

**SOP 21st Century (Band B) - Redevelopment of Cantonian, Woodlands
and Riverbank Schools: Pre- Decision Scrutiny**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 13 December 2018.
2. The report enables the Cabinet to consider a recommendation to hold public consultation on proposals for developing the Doyle Avenue site , where the existing Cantonian High School is located, in line with Band B 21st Century Schools priority schemes.
3. It is proposed from September 2023 to:
 - Replace the Cantonian High School buildings with new build accommodation on the same site expanding the school from six forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE), with sixth form provision for up to 250 pupils; and expanding the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC from 20 to 30 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
 - Maximise the opportunities afforded by one of the largest educational sites in Cardiff (Doyle Avenue) to locate other new school provision on the same site, in addition to Cantonian High School but organised as separate entities, to:
 - Transfer Woodlands Special School, part of the Western Learning Federation, to the Doyle Avenue site and increase the capacity from 140 places to 240 places in new build accommodation;

- Transfer Riverbank Special School, part of the Western Learning Federation, to the Doyle Avenue site and increase the capacity from 70 to 140 places in new build accommodation.

Background

4. At its meeting on 14 December 2017, the Cabinet approved the prioritised scheme under Band B of the Cardiff's Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.
5. The Band B Programme seeks to address the most acute sufficiency and condition issues in Cardiff.
6. A copy of the 14 December 2017 Cabinet Report.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

7. The report explains in detail a number of factors that have been taken into account in identifying the need for the report, namely
 - Demand for places at entry to secondary education, city wide, in the past five year, as well as a increase demand for Additional Learning Needs provision, (Paragraph 6-13)
 - Condition and suitability of the school estate and in particular Cantonian High School(paragraph 14 – 21)
 - Sufficiency in Mainstream Provision (paragraph 22-24)
 - Cantonian High School Catchment Area and other areas (paragraph 25-40)
 - Additional Learning Needs Provision, covering sufficiency in the Special sector, Autism Spectrum Condition Specialist Resource Base , Riverbank and woodlands Special School and health provision (Paragraph 41-65)
 - Admissions and Catchment Areas (paragraph 66-69)
 - Partnerships (Paragraph 70-74)
 - Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language (paragraph 75-85)
 - Learner travel arrangements (Paragraph 86-88)
 - Community impact (Paragraph 89-92)
 - Wellbeing of future generations (paragraph 93-95)

8. The report to Cabinet includes a number of appendices which can be made available to members if they wish

9. Recommendations
 - a. The Cabinet is recommended to authorise officers to consult on proposals to:
 - Replace the Cantonian High School buildings with new build accommodation on the same site expanding the school from six forms of entry (6FE) to eight forms of entry (8FE) with sixth form provision for up to 250 pupils;
 - 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 the Doyle Avenue site and increase the capacity from 140 places to 240 places in new build accommodation;
 - Transfer Riverbank Special School to the Doyle Avenue site and increase the capacity from 70 to 140 places in new build accommodation.

 - b. Note that officers will bring a report on the outcome of the consultation to a future meeting to seek authorisation as to whether to proceed to publish proposals in accordance with section 48 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report to Cabinet.

Way Forward

11. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), and Michele Duddridge-Hossain (Operational Manager – Planning and Provision) will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
12. 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

13. 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

14. 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:

- a) Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting
- b) 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

7 December 2018