

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	11 MARCH 2025
Report Title:	SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME COETY PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOUR-CLASSROOM EXTENSION - MODIFICATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF THE ENLARGEMENT
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Responsible Officer:	GAYNOR THOMAS MANAGER, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval is sought to modify the implementation date of the enlargement to Coety Primary School.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to modify the implementation date of Coety Primary School's enlargement to 1 September 2026.

2. Background

- 2.1 Coety Primary School was constructed during Band A of the School Modernisation Programme and opened in November 2015. As a result of increased housing in the area and a change in pupil yield rates from new housing developments, the local authority determined that additional pupil places would be required to serve the school's catchment.
- 2.2 The increase in pupil places was subject to a statutory consultation process, and in November 2022, Cabinet approval was received to consult on a proposed enlargement of Coety Primary School (that is, enlarging the school from a 2-form-entry to 2.5-form-entry), with effect from January 2025.
- 2.3 The consultation process was conducted between 12 December 2022 and 25 January 2023 in accordance with the statutory School Organisation Code, 2018. The outcome of this was reported to Cabinet in May 2023.
- 2.4 The statutory public notice was published in June 2023 for a period of 28 days and formal written objections were invited during this time.

- 2.5 In September 2023, a report to Cabinet detailed the outcome of the statutory notice and approval was received to implement the proposal with effect from January 2025. A decision notice was subsequently published, and stakeholders were advised accordingly.
- 2.6 In order to deliver the enlargement, the local authority determined that a four-classroom extension was required. However, due to the unavailability of internal resource to take the scheme forward, in December 2023, the local authority commissioned Powell Dobson Architects, (that is, the architects for Coety Primary School delivered in Band A) to develop the design of the extension to the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 1+ (that is, concept design).

3. Current situation

- 3.1 A design team has been appointed to take forward the concept design through the next design stages. Powell Dobson Architects is leading the design team to deliver on the architectural aspect of the enlargement and to undertake the role of Principal Designer. Jubb Consulting Engineers Limited is appointed to undertake drainage, civil and structural engineering consultancy services. Holloway Partnership Limited has been appointed to undertake mechanical and electrical engineering consultancy services. The local authority's Major Projects Team is undertaking the role of Intelligent Client and Contract Administrator.
- 3.2 In December 2024, the local authority commissioned WSP (UK) Limited to undertake a transport assessment and to develop a school travel plan. Both reports are required to support the planning application process. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted shortly.
- 3.3 Initially, the scheme was in delay due to resourcing issues, which have since been resolved, but this has impacted on the programme which was presented during the consultation stage and was the basis for Cabinet's decision-making. The project team has developed a revised programme for delivering the enlargement. However, the planned implementation date, as approved by Cabinet is no longer achievable. Therefore, Cabinet approval to modify the implementation date to 1 September 2026 is required to coincide with the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year. The local authority has consulted with Coety Primary School's Governing Body regarding this matter and there is no objection to the proposed revised date.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 A full equality impact assessment (EIA) has been conducted as part of the development of this proposal. The full EIA considers the impact of the proposal on the nine protected characteristics, the Socio-economic Duty, and the use of the Welsh Language.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

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

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. • Promote inclusion and community use of facilities. • This proposal is part of a wider strategy to increase pupil places to serve the Bridgend northeast area which has been subject to this significant development.
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"> • Works 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 stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners.

6. Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The local authority's 'Bridgend 2030 – Net Zero Carbon Strategy' and Welsh Government's carbon reduction commitments will also be addressed through the School Modernisation Programme, as all new provision will be designed to ensure that it is Net Zero Carbon 'in operation' and embodied carbon targets are achieved.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 Bridgend County Borough Council is committed to promoting equality and valuing diversity through all our services and dedicated to treating all citizens, employees and visitors with respect, while providing services which respond to people's individual needs.
- 7.2 The Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate Strategic Plan 2023-2026 ensures that equality and fairness remain firmly at the heart of how the council plans, provides, and delivers important services to the people of Bridgend County Borough.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 In June 2022, Council approved a budget of £1.65m to construct a four-classroom extension at Coety Primary School, to address the increased demand for places in the school's catchment area.
- 8.2 Since that time, the construction industry has seen costs escalate due to COVID-19, the war in the Ukraine, costs of incorporating decarbonisation measures and rising energy prices, which has resulted in the projected cost of the scheme increasing. In November 2024, Council approved an additional £330k to deliver the scheme, revising the total budget to enlarge the school to £1.98m. The local authority has entered into a separate section106 agreement in respect of additional housing in the area, this funding is included in the total budget allocation.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 Cabinet approval is sought to modify the implementation date of Coety Primary School's enlargement to 1 September 2026.

Background documents

None.