

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

16 FEBRUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND TRANSFORMATION

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON A REGULATED ALTERATION TO PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to seek approval from Cabinet to begin consultation on proposals to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School by relocating the school to the site of the school playing fields at Penprysg Road, Pencoed with effect from 1st April 2018.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The report relates to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013-17:

- working together to raise ambition and drive up educational achievement; and
- working together to make the best use of resources.

- 2.2 We aim to help all young people to thrive and make the best of their talents and, as part of this, there is a serious need to modernise our schools, which has been identified as one of the highest risks facing the Council.

- 2.3 In September 2006, the Council 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 focussed schools, where the school actively engages with its local community
5. Value for money

- 2.4 In the same report, the Policy and Planning Framework sets out 13 areas where the principles should be applied in practice. Those which are particularly relevant in the context of this report 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. Background

- 3.1 On 8th February 2011 Cabinet determined to discontinue Heol y Cyw Primary School as from 31st August 2011 and to make a prescribed alteration to Pencoed Primary School whereby it was enlarged and operated on 3-11 provision as a split site from the Heol Y Cyw premises and Pencoed premises until the end of the summer term 2014, or upon completion of the new building Pencoed Primary School. The Cabinet also resolved to change of the catchment area of Pencoed Primary School to include the current catchment area of Heol Y Cyw Primary School.
- 3.2 The Heol y Cyw site is located 1.7miles from the main site of Pencoed Primary School at Penprysg Road. The condition of buildings across both sites are rated B and C and are mainly a mixture of those originally built for infant, junior and secondary provision in the early 1900s. Currently children have to cross a busy main road at the Pencoed site to access some classrooms, dining facilities and the school playing fields.
- 3.3 In July 2009 Cabinet received a report detailing the outcome of the feasibility work regarding the development of a replacement 3-11 school for Pencoed Primary and were advised on the situation regarding Heol y Cyw Primary in relation to the Pencoed project.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 Welsh Government have approved the Council's strategic outline programme and Ministerial '*approval in principle*' to match fund the replacement Pencoed Primary School from Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme has been received.
- 4.2 The introduction of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the subsequent issuing of the School Organisation Code 2013 (the 'code') imposed requirements on local authorities to comply with the statutory procedures as prescribed within the 'code'.
- 4.3 In order to relocate Pencoed Primary School to a new build school on the school playing fields it is now necessary to consult in respect of a regulated alteration; the Heol y Cyw site is situated more than one mile from the entrance of the proposed new school entrance and as a result under the 'code' this regulated alteration dictates that the statutory process is followed.
- 4.4 Subject to the outcome of the consultations, Welsh Government approvals and planning permission, the regulated alteration would become effective from April 2018.
- 4.5 The school would have a capacity of 510 for pupils aged 4-11, a 70 place nursery, 8 places for the visually impaired, 8 infant observation places and 2 classes of 15 places for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. The published admission number for the school would be 72.

- 4.6 The first stage of the statutory process is consultation with stakeholders. These will include local members, community councillors, the governing body, staff, pupils, parents and carers and other members of the local community who have an interest. If Cabinet gives approval, an initial 6 week consultation period will be conducted to allow all interested parties to comment on the proposals contained in the consultation paper. This would be done by publishing a consultation document and inviting responses.
- 4.7 Following this period of consultation a further report on the outcome of the consultation would be submitted to Cabinet to consider the responses to the consultation process and consider authorising the publication of a statutory notice. If such a notice were published it would invite formal objections within the statutory 28 day period.
- 4.8 At the end of the statutory notice period there would then be a further report to Cabinet on the outcome of the statutory notice process and any objections received. If there are no objections in response to the public notices, Cabinet would be recommended to make a final decision. If there are any objections, an objections report containing a formal response will be prepared and submitted to Cabinet who will take the final decision on whether or not the proposals proceed. All proposals would therefore follow due process and comply with all statutory requirements and Welsh Government guidance.

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 initial screening has been carried out and has indicated that a full assessment will need to be carried out as part of the project.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The cost of the new school will be met from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme, for which we have had approval in principle, and which is included within the Council's capital programme as approved by Council in October 2015. We will progress the necessary business case procedures in line with Welsh Government requirements during the building development and design stages.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Agree to consultations with the governing body, staff, parents, pupils, the community and other interested parties, with the outcomes reported back to Cabinet, on the proposals to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School by relocating the whole school to the site of the school playing fields on Penprysg Road with effect from April 2018.

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Background documents

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Cabinet Report, 14th July. 2009, "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PHASE 1 3-11 LEARNING PROVISION IN THE PENCOED AREA"

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