

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

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**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 June 2019.
  
2. The report informs the Cabinet of responses received following a public consultation exercise and to seek Cabinet approval on the 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.

**Background**

3. 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. The Band B Programme seeks to address the most acute sufficiency and condition issues in Cardiff.

4. At the Cabinet meeting on 13 December 2018, the Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to hold public consultation on the proposed Development of the Doyle Avenue site, where the existing Cantonian High School is located, in line with Band B 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools priority schemes. 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.

### **Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet**

5. The consultation period ran from 4 February until 26 April 2019 and involved

- Publication of a consultation document outlining background, rationale and implications to parents, local childcare providers, Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of nearby schools, all Members of local wards

and other stakeholders (a copy of the consultation document can be seen at Appendix 1);

- Publication of a summary document (a copy of the summary document can be seen at Appendix 2);
- Meetings with Staff and Governors;
- Public (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 3);
- Drop-in sessions (notes from the drop in sessions can be seen at Appendix 4);
- Meetings with pupil; representatives
- Presentations to whole school assemblies;
- Online pupils surveys (details of the meetings can be seen at Appendix 5);
- A consultation response slip for return by post or e-mail, attached to the consultation document;
- An online response form

6. The 759 responses received regarding the proposals during the consultation period are set out in paragraphs (8 – 16) in addition the report includes:

- Wider stakeholder survey (para 17 – 21)
- Cantonian High school pupils survey (para 22 – 28)
- Primary Age Learners Survey – Fairwater, Pentrebanne and Peter Lea Primary Schools (para 29 - 31)
- Pupil representation – Woodlands High School and Riverbank Special School (para 32 - 35)

7. The responses are summarised as:

A majority of stakeholders who responded to the consultation were of the view that the Cantonian High School buildings are in need of replacement, that new build facilities would support teaching and learning and welcomed the proposed increase in ALN provision, however a number of concerns were raised:

- The proposal would increase the volume of traffic in and around the Cantonian High School site resulting in gridlock at peak times;
- There are particular concerns amongst residents around increased traffic congestion, parking, noise levels, increased anti-social

behaviour and littering, loss of privacy related to the siting of any new build accommodation and disruption during the construction phase.

- The potential for the transfer of Riverbank Special School and Woodlands Special School to an alternative site to have a negative impact upon the Western Learning Campus Federation
- Whether the Cantonian High School site sufficiently large to accommodate the requirements of all three schools;
- Potential disruption for those pupils who would be at Cantonian High School during the construction phase;
- Concerns around safeguarding during the construction period;
- Concerns that the transfer of two special school onto the Cantonian High School site could result in a public perception that Cantonian High School is also a special school. This was thought to be likely if all three schools are accommodated in one building and that this may impact on the number children wanting to take up places at Cantonian High School.
- There was insufficient information available regarding the site layout, access routes and how construction traffic would be managed during the consultation period.

8. The report also highlights a number of other areas including:

- Response to views expressed (para 40 – 48)
- Local Member consultation (Para 49)
- Financial Implications (Para 51 – 52)
- Legal Implications (Para 53 – 66)
- HR Implications (Para 67 – 70)
- Traffic and Transport implications (Para 71 -77)
- Equality Impact Assessment (Para 78)

9. The report to Cabinet includes a number of appendices which are also attached, namely:

- |             |                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Appendix 1: | Consultation document                |
| Appendix 2: | Summary document                     |
| Appendix 3: | Notes of public consultation meeting |
| Appendix 4: | Notes of drop-in sessions            |
| Appendix 5: | Pupil responses to consultation      |

Appendix 6:	Formal responses to consultation
Appendix 7:	Summary of responses
Appendix 8:	Summary analysis of responses
Appendix 9:	Statutory Screening Tool Guidance

10. The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Issue 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 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 112 places in new build accommodation.

2. Note that if objections to the published statutory notice are received, the Council would publish a summary of these objections and the Council's response to those objections.

3. Note that within 35 days of the end of the objection period the Council will forward copies of the statutory objections in addition to the objection to the Welsh Ministers for determination of the proposal.

4 .Note that the Cabinet will receive a subsequent report on further proposals to increase the number of special school places for primary age children with complex learning needs.

### **Scope of Scrutiny**

11. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider the attached draft cabinet report and associated appendices and provide any comments, advice or recommendations to Cabinet.

## **Way Forward**

12. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), and officers will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
13. 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**

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- 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**

**5 June 2019**