

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

16 JUNE 2015

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: Outcome Of Public Notice On The Proposal To Close Mynydd Cynffig Infants School As At 31st August 2015 And Extend The Age Range Of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School From A 7-11 To A 3-11 School To Create An All Through Primary With Effect From 1st September 2015

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the public notice on the proposal to close Mynydd Cynffig Infants School with effect from 31st August 2015 and extend the age range of Mynydd Cynffig Junior School from 7-11 to 3-11 to create an all through primary school with effect from 1st September 2015.

2 Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 The school modernisation programme supports many of the corporate priorities and in particular:

- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement

3 Background

3.1 In September 2006, the Council adopted a policy of providing continuity of education from ages 3 to 11 where possible. On 3rd March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools:

- i. Commitment to high standards and excellence in provision.
- ii. Equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend.
- iii. Inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils.
- iv. Community focussed schools, where the school actively engages with its local community.
- v. Value for money.

3.2 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

3.3 The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of this proposal concern the size of primary schools (to ensure that “all Bridgend’s primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision”) and value for money, efficiency and effectiveness (“narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently”).

- 3.4 In order to create an all through primary school, it was proposed to close Mynydd Cynffig Infants School as a separate establishment and make a regulated alteration to Mynydd Cynffig Junior School to create a 3-11 primary school. The Published Admission Number for the school would be 47. The infant provision would continue to operate on its current site until such time as that provision can be accommodated on the same site as the junior provision.
- 3.5 On 31st March 2015 Cabinet approved the consultation report regarding the outcome of the consultation process and approved the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.

4 Current situation

- 4.1 The statutory public notice was issued on 16th April 2015 and the closing date for objections was 13th May 2015. The public notice sets out the details of a proposal to allow the public to comment generally or on specifics. A period of 28 days must elapse to allow any comments or objections to be made. Any objections made within this period must be submitted in writing to the Council. The Council must then publish an objections report summarising the statutory objections together with the Council's response to those objections.
- 4.2 No objections were received during the statutory public notice period. Cabinet is, therefore, now able to determine the implementation of the proposal.

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 has been undertaken; the assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The cost of accommodating the new Mynydd Cynffig Primary School on one school site would be met from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme, for which we have had 'approval in principle' and the Council's capital programme as approved by Council in February 2012. Subject to the outcome of the statutory process, the authority will progress the necessary business case procedures in line with Welsh Government requirements.
- 7.2 As a consequence of the proposal, there would be minimum annual savings to the delegated schools budget of £71,926, subject to the Formula Funding values allocated for 2015-16. However, there will be some additional costs incurred while the school is operating, in effect, on separate sites, which will need to be met from the additional split site allowance that the school will receive as part of its funding formula. This is currently £25k.
- 7.3 There may be an opportunity for the school to make some savings on running costs but until such time as the head teacher and governing body have been able to

assess the organisational changes needing to be made, it is not possible to quantify fully those costs or savings.

7.4 Any savings resulting from this proposal will be redistributed within the protected individual schools budget during the formula funding process.

8 Recommendations

8.1 Cabinet, having given full consideration to the outcome of the consultation and public notice process, is recommended to determine to:

- a) close Mynydd Cynffig Infants School as at 31st August 2015; and
- b) create Mynydd Cynffig Primary School by extending the age range of what was Mynydd Cynffig Junior School from a 7-11 to a 3-11 school with effect from 1st September 2015.

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Background documents

Council Report 13th September 2006: "LEARNING COMMUNITIES – SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – STRATEGY, PRINCIPLES, POLICY AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK"

Cabinet Report 12th December 2006: "Learning Communities: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE" – SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROPOSALS"

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010: "THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO Welsh Assembly Government"

Cabinet report 21st February 2012: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME REVISED BAND A SUBMISSION TO Welsh Government"

Cabinet report 9th December 2014: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG INFANTS AND EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM 7-11 TO 3-11 TO ESTABLISH AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bridgend County Borough Council Consultation Paper, 30th January 2105: "PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MYNYDD CYNFFIG INFANTS SCHOOL AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2015 AND EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM A 7-11 TO A 3-11 SCHOOL TO CREATE AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015"

Cabinet Report 3rd March 2015 "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Cabinet report 31st March 2015 : "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MYNYDD CYNFFIG INFANTS SCHOOL AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2015 AND EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM A 7-11 TO A 3-11 SCHOOL TO CREATE AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015"