
DEVELOPING THE EDUCATION ESTATE IN CARDIFF – DRAFT CABINET REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to consider and review the Draft Cabinet Report (copy attached at **Appendix 1**). The report outlines the challenges and opportunities facing Cardiff in the development of the education estate and highlights aspects which require proposals to be brought forward to subsequent Cabinet meetings in the following areas:
 - Cardiff priority schemes for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme
 - An approach to the development of provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN), including the development of new provision and the remodelling of existing provision in Cardiff schools

Background

2. The Council and its partners outlined in 2016 a clear vision for education in the City in Cardiff 2020: a renewed vision for education and learning in Cardiff, which includes five key goals to deliver Cardiff's aspiration:
 - Excellent outcomes for all learners
 - A high quality workforce
 - 21st Century learning environments
 - A self-improving school system
 - Schools and Cardiff in partnership
3. The Council's Capital Ambition strategy has made a clear commitment to continuing the investment in, and improvement of, Cardiff schools to make

sure every child has the best possible start in life. The delivery of 21st century learning environments will ensure that there are appropriate, high quality school places for young people which meets the needs of Cardiff's growing and changing population.

4. In recent years there has been significant investment in the development of the education estate in Cardiff, both prior to, and then as part of, the Band A phase of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme. Cardiff has benefitted greatly from the initial "Band A" investment programme of the 21st Century Schools programme, with circa £164 million to expand the number of both English and Welsh medium places. Band A will deliver two new High Schools: Eastern High in collaboration with Cardiff & Vale College and Cardiff West Community High School as well as six new primary schools.
5. However significant challenges remain as a result of the rapid growth in the school age population, and against a background of many of the existing school buildings requiring significant further investment to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

Draft Cabinet Report

6. The Council submitted its revised 21st Century School Band A Programme of Projects to the Welsh Government in 2014. Band A funding is due to complete in March 2019 with Band B investment to start in April 2019.
7. Officers have undertaken a significant needs analysis and prioritisation process including data and information relating to the demographics across the city, school facilities and their condition along with schools standards data and input from the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) and independent consultants with specific elements of expertise relevant to planning this scale and type of investment programme.
8. The SRG is composed of school head teachers from across the nursery, primary and secondary school age range and incorporating representatives from all sectors including English-medium community schools, Welsh-medium community schools and church schools.

9. The first part of the report outlines the following
- Sufficiency needs of the school population;
 - Condition of the school estate;
 - Suitability of the estate to meet the demands of 21st Century Learning; and
 - Projected growth in education provision resulting from the Local Development Plan.
10. The Council has already responded to the statutory duties to provide a sufficiency of school places through the delivery of the Band A 21st Century Schools and Education Programme and through other investment as outlined in the attached report. However it is clear that the growth of the pupil population, the age and condition of much of the existing education estate and the marked growth in the need for further special additional learning needs provision, require action to be taken both within the timespan of Band B, 2019-2024 and prior to it, and includes:
- 21st Century Schools Programme
 - Asset Management
 - Developing provision to meet Additional Learning Needs
11. The Cabinet is recommended to note the matters outlined in this report and to receive for subsequent decision further Cabinet reports in the following areas:
- Proposed schemes for Cardiff under the Band B phase of the C21 schools programme in light of budget allocations from Welsh Government;
 - Proposals for the adaptation and enhancement of Additional Learning Needs provision in Cardiff.

Scope of Scrutiny

12. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to:
- Gain assurance that the draft Cabinet Report provides appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure that the Council meets its

statutory obligations under section 13 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure efficient primary and secondary education to meet the needs of the population of the area.

- To ensure that the proposed arrangements adequately address the:
 - i. Sufficiency needs of the school population;
 - ii. Condition of the school estate;
 - iii. Suitability of the estate to meet the demands of 21st Century Learning;
 - iv. Projected growth in education provision resulting from the Local Development Plan.
- Pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills prior to the consideration of the Draft report by Cabinet.

Way Forward

13. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), and Janine Nightingale (Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning) will present the report to the Committee, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.

14. 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

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 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

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

Review the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix 1**, together with information provided at the meeting and provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 October 2017