Primary School, Chair of Governors Afon Y Felin Primary School, Chair of Governors Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr

23/09/2022

Dear Governor

As you will be aware, during the 2020-2021 school year, the local authority undertook a statutory consultation process in respect of a proposal to provide new modern primary education facilities in the west of the county borough (Bridgend West Primary Schools Consultation).

In June 2021, the outcome of the statutory process was reported to Cabinet and it was determined to proceed with the Bridgend West proposal (that is, to discontinue Corneli and Afon Y Felin Primary Schools and to establish a new English-medium community primary on land off Gibbons Way at Plas Morlais, with effect from 1 September 2023, and to make a regulated alteration to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr in the form of an enlargement with effect from 2 September 2024).

The Welsh Education Partnership Company has progressed the design development for both schools (with input from the headteachers, school senior leaders and local authority officers), and Welsh Government is now in receipt of the report detailing the first stage of the process. Shortly, meetings will be arranged with governors, staff and pupils of the respective schools to share the initial designs.

As part of this development work, an in-depth review of the programme for delivering both schools has taken place. Due to the complexities regarding the development and construction, it is proposed to construct both schools simultaneously. Works would commence May/June 2023 and both the new school buildings would be ready for occupation by September 2024. The remainder of the works (which would include the removal of the asbestos, demolition of the existing buildings and construction of the external pitches to the Corneli site) would then be completed by June 2025.

Given that the revised programme date now differs from the statutory notice (the effective date of the English-medium school reorganisation in said notice being 1 September 2023 and the regulated alteration to Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr in the form of an enlargement taking effect from 2 September 2024), there is a need to seek Cabinet approval to modify the implementation date for the English-medium school only. The recommendation is that the English-medium school opens in **September 2024**.

I should be grateful if the governing body could consider this matter and, through the chair, provide me with any views you may have by **29 September 2022 at the**

**latest**, so that your views can be referenced in the Cabinet report which will receive consideration on 18 October 2022.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support regarding this matter.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir/Yours sincerely



Annwyl Lywodraethwr

Fel y gwyddoch, yn ystod blwyddyn ysgol 2020-21, cynhaliodd yr awdurdod lleol ymgynghoriad ynghylch cynnig i ddatblygu cyfleusterau addysg gynradd newydd yng ngorllewin y fwrdeistref sirol (Ymgynghoriad ag Ysgolion Cynradd Gorllewin Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr).

Ym mis Mehefin 2021, cyflwynwyd adroddiad i'r Cabinet ar ganlyniad y broses statudol a phenderfynwyd bwrw ymlaen â'r cynnig ar gyfer Gorllewin Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr (hynny yw, cau ysgolion cynradd Corneli ac Afon y Felin a sefydlu ysgol fro cyfrwng Saesneg ar dir oddi ar Gibbons Way ym Mhlas Morlais, gyda'r bwriad o'i hagor ar 1 Medi 2023, a gwneud addasiadau rheoledig i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, ar ffurf estyniad, erbyn 2 Medi 2024).

Mae Cwmni Partneriaeth Addysg Cymru wedi datblygu'r cynllun ar gyfer y ddwy ysgol (gyda chyfraniad gan benaethiaid, uwch arweinwyr yr ysgolion a swyddogion yr awdurdod lleol), ac mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cael adroddiad yn cynnwys manylion cam cyntaf y broses. Cyn bo hir, bydd cyfarfodydd yn cael eu trefnu â llywodraethwyr, staff a disgyblion yr ysgolion perthnasol i drafod y cynlluniau cychwynnol.

Fel rhan o'r gwaith datblygu hwn, cynhaliwyd adolygiad trylwyr o'r rhaglen i ddatblygu'r ddwy ysgol. Oherwydd y cymhlethdodau sydd ynghlwm wrth y datblygiad a'r gwaith adeiladu, cynigir adeiladu'r ddwy ysgol yr un pryd yn awr. Dylai'r gwaith ddechrau fis Mai/Mehefin 2023 a byddai'r ddwy ysgol yn barod i agor ym mis Medi 2024. Byddai gweddill y gwaith (gan gynnwys cael gwared ar asbestos, dymchwel yr adeiladau presennol ac adeiladu caeau allanol ar safle Corneli) yn cael ei gwblhau erbyn mis Mehefin 2025.

O gofio bod dyddiad y rhaglen ddiwygiedig yn awr yn wahanol i'r hyn a nodir yn yr hysbysiad statudol (sef y byddai'r ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg newydd yn agor ar 1 Medi

2023 ac y byddai'r addasiadau rheoledig i Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr, ar ffurf estyniad, wedi'u cwblhau erbyn 2 Medi 2024), mae angen cymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i addasu dyddiad agor yr ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg yn unig. Yr argymhelliad yw i'w ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg agor **fis Medi 2024**.

Byddwn yn ddiolchgar pe bai'r corff llywodraethu'n' ystyried y mater hwn a, drwy'r Cadeirydd, yn anfon unrhyw sylwadau ataf erbyn **29 Medi 2022** fan bellaf, er mwyn cynnwys y rhain yn adroddiad y Cabinet a fydd yn cael ei drafod ar 18 Hydref 2022.

Hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i chi am eich cefnogaeth yn y cyswllt hwn.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir/Yours sincerely



#### Summary Responses Received:

Having had the opportunity to table the detail below at the meeting and discuss with Governors, I can confirm we have no major concerns in relation to the changing timescales. Given where we are now, we fully expected a delay to the planned opening times. We also accept that it will likely be more Commercially viable and have a greater impact in the community if the two schools were to open at the same time. (Chair of Governors, Corneli Primary School).

Thank you for your recent email concerning the above scheme. This was raised at our full governing body on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of September and can concur that we are happy to accept the changes as scheduled and support for the works to commence as detailed in your email. Sincerely, yours. (Chair of Governors, Afon-y-Felin Primary School).