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Report Approval	Name	Date	Version Approved
Chief Officer	Nicola Echanis on behalf of Deborah McMillan	16.6.14	
Cabinet Member	Cllr Huw David	13.6.14	
Chairperson (Urgent only)			

	Name	Date	
Legal	Alex Fletcher	3.6.14	V2
Finance	Deborah Exton	10.6.14	
Sent to Cabinet_Committee			

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

24 JUNE 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN

PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN): OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY NOTICE REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO YSGOL BRYN CASTELL (YBC) SPECIAL SCHOOL, LLANGEWYDD JUNIOR SCHOOL AND MAES YR HAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL

1 Purpose of Report

This report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the statutory notice period to transfer responsibility for the satellite base of Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School, for pupils with communication difficulties, from Maes yr Haul Primary School to the governing body of Llangewydd Junior School.

2 Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 These proposals are related both to the Education Inclusion Programme and the School Modernisation Programme. Both programmes support many of the corporate priorities.
- 2.2 In September 2006, the Authority adopted a policy document which set out 5 key principles to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools:-
 1. Commitment to high standards and excellence in provision.

2. Equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend.
3. Inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils.
4. Community focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community.
5. Value for money.

The proposals in this report relate, in particular, to points 2 and 3. The Education Inclusion Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in March 2009.

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). A number of changes were proposed some of which required statutory processes. Members agreed that officers would undertake consultation on the range of proposals set out in that report. Due to the number and complexity of the changes, it was decided to focus in the first instance on changes relating to the Ysgol Bryn Castell satellite bases located in mainstream secondary schools. These changes have been the subject of discussion for some time.
- 3.2 In order to progress the Cabinet approved proposals to transfer responsibility for the satellite base of Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School from Maes yr Haul Primary School to the governing body of Llangewydd Junior School, the following steps have been taken thus far:
 - (i) From 3 December 2013 to 16 January 2014 a period of consultation was undertaken which invited the views and observations of all stakeholders including the general public on the proposal to transfer responsibility for the satellite base of Ysgol Bryn Castell from Maes yr Haul Primary School to the governing body of Llangewydd Junior School. It was noted that responses to the consultation would not be counted as objections to the proposal and that objections could only be registered following publication of the Statutory Notice.
 - (ii) On the 17 January 2014 a consultation report was prepared.
 - (ii) On the 4 February 2014 a report was made to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation and permission was sought to publish the Consultation Report on the BCBC website and to publish a Statutory Notice to effect the proposed changes.
 - (iv) On the 21 February 2014 a Statutory Notice was published. This gave a period of 28 days (until 21 March 2014) for any objections to the proposal to be submitted in writing. There was one item of direct correspondence received expressing concerns.

- (v) A second Statutory Notice was published. Advice was given by Welsh Government to issue a second Statutory Notice due to the incorrect age range in the first Statutory Notice. This gave a period of 28 days (until the 27 May 2014) for any objections to the proposal to be submitted. There were no objections received to this proposal during this period of time.

4 Current situation

4.1 In order to progress the proposal to transfer responsibility for the satellite base of Ysgol Bryn Castell from Maes yr Haul Primary School to the governing body of Llangewydd Junior School, a statutory notice outlining the proposals was published for a period of 28 days (until 27 May 2014) and any formal written objections were invited during this time (Appendix A).

4.2 There was one item of direct correspondence received during the first Public Notice period from the governing body of Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School expressing their concerns. The summary of concerns are listed below – the Authority's response/clarifications are italicised beneath each concern raised.

- Inaccuracy of recording of pupil views within consultation documents; pupils highlighted that they thought that YBC was better-equipped to offer bespoke provision for pupils with ALNs
- *The minutes were taken by a note-taker at the time. Pupils joined the meeting at different times as noted in the minutes on 13 January 2014.*
- Advertisement of teaching role internally – the GB would like recognition that this is a specialist teaching role
- *The advertisement for the teaching role within the Learning Resource Centre at Llangewydd Junior will be a specialist role in order to meet the needs of the pupils.*
- Segregation from mainstream pupils within current physical context at Llangewydd Junior School
- *The pupils transitioned to Llangewydd Junior School in September 2013 and as noted in the meeting with Llangewydd Junior School on 14 January 2014 the pupils are very involved with mainstream pupils and have made positive friendships.*
- Clarity regarding equity for staff across all LRCs within BCBC: YBC's understanding is that Special School allowance has not been offered to other LRC support staff, but that other variations within their terms and conditions have occurred to match their salary upon transfer to the mainstream school. It appears that the situation within Llangewydd may well go against this and make the situation inequitable.
- *The Special School allowance is no longer payable following the implementation of the new pay and grading system. In order to account for these roles two job families were developed in order that the distinction is recognised. The*

roles of those employees who are relocated, but who are undertaking equivalent responsibilities, will be evaluated in the appropriate job family ensuring that the remuneration of employees employed in schools will be fair and equitable.

- A recent situation has developed whereby the placement of a number of pupils has been reviewed; whilst YBC would fully support that any placement needs to be meeting the individualised needs of the pupil, an additional transition for a pupil should not be supported in order to facilitate the rationalisation of resources.
- *The individual needs of the pupil and meeting those needs is of paramount importance.*
- Flexibility and speed of response within a mainstream school setting to incidents/challenges which require an immediate response. Special Schools have the breadth of resources to offer this support.
- *The Inclusion Service has provided timely support for these pupils in the Learning Resource Centre at Llangewydd Junior School since September 2013. The Inclusion Service welcomes continuing to work in partnership with Ysgol Bryn Castell.*
- Timeline concerns; the public consultation document and Cabinet Report refer to both 01/04/2014 and 31/08/2014
- *In the report to Cabinet on 4 February 2014, under financial implications it states that the proposed implementation date will be subject to the outcome of the formal consultation and outcome of any statutory proposals.*

5 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

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

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out following the formal consultation stage which indicated no negative impact on any minority group.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 At present, funding for the Maes yr Haul satellite provision is included in the delegated school budget for Ysgol Bryn Castell. If transferred, the new Learning Resource Centre would be funded through the mainstream school's (Llangewydd Junior School) delegated budget, funded via the school's formula allocation. Funding levels would be derived from notional current staffing needs, and be at a similar level to the amounts that the authority currently provides to Ysgol Bryn Castell. If pupil numbers remain constant, then the cost of the provision would be largely unchanged. The number of places would be set annually for the first two years (due to transitional changes) and

then reviewed every three years, to enable staffing stability and to assist in school planning. The school would be given at least 6 months' notice of changes. These proposed funding arrangements are in line with those implemented for secondary schools in 2013-2014 following consultation with governing bodies and the school budget forum. The proposed change in funding for this Learning Resource Centre will necessitate a transfer of funds from the Special Schools ISB to the Primary Schools ISB.

8 Recommendations

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:-

- note the outcome of the statutory notice period;
- approve to transfer responsibility for the satellite base of Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School from Maes yr Haul Primary School to the governing body of Llangewydd Junior School.

Deborah McMillan
Corporate Director, Children

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Corporate Director, Children

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Angel Street
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CF31 4NB

Background documents

Learning Communities – “Schools of the future” – Strategy, Principles, Policy and Planning framework (report to Council; September 2006)

Learning Communities: Including all our learners – Educational Inclusion Strategy (report to Cabinet; March 2009)

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

Provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) – The Outcome of Consultations on Proposed Changes to Ysgol Bryn Castell (YBC) Special School, Cynfig Comprehensive School, Pencoed Comprehensive School and Bryntirion Comprehensive School (report to Cabinet, September 2012)

Bridgend County Borough Council

Notice is given in accordance with section 42 of the Schools Standards and Organisation Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, that Bridgend County Borough Council, having consulted such persons as required, proposes to formally cease the Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School satellite provision based at Maes yr Haul Primary School. The school is currently maintained by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Bridgend County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by the consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/media/203011/ymbc-maes-yr-haul-llangewydd-blaengarw-plasnewydd-english.doc>

It is proposed to formally cease the Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School satellite provision based at Maes yr Haul Primary School for up to eight pupils at Key Stage 2 with communication difficulties and to re-locate the provision into the learning resource centre at Llangewydd Junior School.

The re-location of the learning resource centre has already taken place.

The arrangements for transport of pupils to the school are in accordance with the Bridgend County Borough Council's current School Transport Policy.

The pupils located in the learning resource centre on the site of Maes yr Haul Primary School are on roll at Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School but will transfer to the roll of Llangewydd Junior School on 1st September 2014. Therefore this proposal will not affect the number of pupils on roll at Maes yr Haul Primary School.

The current number of pupils at Maes yr Haul Primary School is 498, the pupil capacity is 480 (for pupils aged 4-11). Following implementation of the proposals, the capacity in respect of pupils aged 4-11 will remain unchanged.

The admission number for the age group 4-5 at Maes yr Haul Primary School is 69.

The current number of pupils at Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School is 117.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 27 May 2014 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections must be made in writing to: Deborah McMillan

Corporate Director – Children
C/o Ellen Franks
Children's Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Sunnyside
Bridgend
CF31 4AR

Or sent via e-mail to: ellen.franks@bridgend.gov.uk

Bridgend County Borough Council will publish a summary of any such objections made (and not subsequently withdrawn in writing) within the objection period, together with their observations thereon, within the period of 28 days after the end of the objection period.



Signed.....

Deborah McMillan

Corporate Director – Children

29 April 2014

Explanatory Note

The effect of the above proposals would be that pupils currently in the learning resource centre on the roll of Ysgol Bryn Castell Special School would transfer to the roll of Llangewydd Junior School on 1st September 2014. The physical re-location of the pupils has already taken place. Admissions would normally take place each September for the start of Year 3, however, there may be occasions when pupils would be admitted at other times, subject to places being available.

The published admission number for Maes yr Haul Primary School is 69. The published admission number for a school is the minimum number of pupils aged 4-5 that the school would be required to admit on demand. More children than this number can be admitted to the school (subject to the provisions of the Authority's admissions policy) if the Authority considers that there is sufficient accommodation available at the particular time, and provided that to do so would not prejudice the efficient use of education resources.