
**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS, BAND B: EXPANSION AND
REDEVELOPMENT OF CATHAYS HIGH SCHOOL**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of proposals, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on the 17 December 2020. The purpose of the attached report is to enable the Cabinet to consider a recommendation to hold public consultation on proposals for the expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School in line with Band B 21st Century Schools priority schemes.

Background

2. 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 and a copy of the 14 December 2017 Cabinet Report is included at **Appendix 1**.

Key Proposals of the Cabinet Report

3. The Cabinet Report proposes the following:
 - Expand Cathays High School from 1,072 places (5.5 Forms of Entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places), from September 2023;
 - Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road;

- Expand the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 16 to 50 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
- Upgrade community facilities in Cathays and Gabalfa through the significantly enhanced school facilities being made available for shared use with the wider local community.
- Provide space for the local community to continue to have access to off-road open spaces for informal leisure use, recognising this is the current use at the Maindy site.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

4. The following issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at **Appendix**

A:

- Sufficiency of mainstream secondary school places city-wide (*paragraphs 7-12; page 2 in Appendix A*)
- Condition & Suitability (*paragraphs 13-16; pages 2- 3 in Appendix A*)
- Sufficiency of mainstream secondary school places (*paragraphs 17-19; pages 3 & 4 in Appendix A*)
- Summary of recent and forecast demand for places at entry to secondary education (*paragraphs 20 – 39; pages 4 – 7 in Appendix A*)
- Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Provision (*paragraphs 40 – 47; pages 7 & 8 in Appendix A*)
- Mutual Investment Model (MIM) (*paragraphs 48 – 50; page 8 in Appendix A*)
- Land Matters including improving community facilities (*paragraphs 51 – 60; pages 8- 10 in Appendix A*)
- Admissions and Catchment areas (*paragraphs 61 – 66; Page 10 in Appendix A*)
- Partnerships (*paragraphs 67 – 71; pages 10- 11 in Appendix A*)
- Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language (*paragraphs 72-78; pages 11 & 12 in Appendix A*)
- Learner Travel Arrangements (*paragraphs 79-82; page 12 in Appendix A*)
- Community Impact (*paragraphs 83-87; pages 12-13 in Appendix A*)

- Wellbeing of Future Generations (*paragraphs 88-91; page 13 in Appendix A*)
 - Reason for Recommendations (*paragraph 92; page 14 in Appendix A*)
5. The draft cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
- Financial Implications (*paragraphs 93 – 98; pages 14 – 15 in Appendix A*)
 - Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate) (*paragraphs 99 – 105; pages 15 – 16 in Appendix A*)
 - Traffic Regulation (*Paragraphs 106 – 107; page 16 in Appendix A*)
 - HR Implications (*Paragraphs 108-109; pages 16-17 in Appendix A*)
 - Traffic and Transport Implications (*Paragraphs 110-126; pages 17-19 in Appendix A*)
 - Property Implications (*Paragraphs 127-128; pages 19-20 in Appendix A*)
 - Equality Impact Assessment (*Paragraph 128; page 22 in Appendix A*)
6. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:
- Appendix 1: Cabinet Report, 14 December 2017
 - Appendix 2: Projected availability of and demand for secondary school places
 - Appendix 3: Statutory Screening Tool including Equality Impact Assessment

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

7. The Cabinet is recommended to authorise officers to consult on proposals to:
- Expand the school from 1,072 places (5.5 Forms of Entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places) from September 2023;
 - Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road;

- Expand the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition from 16 to 50 places in purpose-built accommodation in the new school buildings;
 - Upgrade community facilities in Cathays and Gabalfa through the significantly enhanced school facilities being made available for shared use with the wider local community.
 - Provide space for the local community to continue to have access to off-road open spaces for informal leisure use.
8. 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

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 the 17 December 2020.

Way Forward

10. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Melanie Godfrey (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

12 December 2020

