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REPORT AUTHORISATION FORM 4.C.214***

**CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL  
CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD**

**CABINET MEETING: 23 January 2020**

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**New school provision to serve parts of Pontprennau and Old St Mellons**

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS (COUNCILLOR SARAH MERRY)**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

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**Reason for this Report**

1. To enable the Cabinet to consider the proposal by the Governing Body of St Mellons Church in Wales (CiW) Primary School to:
  - transfer the school to a new school site on the new housing estate at St Edeyrn's (Local Development Plan Strategic Site G),
  - expand from 105 places to 210 places, and
  - extend its age range from 4-11 to 3-11 by incorporating a nursery for 48 part time placesin accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

**Background**

2. At its meeting on 4 March 2019 the Governing Body of St Mellons CiW Primary School agreed to hold a public consultation on proposals to:
  - Increase the number of places at the school from 105 places to 210 places;
  - Extend the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11 by establishing nursery provision at the school to allow for 48 part-time places;
  - Transfer St Mellons CiW Primary School to a new site on the new housing development at St Edeyrn's.
3. In order to proceed with these proposed changes, the arrangements for admitting pupils to the school would also change.
4. The proposed changes would take effect from September 2021.

5. At its meeting on 21 March 2019, Cardiff Council Cabinet noted that a statutory consultation on the proposal was to be undertaken and authorised officers to provide all reasonable assistance.
6. The consultation ran from 03 June to 19 July 2019 and was supported by Cardiff Council. A copy of the consultation document including details of those consulted can be seen at Appendix 1.
7. A consultation report setting out details of the consultation, responses received and the Governing Body's responses was published by the Governing Body on 18 October 2019. A copy of the consultation report can be seen at Appendix 2.
8. At its meeting on 7 October 2019 the St Mellons CiW Primary School Governing Body agreed the publication of a statutory notice to:
  - Transfer St Mellons Church in Wales Primary School, Dunster Road, Llanrumney, Cardiff, CF3 5TP to new build premises on the new housing development at St Edeyrn's, Bridge Road, Cardiff, CF3 6UZ
  - Increase the capacity of St Mellons Church in Wales Primary School from 105 places to 210 places
  - Extend the age range of the school from 4–11 to 3–11 by establishing nursery provision at the school to allow for 48 part-time places
9. The proposed changes would be implemented from September 2021.
10. The statutory notice was published on 8 November 2019 for a period of 28 days to allow for objections. The statutory notice period expired on 5 December 2019. A copy of the notice can be seen at Appendix 3.
11. The notice was published on the St Mellons CiW Primary School website, the Cardiff Council website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)), posted at the entrances to the school and put up at the proposed site.
12. Copies of the notice were distributed by the school to pupils, parents, carers and guardians, governors and staff members. All other organisations and consultees required under the School Organisation Code 2018 were either provided a hard copy or e-mailed a link to the published notice on the School website.
13. The Governing Body received one objection by the statutory notice closing date.
14. An Objection Report setting out details of the objection and the Governing Body's response was published by the Governing Body on 20 December 2019. A copy of the Objection Report can be seen at Appendix 4.
15. Proposals published under section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act require approval by the local authority if they

have been made by a proposer other than the local authority and an objection to the proposals has been made and not been withdrawn in writing before the end of 28 days beginning with the end of the objection period.

16. Where proposals require approval by the local authority, the proposer must notify the local authority of a proposal requiring approval and forward to them the documents listed below within 35 days of the end of the objection period:
  - A copy of the consultation document;
  - A copy of the consultation report;
  - A copy of the published notice;
  - A copy of the objection report;
  - Copies of the statutory objections;
  - Copies of all the above in relation to any proposals which are related to the proposal requiring approval.
17. Local authorities must decide whether to approve, reject to approve with modifications, the proposals.

### **Issues**

18. Parts 1.3 to 1.14 of the Code set out the factors that should be taken into account by the relevant bodies (the Welsh Ministers, local authorities, governing bodies and other promoters) when exercising their functions of preparing and publishing school organisation proposals, and or approving/determining them. The relevant factors for this type of proposal (1.3 to 1.6, 1.9, 1.11, 1.15) are set out below.

### **Section 1.3 Quality and Standards in Education**

19. St Mellons CiW Primary School has consistently demonstrated the capacity to deliver high quality education to its pupils and is recognised by Estyn for the standard of teaching and leadership. In its most recent inspection report in October 2016, Estyn judged the school's performance as good (many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement). The school's prospects for improvement were judged as good.
20. In its response to the consultation Estyn concluded that the proposals are likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area. Details of Estyn's response to the consultation and the Governing Body's response can be seen in the Consultation Report at Appendix 2.
21. In the most recent Welsh Government School Categorisation at January 2019 the school was categorised as Green: a high effective school which is well run, has a strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement.

22. Standards at the school are already good. Transferring the school to new accommodation will provide appropriate, high quality school places for young people from the local area and support the delivery of high quality education.
23. St Mellons CiW Primary School works closely with the Council and partners to make sure that standards at the school are high, teaching is good and that leadership and standards are strong.
24. The proposal is not expected to have any negative impact on the quality of standards of education, the delivery of the Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2 provision.
25. The new school facilities will support the delivery of the new 'Curriculum of Wales' for learners (aged 3 – 16) which is due to be implemented in Welsh schools from September 2022. The new curriculum will adopt an approach which is inclusive and designed to address the need to prepare children and young people in Wales to thrive and be successful in a rapidly changing world.
26. It is recognised that the new curriculum should provide breadth, enable greater depth of learning, ensure better progression, provide scope for more imaginative and creative use of time and place and a much greater emphasis on skills. New school facilities will help to support this vision.
27. St Mellons CiW Primary School has an appropriate range of policies and provision in place to promote pupils' health and wellbeing.
28. The school is committed to providing an environment in which learning is valued and pupils achieve their potential in a happy safe environment in which they show respect and tolerance for each other within a Christian ethos.

#### **Section 1.4 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools**

29. In line with the Cardiff Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), the Council will seek the provision of new school places in circumstances where the need generated by a proposed development cannot reasonably be met by existing schools, because the capacity at the schools in whose catchment areas the new housing development is proposed would, as a result of the development, be exceeded by demand.
30. New school places will either be provided through the expansion of existing schools (where a site is capable of accommodating additional pupil places), or through the provision of new build schools.
31. The number of children generated by a residential development will vary depending on the type and size of the dwellings of which it comprises. In order to be able to project a typical yield from a development, an initial assessment of the number of children likely to be generated by a proposed housing development is made based on yield factors derived

from 2011 Census statistics and Number on School Rolls (NOR) data for Cardiff.

32. An evaluation of different educational settings (i.e. English-Medium, Welsh-Medium, faith and voluntary aided schools) is undertaken based on historical take up of places in the catchment (authority) and how place availability would drive parental preference. Medium of provision is currently (at 2016) apportioned on a circa 80:20 (English-medium: Welsh-medium) basis.
33. The take up of Welsh-medium education across Cardiff is currently c15%.
34. An assessment of the number of children from the St Edeyrn's development was undertaken and it was agreed that the developer would provide a new 210 place school building as part of the planning agreement to meet anticipated future demand for English-medium primary education from the development.
35. The St Edeyrn's development will continue to be served by Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen y Groes.
36. Increasing the number of places provided by St Mellons CiW Primary School would mean that a greater number of children would benefit from the education on offer at the school. An increased number of pupils attending the school would also allow for a stronger budget position, greater opportunities for pupils and staff and would support the school to maintain and continue to build on its excellent standards as the new curriculum in Wales is introduced.
37. Alongside this, Cardiff Council has been looking at the take-up of places in the area surrounding the school over recent years and the likely impact of new housing developments in the local and wider area. Issues considered have included the need to:
  - provide English-medium primary school places to serve the new housing development at St Edeyrn's;
  - reduce the number of surplus English-medium primary school places serving the Llanrumney area.
38. The proposed transfer and expansion of St Mellons CiW Primary School would provide English-medium primary school places within and serving the St Edeyrn's development, in the Old St Mellons community.
39. The school's relocation to St Edeyrn's would also reduce the overall number of school places within the Llanrumney area. It is expected that reduced surplus school places in Llanrumney would support the other primary schools in Llanrumney to consolidate and grow their pupil numbers making schools more sustainable across the area.

**Section 1.5 Resourcing of education and other financial implications**

40. The new primary school on the St Edeyrn's development is being built by the developer and is proposed to be completed in summer 2021.
41. Significant capital investment has been secured via a s106 agreement for the housing developer to provide the new school site and building. The Council and developer would manage the process, and the Governing Body, staff and pupils of St Mellons CIW Primary School would be fully engaged in the development of the plans.
42. The developer contributions towards Education provision to serve the St Edeyrn's development were negotiated in accordance with the 2007 Education Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in place at the time of the planning application.
43. The 2007 SPG did not allow the Council to request funding for nursery education places. Funding for the provision of loose furniture, fittings and ICT cannot be secured by this mechanism. Whilst some of these requirements will be planned within the scope of the schemes, a shortfall is anticipated between the financial obligation secured by way of a s106 agreement, and the budget required to construct and fully furnish/resource the school if agreed to proceed. This shortfall will require the identification and prioritisation of a funding contribution through alternative sources in order to deliver a fully equipped school site.
44. Schools receive the majority of their funding based on the number of pupils on roll. Schools also receive other funds for items such as premises costs including heating, lighting, cleaning and maintenance.
45. The full increase in the number of places in Reception to Year 6, from 105 to 210 places, would be implemented on 1 September 2021.
46. The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers would be met through the school funding formula.

**Section 1.6 Other General Factors**

47. The arrangements for providing sites and buildings for voluntary controlled schools are set out in the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013.
48. The legal status of the St Mellons Church in Wales school site is that the school site is owned by the Governing Body Trust / Diocese and playing fields are owned by the Council.
49. The current St Mellons CiW Primary School site is adjacent to the site of Pen Y Bryn Primary School and is well located for continued education use.

50. If the proposal were to proceed, valuation of the existing and proposed school sites would need to be undertaken. The Council may purchase the vacated school site at valuation or may exchange the school sites, provided that the land value of the St Edeyrn's site is greater than the valuation of the vacated St Mellons CiW Primary School site.
51. It is anticipated that the larger school and site at St Edeyrn's would be of greater value than the vacated St Mellons CiW Primary School site.

**Section 1.9 Specific factors to be taken into account for proposal to add or remove nursery classes**

52. Children in Cardiff can attend a part-time nursery place in school from the start of the term after their third birthday. They must attend the nursery class for at least five half days a week. There are no catchment areas for nursery classes.
53. St Mellons CiW Primary School does not currently offer nursery provision. Pupils transfer to St Mellons CiW Primary School from a range of pre-school settings. Some pupils may have not accessed pre-school provision at all.
54. It is proposed that 48 part time nursery places are provided to develop continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three.
55. The establishment of nursery provision at the school would provide a consistent approach to teaching and planning, to develop continuity and progression in children's learning from the age of three, and to contribute to raising standards across the school.
56. Admissions to the proposed nursery provision at the school would be administered by the Council in accordance with the admissions policy applicable to community schools in Cardiff for whom the Council is the Admissions Authority.
57. An offer of a nursery place at the school does not mean that a child will also be offered a place in Reception. A separate application form must be completed for admission to Reception.
58. The following benefits would be expected to result from the establishment of nursery provision at the school:
  - Additional English-medium nursery places serving the local area;
  - Continuity of provision which reflects the ethos and culture of the school;
  - The development of strong and effective parental links from the earliest possible opportunity can be supported;
  - Ease of transition for a nursery-aged child when promoting to Reception class (where Reception admission application has been successful);
  - Early identification of vulnerable groups. This will mean that the needs of children can be identified as early as possible;

- It would provide an opportunity for children to attend nursery at the same site as their older siblings. This should impact positively on parents' time and reduce the logistical difficulties that seeking an alternative child care provider may cause;
- By having an early years unit within the school, pupils' well-being and learning will be advantaged. Continuity and progression between Early Years and Foundation Phase will be secured, enhancing the opportunity to appropriately address individual developmental and cultural needs.

### **Section 1.11 Specific factors to be taken into account for proposal to increase provision in voluntary schools or establish a new voluntary school**

59. Schools receive the majority of their funding based on the number of pupils on roll. Schools also receive other funds for items such as premises costs including heating, lighting, cleaning and maintenance.
60. The additional revenue costs of the increased pupil numbers would be met through the school funding formula.

### **Factors to be taken into account in approving/ determining school organisation proposals**

61. There are no other related proposals.
62. The consultation on the proposed changes was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (November 2018).
63. The consultation document was sent to those it should have been sent to and pupils affected by the proposals were consulted. The required amount of time (42 days of which at least 20 are school days) was provided to respond to the consultation.
64. The consultation document contained the prescribed information set out in the Code.
65. The timescale and content required have been complied with in relation to the consultation report. The publication of the statutory notice complied with the requirements of the Code and the notice contained all of the prescribed information.
66. The proposal was published in accordance with the requirements of the Code and contained all of the required information.

### **Objection Report**

67. In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, the Governing Body published an Objection Report.



68. The Governing Body received one objection by the statutory notice closing date.
69. The objector acknowledged the need to safeguard the future of the school and could see how the proposal supports this. They were able to see the benefits of a single form entry primary school in terms of budget and education provision and fully support the proposal of 48 nursery places.
70. There were a number of points raised in the objection. The Governing Body has considered the merits of the objection and has appraised these in its objection report, attached as Appendix 4.

### **Proposed changes to admission arrangements**

71. The Published Admission Number for St Mellons CiW Primary School is set at 15 places, based on the accommodation currently available. If the school were to transfer to the new buildings on the St Edeyrn's site, the Published Admission Number would increase to 30 places at entry. The Admission Number for the new Nursery provision would be set at 48 part time places.
72. School Admissions arrangements for Voluntary Controlled schools are normally administered by Local Authorities. Arrangements for the admission of pupils to St Mellons CiW Primary School were delegated to the school many years ago and this has been unchanged since.
73. The Governing Body of the school has agreed that the Council take back responsibility for admission arrangements, and has requested a transition period of three years from the time of the proposal being implemented in September 2021, during which 15 of the 30 places at entry to Reception year would be administered by the Council, as Admissions Authority, using the school's existing oversubscription criteria.
74. The existing oversubscription criteria of St Mellons CiW Primary School gives highest priority, following the admission of Looked After Children, to siblings of children in attendance at the school, followed by children resident within the community of Old St Mellons. Although the oversubscription criteria does not refer to a designated catchment area, the high priority given to children resident within the community of Old St Mellons, and inclusion of distance from the school as a tie-breaker, provides assurance that in the event of the school being highly subscribed sufficient priority would be given to children resident on the St Edeyrn's development.
75. During the transition period, the remaining 15 places per year group would administered by the Council in accordance with the admissions policy applicable to community schools in Cardiff for whom the Council is the Admissions Authority.

76. At the end of the transition period, from 2024/25, all places at the school would be administered by the Council in line with the admissions policy of community schools in Cardiff.
77. Consideration would need to be given to the revision of catchment areas served by St Mellons CiW Primary School and neighbouring schools in Llanrumney at the appropriate time.
78. Consultation on admission arrangements for the 2021/2022 school year will take place early in 2020 and will be completed by 1 March 2020 in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's Admissions Code.
79. Detailed information regarding admission arrangements is contained in the Council's Admission to Schools booklet, and this information can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

### **Local Member Consultation**

80. The Elected Members for the wards affected by the proposals were consulted as part of the process. Details of written responses received from the ward members of Llanrumney, Pentwyn and for Pontprennau and Old St Mellons are set out in the Governing Body's Consultation Report at Appendix 2.
81. A written response was also received from the Assembly Member for the local area.

### **Reason for Recommendation**

82. To address the need to provide primary education places to serve the new residential development of St Edeyrn's.

### **Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language**

83. It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal.
84. The proposal does not seek to change the number of Welsh-medium primary or secondary school places available in the area. The St Edeyrn's development will continue to be served by Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen y Groes. There are sufficient places at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen y Groes for the pupils on the St Edeyrn's development likely to require a place.
85. The potential provision of additional Welsh-medium primary school places on the St Edeyrn's school site, within the catchment area of and in close proximity to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen Y Groes at this time would likely inhibit the growth of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen Y Groes, and has therefore been discounted.

86. The provision of 105 additional English-medium primary school places at St Mellons Church in Wales Primary School, compared to the reduction of 82 English-medium places at Glan Yr Afon Primary School, would mean that the overall proportion of Welsh-medium places city wide is marginally reduced.
87. In November 2017, 17% of primary age children and 13% of secondary age children resident on the St Edeyrn's development were enrolled in Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff. This is broadly consistent with city-wide averages.
88. The teaching of Welsh within an English medium setting is subject to the requirements of the National curriculum.

### **Financial Implications**

89. The financial implications arising from this proposal have not significantly deviated from those outlined in the report that previously informed Cabinet of this proposal. The main financial implications and risks arising are, therefore, largely unchanged and are summarised in the paragraphs that follow.
90. In terms of revenue implications, it will be necessary to ensure that the annual budget allocated to the school reflects the size and structure of the school. School budgets are predominantly predicated on pupil numbers and, therefore, it will be necessary to increase the school budget in line with the annual growth in pupil numbers. To enable this to be achieved, without financial detriment to other individual school budgets, it will be necessary to factor the projected growth in pupil numbers into the Council's annual budget setting process and medium term financial planning. Should the school not reach its full capacity in the first few years following transfer to its new accommodation, it will be necessary to evaluate the financial impact of this and consider any action required to ensure that the school does not enter financial difficulties. It is not currently anticipated that there will be an impact in terms of school transport, however this will also need to be kept under review as the school grows.
91. Regarding capital implications, work will continue to fully assess the cost of the new school building and the fact that s106 contributions will not sufficiently cover the cost of this development. Therefore, it will be necessary to identify funding to cover the Council's requirement to make a contribution towards the overall cost. This will need to be funded from within existing approved resources or factored into future iterations of the Council's Capital Programme. However, every effort should continue to be made to ensure that value for money is obtained and the requirement for a Council contribution is kept to a minimum. As referenced in the previous report, the voluntary-controlled status of the school means that it will be necessary to consider any VAT implications arising and, if there are any, the financial impact will need to be factored into the overall cost estimate and funded from the available resources. Consideration of any

VAT implications will equally apply to the decision regarding the future use of the existing school site.

## Legal Implications

92. Under the Education Act 1996, the Council has a general statutory obligation to promote high standards of education and to provide sufficient school places for pupils of compulsory school age. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school they wish their child to attend under section 86 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This does not provide a right to attend a certain school, as applications can still be refused for admission where this would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
93. The governing body of a voluntary school may make proposals to make regulated alterations to its school, subject to compliance with the School Standards and Organisation Wales Act 2013 (the SSOW Act) and the School Organisation Code 2018 (the Code), which sets out factors to be considered in respect of different proposals, the statutory procedures, legal requirements and guidance. The proposals set out in the report in respect of St Mellons Church in Wales Primary School are regulated alterations under Schedule 2 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the SSOW Act).
94. The governing body is required, prior to publishing its proposals, to undertake a consultation on those proposals in accordance with section 48 of the SSOW Act and the Code, and to issue a consultation report, responding to issues raised during the consultation; and may then proceed to publish its statutory proposals. If no objections are received during the statutory objection period (28 days following publication of the proposals), the governing body may implement its proposals. If, however, objections are received, the governing body must publish a summary of the objections and their responses to those objections (an Objection Report), within 28 days from the end of the statutory objection period, and refer the proposals to the Council for approval under section 51 of the SSOW Act.
95. The referral to the Council must be made within 35 days of the end of the objection period, and must include copies of the consultation document, the consultation report, the published notice, the objections and the objection report.
96. As noted in the body of the report, one objection to the proposals made by the governing body of St Mellons CiW Primary School has been received during the statutory objection period and remains unwithdrawn. The governing body has accordingly referred its proposals to the Council for approval.
97. Under the Council's Constitution, Part 3, Section, the approval of school organisation proposals under section 51 of the SSOW Act is the responsibility of the Cabinet. Under section 51, the Cabinet must either approve, reject or approve with modifications, the proposals.

98. In considering this matter, the Cabinet must have particular regard to:
- (a) All relevant factors, as specified in the Code and set out in the body of the report.
  - (b) Views expressed and responses set out in the consultation report and the objection report.
  - (c) The Council's public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties, Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. The Protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of belief. Due regard should be given to the outcomes of the Equalities Impact Assessment.
  - (d) The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards and consider the impact of its decisions upon the Welsh language.
  - (e) The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which requires the Council to consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting its wellbeing objectives (set out in the Corporate Plan). Members must also be satisfied that the proposed decision complies with the sustainable development principle, which requires that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
99. The Council's decision in respect of the proposals must be issued by a formal decision letter, including reasons, within 16 weeks from the end of the objection period; published on the school's and the Council's websites; and notice of the decision must be issued to all parties, as listed in the Code. The decision may be challenged by referral to the Welsh Ministers within 28 days from the date of the decision.
100. If the proposals are approved, they should be implemented by the school in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice, or any subsequent modified date.
101. The Council is the Admissions Authority for voluntary controlled schools (although it can delegate this responsibility to the governing body, with its agreement, or revoke any such delegation). If Cabinet approves the proposals, with or without modification, the admission arrangements for the altered school will need to be determined, following a statutory consultation process carried out in accordance with the School Admission Code and the Education (Determination of Admission

Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006. Members may wish to note that the admission arrangements determined by the Council as Admissions Authority for a designated religious school may make provision for faith based oversubscription criteria, subject to compliance with the Code and equalities legislation.

### **HR Implications**

102. The proposed increase in pupil numbers of St Mellon's CiW Primary School will require the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team to plan for workforce requirements in readiness for the expansion. HR People Services will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Body for this in line with the SOP HR Framework. Where there are new vacancies which arise as a consequence of an increase in the numbers on roll, this will provide opportunities for any candidates within the redeployment pool.
103. As the proposal also includes the relocation of the school, this will require high levels of staff and trade union consultation; clear communication plans regarding the arrangements for the transition from one site to another; in addition to staff involvement in the development of building specifications or designs.

### **Traffic and Transport implications**

104. The Council's Local Development Plan (2006-2026) includes a target of 50% of all journeys to be made by sustainable transport. Minimising the proportion of school journeys made by car and maximising opportunities for travel to school by active and sustainable modes can make an important contribution to achieving this target and reducing pressures on the transport network at peak times. Increasing travel to school by active modes will have a positive impact on children's health and wellbeing and will support the delivery of key actions and outcomes under Goal 5 the Council's Child Friendly City Strategy (2018), which relates to ensuring access to safe outdoor environments for formal and informal play, walking, cycling and scooting and active travel to school.
105. The Council's current Corporate Plan includes a commitment to every school in Cardiff developing an Active Travel Plan. Such a plan will identify actions by the school to support and encourage active travel to school and also any improvements to on-site and off-site infrastructure required to facilitate active journeys.
106. The provision of new schools and the relocation of existing schools provides a clear opportunity to address travel behaviour in the context of a new setting. The Council's approach to this for the new St Mellons CiW Primary School will need to address the following issues.
107. The new school site is located further away from the homes of most of the existing pupils than St Mellons CiW Primary School. In 2018/19 there were 26 pupils living within one mile of the new school site while 89 pupils (of whom 8 lived outside of catchment) lived over one mile away.

108. Data from the annual Hands Up survey (2017) for St Mellons CiW Primary School indicates that 43% of pupils were driven to school by car, 38% of pupils walked, 5% parked and walked and 2% cycled. Only 2% travelled by bus.
109. Given that more pupils will live further away from the new school than the existing site, some parents may feel a greater need to drive their children to school. However, it will not be possible to drive directly to the site as vehicular access to the site via Bridge Road will not be permitted. This is because, as part of the new housing development, access to the site via Bridge Road will be restricted to buses only via a bus gate. It is not expected that any pupils will be eligible for Learner Transport.
110. The only other driving route to the site from Llanrumney would be via a lengthy detour, along Newport Road, Southern Way, the A48 and the A4232 Pentwyn Link Road. This would be neither convenient for parents nor sustainable.
111. The lack of an easy driving option will thus make walking to school the most practical option for the Llanrumney-based pupils who live nearer to the new school site. For this reason, it is essential that good walking routes are available between Llanrumney and the new school site and that every effort is made to facilitate travel to the site from Llanrumney by sustainable modes.

### **Walking Routes**

112. In terms of off-site infrastructure, the new school site is linked to the Llanrumney area by an existing pedestrian route which follows a section of Bridge Road and Ruperra Close before connecting to Ty Winch Road. Works to improve this and complete the safe walking route from the proposed new school site to Llanrumney are due to be implemented in the near future and will be in place by the time that the new school building is open in September 2021. The works include a 20mph speed limit on Tyr Winch Road with speed management and the introduction of pedestrian crossings where feasible. Improvements on Ruperra Close and a new footway along Bridge Road will complete the walking route. A more direct, convenient and safer traffic-free route may be also be feasible. The transport team are in the process of procuring a study to investigate the feasibility of an off-road route to be progressed in the New Year. This will assess engineering and environmental constraints and land issues.
113. The master plan for the St Edeyrn's development includes active travel links to the proposed school site. As the development is relatively compact, the school will be within a reasonable walking distance for most residents. Measures to deter residents from driving to the school will need to be built into the design of the access arrangements for the new school. The Council's transport team will work closely with colleagues within the Planning and Education teams to develop the right solutions

and support the development of the site travel plan which will incorporate an Active Travel Plan.

### **Active Travel Plan**

114. The Active Travel Plan will be developed in conjunction with the planning design and delivery of the new school facility and is likely to be made a condition of the planning consent.
115. Officers from the transport team will work closely with the developer and their consultants as well as working directly with the school and with colleagues within the planning and education teams to develop the Active Travel Plan and ensure it is fully tailored to the setting of the school and its future needs. St Mellons CiW School is already involved with the transport team. Together they are developing a pupil-led Active Travel Plan to start engagement and inform the plan for the proposed school. The consultant is also keen to prepare an Active Travel Plan for St Edeyrn's and the transport team will make contact subject to the school move being approved. Development of the plan is likely to include the following activities.
- Early engagement with the school's headteacher, governing body and ward councillors to identify key issues and potential solutions
  - Engagement with parents of pupils including help with personalised travel planning
  - Identification of essential infrastructure within the school site to support active travel, such as bicycle and scooter stands  
Specification of supporting off-site engineering measures to facilitate walking and cycling to the site
  - Support from the Council's Road Safety Team to deliver active travel-supporting activities including national standards cycle training, Junior Road Safety Officers, Kerbcraft and Streetwise, and working with Welsh Cycling Go Ride team to deliver cycling skills
  - Encouraging and supporting the school to implement walking buses
116. As the new school site will be a greater distance away than the existing school for many pupils, a number of parents of Llanrumney-based pupils may want to drive their children to the new school. It may, therefore, be necessary to consider the introduction of parking restrictions on Bridge Road to mitigate problems with congestion and nuisance parking in the area at school start and finish times. These matters need to be considered as part of design of the school and associated highway infrastructure and as part of the Active Travel Plan.
117. Any on-site car parking should not exceed limits included in the Council's adopted parking standards included in the Managing Transport Impacts Supplementary Planning Guidance (2018).
118. Parking restrictions will be implemented within the immediate vicinity of the site, where this is necessary to prevent problem parking and for safety reasons



## **Property Implications**

119. The proposals for the development of a new school at St Edeyrn's have been reviewed and at this stage in the process there are no significant concerns from a property perspective.
120. Any future requirement to value or transfer land and or property into Council ownership to deliver the objectives of the St Edeyrn's school provision should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with County Estates and relevant service areas.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

121. The initial Equality Impact Assessment has been updated following consultation and concludes that the proposed change would not negatively affect a particular group in society. This assessment would be reviewed again as part of the design process. Further equality impact assessments would also be carried out if the proposal is progressed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposals as set out in paragraph 1 without modification
2. Authorise officers to take the appropriate actions to implement the proposals as set out in paragraph 1.
3. Authorise officers to publish the decision within 7 days of determination of the proposal.
4. Delegate the approval of any necessary contracts to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in consultation with the Corporate Director Resources & Section 151 Officer, Director of Legal Services and the Cabinet Members for Corporate Services & Performance and Education & Skills

**NAME OF DIRECTOR**

**Date**

*The following appendices are attached:*

- Appendix 1: Consultation Document
- Appendix 2: Consultation Report
- Appendix 3: Statutory Notice
- Appendix 4: Objection Report
- Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment