

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: THE PROVISION OF
ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE
ADAMSDOWN AND SPLOTT WARDS**

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS (COUNCILLOR SARAH
MERRY)**

AGENDA ITEM: 5

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Reason for this Report

1. To enable the Cabinet to consider a recommendation not to progress to implementation an agreed school organisation proposal, which relates to the provision of English-medium primary school places in the Adamsdown and Splott Wards.

Background

2. At its meeting on 21 March 2016, 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.
3. At its meeting on 21 November 2016, the Cabinet considered a recommendation 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.
4. At this meeting the Cabinet 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. 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.

Issues

6. Projections, based on NHS GP data and PLASC (school census) data , were included in the Cabinet Report of 21st March 2016. This information indicated demand for 400 places overall, including 259 English-medium and 49 Welsh-medium places. These projections reflected the population data and the pupil mobility/in-migration rate in the area. The projections took into account, the forecast increase in demand for places for Welsh-medium schools.
7. In the report of 21st November, the Cabinet were informed that the Council had received updated pre-school population data from the NHS and updated PLASC data via schools. Projections, taking account of this information, indicated that the total demand for primary school places at entry to Reception year in the Adamsdown and Splott area would fall to 370 in September 2017 and the demand for English-medium places would fall to 229 places. Updated projections for the September 2018 intake indicated that demand for English-medium places would fall further to 198 places.
8. The report of 21st November noted that it was unclear whether the reduction in population would continue beyond 2018.
9. Analysis of school allocation data undertaken in August 2017, for entry to Reception year in September 2017, further evidences a fall in demand for English-medium community primary school places and indicates a greater uplift in demand for Welsh-medium places in the Adamsdown and Splott area, compared to the projection data considered in November 2016. Table 1 provides a summary of demand for school places at entry to Reception Year, Adamsdown and Splott: projections as presented in November 2016, compared with places allocated as at 16 August 2017.

Table 1: Summary of Data

Intake year:	English-medium	Welsh-medium	Faith	Total
September 2017 – projection	229	37	104	370
September 2017 – school admissions allocation data (August 2017)	218	43	87	348

10. Since the Cabinet meeting of November 2016, the Council has updated projections to take account of a new pre-school population dataset from the NHS and updated PLASC data via schools. Projections taking account of this information also indicate that the total demand for primary school places at entry to Reception year in the Adamsdown and Splott area will fall to 329 in September 2018, and the demand for English-medium places will fall to 208 places. Projections for the September 2019 intake indicate demand for 209 English-medium places at entry.

Table 2: Projected demand for school places at entry to Reception Year, Adamsdown and Splott

Intake year:	English-medium	Welsh-medium	Faith	Total
September 2018	208	31	90	329
September 2019	209	32	96	337

11. These figures are based on the existing configuration of schools; the Welsh-medium proportionate demand being artificially low because of projections taking into account the 'capping off' of demand for places at Ysgol Glan Morfa in recent years at its Published Admission Number of 30 places. Based on admission allocation information from August 2017, it is anticipated that the forecast demand for Welsh-medium places at Ysgol Glan Morfa would be c15 – 20% greater than the above, and demand for English-medium community school places would be accordingly reduced.
12. All projection data available at present indicates that the 210 English-medium places available at entry to Reception Year is sufficient to accommodate the projected demand.
13. Taking the above information into account it is proposed that the deferred proposal to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School from 2FE to 3FE from September 2018 is not progressed to implementation.

Future of vacated Ysgol Glan Morfa site

14. Ysgol Glan Morfa will vacate its existing site in Summer 2018 to transfer to a new build school on Lewis Road. The vacated Ysgol Glan Morfa building and site was proposed to be incorporated within the site of Moorland Primary School to facilitate the enlargement to 3FE.
15. As there is no longer a requirement to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School to meet local demand, consideration will be given to the future use of the Ysgol Glan Morfa site.
16. Furthermore, as the expansion of Moorland Primary School would no longer be funded through the 21st Century Schools Band A scheme, any residual condition and suitability needs identified would therefore be assessed in the context of the prioritisation of city-wide maintenance needs within the education estate.

Local Member consultation

17. Local Members have been consulted on these proposals.

Reason for Recommendations

18. To seek Cabinet approval not to progress to implementation an agreed school organisation proposal relating to the provision of English-medium primary school places in the Adamsdown and Splott Wards.

Financial Implications

20. The realigned 21st Century Schools Band A Programme, totalling £167.6m was approved by Cabinet in March 2015 and submitted to Welsh Government (WG). WG subsequently approved an in-principle, slightly reduced, programme of £164.1 million to be funded equally by the Council and WG. Within that overall funding envelope, there was a commitment to increasing the level of English-medium primary school provision in the Splott area of the city. It was anticipated that Moorland Primary School would be increased by 1 form of entry to accommodate this increased demand.
21. To date, this project has only Strategic Outline Case / Outline Business Case stage approval, as part a wider business case, which includes other primary school SOP projects in the city. Due to the factors outlined in this report, the project has not been progressed and a Full Business Case not submitted. Therefore, a formal request for budget approval has not been made. As a result, there is no formal approved budget specifically allocated to this project within the overall envelope. The intention is that the indicative funding allocations for this project, effectively released from this decision, will be utilised elsewhere within the overall Band A programme on existing projects.
22. The report references the potential need to undertake asset renewal or suitability works at the existing Moorland Primary School site. Should this

be required, these works will be funded from within existing allocations for asset renewal and suitability, as outlined in the Council's capital programme, approved in February 2017, or from future allocations. Any works required would need to be prioritised in line with other demands against the budgets for asset renewal and suitability.

Legal Implications

23. 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.
24. As set out above, the Cabinet determined and gave approval for the above proposal on 21st March 2016. Section 6 of the School Organisation Code (Page 46) explains the procedure that must be following in relation to implementation of proposals. In accordance with this procedure, the Cabinet agreed to delay implementation of the proposal on 21st November 2016. The recommendation in this report is to abandon the proposal. If this recommendation is accepted, the Council must notify all relevant parties including the Welsh Ministers, Estyn, the Relevant Transport Consortia, the governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff of the affected schools within 7 days of a determination to delay.
25. The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of belief.
26. The decision on whether to proceed to publish intention to abandon the proposal has to be made in the context of the Council's public sector equality duties. The report identifies that the Council has understood the potential impacts of the proposal in terms of equality so that it can ensure that it is making proportionate and rational decisions having due regard to its public sector equality duty. The decision maker must have due regard to these equality implications in making its decision.
27. In accordance with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards included within the Council's Compliance Notice issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner, the Council must also consider the consultation must also consider (a) opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and (b) treating the Welsh language

no less favourably than the English language. The decision maker must also have regard to certain other matters when making its decision as outlined in this report, including traffic and transport issues and community impact.

HR Implications

28. There are no direct HR implications as a result of this proposal. However, HR People Services will continue to support Governing Bodies of Moorland Primary School and Ysgol Glan Morfa in the management of their staffing establishments.

Traffic and Transport

29. There are no highway implications to be considered at this time.

Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

30. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed when this proposal was originally planned. Officers have considered the equality implications of abandoning this proposal and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified, therefore a full equality impact assessment has not been carried out. If the recommendation is accepted, there will still be sufficient primary school places for all pupils, including any groups of pupils with protected characteristics. Any other reports or proposals relating to the need for additional places, relate to secondary school places or to other areas of the city which are affected by development proposals.

Community Impact

31. The following are taken into account when considering a proposal: Public Open space, parkland, noise and traffic congestion. There will be no impact on the Community as a result of abandoning this proposal, as there will still be sufficient primary school places for all pupils.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to:

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

NICK BATCHELAR
DIRECTOR
10 November 2017