

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

6 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICE ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

- to inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Public Notice on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School, by relocating the school, including the Heol y Cyw campus, to a new build school on the site of Pencoed Primary School playing fields at Penprysg Road, Pencoed with effect from 1st April 2018;
- to request Cabinet issue a Determination as per the proposal.

2 Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

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

- Smarter use of resources
- Supporting a successful economy

3 Background

3.1 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 and the provision of local schools, planning new provision to reflect changes in the distribution of the population.
- 3.4 This report outlines the result of the Public Notice in respect of the proposed relocation and seeks approval to continue the process to the next stage.

4 Current situation

- 4.1 On 16th February 2016, Cabinet approved the consultation on the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School by relocating the school, including the Heol Y Cyw campus, to the site of the school playing fields at Penprysg Road, Pencoed.
- 4.2 In order to progress the proposal, consultation was carried out between 23rd March and 9th May 2016 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/pencoed-primary-consultation-2016.aspx>

The consultation document invited views and opinions to be submitted in respect of the proposal.

- 4.3 Cabinet, on 7th June 2016, having considered the outcome of the consultation with all parties as detailed in the consultation report, authorised the publication of a statutory notice outlining the proposals - which was published on 15th June 2016 for a period of 28 days (and formal written objections were invited during this time).
- 4.4 Since no objections were received during the Public Notice period, then Cabinet can now determine the proposal (*Cabinet can accept, reject or modify 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 carried out as part of the consultation stage and has been further informed by responses to the consultation papers. The assessment has concluded that there is no negative impact on the duties of the Council towards protected groups.

- 6.2 A Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation.
- 6.3 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the consultation.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The anticipated cost of the proposed new Pencoed Primary School will be funded by the Council and Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools Programme for which the Authority has received Welsh Government 'approval in principle'. The current budget for the scheme in the Capital Programme approved by Council is £8.8 million. However, as referred to in the reports to Cabinet and Council in May on the Capital Programme, the total scheme cost is likely to exceed that amount due to site abnormalities (e.g. construction of retaining walls and cut and fill exercises due to ground conditions/site levels, drainage works required to adequately attenuate and drain surface water into culverts), rising construction costs and highways requirements outside of the scope of Welsh Government 21st Century Schools funding (e.g. access junction works required in order to provide a highway access to the school site which meets modern safety standards). An application has been made to Welsh Government for additional funding towards the scheme, and an agreement "in principle" has been secured. A further report will be presented to Cabinet and Council in October to seek additional Council funding to meet the remaining shortfall in scheme costs. The contract following the tender process will not be awarded until all funding sources have been secured. The total estimated budget envelope required for the entire Pencoed Scheme, including all costs (such as furniture and equipment, fees, construction, groundworks, decant, highways works etc.) is £11.1 million.
- 7.2 Pupils will be provided with free transport to the new school in line with Bridgend County Borough Council's school transport policy. Free school transport is currently provided in the County for walking distances greater than 1.5 miles by safe, available walking routes. It is estimated that the school bus service to transfer pupils to the new Pencoed Primary site will cost approximately £40,470 p.a. The existing transport arrangements for the current split site school cost approximately £48,070p.a. The distance between the Heol y Cyw site and the site for the proposed new Pencoed Primary school is only approximately 2 miles. Consequently, journey times for pupils requiring transport will be minimal should the proposal be taken forward and one-way journeys certainly significantly less than 45 minutes.

8 Recommendations

- 8.1 Cabinet is therefore recommended to:
- 1) consider the outcome of the Public Notice as detailed in the report above;
 - 2) approve the implementation of the proposal to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School, by relocating the school,

including the Heol y Cyw campus, to a new build school on the site of Pencoed Primary School playing fields at Penprysg Road, Pencoed with effect from 1st April 2018, subject to all funding sources being approved.

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Background documents

Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People's Report February 9th 2009: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME

Cabinet Report 28th April 2009: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS

Cabinet Report 16th May 2009: SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE – THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS

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

Cabinet Report 7th September 2010 - SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PROPOSED CHANGES IN 3 – 11

Cabinet Report 2nd November 2010 SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO HEOL Y CYW AND PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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 3rd March 2015: "PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT"

Cabinet Report 16th February 2016: "PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON A REGULATED ALTERATION TO PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL"

Cabinet Report 7th June 2016: SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME:
OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO MAKE A REGULATED
ALTERATION TO PENCOED PRIMARY SCHOOL