
**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: IMPROVING PROVISION FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS
2018-22 – DRAFT CABINET REPORT**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to consider and review the Draft Cabinet Report (copy attached at **Appendix A**).

Background

2. There are two significant challenges facing Cardiff in relation to provision and support for learners with additional learning needs:
 - Introduction of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act (ALNET); and
 - The growing number of learners requiring special school or specialist resource base places in order to fully access education and fulfil their potential.

Draft Cabinet Report

3. The draft Cabinet report seeks to enable Cardiff to respond to the Challenges that it faces by:
 - Informing Cabinet of the implications of the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act
 - Informing the Cabinet of the projected growth in demand for specialist resource base and special school provision;
 - Seeking Cabinet approval of the Cardiff ALN Strategic Priorities 2018-22; and
 - Seeking Cabinet authority to consult on a range of proposed schemes, to extend and re-align special school and specialist resource base places.

4. The report outlines the following key aspects:
 - Population growth and additional learning needs (para 5)
 - Cardiff Additional Learning Needs strategic priorities
 - Priority 1 - Successful implementation of the ALN and Educational Tribunal Act (para 11)
 - Priority 2 - Strengthening our collective capacity to meet all needs (para 25)
 - Priority 3 - Ensuring sufficiency, high quality additional needs provision (para 36)
 - ALN development plan 2018-22 proposed schemes (para 53)
 - Capital and Revenue implications (para 125)
 - Educational Benefits (para 126)
 - Potential disadvantages (para 127)
 - Alternatives considered (para 128)
 - Impact on the Welsh Language (para 129)

5. The report of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning recommends to the Cabinet that :

1. Approve the Cardiff ALN strategic priorities, 2018-22

Priority One: To improve outcomes for learners with additional needs by successfully implementing the ALN and Educational Tribunal Act

Priority Two: To improve outcomes for learners with additional needs by strengthening our collective capacity to meet all needs

Priority Three: To improve outcomes for learners with additional needs by ensuring sufficient, high quality additional learning provision

2. Authorise officers to consult on the following proposals:
 - a) To meet demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with complex learning disabilities or autism spectrum conditions it is proposed to
 - increase the designated number of Ty Gwyn places to 198;
 - establish 3 extra classrooms by adapting the old Trelai Youth Centre building, which is situated to the rear of the school

- b) To meet demand for primary and secondary special school places for learners with autism spectrum conditions it is proposed to:
- extend the age range of The Hollies School from 4-11, to 4-14
 - increase the designated place number to 138
 - provide additional accommodation by refurbishment of the school accommodation to be vacated by Ysgol Glan Morfa
- c) To meet the need for post-16 places for emotional health and wellbeing needs it is proposed to
- extend the age range of Greenhill from 11-16 to 11-19 and
 - increase the capacity of the school to allow for up to 64 places.
- d) To meet demand for primary special school places for complex learning disabilities, it is proposed to
- change the designation of Meadowbank School from: 'specific language impairments', to: 'speech language and communication needs *and* complex learning disabilities'
- e) To meet the need for early intervention places for speech and language needs, it is proposed to
- Phase out the SRB at Allensbank School, closing the class in July 2020, or when all current pupils have completed their primary placement, if earlier.
 - Open an 8-place early intervention class for children with speech and language needs at Allensbank School, admitting the first cohort in September 2019.
- f) To meet the demand for primary specialist resource base places for complex learning disabilities, it is proposed to
- open a specialist resource base (SRB) at St Mary the Virgin CiW Primary School, for up to 20 places.
- g) To meet the demand for primary SRB places for with complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh medium sector, it is proposed to
- open a specialist resource base at Ysgol Pwll Coch, providing up to 10 places initially, but with scope to extend to 20 places in future, as demand grows.
- h) To meet the demand for secondary SRB places for complex learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions in the Welsh medium sector it is proposed to:

- extend the designated number at Ysgol Glantaf specialist resource base to up to 30 places
 - extend and improve the current accommodation for the SRB
3. 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

6. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to:
- Consider and review the contents of the draft cabinet report.
 - Pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills prior to the consideration of the Draft report by Cabinet.

Way Forward

7. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), will present the report to the Committee, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
8. 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

9. 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

10. 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:

Review the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with information provided at the meeting and 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

5 January 2018