



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

AGENDA

Pwyllgor PWYLLGOR CRAFFU PLANT A PHOBL IFANC

Dyddiad ac amser y cyfarfod DYDD LLUN, 14 TACHWEDD 2022, 5.00 PM

Lleoliad YB 4, NEUADD Y SIR, CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD

Aelodaeth Cynghorydd Lee Bridgeman (Cadeirydd)
Cynghorywr Boes, Davies, Ferguson-Thorne, Hopkins, Joyce,
Melbourne, Simmons a/ac Singh

Patricia Arlotte (Cynrychiolydd Gatholig Rufeinig), Carol Cobert
(Cynrychiolydd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru), Bridgid Corr (Cynrychiolydd
Rhiant-Lywodraethwr), a/ ac Celeste Lewis (Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-
Lywodraethwr)

*Tua
Amser.*

1 Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

5.00 pm

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

2 Datgan Buddiannau

I'w wneud ar ddechrau'r eitem agenda dan sylw, yn unol â Chod
Ymddygiad yr Aelodau.

3 Cofnodion (Tudalennau 3 - 10)

Cymeradwyo cofnodion y cyfarfodydd blaenorol fel rhai cywir:

- 5 Gorffennaf 2022
- 19 Hydref 2022 (i ddilyn)

**4 Cynllunio Trefniadaeth Ysgolion: Campws Fairwater a Datblygiad
Band B (Tudalennau 11 - 90)**

5.05 pm

Craffu cyn penderfynu

- 5 Covid19 - Adfer yn yr Ysgolion (Tudalennau 91 - 98)** 6.05 pm
Newyddion gan Aelodau
- 6 Eitemau Brys (os oes rhai)**
- 7 Y Ffordd Ymlaen** 7.05 pm
Adolygu'r dystiolaeth a'r wybodaeth a gasglwyd wrth ystyried pob eitem a chytuno ar sylwadau, arsylwadau a phryderon yr Aelodau i'w trosglwyddo i'r Aelod Cabinet perthnasol gan y Cadeirydd.
- 8 Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf**
Bydd cyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor ddydd Mawrth 13 Rhagfyr 2022 am 4.30 pm

Davina Fiore

Cyfarwyddwr, Llywodraethu a Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol

Dyddiad: Dydd Mawrth, 8 Tachwedd 2022

Cyswllt: Mandy Farnham, Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk,
02920 872618, Mandy.Farnham@caerdydd.gov.uk

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 JULY 2022

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),
Councillors Boes, Davies, Ferguson-Thorne, Hopkins, Joyce,
Simmons and Singh

Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative)
and Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative)

Mia John (Youth Council Representative)

1 : APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR, COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED:

To note that Council, at its Annual Meeting, on 26 May 2022:

- Appointed Councillor Lee Bridgeman as Chair of the Committee;
- Appointed Councillors Boes, Davies, Hopkins, Joyce, Lewis, Melbourne, Robinson and Singh; and
- Agreed the attached Terms of Reference

The Chair welcomed Councillors Ferguson-Thorne and Simmons to the Committee, who had been appointed by Council at its meeting on 30 June 2022.

2 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct.

3 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Melbourne and Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education.

4 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 1 and 8 March 2022 were approved as a correct record of these meetings and signed by the Chair.

5 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) - COMPLEX LEARNING NEEDS AND AUTISM SPECTRUM CONDITION PROVISION FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AGED PUPILS

The Chair welcomed Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director of School Organisation Planning), and Brett Andrewartha (School Organisation Programme Planning Manager) to the meeting.

Richard Portas (Programme Director of School Organisation Planning) provided Members with a statement outlining the background to the three reports/ papers being considered. Consultations have taken place, the results have been reported back and statutory notices have been issued. The report follows the objection period.

The Chair invited questions from Members:

- Members asked information as to whether it would be right to assume that, in strategic terms, the key drivers of the recommendations are projected future growth in need, the sufficiency of places to meet need, the location of those places across the city and efficiency savings, that's to say the potential to offset the additional costs from the growth in provision by reducing the spend on Out of County Places and in independent schools? Officers advised that as a result of the provision mapping exercise that has been carried out the indication is that the cost per pupil, both in and out of county and transport is likely to decrease. There is certainly an increase in need.
- Members asked for some insight into how the financial evaluations will be progressed and the timescale for that, and whether any modelling has taken place on the extent to which Out of County savings can be achieved and the implications if they do not materialise. Officers advised that an assessment has been carried out against the Out of County places that do exist; ultimately there are not places out there if we do not provide the provision being put in. All of the proposals brought forward will sit in the Education Asset Programme which covers condition, suitability and sufficiency. When bringing these proposals forward the most appropriate procurement route is considered.

It is difficult to provide an exact figure as to what might happen if we were heavily reliant in future on provision in the independent sector. The reality of it is that they are practically at capacity at this point; we can benchmark against the figures they charge the Local Authority at this point. If we relied on the independent sector the costs would be roughly a £50,000 per year per pupil increase.

Officers advised we would expect per pupil costs to decrease, but most likely there will be a reduction in escalated costs.

- Members asked for an update about the calibre of the available staff bearing in mind that there are a number of SRB's due to open in September and that whilst HR policy states that staff can be relocated and redeployed, surely that will not happen as it is such a specialist area? Members were advised that the question relates also the Emotional Health and Wellbeing report; work has been going on for the best part of 9 months, there are a number of teams working with

each of the schools individually. It has been necessary to look at it on a case-by-case basis when looking at each of the provisions that have been brought forward. A number of the proposals are already in place temporarily and the increases are being formalised now. Officers acknowledged that the ALN provision and the pressure on schools is across the board and in the future, there will be further expansions in due course. Whilst there are no difficulties envisaged for September, workforce development needs to continue to ensure that there is sufficient staffing going forward from there, that relates not only to teaching staff but also to support staff. There has to be support structures in place also.

- Members enquired about the work done with teacher training institutions to examine the scope for teachers of the future. Officers advised that the Council works very closely with institutions on ITT and WESP.
- Members asked about the number of ALN teachers needed and whether there was a requirement for ALN teachers to have Welsh language skills. Officers advised that the Council works with schools on a case-by-case basis. The Council is already looking to the future around how it can phase provision around Band B etc, and will continue to consider this as it works through the process. Regarding Welsh medium education, working groups and action plans will be set up in the next 6 months around the WESP. Workforce development outcomes are critical to ensure the success of WESP. There will be clear action plans to support schools and achieve the targets laid out in the strategy.
- Members asked why the cost of transport was projected to rise significantly more than the proportion of pupils. Officers advised that there were significant increases in the cost of fuel that were driving pressures on the system. There are also additional numbers of pupils that are also increasing pressure on costs.
- Members asked what car to pupil ratio the Council is aiming for taking into account Active Travel plans, or whether space would be made available for one car park space per pupil in all the schools considered. Officers advised that some pupils are brought into special schools by taxis and supported transport. This is factored into modelling. Staff and schools are expected to have Active Travel plans. Work is being done on improving awareness of One Planet Cardiff objectives and factoring them into the curriculum. A lot of work is needed on the One Planet Cardiff objectives but the Council is starting to put together the workstreams to improve behaviours, which helps reduce reliance on non-Active Travel means of transport. It is something that will continue to evolve over coming years.
- Members asked whether work had been done in relation to travel issues for pupils of Ty Gwyn, and how much impact the additional 40 places are expected to have. Officers advised that the additional pupils would be phased over a number of years with the first intake in

September. Work is progressing on car parking and drop-off and pick-up times, and improving routes in and out.

- Members pointed out that the cost of independent placements was in part due to their in-house multi-disciplinary teams and asked how confident the Council was that the existing Learning Disability teams could meet the needs, as they are already at capacity. Officers advised that the places are flagged in the system very early, and there are regular strategic meetings with Health to ensure support is factored in.
- Members asked whether the programme would be manageable given the number of schemes. Officers advised that the larger schemes were underway. Schemes have been designed and procured in parallel to papers going through because of the urgency of the proposals. Contingency measures are in place with each of the schools. A number of expansions have already happened.
- Members asked how the requirement for schools to devise their own Active Travel plans would correlate with children with Additional Learning Needs, and what schools would be expected to do to facilitate Active Travel for such pupils, recognising that for many of these pupils Active Travel is not a viable option. Would this be reflected in plans for infrastructure such as parking spaces? Officers advised that there is a higher ratio of parking spaces to pupils at special schools than mainstream schools. Officers work closely with Highways colleagues and are looking at addressing highways issues through the asset programme. The current proposals supplement work that is already ongoing. For a number of pupils it is not appropriate to consider Active Travel, and ways are being considered to reduce transport across the city by increasing local provision.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations captured during the way forward.

6 : SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) - EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING PROVISION FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AGED PUPILS

The Chair welcomed Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director of School Organisation Planning), and Brett Andrewartha (School Organisation Programme Planning Manager) to the meeting.

Richard Portas (Programme Director of School Organisation Planning) provided Members with a statement outlining the background to the papers provided. The proposals being brought forward are well-suited to ensure there is the right balance of provision within the city.

- Members asked whether the Plasdwr development was expected to

put further pressure on the sites, and how the plans interact with the LDP generally. Officers advised that the proposal was looking at emotional health and wellbeing and there was a further discussion to be had around strategically planning places around the city and how that linked with the LDP. It was factored in closely in relation to provision. The Council will be looking to bring forward balance in every catchment in relation to emotional health and wellbeing and complex needs. Currently need was concentrated in the east and west of the city. Officers advised that the yield of primary-age pupils from the new LDP sites is less than the fall in birth rate and drop in intake. The projected reduction in primary school intake from the 2015-2016 peak will be around 25%, or 1,000 pupils citywide per year group. The yield from the new housing developments is not expected to exceed 200-300 pupils per cohort.

- Members sought clarification on the references in the report to requests by Estyn for further details in relation to the Court proposal being on two sites, and noted that the governing body at Fairwater Primary School has also asked for more detail, and asked whether more detail would be provided at the design stage for the scheme. Officers advised that the design has been worked up in parallel and that initial sketches have been shared with Fairwater Primary School. A pre-planning consultation will be brought forward shortly, providing the proposals are approved.
- Members sought clarification on the financing of The Court proposal, referring to a statement in the report about capital receipts of £25 million. They requested information on how the figure had been derived, and how it fits alongside the Welsh Government grant of 75%, the 25% Invest to Save borrowing requirement, and how the School Organisation planned revenue reserve will be used. Officers advised that the £25 million was originally made up of land receipts from the existing Fitzalan, Woodlands and Riverbank sites. It was not expected that these would be realised in one go as the Programme needs to be delivered before any capital receipts can be realised. The £25 million Invest to Save is modelled within the Education Asset Programme and the disposals are factored into the reserve. The budget is in a balanced position.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations captured during the way forward.

7 : EXPANSION OF PENTYRCH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSERY PROVISION AT THE SCHOOL

The Chair welcomed Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director of School Organisation Planning), and Brett Andrewartha (School Organisation Programme Planning Manager) to the meeting.

Richard Portas (Programme Director of School Organisation Planning) provided Members with a statement outlining the background to the paper provided. The proposed expansion has been brought forward in the context of planning and pupil data. The Council is aware that pupil numbers will be reducing due to the birth rate, however fewer pupils are expected to travel outside the catchment as a result of the nursery provision. Objections have been raised in relation to parking and transport and from the local nursery.

- Members asked whether the Cardiff Influencers Programme would be utilised, and if so how they would ensure it was as representative as possible. Officers advised that it was doing so across the whole programme on issues of particular importance. The Council is looking toward bringing forward a long-term plan with a set of principles to support the SOP programme. Work is being done with a group of children and young people to bring them up to speed with matters relating to the programme. A number of stakeholders and businesses are supporting the work.
- Members asked whether officers were confident that surplus places were not being built into Pentyrch Primary School in the longer term. Officers advised that Pentyrch is a difficult village to travel in and out of using active modes of travel, nevertheless parents are choosing to do so to access nursery and primary school provision. Over time the new LDP schools will be brought forward and there will be a reduction in the number of surplus places in existing schools. The proposal will ensure that a full range of services including nursery and primary teaching and wraparound care will be available on one site.
- Members raised residents' concerns about parking and congestion at school drop off and pick up times, and asked whether the Council had explored the possibility of using land adjacent to the school for staff parking and parent drop off and pick up. Officers advised that expanding the school site had not been considered. It is expected that an Active Travel plan will be developed. Parking would also be considered with a major development.
- Members observed that having an Active Travel plan in place would not necessarily stop parents driving to the school, particularly those living in outlying areas. They asked whether S.106 money could be spent on a solution to parking issues. Officers advised that Highways was looking at a Park and Stride in the area. Members were advised that the Council is able to seek S.106 funds in accordance with its published LDP and Infrastructure Plan and supplementary planning guidance. Under the education planning guidance S.106 funds can be claimed where the Council can demonstrate there is a need for additional places. In this case the money is ring-fenced to provide the 70 additional places and comes directly from the Goytre Bach housing development.
- Members asked how crucial the S.106 monies are to the expansion in places at Pentyrch, how guaranteed they are and what might be the implications if they did not materialise. Officers advised that the

monies had already been received.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations captured during the way forward.

8 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were tabled.

9 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairman agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

10 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting is to be confirmed after the meeting of Council on 21 July 2022.

The meeting terminated at 5.45 pm

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2022

FAIRWATER CAMPUS BAND B REDEVELOPMENT

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 17 November 2022.
2. *Members are requested to note that Appendix 2 to the Cabinet Report is exempt from publication on the basis that it contains information of the description set out in paragraphs 14 and 21 of Part 4 of schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and is exempt from disclosure as it contains information pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Local Government Act 1972*

Structure of Papers

3. Attached to this report are the following:
 - **Appendix A** – the draft Report to Cabinet – 17 November 2022. This in turn has a number appendices, namely;
 - **Appendix 1** – WG approval letter 2020
 - **Appendix 2** – **Confidential** Fairwater Campus Update
 - **Appendix 3** – Equalities Impact Analysis

School Organisation Planning Task & Finish Group recommendation

4. As Members will be aware, a SOP Task & Finish Group has been established to consider many of the SOP Items that are scheduled to be considered during 2022/23.
5. The proposal on the Fairwater Campus was considered by the Task & Finish Group on the 8th November 2022, where Members met with the Cabinet Member and a number of Senior Officers to consider the contents of the proposal, which will be considered by Cabinet on the 17th November 2022.
6. The Task & Finish Group recommended that, given the scale of this proposal, it should be escalated to be considered as a pre-decision item by the whole committee. The Cabinet Member and Officers agreed with this suggestion, and the agenda adjusted accordingly to accommodate this Item.

Background to the Proposal

7. At its meeting on 12 October 2017, the Cabinet received a report on the development of the education estate in Cardiff. The report set out the Council's proposed vision for its Band B 21st Century School (now named Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme) strategy to address the most acute sufficiency and condition issues in Cardiff. All properties across the school estate were given a rating from A to D for the following issues, with D being the worst category:
 - Sufficiency of places available;
 - Condition of the school buildings; and
 - Suitability of the environment for teaching.
8. To address the eight form of entry sufficiency requirement that was estimated to be required, schemes affecting five English medium schools were proposed. In addition, priority schemes for Band B included an approach to the development of provision for learners with Additional

Learning Needs (ALN) through the development and expansion of provision in Cardiff schools. At its meeting on 14 December 2017 Cabinet approved the prioritised schemes under Band B.

9. One of the flagship capital projects for the Council is Fairwater Community Campus that brings together Cantonian High School, Woodlands School and Riverbank School. At its meeting on 13 June 2019 the Cabinet agreed the publication of statutory notices to:

- Increase the capacity of Cantonian High from 6 forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form provision for up to 250 pupils in new build accommodation;
- Expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), hosted at Cantonian High School from 20 to 30 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
- Transfer Woodlands Special School to Cantonian's existing site and increase the capacity from 140 places to 240 places in new build accommodation; and
- Transfer Riverbank Special School to Cantonian's existing site and increase the capacity from 70 to 112 places in new build accommodation.

10. The statutory notices were published on 28 June 2019 with one objection received by the statutory notices closing date. The Council published the objection report on 21 August 2019.

11. As the proposals affected sixth form provision, they required the approval of the Welsh Ministers. A copy of the statutory objection and the objection report were submitted to the Welsh Ministers for determination of the proposal on 28 August 2019.

12. In a letter dated 21 July 2020, the Welsh Government advised that the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams had decided to approval the proposals. ***(A copy of the letter can be seen at Appendix 1).***

13. The Minister has approved the proposal on the basis that it was likely to maintain at least equivalent outcomes and offer provisions at least equivalent to that which is currently available to learners at the schools. In addition, she stated the proposal would:

- Provide new school buildings, removing reliance on temporary classrooms, offering an improved learning environment and accommodation with 21st Century facilities;
- Contribute to the effective funding of education;
- Increase the number of English medium secondary school places and contribute towards meeting projected demand for places; and
- Increase the number of places in special schools for learners aged 4-19 with complex additional learning needs and autistic spectrum conditions and contribute towards meeting projected demand for places.

14. The Minister noted that the local authority proposed to implement these proposals on 1 September 2023. The Council must inform the Schools Management and Effectiveness Division, Education and Public Services Groups within the Welsh Government when the proposal has been implemented.

15. At its meeting of 17 September 2020 Cabinet noted the approval of the proposal by the Welsh Minister and delegated authority to the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Education, Employment & Skills and Finance, Modernisation & Performance, the Director of Governance and Legal Services, and the Corporate Director for Resources) to determine all aspects of the procurement process (including for the avoidance of doubt development of all procurement documentation and selection and award criteria, commencement of procurement through to award of contracts) for the new build schools.

Further Information Highlighted in the Cabinet Report

16. The Cabinet Report attached at **Appendix A** is set out as follows:

- Proposed New Build Campus – paragraphs 12 – 13
- Progress to Date – paragraphs 14 – 16
- Issues – paragraphs 17 – 21
- Sufficiency of mainstream secondary school places city-wide - paragraphs 22 – 27
- Cantonian High School – mainstream places – paragraphs 28 – 36
- Sufficiency of Complex Learning Needs (CLN) and Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) – paragraph 37
- Riverbank Special School – sufficiency of places for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs and/ or Autism Spectrum Condition – paragraphs 38 – 42
- Woodlands High School – sufficiency of places for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs and/ or Autism Spectrum Condition – paragraphs 43 – 47
- Suitability and Condition – paragraphs 48 – 50
- Interim Arrangements – paragraphs 51 – 56

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

- Financial Implications – paragraphs 57 – 61
- Legal Implications – paragraph 62 – 72 and ***Confidential*** Appendix 2
- Human Resources Implications – paragraphs 73 – 76
- Property Implications - paragraphs 77 – 79
- Highways and Transport Implications - paragraphs 80 – 92
- Equality Impact Assessment - *Appendix 3 to the Cabinet Report*

Reason for Recommendations

18. The Cabinet Report states that this proposal provides good value for money as it addresses the long-term sufficiency, condition and suitability needs and presents the lowest risk to the capital programme. The project would deliver a flagship 21st Century education campus that will transform the education opportunities in the local area.

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

19. Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Authorise the total funds required as this stage from the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme, subject to Ministerial approval of the Final Business Case, to enable commencement of the enabling works required to progress the Fairwater Community Campus.
- (ii) Note the commitment required for the early works orders to progress the project at risk ahead of entering into contract.

Scope of Scrutiny

20. 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 17 November 2022.

Way Forward

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

- 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)
- Michele Duddridge-Friedl (Operational Manager: School Organisation Programme Strategy)
- Brett Andrewartha (School Organisation Programme Planning Manager)
- Jennie Hughes (Senior Achievement Leader Inclusion, E&LL)
- Mian Saleem (Operational Manager, Capital Delivery, Economic Development)

22. 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

23. 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

24. 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, 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

8 November 2022

BY SUBMITTING THIS REPORT TO THE CABINET OFFICE, I, MELANIE GODFREY, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, AM CONFIRMING THAT THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER(S) ARE BRIEFED ON THIS REPORT

Appendix A

**CARDIFF COUNCIL
CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

CABINET MEETING: 17 November 2022

**REPORT TITLE: FAIRWATER CAMPUS BAND B
REDEVELOPMENT**

**CABINET PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION, CLLR SARAH MERRY
AGENDA ITEM:**

Appendix 2 to this report is exempt from publication on the basis that it contains information of the description set out in paragraphs 14 and 21 of Part 4 of schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and is exempt from disclosure as it contains information pursuant to paragraph 16 of the Local Government Act 1972

Reasons for this Report

1. To request Cabinet to authorise the total funds required as this stage from the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme, subject to Ministerial approval of the Final Business Case, to enable commencement of the enabling works required to progress the Fairwater Community Campus.
2. To note the early works orders required to progress the project at risk ahead of entering into contract for the enabling works.

Background

3. At its meeting on 12 October 2017, the Cabinet received a report on the development of the education estate in Cardiff. The report set out the Council's proposed vision for its Band B 21st Century School (now named Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme) strategy to address the most acute sufficiency and condition issues in Cardiff. All properties across the school estate were given a rating from A to D for the following issues, with D being the worst category:
 - Sufficiency of places available;
 - Condition of the school buildings; and
 - Suitability of the environment for teaching.
4. To address the eight form of entry sufficiency requirement that was estimated to be required, schemes affecting five English medium schools were proposed. In addition, priority schemes for Band B included an approach to the development of provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) through the development and expansion of provision in Cardiff schools. At its meeting on 14 December 2017 Cabinet approved the prioritised schemes under Band B.
5. One of the flagship capital projects for the Council is Fairwater Community Campus that brings together Cantonian High School, Woodlands School and Riverbank School. At its meeting on 13 June 2019 the Cabinet agreed the publication of statutory notices to:
 - Increase the capacity of Cantonian High from 6 forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form provision for up to 250 pupils in new build accommodation;
 - Expand the Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), hosted at Cantonian High School from 20 to 30 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
 - Transfer Woodlands Special School to Cantonian's existing site and increase the capacity from 140 places to 240 places in new build accommodation; and
 - Transfer Riverbank Special School to Cantonian's existing site and increase the capacity from 70 to 112 places in new build accommodation.
6. The statutory notices were published on 28 June 2019 with one objection received by the statutory notices closing date. The Council published the objection report on 21 August 2019.
7. As the proposals affected sixth form provision, they required the approval of the Welsh Ministers. A copy of the statutory objection and the

objection report were submitted to the Welsh Ministers for determination of the proposal on 28 August 2019.

8. In a letter dated 21 July 2020, the Welsh Government advised that the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams had decided to approval the proposals. (A copy of the letter can be seen at Appendix 1).
9. The Minister has approved the proposal on the basis that it was likely to maintain at least equivalent outcomes and offer provisions at least equivalent to that which is currently available to learners at the schools. In addition, she stated the proposal would:
 - Provide new school buildings, removing reliance on temporary classrooms, offering an improved learning environment and accommodation with 21st Century facilities;
 - Contribute to the effective funding of education;
 - Increase the number of English medium secondary school places and contribute towards meeting projected demand for places; and
 - Increase the number of places in special schools for learners aged 4-19 with complex additional learning needs and autistic spectrum conditions and contribute towards meeting projected demand for places.
10. The Minister noted that the local authority proposed to implement these proposals on 1 September 2023. The Council must inform the Schools Management and Effectiveness Division, Education and Public Services Groups within the Welsh Government when the proposal has been implemented.
11. At its meeting of 17 September 2020 Cabinet noted the approval of the proposal by the Welsh Minister and delegated authority to the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Education, Employment & Skills and Finance, Modernisation & Performance, the Director of Governance and Legal Services, and the Corporate Director for Resources) to determine all aspects of the procurement process (including for the avoidance of doubt development of all procurement documentation and selection and award criteria, commencement of procurement through to award of contracts) for the new build schools.

Proposed New Build Campus

12. The proposed Fairwater Community Campus will provide 21st Century educational facilities in new build schools. Pupils will have access to high-quality learning environments to support and enhance teaching and learning.

13. The new build schools would be situated on the existing site of Cantonian High School. The new build schools will have easy access to high quality new sport facilities that would be for sole school use during term time but available to the community outside of these times, including:
- A floodlit 3G rugby pitch utilising existing WRU engagement officer links to streamline and coordinate the use between the school and the community;
 - A Sports and Wellbeing centre which would be a standalone building housing a full four court sports hall with viewing gallery, an activity studio, a gym and an accessible climbing wall; and
 - Multi-use games areas.
13. The campus will be a true community investment and as well as the facilities listed above, there will be several other spaces that will at times be available to the community and wider stakeholders which could add value to the educational experiences as well as supporting the local and wider community groups. These include:
- External play area to promote occupational therapy experiences for pupils with additional learning needs. These spaces would have high use during school hours but could be extended to community groups and therapy sessions beyond school hours.
 - Community cafés within the campus.
 - A multi-agency hub which will allow a range of professionals to come together for meetings, therapy and treatment work.
 - A showcase space which will be a community space where the aspiration is for artists in residence to work alongside community groups and pupils.

Progress to Date

14. The Council has developed a collaborative vision for the campus, design detail for the project and tender documentation. Tenders were received on the 20 October 2021 and the preferred bidder, ISG Construction Ltd, was selected on the 16 December 2021. ISG Construction Ltd were then awarded the Professional Services Contract (PSC) in March 2022.
15. The design has now progressed for the main and enabling works elements of the project. The enabling works has completed the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process and submission of the planning application was made on 12 August 2022. The Council is looking to enter into contract for the enabling works.

16. Subject to all necessary approvals it is planned for temporary accommodation to be available for Cantonian High School from September 2023.

Issues

17. Since the appointment of ISG Construction Ltd the project design has progressed, but there have been a number of budgetary pressures that resulted in cost increases. The reasons for the cost increases include:
- Inflation increases; and
 - Design development.
18. Some of the scope and design changes to the enabling works include:
- Changes to building configuration;
 - Additional hard landscaping and paths;
 - Revised site access and parking arrangements; and
 - Additional Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB) provisions.
19. Full details can be found in the **Confidential Appendix 2**. The Council has considered a range of delivery options in presenting this paper and the changes in the proposal have been fully market tested.
20. In addition, early orders need to be placed with the contractor to enable the project to progress without delay and additional cost or risk to the project. If the enabling works contract doesn't proceed, any costs agreed on the early orders may be abortive.
21. The changes will apply additional pressure on the Council's Band B Programme.

Sufficiency of mainstream secondary school places city-wide

22. Following a period of growth within the primary sector, there has been an increased demand for places at entry to secondary education city wide in the past seven years. City-wide projections indicate that the demand for places in the English-medium secondary sector will further increase during the period of the Band B investment programme.
23. The most recent citywide school census data from February 2022 confirms that the number of pupils in the year 5 and year 6 cohorts in English-medium primary schools marginally exceed the combined Published Admission Numbers of 3,565 places at entry to English-medium secondary schools, while the number of pupils in year groups 1 to 4 remain at high levels.
24. City-wide, peak intakes at entry to English-medium secondary schools of c3,600 is projected for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 and planned temporary

arrangements are in place to provide sufficient places and a sustainable level of surplus places in these year groups.

25. Intakes of c3,400 pupils to English-medium secondary school are projected from 2024/2025 until 2027/2028, reducing to c3,100 pupils in 2028/2029 and then falling year on year. A significant reduction in pupils entering secondary education city-wide, from existing housing, is projected from 2028/ 2029.
26. However, it is anticipated that, as a result of the yield of pupils from the new housing developments, additional school provision will be required to provide English-medium and Welsh-medium school places local to the new housing in some parts of Cardiff. In North-west Cardiff, sufficient capacity will be required to meet the additional demand for places arising from the LDP Strategic sites housing developments at Plasdwr, near Junction 33 and South of Creigiau.
27. Birth rate and population data currently available indicates a cyclic pattern in Cardiff, and nationally. Whilst school reorganisation proposals must be appropriate for projected pupil populations, an appropriate level of surplus capacity should be available to respond to population changes.

Cantonian High School – mainstream places

28. The published capacity of Cantonian High School allows for an Admission Number of 181 places (6 forms of entry) at entry to Year 7 and 70 at entry to the sixth form and 181 at entry to Year 7.
29. Many families resident within the catchment area of Cantonian High School have, in recent years while secondary school places were at a higher level city-wide, stated a preference for admission to Radyr Comprehensive school at entry to Year 7, and have gained admission. In 2020, 198 pupils from the Cantonian High School catchment area were enrolled at Radyr Comprehensive School, including 40 pupils in Year 7. In 2022, this had reduced to 153, including 11 pupils in Year 7. The number of pupils able to gain admission to Radyr Comprehensive School from outside of its catchment area is falling.
30. In future years the housing development in North West Cardiff will increase the local pupil population and combined with population changes within the existing Radyr Comprehensive School catchment area, will reduce the level of surplus at Radyr Comprehensive School. Fewer children from the Cantonian High School catchment area will gain admission to the school and will therefore require a place at their catchment area school, Cantonian High School.
31. The number of pupils enrolling in year 7 city wide has increased significantly in recent years. In 2021/22 and 2022/23, the Council allocated pupils to all 181 places and expects to do so in coming years,

prior to the completion of new build facilities. The areas from which Cantonian High School admits pupils will change in future years as new housing is developed.

32. The projected yield of pupils from the Plasdwr and Junction 33 developments of >6,500 dwellings in North West Cardiff is significant. These developments lie within the catchment areas of Cantonian High School and Radyr Comprehensive School and are expected to yield up to 5FE by 2030 and up to 10FE overall by their completion. Whilst new secondary school provision is planned within the Plasdwr development, this is not expected to be completed before 2030.
33. Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plans seeks up to 50% of new provision through the medium of Welsh on LDP strategic sites. Assuming a take up of English-medium places at 50 - 70% in this period, as some children would take up places in existing English-medium primary provision, it is anticipated that Cantonian High School and Radyr Comprehensive School will have no surplus in existing accommodation during the period 2025-2030.
34. These forecasts take account of the projected demand for places from existing housing, yields per year groups from planned housing, and the recent patterns of take up. Similar to the most recent admissions data for entry in September 2022, forecasts for West Cardiff indicate that all secondary schools will be fully subscribed, including Cantonian High School, Cardiff West Community High School, Fitzalan High School, Radyr Comprehensive School, Mary Immaculate RC High School, The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School.
35. The Council plans to meet demand by temporarily increasing intakes to a number of schools utilising existing accommodation wherever possible; however temporary accommodation will also be necessary. In order to ensure sufficient places within a reasonable distance of home addresses, intakes to Cantonian High School are planned to increase from 6FE to 7FE in September 2023, ahead of the permanent expansion to 8FE when works are complete. Intakes to Radyr Comprehensive School were permanently increased to 8FE from September 2022.
36. Whilst alternative schools may be also be able to accommodate additional pupils in coming years, additional accommodation would be required on those sites to do. Such measures would not provide an efficient and effective use of resources and would not be sustainable in the longer term, as the temporary accommodation and staffing for additional pupils would be required for a longer temporary period beyond 2026. Expanding other schools temporarily would also inhibit the growth of Cantonian High School and would limit the school's ability to provide the full breadth and depth of curriculum options that a larger school can sustain.

Sufficiency of Complex Learning Needs (CLN) and Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)

37. At its meeting on the 14 October 2021 the Cabinet considered a report which outlined the increase in the number of children in Cardiff requiring specialist placement as a result of their learning disabilities over the last 5 years. The Council proceeded to consult on a range of proposals to strategically extend and realign special school and Specialist Resource Bases for learners with Complex Needs and Autism needs in the primary and secondary age phase. These proposals were determined by the Cabinet at meetings on 15 July 2022 and 17 September 2022, and by the Governing Body of Whitchurch High School in September 2022.

Riverbank Special School – sufficiency of places for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs and/ or Autism Spectrum Condition

38. In 2020/21 the number of designated places for primary age learners in specialist provision for learners with Complex Learning Needs and/ or Autism Spectrum Condition totalled 413 places.
39. Projects previously agreed by Welsh Government and by Cabinet, to rebuild Riverbank Special School and increase the number of places from 70 to 112, and to phase the establishment of a Specialist Resource Base at Ysgol Pwll Coch, would increase the total by 52 to 465 designated places.
40. The Council determined proposals in 2022 to increase the number of primary age places for children with complex learning needs or autism by a further 150 places, and 21 primary age places within provision for learners aged 3-19. This increase of c171 places for primary age learners would take total number of places available within Cardiff to 636 designated places.
41. Taking account of all children requiring such a placement, including those placed out of county, and in mainstream awaiting specialist placement, the true demand for places was estimated to be circa 500 in 2020/2021, rising to 547 by 2025/2026. Allowing for a 10% surplus to support flexibility, capacity was required for 550 pupils in 2020/2021, and 602 pupils by 2025/2026. However, projections which take account of previous assessed needs and trends within a relatively small population may underestimate the level of growth, and the take up of places exceeded projections in 2021/ 2022.
42. The replacement of, and expansion of, Riverbank Special School remains necessary to meet the projected need for places.

Woodlands High School – sufficiency of places for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs and/ or Autism Spectrum Condition

43. In 2020/21 the number of designated places for secondary age learners in specialist provision for learners with Complex Learning Needs and/ or Autism Spectrum Condition totalled 461 places.
44. Projects previously agreed by Welsh Government and Cabinet, to rebuild Woodlands High School and increase the number of places at the school from 140 to 240 places, would increase the total from 461 places to 561 places by 2023/24.
45. The Council determined proposals to increase the number of secondary age places for children with complex learning needs or autism by a further 139 places, and c21 secondary age places within provision for learners aged 3-19. The total number of places available within Cardiff, for secondary age learners, would be circa 721 places.
46. Taking account of all children requiring such a placement, including those placed out of county, and in mainstream awaiting specialist placement, the true demand for places was estimated to be circa 580 in 2020/2021, rising to 629 by 2025/2026. Allowing for a 10% surplus to support flexibility, capacity was required for 638 pupils in 2020/2021, and 692 pupils by 2025/2026. However, projections which take account of previous assessed needs and trends within a relatively small population may underestimate the level of growth, and the take up of places exceeded projections in 2021/2022.
47. The replacement of, and expansion of, Woodlands High School remains necessary to meet the projected need for places.

Suitability and condition

48. Cardiff has a vast education estate, with over 128 school properties. Many sites comprise of multiple blocks, constructed during different decades and large areas of the estate were in urgent need of upgrade. As a result of the poor condition, the Council was required to temporarily close parts of Cantonian High School in 2016, and Willows High School, Michaelston College and Fitzalan High School in 2017, to undertake urgent upgrade work.
49. When areas of Cantonian High School were closed in 2016 due to electrical issues, this resulted in temporary accommodation being provided.
50. Refurbishment of the current buildings have been discounted as in the most recent property surveys, by Faithful and Gould, Cantonian was rated as Condition D (End of life) with a C rating for suitability with Woodlands and Riverbank rated as Condition C and a D rating for suitability. The combined maintenance total for all three schools is £7,632,065. The

Council has been working closely with the schools to address issues of suitability and condition and critical works have been identified to take place in the short term to maintain suitable environments.

Interim Arrangements

51. In order to ensure the provision of sufficient suitable mainstream places and Additional Learning Needs places in the interim a range of temporary measures are being implemented.
52. The Council has notified Welsh Government of the necessary changes to the building programme, and interim arrangements as follows:
 - intakes to Cantonian High School to increase from 6 forms of entry (180 pupils per year group) to 7 forms of entry (210 pupils), from September 2023, ahead of the permanent expansion to 8 forms of entry when works are complete in 2025/2026;
 - the capacity of Woodlands High School to increase from 140 places to 180 places in September 2023, ahead of the permanent expansion to 240 places when works are complete and the school transfers to its new build accommodation on the Fairwater Campus site; the additional places to be provided through the use of new temporary accommodation on the existing school site;
 - the capacity of Riverbank Special School to increase from 70 places to 78 places in September 2023, ahead of the permanent expansion to 112 places when works are complete and the school transfers to its new build accommodation on the Fairwater Campus site; the additional places to be provided through the use of new temporary accommodation on the existing school site.
53. The designated number of places at the Cantonian High School Special Resource Base would increase from 20 places to 30 places in September 2023 as per the Welsh Government approved proposal.
54. The Council has also:
 - brought forward an increase in the number of places at entry to Radyr Comprehensive School, from 7 forms of entry (210 pupils per year group) to 8 forms of entry (240 pupils), from September 2022;
 - agreed to support the expansion of the Special Resource Base for secondary age learners with Complex Learning Needs by 30 places, at Whitchurch High School from September 2022;

- established a Special Resource Base of 30 places, for secondary age learners with Complex Learning Needs, at Willows High School from September 2023;
 - resumed the existing Special Resource Base of 20 places at Windsor Clive Primary School for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs, from September 2022;
 - approved the expansion of the Special Resource Base for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs by 10 places, at Marlborough Primary School, from September 2022;
 - approved the expansion of the Special Resource Base for primary age learners with Complex Learning Needs by 10 places, at Llanishen Fach Primary School, from September 2022.
55. Whilst it was not intended that Cantonian High School, Woodlands High School and Riverbank Special School would admit pupils to their full capacity in 2023/2024, the above arrangements will ensure the provision of sufficient, suitable classroom and ancillary accommodation for pupils who may otherwise have enrolled at Cantonian High School or would have required a specialist primary or secondary age placement for complex learning needs during the transition period between 2023/2024 and 2025/2026.
56. The Council will seek Ministerial approval for the phased transition arrangements through the Final Business Case (FBC) approval processes.

Financial Implications

57. This report provides an update on the current position in relation to the Fairwater Community Campus project. The specific financial implications relating to ongoing or future schemes have been outlined in the relevant Confidential Appendices. These financial implications provide an overview of the current financial position of the programme and any significant risks that need consideration.
58. The outline 21st Century Schools Band B Programme was approved by Cabinet in December 2017. At that time the overall value of the programme amounted to £284 million, including the Fairwater Campus scheme. The Welsh Government (WG) have since approved the Outline Business Case (OBC), which detailed an overall cost estimate of £98.565 million. A Full Business Case approval is required before Cardiff Council can claim the 70% WG match funding. This match funding is a blended rate between High School (65%) and Special School (75%) intervention rates.

59. The Councils' match funded element of the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme will be funded from external borrowing, the repayment of which will be funded via the SOP Revenue Reserve. In addition, the programme will be supplemented with £25m of funding via capital receipts. There is a significant risk regarding capital receipts in terms of both the value and timing of receipts being delivered. Any delay in the realisation, or reduction in value, of receipts will have a negative financial impact upon the programme, as additional borrowing will need to be undertaken which, in turn, will increase the pressure upon the SOP Revenue Reserve.
60. The project is affordable within the current Band B cost envelope and projects are being phased as part of the Council's cost affordability controls. There is a continued risk in the overall cost of individual schemes increasing further, either because of design development, unforeseen cost/ changes, or the general impact of inflation. There is a need for robust contract management to ensure that all cost limitation opportunities / mitigations are taken to keep the costs of this scheme to a level that is manageable and does not severely impact on the deliverability of the Programme as a whole going forward. Any further cost pressures on top of the current cost pressures will place strain upon the overall affordability of the programme and will require a review and reprioritisation of schemes to take place, should the original programme not remain affordable. Of particular importance going forward is to monitor the impact of the climate change considerations and the impact that sustainability requirements may have upon the scope of schemes.
61. In addition to the above costs, any delays to this process could incur additional ALN out of country costs, which have been estimated to be in the region of c£5.5m per annum.

Legal Implications

62. Please see exempt legal implications set out in Confidential appendix 2.

Equality Duty

63. The Council has to satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties) – the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED). These duties require the Council to 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'. The '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.

Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

64. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and is globally responsible.
65. In discharging its duties under the Act, the Council has set and published well-being objectives designed to maximise its contribution to achieving the national well-being goals. The well-being objectives are set out in Cardiff's Corporate Plan 2022-2025. When exercising its functions, the Council is required to take all reasonable steps to meet its well-being objectives. This means that the decision makers should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the well-being objectives and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those objectives.
66. The well-being duty also requires the Council to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Council to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, the Council must:
- Look to the long term;
 - Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems;
 - Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals;
 - Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions; and
 - Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them.
67. The decision maker must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above; and due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below: <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang=en>

School Organisation Implications

68. Although this report seeks authorisation to proceed with the enabling works required to implement this proposal, it should also be noted that this report indicates a delay to the relevant implementation date of 1 September 2023.
69. Under the School Organisation Code and School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 proposals, such as these, which received

approval by the Welsh Ministers under section 50 of the 2013 Act must only be delayed with the agreement of the Welsh Ministers. An application for a delay of this kind must be made in writing with the reasons clearly set out. This report advises that this agreement has been sought but is outstanding.

70. If this agreement is provided, the notification of the delay must be given to relevant parties including the Welsh Ministers, Estyn, the governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff of any affected school, as appropriate, within seven days of it being made. This notification must set out the reasons for the determination to delay.

General

71. The decision maker should be satisfied that the procurement is in accordance within the financial and budgetary policy and represents value for money for the council.
72. The decision maker should also have regard to, when making its decision, to the Council's wider obligations under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

Human Resources implications

73. The increase in pupil numbers for each of the three schools will require the Governing Bodies of Cantonian High School and the Western Learning Federation to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for their respective expansions and transitions to new build schools to ensure their staffing structures are appropriate. The Governing Bodies will be encouraged to undertake this work in line with the SOP HR Framework.
74. HR People Services will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes. Where the Governing Bodies have adopted the Council's School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy, any new vacancies arising as a consequence of an increase in numbers on the role will provide opportunities for school-based staff on the school redeployment register.
75. The relocation of Riverbank and Woodlands special schools will require high levels of staff and trade union consultation; clear communication plans regarding the arrangements for the transition from one school site to another; in addition to staff involvement in the development of building specifications or designs.
76. There may also be HR implications arising from the potential for the three schools to be co-located on one school site, for example, governance arrangements for shared service contracts such as cleaning, estates

management and community use arrangements. The full implications of this will need to be assessed as the project progresses, and the Governing Bodies will need to ensure full consultation with staff and trade union colleagues.

Property Implications

77. The Strategic Estates Department (SED) have been engaged with Education colleagues in the due diligence around the existing Cantonian site. In particular, concerns were raised around the unauthorised nature of access onto the school grounds out of school hours and the need to secure the site from a health and safety perspective for the enabling works, construction and future school boundary treatment.
78. SED will support Education on any other land related matters that may arise and any Licences that may need to be granted for any temporary uses.
79. The Woodlands and Riverbank sites are yet to be declared surplus and SED will continue to support Education on any future requirements for these two land assets, following relocation of the schools to the Fairwater Campus.

Highways and Transport Implications

80. Travel to school creates considerable pressure on Cardiff's transport network. 30% of all car-based trips during the morning peak are journeys to school. There are around 40,000 car trips to school each day in Cardiff.
81. Yet, journeys to school are often very short: 75% of journeys to education are within 3km of people's homes. More of these journeys could be made by active modes if all schools are well connected to their catchment areas by safe and convenient active travel routes.
82. The Transport White Paper includes the commitment to "Develop Active Travel Plans and accessible walking and cycling routes for all schools by working with children, teachers, parents and governors to promote walking, scooting and cycling to and from schools".
83. The new school developments being brought forward as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools programme provide the opportunity to deliver on this commitment by ensuring that active travel infrastructure is properly planned and provided as an essential and integral element of the scheme design.
84. The transport team has had early involvement in the project to ensure that appropriate facilities to support sustainable travel are considered at the outset and incorporated into the site master plan. Transport team input

has continued as the temporary school proposals have emerged and developed.

85. A Transport Assessment (TA) was undertaken to assess the traffic impacts and identify off-site infrastructure required to accommodate the development and facilitate sustainable access to the development in a way which accords with national planning policies in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11, 2021) and the Council's Local Development Plan.
86. A revised Transport Assessment was completed for the temporary school which is also subject to the Parking Standards (contained within the Council's 2018 "Managing Transport Impacts Supplementary Planning Guidance"). This sets out the required provision for minimum levels of cycle storage equivalent to one cycle space per 5 secondary school pupils. The maximum car parking allocations represent a reduction in parking provision. Both allocations are based on the 7FE proposed capacity of the temporary school. This will accommodate and encourage increased use of Active Travel options from the outset of the opening of the temporary school and emphasise the importance of providing safe active travel facilities in the vicinity of the school from September 2023.
87. The TA has identified the on-site and off-site infrastructure to maximise access by sustainable modes, including provision to prioritise active journeys to school, cycle facilities, crossings, speed reduction measures as well as necessary works associated with required vehicular access onto the site including Learner Transport. Parking on street near the school will be discouraged through the introduction of appropriate parking restrictions.
88. Consequently, the Council will be proposing school safety measures and other highway improvements in the vicinity of the school site, to be in place by the time of the opening of the proposed temporary school in September 2023. The design of identified measures is being progressed to suit the proposals for both the temporary school and the permanent Fairwater Campus development.
89. These proposals have already been subject to informal engagement during the July 2022 public exhibition events for the temporary school development proposal, where Transport officers were in attendance to respond to queries and comments related to travel and transport. Views have been noted, considered, and incorporated into emerging highway improvement proposals as appropriate.
90. Transport proposals for the highway improvement works will be part of a formal consultation process in the coming weeks and months.

91. The Council's Active Travel Schools and Road Safety Teams will play an important role in inculcating and supporting sustainable and active travel to the new school building from the day it opens.
92. Linked to this will be the National Standards Cycle Training delivered by the Council's Road Safety Team which will help ensure pupils entering the new school are equipped with the cycling skills they need.

Reason for Recommendations

93. This proposal provides good value for money as it addresses the long-term sufficiency, condition and suitability needs and presents the lowest risk to the capital programme. The project would deliver a flagship 21st Century education campus that will transform the education opportunities in the local area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Authorise the total funds required as this stage from the Council's Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme, subject to Ministerial approval of the Final Business Case, to enable commencement of the enabling works required to progress the Fairwater Community Campus.
- (ii) Note the commitment required for the early works orders to progress the project at risk ahead of entering into contract.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER | Melanie Godfrey, Director for Education and Lifelong Learning |
| | Date submitted to Cabinet office |

The following appendices are attached:

- Appendix 1 – WG approval letter 2020
- Appendix 2 – Confidential Fairwater Campus Update
- Appendix 3 – Equalities Impact Analysis

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol



Nick Batchelar
Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
Cardiff County Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-KW-3408/19

Dear Mr Batchelar

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013 - PROPOSALS TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF CANTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL, TRANSFER RIVERBANK SPECIAL SCHOOL AND WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL TO THE CANTONIAN SITE AND INCREASE THEIR CAPACITIES

1. Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education, one of the Welsh Ministers, has considered Cardiff County Council's proposals to increase the capacity of Cantonian High School, transfer Woodland High School and Riverbank Special School to the Cantonian site and increase their capacities with effect from 1 September 2023.
2. Proposals to make a regulated alteration published under section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ('the 2013 Act'), the effect of which would increase or decrease sixth form provision, require the approval of Welsh Ministers under section 50 of the 2013 Act. The Minister notes that both the Cantonian and Woodland proposals are to make a regulated alteration which would have the effect of increasing sixth form provision.
3. Under section 52 of the 2013 Act proposers must send to the Welsh Ministers any proposals they consider to be related to those which require approval under section 50 of the Act. The Minister notes that the local authority considers the Riverbank proposal is related to the Cantonian proposal because if the Cantonian proposal was not approved the local authority would need to consider alternative options to meet current and future demand for places. She also notes that all three proposals form part of a single 21st Century Schools funding bid and were the subject of a joint consultation. The Minister therefore agrees that the Riverbank proposal is related to the Cantonian proposal and requires her approval under section 50 of the 2013 Act.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

4. Where a proposal requires their consideration the Welsh Ministers may reject the proposal, approve the proposal, or after obtaining the consent of the proposer and consulting with the school governing body approve the proposal with modification.
5. I am directed by the Minister to say that she has considered the consultation document, the consultation report, the objection, objection report and additional information provided by the local authority for the purposes of consideration of the relevant factors set out in the Code. In exercise of her powers under section 50 of the 2013 Act the Minister has decided to approve the proposals.
6. The Welsh Ministers exercise their school reorganisation functions in accordance with the 2013 Act and the School Organisation Code ('the Code'). As the consultation on this proposal was published on 4 February 2019 it must be published and determined in accordance with the second edition of the Code.
7. The relevant factors of the Code relating to these proposals are sections 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.10 and 1.14. These are set out below and are followed by an analysis of the extent that the Minister considers these factors have been complied with in relation to this proposal. Where appropriate, the extent to which proposals have/have not satisfied the factors is judged with reference to the objections raised and the local authority's response thereto.
8. The Minister notes that there was one objection to the proposal.

QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

Outcomes (Standards and Wellbeing)

9. The Minister is satisfied, having taken into account the most recent Estyn reports and Estyn's comments on the proposal, that the proposal is likely to maintain at least the current standards of education.
10. The Minister notes that the local authority has committed to ensure that any building work carried out on the Cantonian High School site will be managed effectively in consultation with the school to ensure the full curriculum continues to be delivered and that education and safety standards are maintained. Pupils enrolled at Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School will remain on their current sites until the new build school facilities are ready. She has noted that prior to the implementation date the local authority has committed to ensure that year 12 students, who are the most affected by the change, will be undertaking programmes of study that will be continued in the new sixth forms.

Provision (learning experiences, teaching, care, support and guidance, and the learning environment)

11. The Minister agrees that the improved and modern 21st Century school buildings and facilities will improve the learning environment of all three schools, benefiting all pupils. She notes that Cantonian and Woodlands Schools currently rely heavily on temporary classrooms. She notes that Estyn's evaluation of performance of schools before and after moving into new buildings or significantly refurbished premises in 2007 concluded that improvements in the quality of buildings have a very beneficial effect on the quality of teaching and morale of staff which has a positive effect on pupil performance.

Leadership and Management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)

12. The Minister expects the increase in capacity at the three schools to have a moderate impact on leadership and management. However, she is satisfied that standards of leadership and management are likely to be at least equivalent to those currently. In terms of resource management, she notes that Cantonian High School has carried a budget deficit for the past five years which is steadily reducing. She considers that the increased school budget which comes with the increase in pupils will put the school on a firmer financial footing.

Section 1.4 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

13. The Minister is satisfied that the authority has evidenced a current and future need for English medium secondary places, autistic spectrum provision and special school places in the area. She is satisfied that the proposals will improve access for disabled pupils as the new buildings will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

Section 1.5 Resourcing of education and other financial implications

14. The Minister notes that the proposal will have a neutral impact on the distribution of funding between mainstream schools within the local authority area.
15. With regards surplus places the local authority estimates that the number of pupils aged 11-16 admitted to Cantonian High School will increase to 821 in 2023. As the current capacity of the school is 900 places for pupils aged 11-16 that will give 79 surplus places (8.7%). Increasing the capacity to 1000 places for pupils aged 11-16 would give 179 surplus places (17.9%).
16. The Minister agrees that the location of Cantonian High School makes it well placed to meet excess demand for places. As well as providing sufficient places for children living in the catchment area of the school it would also serve neighbouring catchment areas. It would in future allow for the local authority as admission authority for neighbouring community schools to adjust catchment areas accordingly to better serve central Cardiff.
17. The Minister is satisfied that the local authority has demonstrated an increased demand for places in Cantonian High School in the future as a consequence of a larger catchment area and new housing developments. She therefore consider that the proposal is likely to reduce the number of surplus places at Cantonian High School in the longer term.
18. The Minister is aware that the proposal forms part of the local authority's 21st Century School's investment programme and will contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate through the removal of maintenance backlogs and school buildings which are inefficient or in poor condition.
19. The Minister understands that there may be some additional transport costs should the local authority amend Cantonian High School's existing catchment area. She also notes that some pupils attending Riverbank and Woodlands special schools may have to travel further to the new site. However, others may not have so far to travel as children from all over Cardiff attend these schools. She notes that free transport will be provided for those who meet the home to school transport criteria.
20. The Minister notes that the local authority estimate the overall cost of the project to be between £78m to £96m, which will be provided by Cardiff Council and the 21st Century School's investment programme. She is satisfied that the necessary capital funding is

available. The Minister approved the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for this project and an agreement in principle letter to move to the next stage of the business case process was issued in January 2019. The approval was on the condition that Welsh Government and Cardiff local authority continue to work together closely to ensure the total cost is brought down as the project develops.

21. The percentage of 21st Century Schools programme funding rate has increased from 50/50 to 65/35 for mainstream schools and 75/25 for special schools. The local authority has identified capital resources in the Council's approved schools organisational plan financial model and has also been resourced within the authority's capital programme from a combination of general capital grant, capital receipts and prudential borrowing. The Minister is satisfied that the necessary recurrent funding is available.
22. The Minister notes that the removal of temporary classrooms will result in savings in rental costs and that the new build schools will significantly reduce maintenance costs.
23. The Minister notes that Cantonian High School has had a deficit budget for the last five years which is reducing, but still significant. Increasing the capacity of the school and the number of pupils should help reduce the deficit.

Section 1.6 Other general factors

24. The Minister considers that the proposal is likely to have a positive impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds. She notes that approximately 37.6% of pupils attending Cantonian High School are eligible for free school meals which is well above the national average and that around 53% live in the 20% most deprived areas in Wales.
25. Estyn's 2007 evaluation of performance of schools before and after moving into new buildings or significantly refurbished premises found that in nearly all schools with new or refurbished buildings surveyed, pupil attainment and achievement had improved. In some areas the improvement in attainment was significant, especially in a few schools in communities with high levels of social and economic deprivation. The schools that are subject to the proposal are in a poor condition. The proposal will deliver 21st Century learning environments and ensure that there are appropriate, high quality school places for young people in this area.
26. The Minister notes that an initial equality impact assessment undertaken by the local authority concluded that the proposal would not negatively affect any particular group in society. She is satisfied that increasing the capacity of Cantonian High School, the special resource base for pupils with autistic spectrum condition, Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School will have a positive impact on equality issues. Increasing the number of places at the special resource base and the two special schools will improve access to special education in Cardiff.
27. The Minister notes that as none of the schools are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals or the disposal of vacant sites after the implementation of the proposal.

Section 1.10 Specific factors to be taken into account for proposals to reorganise secondary schools or to add or remove sixth forms

28. The Minister considers that the increased capacity and 21st Century Schools learning environment and designated sixth form accommodation and facilities at Cantonian High School is likely to lead to increased participation in learning by pupils beyond

compulsory school age. She is satisfied that the school will continue to provide an appropriate range of relevant courses and qualifications and high quality, employer informed, vocational learning routes targeted at pupils of all abilities, whilst maintaining GCSE, AS/A level and other established courses, as required under the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 and contribute to the 14-19 agenda.

29. She considers that the proposal will have a positive effect on 11-16 provision in both Cantonian and Woodland High Schools as both schools currently rely heavily on temporary and demountable classrooms to deliver the curriculum. The new 21st Century school buildings and facilities will improve learners' experience. In Woodlands the new build will also deliver accommodation to allow improved multi-disciplinary meetings and space to deliver professional development opportunities to increase ALN expertise across the city's teaching staff.
30. The Minister considers that the proposals will have a neutral impact on the viability of institutions already providing good-quality post-16 provision, including school sixth forms, Further Education Institutions and private training organisations. The local authority has identified an increasing demand for such provision particularly in Central Cardiff, some of which will be met by the increase in provision at Cantonian High School.
31. The Minister considers that the proposal is likely to have a neutral impact on the sustainability or enhancement of Welsh-medium provision in the 14-19 network and wider area. She notes that the local authority is taking separate steps to expand ALN provision in the Welsh medium sector as part of their WESP, the Educational Tribunal (ALNET) Act Regional Implementation plan and Cardiff ALN Strategy.
32. The Minister considers that the improved learning environment, designated sixth form accommodation and 21st Century School facilities along with the removal of temporary accommodation will provide additional learner benefits compared with the status quo and other tenable options for post-16 organisation. The increase in sixth form provision to over 200 pupils should provide a level of funding that would support a range of courses enabling pupils to have access to a broad curriculum and provide increased opportunities for pupils.
33. She notes that the proposal will have a neutral impact on discretionary transport provision as the local authority does not provide free transport to learners above compulsory school age. However, students in Cardiff aged 16-21 can apply for "My Travel Pass" which entitles the holder to 30% off bus fares.

Section 1.14 Additional factors to be taken into account in preparing, publishing approving or determining proposals for the reorganisation of SEN provision

34. The Minister considers that the new 21st Century School buildings for Woodlands and Riverbank Special Schools and expanded SRB for pupils with Autistic Spectrum condition at Cantonian High School will improve standards of accommodation for pupils with SEN including building accessibility.
35. She notes that the proposals will increase specialist provision in the immediate and wider local authority area reducing reliance on out of area placements. She notes that at present 118 pupils attend special schools and units and independent special schools outside Cardiff at a cost of £2.8 million per year. The proposal will allow the local authority to use this money more effectively and ensure more children with additional needs are educated in their home authority area.

36. The Minister considers that the proposal will have a positive effect on health, safety and welfare the new build schools will remove the reliance on temporary classrooms, provide 21st Century facilities and improve the learners' experience. In Woodlands the new build will deliver accommodation to allow improved multi-disciplinary meetings and space to deliver professional development opportunities to increase ALN expertise across the city's teaching staff.
37. The Minister is satisfied that the local authority has evidenced a need for places for autism spectrum condition and SEN provision in the area. She notes that between 2012 and 2017, the number of ASC places offered in SRBs in Cardiff increased from 82 to 140. It is expected that demand for places in specialist schools will continue to grow over the next 5-10 years as a result of a growing population and better diagnosis of ASC. Current local authority projections indicate that the number of pupils with SEN will continue to grow. At present the demand for places for pupils with significant needs exceeds the number of places available.
38. The Minister notes that the proposals will have a neutral impact on the transportation of learners with SEN. The local authority provides free transport to pupils who reside over the statutory walking distances from their nearest suitable school (2 miles for a primary school pupil and 3 miles for a secondary school pupil in Years 7 -11) whether or not they have a statement for Special Educational Needs (SEN). For pupils with SEN, the local authority applies the same distance criteria but applies the cognitive age of the child when assessing the qualifying distance, based on advice from an Educational Psychologist.

Section 1.15 factors to be taken into account in approving/determining school organisation proposals

39. The Minister considers that the Riverbank Special School proposal is related to the proposal to increase capacity at Cantonian High School. The local authority has advised that implementation of the Riverbank proposal would be prevented or undermined if the Cantonian and Woodlands proposals were not implemented. The Minister agrees with the authority's analysis and that the proposals are related and require Welsh Ministers' approval under section 50 of the 2013 Act.
40. The Minister is satisfied that the statutory consultation was conducted and the proposals published in accordance with the Code including the timescales in which the consultation document and the consultation report were published. Under Section 4 of the Code proposers are required to publish a statutory notice with a 28 day objection period. On the day the proposals are published statutory consultees, including the Welsh Ministers must receive either a hard copy of the proposals or a link to the relevant website. The Minister is satisfied that this was received and that the Notice contained all the required information under section 4.3 of the Code.
41. The Minister has considered the consultation document and the consultation report and is satisfied that both documents complied with the requirements of the Code.
42. The Minister notes that there was one objection. She is satisfied with the local authority's response to the objection, although she considers it would have been helpful if a description of the proposed transport improvements to access Doyle Avenue plan had been available at an earlier stage in the process.
43. The Minister has approved the proposal on the basis that it is likely to maintain at least equivalent outcomes and offer provisions at least equivalent to that which is currently

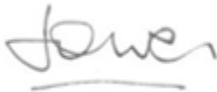
available to learners at the schools. In addition she considers that the proposal will:

- Provide new school buildings, removing reliance on temporary classrooms, offering an improved learning environment and accommodation with 21st Century facilities.
- Contribute to the effective funding of education.
- Increase the number of English medium secondary school places and contribute towards meeting projected demand for places.
- Increase the number of places in special schools for learners aged 4-19 with complex additional learning needs and autistic spectrum condition and contribute towards meeting projected demand for places.

44. The Minister notes that the local authority proposes to implement these proposals on 1 September 2023. The local authority must inform the Schools Management and Effectiveness Division, Education and Public Services Group within the Welsh Government when the proposal has been implemented. She has noted that prior to this date the local authority has committed to ensure that year 12 students, who are the most affected by the change, will be undertaking programmes of study that will be continued in the new sixth forms.

45. I am sending a copy of this letter to Paul Orders, Chief Executive of Cardiff County Council.

Yours sincerely



Huw Owen

**Deputy Director
Schools Effectiveness Division**

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Yn rhinwedd paragraff (au) 14, 16, 21 Rhan (nau) 4 a 5 o Atodlen 12A
o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972.

Mae'r ddogfen yn gyfyngedig

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

Yn rhinwedd paragraff (au) 14, 16, 21 Rhan (nau) 4 a 5 o Atodlen 12A
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Mae'r ddogfen yn gyfyngedig

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CARDIFF COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2022

COVID-19 RECOVERY IN SCHOOLS

Purpose of the Report

1. For Members to receive a brief overview of this issue ahead of a presentation on the latest position in relation to Covid-19 Recovery in Schools being made at this meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

Background

2. During 2020/21 as part of its work programming, Members of this Scrutiny agreed to receive regular updates from Education & Lifelong Learning in relation to Education and Schools Pandemic Recovery. At its work programming forum on the 19th July 2021, the Committee resolved to continue this approach during 2021/22, which also linked with the Cabinet's Renewal & Recovery Agenda; and the Child Friendly City Accreditation.
3. At its work programming forum on the 19th July 2022, the current Committee agreed that it would wish for "***Covid-19 Recovery in Schools***" to remain a priority topic for the Committee during 2022/23 and that bi-annual reports be considered by the Committee – one following the start of the school year, and one towards the end of the school year, looking towards the Summer Programme.

Issues

4. Since July 2020, this Scrutiny Committee has provided a number of comments, observations and views on the following issues. Links to relevant letters and papers can be found in the next Section of this Report:

- Learning and attainment for all
 - Ensuring all schools work to similar standards and approaches – learning from best practice etc;
 - Pupils who had disengaged with learning and the knock-on effect this may have in relation to their individual achievement and attainment;
 - NEETS;
 - Post 16 learning;
 - Digital Deprivation & Inequality;
 - Support for vulnerable learners;
 - Non-Formal education settings
- Planning/Preparing
 - Use of Welsh Government Funding – where is it going, how will it be used?
 - Summer Provision
- Health and Well-being
 - School Based Counselling and Pupil Wellbeing;
 - Mental health services and capacity for children & young people;
 - Staff Health and Well-being.
- Examinations and Assessments;
- Inspection Activity;
- Consultation and Engagement with Children & Young People.

5. The current Committee also raised the following issues they wish to explore, including:

- Impact on attendance levels
- Impact on vulnerable pupils, including Children looked after, EMTAS, ALN/CLN; physical disabilities etc.
- Impact on EOTAS
- Impact on attainment

- Programmes, initiatives and partnership working to address some of the challenges faced
- Issues and challenges relating to Mental health and well-being and support services
- Any positives effects/practices that should be preserved arising from any changes to working practices brought in during the pandemic
- Ascertain what effect the pandemic has had on the above and identify solutions that the council (and maybe other councils and WG) could implement to address them

Previous Scrutiny

6. This Scrutiny Committee has considered this topic on the following dates:

- 30 July 2020¹
- 12 October 2020²
- In December 2020, Members of this Scrutiny Committee were sent a further briefing via email on further updates in relation to education recovery dated 15 December 2020.
- 15th March 2021³
- 11 May 2021⁴
- 21st September 2021⁵

7. Members have also raised issues on this topic when considering the following issues:

- Child Friendly City Agenda Item – 19 January 2021⁶

¹ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

² [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 12th October, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

³ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 15th March, 2021, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 11th May, 2021, 5.00 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 21st September, 2021, 4.30 pm : Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

⁶ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 19th January, 2021, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

- Corporate Plan and Budget Scrutiny – 23 February 2021⁷

Third Sector Views

8. The role the Third Sector has played in Covid-19 Recovery in schools in Cardiff will be touched on as part of the presentation at this Scrutiny Committee meeting.
9. More widely, a range of research and engagement projects have been carried out by Third Sector organisations in relation to children and young people and the impact of the pandemic on them. These include reports from Action for Children; Barnardo's; Hafal; MEIC; MIND; NSPCC; and National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS).
10. A full literature review will be undertaken and reported to Committee Members in due course; and Members may wish to invite representatives from these organisations to a future meeting.
11. A selection of key documents Members may wish to consider include the following. Whilst many date back to 2020, they may be useful reference points for Members, particularly around some groups of children and young people. Please note that some of these documents look at wider issues than just young people and schools, but again, may provide useful context:
 - Action For Children - Childhood during coronavirus: protecting children from the effects of poverty – October 2020 - [ecc-executive-summary.pdf \(actionforchildren.org.uk\)](#)
 - Barnardo's/ Action for Children - Lessons from Lockdown , Supporting vulnerable children and young people returning to school and to learning - [lessons-from-lockdown-supporting-vulnerable-children-young-people-returning-school-learning-english.pdf \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#) / [lessons-from-lockdown-supporting-vulnerable-children-young-people-returning-school-learning-welsh.pdf \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

⁷ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 23rd February, 2021, 10.30 am : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

- Meic – Your Voice: Back to School – Covid-19 Survey Report – December 2020 - [Meic-Report-English-21_12_20-Final.pdf \(meiccymru.org\)](#) / [Meic-Report-Welsh-21_12_20-Final.pdf \(meiccymru.org\)](#)
- MIND Cymru - Coronavirus: the consequences for mental health in Wales – July 2021 (adults and children) [the-consequences-of-coronavirus-for-mental-health-in-wales-final-report.pdf \(mind.org.uk\)](#)
- NSPCC - Isolated and struggling - social isolation and the risk of child maltreatment, in lockdown and beyond – June 2020 – [The impact of COVID-19 on child abuse in the UK | NSPCC Learning](#)
- NSPCC Statistics briefing: the impact of coronavirus This briefing looks at what data and statistics are available around the impact of coronavirus on children and their families – February 2022 - [Statistics on the impact of COVID on children | NSPCC Learning](#)
- Mental Health Foundation Guides – Returning to School After Lockdown – the Challenge Facing Schools and Pupils - [The challenge facing schools and pupils | Mental Health Foundation](#) / [Yr her sy'n wynebu ysgolion a disgyblion | Mental Health Foundation](#)
- NYAS Young Lives in Lockdown: NYAS' Survey Of Care-Experienced Children And Young People During Covid-19 -2020 - [NYAS-Mental-Health-Report \(amazonaws.com\)](#)

Way Forward

12. A presentation will be made at this meeting, and the following witnesses will be in attendance meeting to answer any questions on this:

- Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education;
- Melanie Godfrey, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning;
- Mike Tate, Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning;
- Patrick Bunnock, Head Teacher, Corpus Christi RC High School
- Claire Skidmore, Head Teacher, Radyr Primary School

13. Members will be able to agree any comments, concerns or recommendations that they wish to pass on to the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers during the Way

Forward and decide whether they wish to receive further updates from witnesses in the future.

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 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. 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 financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial 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 will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee considers this report and information provided at the meeting and agrees any recommendations, comments or advice it wishes to offer to the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers in Education & Lifelong Learning, as well and any future scrutiny Members may wish to undertake on this issue.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

8 November 2022

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol