

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

10 MAY 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN): OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO PIL PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the proposals to close the moderate learning difficulties (MLD) learning resource centre provision at Pil Primary School.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 These proposals are related to the Corporate Plan (2016-2020) and the Education Inclusion Programme and, in particular, in the Corporate Plan Improvement priority one

- Smarter use of resources.

3. Background

- 3.1 These proposals also relate to the Educational Inclusion Strategy which was agreed by Cabinet in March 2009. Within that policy it states the desire for all our schools and education providers to be inclusive – learning communities that value diversity and that can accommodate as wide a range of needs as possible. It also states the belief that the needs of the overwhelming majority of school-age learners can and should be accommodated in local schools that are properly equipped and fit for purpose, and that reflect the diverse strengths of the communities they serve.
- 3.2 There has been a successful programme of work undertaken by the Inclusion Service in training staff in schools to support pupils with moderate learning difficulties. Staff are now better equipped to identify needs at an earlier stage and support pupils with moderate learning difficulties through a differentiated curriculum in mainstream classes, rather than placing children with these difficulties in a separate unit. However, there is also sufficient alternative provision within the County Borough for those pupils with moderate learning difficulties (MLD) who are unable to sustain a place in a mainstream class and need to make use of a separate learning resource facility.
- 3.3 The Council supports the principles that, when possible, children should be educated within a mainstream school environment as near to their home as possible.
- 3.4 A thorough analysis of the current data and also of the projections of numbers of children requiring MLD provision indicated that the current MLD provision in Pil

primary was surplus to requirements and would continue to be surplus to requirements for the projectable future.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 In order to progress a proposal to close the MLD resource centre at Pil Primary School consultation exercises were carried out between 16 March 2016 and 28 April 2016 with staff, governors, parents and pupils of Pil Primary School and also the wider community in accordance with the Statutory School Organisation Code.

A copy of the consultation document was also made available during this time on the Council's website:

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/services/consultation/hub/pil-primary-consultation.aspx>

<http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/cy/gwasanaethau/ymgynggori/hub/ysgol-gynradd-y-p%C3%AEI-ymgynggori.aspx>

- 4.2 The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal.
- 4.3 Under the Statutory Code referred to above the Authority is required to publish a consultation report summarising any issues raised by consultees and the Authority's response and setting out Estyn's view of the overall merit of the proposals.
- 4.4 If approved by Cabinet, the next stage of the process is to publish a statutory notice outlining the proposals which would need to be published for a period of 28 days and any formal written objections would be invited during this time.
- 4.5 If there are no objections during the Public Notice period then the proposal can be implemented with Cabinet's approval.
- 4.6 If there are objections at this Public Notice stage, an objections report will be published summarising the objections and the authority's response to those objections. Cabinet will need to consider the proposal in light of objections. Cabinet could then accept, reject or modify the proposal.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the procedure rules. However, the Bridgend Local Management of School Scheme will need to be updated to reflect the financial/governance arrangements.

6. Impact Assessments

6.1 Community Impact Assessment

There is no negative impact on the community.

6.2 Equality Impact Assessment

The Council has a duty to consult and fully consider the implications of any proposal on all members of the local community who may be affected unfairly as a result of the proposal being carried out.

An initial EIA was undertaken. The full EIA can be found in Appendix (xii). The full EIA holistically evaluates the pupils affected by the introduction of the proposal.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are projected full year savings of £45,000 from the closure of the MLD Learning Resource Centre at Pil Primary School.
- 7.2 Savings will be re-allocated within the Primary Schools ISB (Individual Schools Budget) to fund continuing Learning Resource Centre provision within other primary schools in Bridgend.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:-

- note the outcome of the consultation with interested parties as detailed in the attached Consultation Report . The Consultation Report can be found at Appendix 1;
- approve the attached Consultation Report for publication;
- authorise the publication of a Statutory Public Notice on the proposal;

Deborah McMillan
Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

Contact Officer: Michelle Hatcher

Telephone: (01656) 815253

E-mail: michelle.hatcher@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Appendices:

| Appendix 1 | Consultation Report |
|-----------------------|--|
| Appendix (i) | Consultation Meeting with School Council |
| Appendix (ii) | Consultation Meeting with Parents |
| Appendix (iii) | Consultation Meeting with Staff |
| Appendix (iv) | Consultation Meeting with School Governors |
| Appendix (v) | Estyn response |
| Appendix (vi) | Quality and Standardisation, National Categorisation School Report 2015 / 2016 - Corneli Primary School |
| Appendix (vii) | Quality and Standardisation, National Categorisation |

Appendix (viii)
Appendix (ix)

School Report 2015 / 2016 – Cefn Cribwr Primary School
Cefn Cribwr Learning Resource Centre
Full Equality Impact Assessment

Background documents

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)