

21 January 2020

**New Primary School Provision To Serve Parts Of Creigiau/ St Fagans,
Radyr/ Morganstown And Fairwater: 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.

Background

2. New housing developments in North West Cardiff will increase the number of children needing school places in the area. This will have an impact on the availability of places in existing schools.
3. At its meeting on 18 April 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report which proposed a variation on the traditional dual stream primary school provision/school site in order to respond positively to the desire for a greater number of bilingual citizens (fluent in both English and Welsh).
4. The planned dual stream establishment would enable close partnership working of the streams through sharing a site and facilities. It would also enable the children within the predominantly English-medium stream to build more secure Welsh language acquisition.
5. At the meeting on 18 April 2019, the Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to hold public consultation on the proposals to:
 - Establish a new a two form entry primary school, with two language streams organised as one form of entry Welsh-medium

- (30 places per year group) and one form of entry predominantly English-medium, with significant use of Welsh (30 places per year group) with a provision for 420 primary school pupils in total;
- Establish 48 part-time nursery places for the Welsh-medium stream and 48 part-time nursery places for the English-medium stream
6. The report is to inform Cabinet of the responses received following consultation on proposals regarding the establishment of new primary school provision to serve the early phases of the Plasdŵr housing development in North West Cardiff, and seek authorisation to proceed, where appropriate to publish the proposal in accordance with section 48 of The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

7. The consultation period ran from 9 September until 28 October 2019, which involved:
- .Publication of a consultation document and summary document
 - Meetings with staff and governors of nearby schools
 - Meetings with pupil representatives from Radyr Comprehensive and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr
 - A public meeting
 - Drop in sessions
 - A consultation response slip
 - An online response Form
8. The responses received regarding the proposals during the consultation period are summarised in the report. A summary of the responses received from all stakeholders, and appraisal of views expressed are set out in an appendix to the report;
9. The draft Cabinet report also sets out the responses to the views expressed together with the traffic and transport implications of the proposal.
10. The Cabinet is recommended to :

Issue a statutory notice to:

- Establish a 2FE entry dual stream primary school with nursery provision to serve the early phases of the Plasdŵr development from September 2021.
- Note that prior to implementation of the proposals a further report will be provided to the Cabinet providing details of any objections received, the proposed responses to those objections and recommendations for implementation or otherwise of the proposals.

Scope of Scrutiny

11. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments on the draft report 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), 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.
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

13 January 2020