
**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 June 2021. The purpose of the attached report is to inform Cabinet of the responses received following consultation on proposal regarding the expansion and redevelopment of Cathays High School and to seek authorisation to proceed, where appropriate to publish proposals in accordance with section 48 of The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Background

2. At its meeting on 17th December 2020, the Cabinet agreed a recommendation to hold public consultation on the proposals to:
 - 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 (ASC) 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

Summary of Consultation and Responses

3. The following is a summary of the consultation and responses received, as highlighted in paragraphs 3 – 20 of the Cabinet Report:

- The consultation period ran from 29 January until 19 March 2021.
- In total 494 responses were received including 194 online survey responses, nine email responses and 291 pupil survey responses.
- Formal responses were received from:
 - Local Members – Cllr Rhys Taylor & Cllr Ashley Wood (Gabalfa Ward)
 - Estyn
 - Cathays High School Governing Body
 - Cathays High School Headteacher
 - Gladstone Primary School Chair of Governors
 - Whitchurch High School Headteacher
 - Cardiff Ajax Cycling Club
 - Cardiff Junior Triathlon Club
 - Whitchurch Cycling Club
- Of the 194 respondents to the wider stakeholder survey, just under a half (47.4%) agreed with the proposal to increase the number of spaces at Cathays High School, this figure rises to three in five (59.7%) if the respondents that selected no opinion are excluded from the analysis.
- A half (50.0%) of respondents support the proposal to transfer Cathays High School into a new building with upgraded community facilities, this figure rises slightly (56.1%) if no opinion responses are discarded.
- Over a half (56.5%) of respondents agree that the number of places in the Specialist Resource Base at Cathays High School should increase

from 16 places to 50 places. However, if no opinion responses are excluded from the analysis, agreement with this increases to around four in five (82.0%).

- Of the nine E-mail responses received, three were formal responses and six were from stakeholders who identified themselves as residents.

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

- Views Expressed (*paragraphs 21 - 23*)
 - Supporting the changes
 - Concerns raised
 - Alternative suggestions
- Cathays High School Pupil representation (*paragraphs 24 – 26; plus Appendix 4*)
- Cathays High School Pupil Survey (*paragraphs 27 – 38; plus Appendix 9*)
- Albany Primary School representation (*paragraphs 39 – 42; plus Appendix 4*)
- Allensbank Primary School representation (*paragraphs 43 – 46; plus Appendix 4*)
- Gladstone Primary School representation (*paragraphs 47 – 50; plus Appendix 4*)
- Response to views expressed (*paragraphs 51 – 87*)
 - School Places (*paragraphs 53 – 57*)
 - Detailed plans for new buildings and school site (*paragraphs 58 – 60; plus Appendix 10*)
 - Open Access Space (*paragraphs 61 – 62; plus Appendix 10*)
 - Velodrome/ BMX Track (*paragraphs 63 – 67; plus Appendix 11*)
 - Land Covenant (*paragraphs 68 – 70*)
 - Existing Leisure Facilities (*paragraph 71*)
 - The future use of the existing school site (*paragraphs 72 – 73*)
 - Potential Disruption during construction (*paragraph 74*)
 - Pupil behaviour and littering (*paragraphs 75 – 76*)
 - Traffic Management (*paragraphs 77 – 81*)
 - Alternative Options (*paragraphs 82 – 85*)
- Community Impact (*paragraphs 86 - 91*)

- Wellbeing of Future Generations (*paragraphs 92 – 95*)
 - Local Member consultation (*paragraph 96; plus Appendix 7*)
 - Reason for Recommendations (*paragraph 97*)
5. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
- Financial Implications (*paragraphs 98 - 103*)
 - Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate) (*paragraphs 104 – 109*)
 - Land Matters (*paragraph 110*)
 - Statutory process for school proposal (*paragraphs 111 – 121*)
 - HR Implications (*Paragraphs 122 – 125*)
 - Property Implications (*Paragraphs 126 - 129*)
 - Traffic and Transport Implications (*Paragraphs 130 – 137*)
6. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:
- **Appendix 1** – Consultation Documents
 - **Appendix 2** - bilingual summary document setting out the main points of the consultation document
 - **Appendix 3** – Notes of Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams with Governors and staff at Cathays High School
 - **Appendix 4** – Notes of Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams with pupil representatives at Cathays High School, Albany Primary School, Allensbank Primary School and Gladstone Primary School
 - **Appendix 5** – Notes from Public consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams Live Event at which the proposal was explained and questions answered; and
 - **Appendix 6** – Notes from Drop-in sessions via Microsoft Teams where officers were available to answer questions
 - **Appendix 7** - Full copies of the formal responses received.
 - **Appendix 8** - A summary of the responses received from all stakeholders, and appraisal of views expressed
 - **Appendix 9** - A summary analysis of the responses received
 - **Appendix 10** - Comparative red line boundary maps for the existing arrangements and the redeveloped sites

- **Appendix 11** - Cabinet report from March 2021 detailing its Velodrome and International Sports Village (ISV) Development Strategy
- **Appendix 12** - EIA

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

7. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- Authorise officers to issue a statutory notice to:
 - 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
- 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

8. 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

9. 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 Cathays High School. An extract from the letter arising from this meeting is attached at **Appendix B**.

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

10 June 2021