

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES TO SERVE CATHAYS AND PARTS OF GABALFA, HEATH, LLANDAFF NORTH AND PLASNEWYDD

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of proposals, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on the 19 October 2023.

Structure of Papers

2. Attached to this report are the following:
 - **Appendix A** – the Report to Cabinet – 19 October 2023. This in turn has a number appendices, namely;
 - Appendix 1 - Consultation document
 - Appendix 2 - Summary document
 - Appendix 3 - Notes of consultation meetings with staff and governors
 - Appendix 4 - Notes of consultation meetings with pupil representatives
 - Appendix 5 - Notes of Cardiff Influencers workshop session
 - Appendix 6 - Notes of public meetings (in person and online)
 - Appendix 7 - Notes of drop-in sessions at Cathays Library
 - Appendix 8 - Notes of on-line drop-in sessions
 - Appendix 9 - Notes of parent drop-in sessions
 - Appendix 10 - Formal Responses
 - Appendix 11 - Summary of the responses received and an appraisal of views
 - Appendix 12 - Summary analysis of the responses received
 - Appendix 13 - Single Impact Assessment

Background to the Proposal

3. At its meeting on 23 March 2023, the Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to hold public consultation on options to expand Welsh-medium primary school provision and consolidate English-medium primary school provision as follows:

Option 1

- Transfer Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to the current Allensbank Primary School site.
- Increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 192 places (0.9FE) to 420 places (2FE) and increase the number of nursery places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 64 to 96.
- Amalgamate Allensbank and Gladstone Primary Schools:
 - Formally Close Allensbank Primary School.
 - Formally Close Gladstone Primary School.
 - Establish a new 420 place (2FE) English-medium Primary School with nursery on the current shared Gladstone Primary School / St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School site.
- Transfer St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School to the current Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site and establish nursery provision at the school.

The proposed changes would take effect from September 2025.

Option 2

- Transfer Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to the current Allensbank Primary School site.
- Increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 192 places (0.9FE) to 420 places (2FE) and increase the number of nursery places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 64 to 96.
- Co-locate Allensbank and Gladstone Primary Schools on a shared site:

- Transfer Allensbank Primary School to the current shared Gladstone Primary School / St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School site.
- Reduce the capacity of Allensbank Primary School from 315 places (1.5FE) to 210 places (1FE).
- Reduce the age range of Allensbank Primary School from 3-11 to 4-11 by discontinuing nursery provision at the school.
- Increase the number of nursery places at Gladstone Primary School from 64 to 96.
- Transfer St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School to the current Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site and establish nursery provision at the school.

The proposed changes would take effect from September 2025.

Option 3

- Transfer Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to the current Allensbank Primary School site.
- Increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 192 places (0.9FE) to 420 places (2FE).
- Increase the number of nursery places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 64 to 96.
- Transfer Allensbank Primary School to the current Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site.
- Reduce the capacity of Allensbank Primary School from 315 places (1.5FE) to 192 places (0.9FE).

The proposed changes would take effect from September 2025.

4. Options 2 and 3 would allow for consideration to be given to collaboration or formal federation between Allensbank Primary School and Gladstone Primary School. There are clear benefits to collaboration or federation for schools that are based either on the same site or in the same community as it enables them to work together on shared priorities, pool expertise, make better use of resources and explore ways of doing things more effectively.

5. The Cabinet noted the proposal for the extension of the age range of St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School to include a nursery class of 32 part time places and transfer to the school to the site presently occupied by Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from September 2025 and instructed officers to provide all reasonable assistance to the Governing Body of the school who would be consulting on the proposal.

Further Information Highlighted in the Cabinet Report

6. The Cabinet Report attached at **Appendix A** is set out as follows:
 - Consultation Process – paragraphs 7 – 13, plus Appendices 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9
 - Responses received regarding the proposed changes during the consultation period - paragraphs 14 – 22
 - Views expressed – wider stakeholder survey - paragraphs 23 - 30
 - Views expressed – Pupil representation – paragraphs 31 – 57, plus Appendix 4
 - Views expressed – School Council responses – paragraphs 58 – 61, plus Appendix 4
 - Views expressed – Cardiff Influencers – paragraphs 62 – 72, plus Appendix 5
 - Responses to views expressed during the consultation – paragraphs 73 – 118, plus Appendices 10, 11 and 12
 - Governance Arrangements – paragraphs 119 – 123
 - Additional Learning Needs – paragraphs 124 – 131
 - Nursery Provision – paragraphs 132 – 136
 - Funding of proposals – paragraphs 137 – 141
 - Financial appraisal of proposals – paragraphs 142 – 161
 - Admission Arrangements – paragraphs 162 – 166
 - Learner Travel Arrangements – paragraphs 167 – 171
 - Impact of reorganisation on travel arrangements for current pupils – paragraphs 172 - 178
 - Implications for secondary school provision – paragraphs 179 - 183

- Local Member consultation – paragraph 184 and Appendix 10 to the Cabinet report
- Impact of the proposals on the Welsh Language – paragraphs 186 - 205
- Wellbeing of Future Generations – paragraphs 206 - 207

7. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:

- Financial Implications – paragraphs 208 - 217
- Legal Implications – paragraphs 218 - 226
- Human Resources Implications – paragraphs 227 – 231
- Traffic and Transport Implications – paragraphs 232 - 238
- Property Implications - paragraphs 239 - 244
- Impact Assessment – paragraph 245 and *Appendix 13 to the Cabinet Report*

Reason for Recommendations

8. To balance provision for English-medium and Welsh-medium community primary school provision to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd.

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

9. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- I. Note the consideration by the Governing Body of St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School of the proposal to transfer St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School to the current Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site and establish nursery provision at the school, from September 2025.
- II. Subject to the agreement of the Governing Body of St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School to proceed to publish its proposals, authorise officers to proceed to publish proposals in accordance with section 48 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 on proposals to:

- Transfer Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to the current Allensbank Primary School site.
- Increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 192 places (0.9FE) to 420 places (2FE) and increase the number of nursery places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 64 to 96.
- Amalgamate Allensbank and Gladstone Primary Schools:
 - Formally Close Allensbank Primary School.
 - Formally Close Gladstone Primary School.
 - Establish a new 420 place (2FE) English-medium Primary School with nursery on the current shared Gladstone Primary School / St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School site.

The proposed changes would take effect from September 2025.

- III. Note that, prior to implementation of the proposals, financial resources must be identified to facilitate the process of organisational change of establishing the new two form entry primary school and the transfer of St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School.
- IV. Note that, prior to implementation of the proposals, a further report will be provided to the Cabinet providing details of any objections received, the proposed responses to those objections and recommendations for implementation or otherwise of the proposals, and sources of funding for the full set of proposals.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report to Cabinet, prior to its consideration of the report on the 19 October 2023.

Previous Scrutiny

11. This issue has previously been considered by this Committee as follows:

- **20 March 2023** – report of the SOP Task & Finish Group - [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 20th March, 2023, 5.00 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- **15 June 2021** - [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 15th June, 2021, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- **15th December 2020** - [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 15th December, 2020, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Way Forward

12. At this meeting, the following have been invited to attend. There will be a verbal introduction given at the beginning of the Item, with a Q&A session afterwards.

- Councillor Huw Thomas (Leader of the Council)
- Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education);
- Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong learning),
- Richard Portas (Programme Director for the School Organisation Programme)
- Brett Andrewartha (School Organisation Programme Planning Manager)

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

Legal Implications

14. 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

15. 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:

1. Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report and its appendices, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting;
2. Provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and senior officers prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

11 October 2023