

21st century schools, Band B: Early Years, Primary and Secondary school provision to serve Adamsdown and Splott: Pre- Decision Scrutiny

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 11 July 2019.
2. The report enable the Cabinet to consider a recommendation to hold public consultation on proposals for early years, primary school, secondary school and post-16 provision to serve Adamsdown and Splott. To enable the Cabinet to consider the request of the Archdiocese of Cardiff to bring forward a proposal to discontinue St Albans R.C. Primary School
3. It is proposed that:
 - Close St Albans Catholic Primary School, from August 2021;
 - Increase the capacity of Baden Powell Primary School from 420 places (2 Forms of Entry) to 630 places (3 Forms of Entry), and reduce the age range of the school from 3-11 years to 4-11 years, from September 2021;
 - Transfer Baden Powell Primary School to Tremorfa Park and replace the existing buildings with new build accommodation;
 - Increase the capacity of Willows High School from 1,121 places (7.4 Forms of Entry) to 1,200 places (8 Forms of Entry) for pupils aged 11-16;
 - Transfer Willows High School to Tremorfa Park and replace the existing buildings with new build accommodation;

- Establish post-16 provision for up to 250 pupils within the new buildings;
- Increase the capacity of Tremorfa Nursery School from 112 places to 128 places and expand the range of services provided on site including the relocation of Flying Start childcare (currently located on the Willows High School site) and parenting support, within an Integrated Children's Centre on the existing Tremorfa Nursery School site and the vacated St Albans Catholic Primary School site;
- Upgrade community facilities in Tremorfa through the replacement of public open space in Splott, significantly enhanced community facilities located on the new school site and replacement pitches for shared use with St Albans Rugby Club and the wider local community.

Background

4. The report outlined the sufficiency, suitability and condition issues in Cardiff as assessed in 2017, which provided the basis of the funding request from Cardiff to Welsh Government under the Band B programme. A copy of the 12 October 2017 Cabinet Report is included at **Appendix 1**
5. At its meeting on 14 December 2017, the Cabinet approved the prioritised scheme under Band B of Cardiff's Band B 21st Century Schools Programme. A copy of the 14 December 2017 Cabinet Report is included at **Appendix 2**.
6. The proposed replacement and expansion of Willows High School within the Band B phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme sought to:
 - Replace a "D" condition, end of life, 11-16 secondary school;
 - Contribute towards addressing sufficiency issues in the secondary sector in the central area of the city.
7. Since the submission of the Council's Band B 21st Century Schools Programme was approved in principle by the Welsh Government in November 2017, surveys of school buildings in Cardiff have identified condition issues at Baden Powell Primary School which would require investment within and beyond the Band B investment period.

8. The Archdiocese of Cardiff has also indicated in correspondence with the Council in April 2019 that, in light of concerns around the continued viability of St Alban's Catholic Primary School, it can no longer sustain the school. This correspondence is attached as **Appendix 3**.
9. The Archdiocese has therefore requested that the Council consider a proposal be brought forward to close St Alban's Catholic Primary School, in the context of wider proposals for school provision serving Adamsdown and Splott.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

10. The report explains in detail a number of factors that have been taken into account in identifying the need for the report, namely:
 - Sufficiency of school places (paragraph 17 -19)
 - Take up of primary and secondary school places city wide (paragraphs 20 – 28)
 - Primary and secondary school places serving Adamsdown and Splott (paragraphs 29 – 39)
 - Secondary school places serving other areas (Paragraphs 40 – 51)
 - Nursery school class places serving Adamsdown and Splott (Paragraph 52- 56)

Proposed reorganisation of schools

- Tremorfa Nursery School; - Capacity and demand for places (Paragraph 57 – 62)
- Baden Powell Primary School and St Alban's RC Primary School – capacity and demand for places (Paragraphs 63-87)
- Meeting future demand for places in Catholic primary schools (Paragraphs 88 – 91)
- Willows High School – capacity and take up of places, age 11-16 (paragraph 92 – 100)
- Post-16 provision (paragraph 101 – 110)
- Building on success - Creative Partnership, secondary and post-16 (paragraph 111 – 123)
- Condition & Suitability (Paragraph 124 – 134)
- Transformative enhancement of facilities and opportunities (paragraph 135 – 139)

- Land Matters including upgrading of public open space (paragraph 140 – 155)
 - Benefits of the proposals (Paragraph 156)
 - Admissions and Catchment Areas (paragraph 157 -165)
 - Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language (paragraph 166-172)
 - Community impact (paragraph 173-179)
 - Wellbeing of future generations (paragraph 180-182)
 - Traffic and Transport implications (paragraphs 230- 243)
11. The report to Cabinet includes a number of appendices which are also attached, namely:
- Appendix 1: Cabinet Report, 12 October 2017
- Appendix 2: Cabinet Report, 14 December 2017
- Appendix 3: Correspondence from Director of Schools & Colleges, Archdiocese of Cardiff, 17 April 2017
- Appendix 4: Projected availability of and demand for primary school, secondary school and post 16 places
- Appendix 5: Map of English-medium community primary and secondary school catchment areas
- Appendix 6: Statutory Screening Tool including Equality Impact Assessment

Recommendations for Cabinet

The Cabinet is recommended to authorise officers to consult on proposals to:

- Discontinue St Albans R.C. Primary School from 31 August 2021;
- Increase the capacity of Baden Powell Primary School from 420 places (2 Forms of Entry) to 630 places (3 Forms of Entry), and reduce the age range of the school from 3-11 years to 4-11 years, from September 2021;
- Transfer Baden Powell Primary School to Tremorfa Park and replace the existing buildings with new build facilities with capacity to provide 630 places (3 Forms of Entry).
- Transfer Willows High School to Tremorfa Park and replace the existing buildings with new build accommodation, increasing the

capacity of the school from 1,121 places (7.4 Forms of Entry) to 1,200 places (8 Forms of Entry)

- To establish post-16 provision for up to 250 pupils within the new buildings;
- Increase the capacity of Tremorfa Nursery School from 112 places to 128 places and expand the range of services provided on site including Flying Start childcare and parenting support, within an Integrated Children's Centre on the existing Tremorfa Nursery School site and the vacated St Albans R.C. Primary School site;
- Upgrade community facilities in the Splott Ward through the replacement of public open space at the former Willows High School site, significantly enhanced community facilities located on the new school site and replacement pitches for shared use with St Albans Rugby Club and the wider local community at Tremorfa Park.
- 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

12. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider the attached draft cabinet report and associated appendices and provide any comments, advice or recommendations to Cabinet.

Way Forward

13. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (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.

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

5 July 2019