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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 8 MARCH 2022, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

Correspondence following the meeting (Pages 3 - 12)

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Date: 10 March 2022

My Ref: CYP/Admissions_CLN_EHW_PentyrchPS



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Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah,

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8 MARCH 2022 –
SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING PROPOSALS – ADMISSION
ARRANGEMENTS 23/24; COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS; EMOTIONAL HEALTH
& WELLBEING; PENTYRCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Committee for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to facilitate the consideration of Cabinet proposals relating to Admission Arrangements 2023/24; provision for Children and Young People with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition; Provision for Children and Young People with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs; and the Expansion and Redevelopment of Pentyrch Primary School. Please also pass on our thanks to Mel Godfrey, Richard Portas, Brett Andrewartha and Jennie Hughes. The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

The Committee commends the four reports to Cabinet for consideration. Comments on individual agenda Items are as follows:

Admission Arrangements 2023/24

Members asked a number of questions on issues such as coordinated admissions and protocols for managed moves; and sought assurances in relation to the policy in relation to IDPs/School Action Plus/SEN Statements.

Members also sought clarification on plans/timescales for the school catchment area review (which we have raised a number of times). We were informed that this would happen in the "coming months" and would again request that an indicative timetable be provided, and that Members of this Committee be involved in this review.

Members stated that they were already receiving details of school appeals, so would urge the Service Area to put arrangements in place as soon as possible.

A catchment area review will remain a priority for the committee and will be proposed as a priority topic for the committee's work programme. The knowledge and expertise across the Committee will ensure that we make a valuable contribution to such a review, and to that end, Members agreed that they would wish to work with you via a task & finish group arrangement. This would mean that we are not bound to formal committee meetings and can work on a more informal and flexible basis. We would request that you agree this way forward and work with us accordingly.

Provision for Children and Young People with Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition

Members welcomed the substantial uplift in places and asked questions around ensuring that there are sufficient city-wide places, including those within mainstream schools; funding; what modelling and analysis had been undertaken; implications for school transport; forward planning in relation to staff skills; implications for the Welsh medium sector; and ensuring that BAME places are available and communication with parents of BAME pupils.

Members heard that, in relation to much of the above, final options and a full modelling exercise would be required. Estyn had also highlighted the need for more detail in its response on this issue. Whilst we acknowledge that the current proposals are a "starting point" and not the final set of proposals, Members felt that the Service Area requires a strategic overview of all the proposals. Members stated the following:

- We need to see a strategic overview of all proposals across the city
- Whilst we have considered outputs from consultation on a lot of individual projects and details of dialogue on individual projects, we need to see how everything links together in terms of future modelling
- Links to the WESP and LDP need to be developed and formalised
- We need to have details of a clear trajectory of what is going through the process and the challenges around this
- We need to see a final options paper and full financial evaluation, when available.
- We need to have details of how places are funded.
- There needs to be clear protocols in terms of governance – are there going to be proposals for formal federations or multi-school sites and if so, how will this be managed?

Therefore, we **recommend** that a strategic overview be developed to include detail of:

- A strategic overview of **all** proposals across the city
- Clear links on how individual projects come together in terms of future modelling
- Links to the WESP and LDP detailed and formalised
- a clear trajectory of what is going through and the challenges around this
- final options paper and full financial evaluation, when available.
- Details of how places are funded.
- Development and implementation of clear protocols in terms of governance arrangements - are there going to be proposals for formal federations or multi-school sites
- Clear timelines for the above.

Provision for Children and Young People with Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs

Members were pleased to hear that the outcome of the consultation in relation to Greenhill had resulted in some rethinking on this and the Dutch Gardens site. It was stated that a visioning exercise would be undertaken on this, and Members would therefore request that the output from the visioning exercise and any subsequent changes be reported back to this scrutiny committee. An indicative timescale of when this will be completed would be welcomed and added to our work programme accordingly.

Expansion and Redevelopment of Pentyrch Primary School

There were no further comments by Members on this proposal.

To recap, the Committee **is requesting:**

1. Agreement to undertake the Catchment Area Review with a task & finish group made up of Members of this Committee. Please provide an indicative timescale for when this is likely to happen.
2. The output from the visioning exercise on the Greenhill proposals be reported back to this Committee. Please provide an indicative timescale of when this will be completed.

Recommendations to be monitored following this scrutiny

To summarise, the Scrutiny Committee made one formal recommendation which is set out below. As part of the response to this letter we would be grateful if you could, for the recommendation, state whether the recommendation is accepted, partially accepted or not accepted and summarise the Cabinet's response. If the recommendation is accepted or partially accepted, I would also be grateful if you could identify the responsible officer and provide an action date. This will ensure that progress can be monitored as part of the approach agreed by Cabinet in December 2020.

Recommendation	Accepted, Partially Accepted or Not Accepted	Cabinet Response	Responsible Officer	Implementation Date
<p>A strategic overview of ALN provision be developed to include detail of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic overview of all proposals across the City • Clear links on how individual projects come together in terms of future modelling • Links to the WESP and LDP detailed and formalised • a clear trajectory of what is going through and the challenges around this • final options paper and full financial evaluation, when available. • Details of how places are funded. • Development and implementation of clear protocols in terms of governance arrangements • Clear timelines for the above. 				

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, please pass my sincere thanks to all who attended Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN

Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: CYPSC Members

Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning

Richard Portas, Programme Director for the School Organisation Programme

Brett Andrewartha, School Organisation Programme Planning Manager

Jennie Hughes, Senior Achievement Leader Inclusion

Gary Jones, Head of Democratic Services

Joanne Watkins, Cabinet Officer Manager

Melanie Jackson, PA to the Deputy Leader

Helen Eager, PA to the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning

Paula Williams, PA to the Programme Director for the School Organisation Programme

Tim Gordon and Jeremy Rhys – Media and Comms

Cllr Adrian Robson – Group Leader

Cllr Rhys Taylor – Group Leader

Cllr Keith Parry – Group Leader

David Hugh Thomas – Chair Governance & Audit Committee

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**SWYDDFA'R DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD
DEPUTY LEADER'S OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM47325

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 7 April 2022

Cllr Lee Bridgeman
C/O Members Services
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Lee

Scrutiny - Cyp 8 March - Sop

Thank you for inviting us to present to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee and for the opportunity to provide further information in relation to the requests of Members. Please find below the responses to each of the requests in the order raised.

- 1. Agreement to undertake the Catchment Area Review with a task and finish group made up of Members of this Committee. Please provide an indicative timescale for when this is likely to happen.*

I continue to support the Committee's recommendation that a catchment area review be undertaken. I have advised the Committee that consultation on changes to English-medium community secondary school catchment areas would be required at the appropriate time in order to provide a suitable balance in the supply of and take-up of places.

The Council has to ensure sufficient places in the secondary sector regardless of catchment boundaries. However, the Council cannot reasonably consult on changes to catchment areas, demonstrating a sustainable balance between pupils and places, until each of the Band B investment schemes has been brought forward, and dates of capacity changes have been identified.

Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee would be approached with regard to establishing a group to consider the issues associated with catchment area arrangements and to support development of principles to underpin future changes.

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GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



2. *The output from the visioning exercise on the Greenhill proposals be reported back to this Committee. Please provide an indicative timescale of when this will be completed.*

As agreed by Cabinet on 10 March 2022, officers will bring a further report to Cabinet for consideration, setting out details of revised proposals for the provision of secondary English-medium and Welsh-medium education health and wellbeing special school places. We expect Greenhill to form a part of the revised proposals which will be presented to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee during the autumn term 2022-23.

Education visioning for Greenhill Special School will be developed following future proposals and will also be presented to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee.

3. *A strategic overview of ALN provision be developed to include detail of a strategic overview be developed to include detail of:*

- *A strategic overview of all proposals across the city*
- *Clear links on how individual projects come together in terms of future modelling*
- *Links to the WESP and LDP detailed and formalised*
- *a clear trajectory of what is going through and the challenges around this*
- *final options paper and full financial evaluation, when available.*
- *Details of how places are funded.*
- *Development and implementation of clear protocols in terms of governance arrangements - are there going to be proposals for formal federations or multi-school sites*
- *Clear timelines for the above*

This recommendation is partially accepted.

The ALN proposals brought forward in the Cabinet Reports of 15 July 2021 and 14 October 2021 were set in a wider strategic context and projections based on recent data were supplied as part of the Cabinet papers considered. These reports set out the principles underpinning an effective and inclusive approach to supporting ALN in Cardiff. This was set alongside information setting out current provision, projections for each area of need and expected demand; background on the changing demographics and trends seen in recent years and how the authority will need to plan and respond to these going forward. This information has been considered by Cabinet and the Committee and used to support the decision-making processes that have followed to enable deliver an increase of ALN places across Cardiff in the coming years from establishing new SRB provisions through to the significant expansion of special school provisions across the city. Given the scale of change it is clear that the position in relation to pupils presenting with higher levels of ALN is not static and provision will need to constantly evolve to ensure that the Council is fulfilling our duties for the children and young people of Cardiff.

In addition, the Cabinet considered and agreed the Cardiff Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-31 (WESP) at its meeting 24 February 2022. Within this Plan the Council set out underpinning principles including increasing the ALN provision delivered in Welsh to ensure equal linguistic opportunity for those families that opt for Welsh-medium learning for their child(ren). Further detail under Outcome 6 sets out how an increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) (in

accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 is to be achieved.

This WESP is now with the Welsh Ministers for their consideration and, subject to their agreement, the action plans for each outcome will be developed in further detail with partners and will be shared with members of the Committee consistent with the commitment in my previous letter following the February meeting.

As with any School Organisation proposal, clear links on how individual projects come together in terms of future modelling including a trajectory of what provision is available, alongside any developments going through and any remaining unmet needs/priorities and the challenges around each are required to support stakeholders' consideration of the relevant issues relating to each proposal. These include the options considered along with the final options for consultation with the financial implications and appropriate evaluations as part of this.

The governance for decision making regarding regulated change to schools is as set out in the School Organisation Code and Cardiff is required to act in accordance with this. As part of this, proposals for change have consistently been brought for consideration by this Committee to support appropriate scrutiny of the issues and options proposed to resolve them. Timelines for each proposal are set out as required relevant to each proposal or set of proposals as appropriate. As discussed with the Committee, the Council will continue to develop detailed plans around funding and transport impacts.

Consistent with this all proposals requiring statutory consultation and/or large-scale public engagement will be brought before this Committee in order for officers and Cabinet in their role as the determining body to benefit from the experience and insight offered to shape options taken forward.

I trust this responds to the requests and recommendation made. Should you have any further points for clarification you are welcome to contact me.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Councillor / Cynghorydd Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader / Dirprwy Arweinydd
Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills
Aelod Cabinet Dros Addysg, Cyflogaeth a Sgiliau

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