

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY
SCHOOL PROVISION TO SERVE PARTS OF CREIGIAU & ST FAGANS,
PENTYRCH AND RADYR / MORGANSTOWN**

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 15 July 2021. The purpose of the attached report is to enable the Cabinet to consider a recommendation to hold public consultation on proposals for English-medium primary school provision to serve parts of Creigiau & St Fagans, Pentyrch and Radyr / Morganstown.

Background

2. A number of new housing developments have been proposed in North West Cardiff in recent years which will increase the number of children in the area seeking school places, and will impact on the availability of school places.
3. The Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance sets out the circumstances in which the Council could seek s106 contributions from developers towards school facilities. In order to achieve contributions from developers, the Council would be required to evidence that any obligation meets the following criteria:
 - Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
 - Directly related to the development; and
 - Fairly and reasonably related in case and kind to the development

4. Cardiff' Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006 – 2026 identified key strategic sites to deliver 41,100 new dwellings in Cardiff including
 - Strategic site C – North West Cardiff to provide up to 5,000 dwellings during the LDP period but potentially up to 7,000 overall.
 - Strategic site D – North of Junction 33 on the M4 to provide circa 2000 dwellings
 - Strategic site E – South of Creigiau to provide circa 650 dwellings

5. New primary schools to serve the Strategic Site C were detailed in the Local Development Plan as a policy requirement for essential infrastructure necessary to support the development.

6. As at June 2021, 179 dwellings on the Goitre Fach Farm development were occupied. Information supplied by the developers of Goitre Fach Farm, and by the lead developer of the first phase of the Plasdwr development suggests that c1,000 dwellings will be occupied by Summer 2023.

7. The development North of Junction 33 is also underway and the developer has indicated that 250 dwellings will be complete by early 2023.

8. These developments will increase the number of children in the area seeking school places in the area, which will have an impact on the availability of places in existing schools.

9. New school places may either be provided through the expansion of existing schools (where a site is capable of accommodating additional pupil places), or through the provision of new build schools.

10. Following a public consultation in September 2019, the Council's Cabinet approved the establishment of a new two form entry dual stream primary school to serve the initial phases of the Plasdwr development at its meeting of 24 June 2020. This school will provide one form entry Welsh-medium and one form entry English-medium with a significant use of Welsh places, and will also provide 96 part-time nursery places. A copy of Cabinet Report of 24 June 2020 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

Key Proposals of the Cabinet Report

11. The Cabinet Report proposes the following:

- To enable the Cabinet to consider a recommendation to hold a public consultation on a proposal to increase the number of primary school places at Pentyrch Primary School from 140 places to 210 places and to establish nursery provision of 48 part-time places at the school.
- For Cabinet to note the revenue implications and capital implications arising from expansion of school provision.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

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

A:

- Schools serving the area (*paragraphs 17-20, plus Appendices 2 and 3*)
- Establishing local demand for school places (*paragraphs 21 – 24, plus Appendix 4*)
- City-wide sufficiency of primary school places (*paragraphs 25 – 28*)
- Local sufficiency of primary school places (*paragraphs 29 – 37*)
- Pentyrch Primary School (*paragraphs 38 – 45*)
- Proposed expansion of Pentyrch Primary School (*paragraphs 46 – 50*)
- Nursery Provision (*paragraphs 51 - 56*)
- Impact on existing school provision (*paragraphs 57 – 60*)
- Implications for secondary school provision (*paragraphs 61 – 69*)

- Admission arrangements and catchment areas (*paragraphs 70 – 73*)
- Local Member consultation (*paragraph 74*)
- Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language (*paragraphs 75 - 83*)
- Learner Travel Arrangements (*paragraphs 84 – 90*)
- Community Impact (*paragraphs 91 – 98*)
- Wellbeing of Future Generations (*paragraphs 99 – 101*)
- Scrutiny Consideration (*paragraph 102*)

13. The draft cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:

- Financial Implications (*paragraphs 103 - 105*)
- Legal Implications (*paragraphs 106 - 116*)
- HR Implications (*paragraphs 117 -118*)
- Transport Implications (*paragraphs 119 - 126*)
- Property Implications (*paragraphs 127 - 128*)
- Equality Impact Assessment (*paragraph 129, plus Appendix 5*)

14. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:

- Appendix 1: Cabinet Report of 24 June 2020
- Appendix 2: English-medium primary school catchment areas
- Appendix 3: Welsh-medium primary school catchment areas
- Appendix 4: Projections and forecasts
- Appendix 5: Equality Impact Assessment

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

15. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- i. authorise officers to consult on proposals to increase the capacity of Pentyrch Primary School from c0.7FE (140 places) to 1FE (210 places), and to extend the age range of the school from 4-11 to 3-11, from September 2023; and

- ii. 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

16. 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 15 July 2021.

Way Forward

17. 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 be present and available to answer any questions Members may have.
18. 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

19. 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

20. 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

8 July 2021