

**21st century schools, Band B: Early Years, Primary and Secondary
School Provision to Serve Adamsdown and Splott: 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 23 January 2020. The purpose of the attached report is to inform Cabinet of the responses received following consultation on proposals for early years, primary school, secondary school and post-16 provision to serve Adamsdown and Splott.

Background

2. The Cabinet at its meeting on 11 July 2019 authorised officers to consult on proposals to:
 - Discontinue St Albans R.C. Primary School from 31 August 2021;
 - Increase the capacity of Baden Powell Primary School from 420 places (2 Forms of Entry) to 630 places (3 Forms of Entry), and reduce the age range of the school from 3-11 years to 4-11 years, from September 2021;
 - Transfer Baden Powell Primary School to Tremorfa Park and replace the existing buildings with new build facilities with capacity to provide 630 places (3 Forms of Entry);
 - Transfer Willows High School to Tremorfa Park and replace the existing buildings with new build accommodation, increasing the capacity of the school from 1,121 places (7.4 Forms of Entry) to 1,200 places (8 Forms of Entry);

- To establish post-16 provision for up to 250 pupils within the new buildings;
- Increase the capacity of Tremorfa Nursery School from 112 places to 128 places and expand the range of services provided on site including Flying Start childcare and parenting support, within an Integrated Children's Centre on the existing Tremorfa Nursery School site and the vacated St Albans R.C. Primary School site;
- Upgrade community facilities in the Splott Ward through the replacement of public open space at the former Willows High School site, significantly enhanced community facilities located on the new school site and replacement pitches for shared use with St Albans Rugby Club and the wider local community at Tremorfa Park.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

3. The consultation period ran from 16 September until 4 November 2019, which involved:
 - .Publication of a bilingual consultation document
 - Publication of a bilingual summary document and in community languages including Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Cantonese, Dari, Kurdish, Polish, Punjabi and Somali on request;
 - Meetings with staff and governors at St Albans R.C. Primary School, Baden Powell Primary School, Willows High School and Tremorfa Nursery School
 - Meetings with pupil representatives from St Albans R.C. Primary School, Baden Powell Primary School and Willows High School
 - Presentations to school assemblies at Adamsdown Primary School, Moorland Primary School and Stacey Primary School
 - Online pupil surveys
 - A public meeting at St Albans R.C. Primary School and Willows High School
 - Drop in sessions
 - Officers and the Traveller Education Service, visited Traveller families known to have children of school age
 - A consultation response slip
 - An online response Form

4. The responses received regarding the proposals during the consultation period are summarised in the report (Para 6 to 41). In addition the Archdiocese has requested that the closure of St Alban's Catholic Primary School, is not progressed. Correspondence outlining this request is attached as Appendix 10.
5. The draft Cabinet report also sets out the responses to the views expressed (paragraph 42 – 53), Local Member Consultation at paragraph 54.
6. The draft cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
 - Financial Implications
 - Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate)
 - HR Implications
 - Property Implications
 - Traffic and Transport Implications
7. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:
 - Appendix 1 – Consultation document
 - Appendix 2 – Summary document
 - Appendix 3 – Notes of meetings with staff and governors
 - Appendix 4 – Notes of meetings with pupils
 - Appendix 5 – Notes of public meetings
 - Appendix 6 – Notes of drop in sessions
 - Appendix 7 – Formal responses
 - Appendix 8 – Summary of consultation responses
 - Appendix 9 – Summary analysis of responses
 - Appendix 10 - Correspondence from Director of Schools, Archdiocese of Cardiff, 17 December 2019
 - Appendix 11 – Statutory Screening Tool and Equality Impact Assessment

8. The Cabinet is recommended to :

1. Not progress the proposal to discontinue St Albans RC Primary School
2. Authorise officers to bring a further report to Cabinet for consideration, setting out details of revised proposals for the provision of education places in Adamsdown and Splott.

Scope of Scrutiny

9. 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 23 January 2020.

Way Forward

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

12. 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

13. 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

14 January 2020