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**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES TO SERVE CATHAYS AND PARTS OF GABALFA, HEATH, LLANDAFF NORTH AND PLASNEWYDD**

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**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 June 2021. The purpose of the attached report is to inform the Cabinet of the responses received following consultation on proposals regarding primary school provision to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd.

**Background**

2. At its meeting on 17 December 2020, the Council's Cabinet authorised officers to:
  - consult on a proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from c0.9 Forms of Entry (FE) (192 places) to 1.5 FE (315 places) from September 2022;
  - undertake a stakeholder engagement exercise to shape proposals that would be taken forward to provide an appropriate balance of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places to serve the area.
3. It was noted that consultation on the Admission Arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year would include a proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number of Allensbank Primary School from 45 to 30 places.

## Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

### Summary of Consultation and Responses

4. The following is a summary of the consultation and responses received, as highlighted in paragraphs 4 – 23 of the Cabinet Report:

- The consultation period ran from 29 January 2021 until 19 March 2021. The consultation sought the views of stakeholders on an interim proposal to expand Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to 315 places and potential long term solutions to ensure an appropriate balance of English-medium and Welsh-medium primary school places.
- In total 209 responses were received including 175 online survey, 13 formal responses and a further 21 email responses.
- Formal responses were received from:
  - Local Members for Gabalfa - Cllrs Rhys Taylor and Ashley Wood
  - Estyn
  - Member of Parliament for Cardiff North – Anna McMorrin MP
  - Member of the Senedd for Cardiff North - Julie Morgan AS/MS
  - Chair of Governing Body, Allensbank Primary School
  - Headteacher of Allensbank Primary School
  - Chair of Governing Body, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
  - Staff, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
  - Chair of Governing Body, Gladstone Primary School
  - Chair of Governing Body, St. Monica's CiW Primary School
  - Chair of Governing Body, Ysgol Glan Ceubal
  - Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)
  - Cymdeithas Yr Iaith
- Views were sought from interested stakeholders via an online survey and a hard copy version of the survey within the consultation document.
- Of the 175 responses to the wider stakeholder survey, 140 responses (79%) were received from stakeholders who identified themselves as parents. Of these, 84 were parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils, 23 were parents of Allensbank Primary School pupils and 16 were parents of Ysgol Glan Ceubal pupils. Forty seven (25%) responses were

received from stakeholders who identified as local residents (24 of whom are also parents). The remaining responses were from a range of stakeholders including staff, governors, local members and other interested parties.

- Of the 21 e-mail responses received, 20 were from stakeholders who identified themselves as parents. Of these, 13 were parents of Allensbank Primary School pupils, 4 were parents of Ysgol Glan Ceubal pupils and 3 were parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils. One stakeholder identified themselves as a local resident.
- Of the 172 stakeholders who responded to the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from September 2022, 57% supported the proposal to increase places in Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, 33% did not support the proposal and 10% had no opinion.
- However, of the 173 stakeholders who responded to the question regarding the proposal to locate additional places for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on the Allensbank Primary School site, 74% did not support the proposal, 18% supported the proposal and 8% had no opinion.
- Of the 174 stakeholders who responded to the question regarding the proposal to reduce the number of places at Allensbank Primary school, 38% of respondents supported the proposal, 26% did not support the proposal, while 36% had no opinion.

5. The following further issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at

***Appendix A:***

- Wider Stakeholder Survey (*paragraphs 20 - 25*)
  - Supporting the changes
  - Concerns raised
- Pupil representation – Allensbank Primary School (*paragraphs 26 - 27*)
- Pupil representation –Ysgol Mynydd Bychan (*paragraphs 28 - 29*)
- Responses received regarding long term changes to primary school provision (*paragraphs 30 - 40; plus Appendices 7 and 8*)
- Response to views expressed during the consultation on short-term and long term changes (*paragraphs 41 – 72*)
- Admission Arrangements (*paragraphs 73 – 77*)
- Impact on the Welsh Language (*paragraphs 78 – 83*)
- Local Member consultation (*paragraph 84; plus Appendix 6*)

- Reason for Recommendations (*paragraphs 85 - 88*)
6. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
- Financial Implications (*paragraphs 89 - 90*)
  - Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate) (*paragraphs 91 - 103*)
  - HR Implications (*Paragraphs 104 – 107*)
  - Property Implications (*Paragraphs 108 - 109*)
  - Traffic and Transport Implications (*Paragraphs 110 - 117*)
  - EIA (*paragraphs 118 – 119; plus Appendix 9*)
7. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:
- **Appendix 1** - Consultation document
  - **Appendix 2** - Notes of meetings with staff and governors
  - **Appendix 3** - Notes of meetings with pupils
  - **Appendix 4** - Notes of public meetings
  - **Appendix 5** - Notes of drop in sessions
  - **Appendix 6** - Formal responses
  - **Appendix 7** - Summary of consultation responses
  - **Appendix 8** - Summary analysis of responses
  - **Appendix 9** - Equality Impact Assessment

### **Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals**

8. Cabinet is recommend to:
- Not progress the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from c0.9 Forms of Entry (FE) (192 places) to 1.5 FE (315 places) from September 2022
  - Authorise officers to bring a further report to Cabinet for consideration, setting out details of revised proposals for permanent changes to primary school places serving Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd
  - Note that the agreed School Admission Arrangements 2022/2023 as set out in the Admissions Policy 2022/2023 includes an Admission Number of 30 for Allensbank Primary School.

- Note that the proposed increase in the Admission Number to 45 places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in the Admissions Policy 2022/2023 will not be implemented.

### **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 June 2021.

### **Previous Scrutiny**

10. At a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on the 15 December 2020, Members considered the Cabinet's proposals in relation to the consultation exercise for this area. An extract from the letter arising from this meeting is attached at **Appendix B**.

### **Way Forward**

11. 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.
12. 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**

13. 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**

14. 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**

**10 June 2021**