
SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: THE PROVISION OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE ADAMSDOWN AND SPLOTT WARDS SCHOOL – DRAFT CABINET REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to consider and review the Draft Cabinet Report (copy attached at **Appendix A**). The report recommends to Cabinet not to progress with the implementation of an agreed school organisation proposal, for the provision of English Medium primary school places in the Adamsdown and Splott Wards.

Background

2. Under the Education Act 1996, the Council has a responsibility for education and must provide sufficient school places for pupils of compulsory school age. A local authority can make proposals to make regulated alterations to a community school, which include enlargement of the premises to increase its capacity under section 42 and Schedule 2 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. The Council is required prior to publishing its proposals to undertake a consultation on those proposals in accordance with section 48 of that Act and the School Organisation Code.
3. The Cabinet at its meeting on 21 March 2016, considered a report to increase the capacity of Ysgol Glan Morfa, Moorland Road. The Cabinet approved without modification proposals to:
 - Increase the capacity of Ysgol Glan Morfa, Moorland Road, Cardiff, CF24 2LJ, from 210 places to 420 places with up to 80 part-time nursery places serving the age range 3-11 from September 2017;

- Transfer the enlarged Ysgol Glan Morfa to a new build 420 place primary school on a new site at the Maltings from September 2017;
 - Increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School, Moorland Road, Cardiff CF24 2LJ, from 382 places to 630 places, with up to 96 part-time nursery places serving the age range 3-11, utilising the vacated Ysgol Glan Morfa buildings from September 2017.
4. Cabinet at its meeting on 21 November 2016, considered a report recommending to defer the implementation of the proposal to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School to 3FE to 2018, as updated pupil projections indicated that demand for English-medium places in the Adamsdown and Splott area would fall. The Cabinet report authorised officers to:
- Seek the agreement of Welsh Ministers of the proposed modification to an agreed school organisation proposal to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School from 2FE to 3FE from September 2017;
 - Review projections and demand for English-medium primary school places in the area to inform the future progress of the proposed expansion of Moorland Primary School.
5. In addition the Implementation of the proposal to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School from 2FE to 3FE was deferred to September 2018 and the relevant stakeholders were advised in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

Draft Cabinet Report

6. The Draft Cabinet report highlights a number of issues:
- Updated pupil projections based on new pre-school population datasets from the NHS and updated Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) data via schools. These projections indicated that the total demand for Primary School places would fall.
 - The soon to be vacant Ysgol Glan Morfa site will not now be needed for the increased capacity of Moorland Primary.

- The proposed 21st Century School Band A funding, for the expansion of Moorland Primary School, would no longer be needed.

7. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- Agree that the deferred school organisation proposal to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School from 2FE to 3FE is not progressed to implementation.
- Authorise officers to notify all relevant stakeholder in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

Scope of Scrutiny

8. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to:

- To consider and provide comments on the Cabinet report

Way Forward

9. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.

10. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Legal Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the

powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with information presented at the meeting.
- Provide recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 November 2017