

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

1 SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

School Modernisation Programme: Outcome Of Public Notice On The Proposal To Relocate Brynmenyn Primary School To Land Adjacent To Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen And Make A Regulated Alteration In The Form Of An Enlargement

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of a Public Notice on the proposal to relocate Brynmenyn Primary School to land adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and make a regulated alteration in the form of an enlargement.

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:

- Commitment to high standards and excellence in provision.
- Equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend.
- Inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils.
- Community focussed schools, where the school actively engages with its local community.
- 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 relieve the pressure on primary school places in the Valleys Gateway area, it was proposed to build a new school for Brynmenyn Primary School on land

adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It was also proposed to make a regulated alteration to Brynmenyn Primary School in the form of an enlargement to the school. The relocation of the school is not subject to statutory procedures as the new school is less than 1 mile from the existing school site. However the regulated alteration is subject to statutory procedures.

3.5. The current capacity of Brynmenyn Primary School is 136 plus 26 nursery places with a Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 22. It is proposed that the new school has a capacity of 420 plus 60 nursery places and a PAN of 60.

3.6. On 16th June 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 25th June 2015 and the closing date for objections was 22nd July 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 constructing the new school for Brynmenyn 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 2015. The authority will progress the necessary business case procedures in line with Welsh Government requirements.

7.2. The costs of the scheme will be contained within the approved capital programme budget of £8.7 million. The scheme is in design phase and some highways works are expected to be required to ensure safe access to the new school, but guidance from the Welsh Government explicitly states that "*where a capital project requires works to be done to improve highways access to the school this would not qualify for Welsh Government grant, and would fall to the Local Authority to fund*". The highways works are currently estimated to cost in the region of £250,000. The

Welsh Government will provide half of the funding for the eligible elements of the scheme with the rest coming from capital receipts that Council has agreed will be ring fenced for the School Modernisation Programme and relevant S106 payments.

7.3. Whilst there will be increased revenue costs as a result of making the school larger, the new building will be more sustainable and energy efficient. Any increase in running costs will have to be met from within the individual schools overall budget.

8. Recommendations

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

- Relocate Brynmenyn Primary School to a new build school on land adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and make a regulated alteration in the form of an enlargement with effect from 1st January 2018.

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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 13th January 2015: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON PRIMARY PROVISION IN THE VALLEYS GATEWAY AREA"

Cabinet Report 3rd March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Consultation Document 23rd March 2015: "Proposal to make a regulated alteration in the form of an enlargement to Brynmenyn Primary School and relocate it into a new building on surplus land adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen"

Cabinet Report 16th June 2015: "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION IN THE FORM OF AN ENLARGEMENT TO BRYNMENYN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND RELOCATE IT INTO A NEW BUILDING ON SURPLUS LAND ADJACENT TO COLEG CYMUNEDOL Y DDERWEN"