

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PROPOSALS: PROVISION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)**

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 recommendations to hold a public consultation on proposals to transfer, expand and redevelop The Court Special School in line with the Band B 21st Century Schools priority scheme, and on the proposed establishment of specialist learning resource provision at Moorland Primary School.

Background

2. At its meeting on 14 December 2017, the Cabinet approved the prioritised scheme under Band B of the Cardiff's Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.
3. The Band B Programme seeks to address the most acute sufficiency and condition issues in Cardiff. Four special schools are identified for redevelopment: Riverbank Special School and Woodlands High School, for pupils with complex learning needs/ autism, and The Court School and Greenhill School, for pupils with emotional health and wellbeing needs.

4. Proposals in relation to Riverbank and Woodlands were agreed by the Welsh Minister on 21 July 2020. This paper sets out the proposals in relation to The Court School. Proposals regarding specialist provision for secondary age pupils with emotional health and wellbeing need and Greenhill School will be brought forward in later in the year. A copy of the 14 December 2017 Cabinet Report is included at **Appendix 1**.
5. Places for pupils with Complex Learning Needs (CLN) are offered in a range of settings across Cardiff which support identified pupil needs. This includes supported placements at both primary and secondary level in mainstream school and places in specialist resource base (SRBs) and special schools.
6. Band B projects to expand special school places at Riverbank and Woodlands Special Schools are underway, but further work is needed to increase resource base provision in the short term to increase the range of options for learners with complex learning needs.
7. The majority of resource base places are currently located in the north and east of the city. To improve access to resource base places for children living in the central south areas of the city, it is proposed to establish a base at Moorland Primary School.

Key Proposals of the Cabinet Report

8. The Cabinet Report proposes the following:
 - Increase the capacity of The Court Special School from 42 to 72 places. The school would transfer to new build accommodation across two sites at Fairwater Primary School and the current St Mellons, CiW Primary School site in Llanrumney with 36 pupils on each site from September 2025.
 - Establish a SRB for primary aged children with Complex Learning Needs at Moorland Primary School from September 2022.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

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

- *Condition and Suitability (paragraphs 13 – 18)*
- *Sufficiency in the Special Sector (paragraphs 19 – 27)*
- *Primary Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs provision (age 4-11) (paragraphs 28 - 33)*
- *Primary Complex learning/ autism provision (age 4-11) (paragraphs 34 – 38, plus Appendix 2)*
- *Geographical distribution of specialist provision (paragraphs 39 - 42, plus Appendix 3)*
- *Summary of provision (paragraph 43)*
- *The Court Special School (paragraphs 44 - 47)*
- *Land Matters related to The Court School (paragraphs 48 - 55)*
- *Complex Learning Needs Specialist Resource Base (paragraphs 56 - 63)*
- *Land matters relating to Moorland Primary School (paragraphs 64 - 70)*
- *Health provision (paragraphs 71 - 72)*
- *Admission arrangements (paragraph 73)*
- *Impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language (paragraphs 74 - 86)*
- *Learner Travel Arrangements (paragraphs 87 - 89)*
- *Community Impact (paragraphs 90 - 93)*
- *Wellbeing of Future Generations (paragraphs 94 - 96)*
- *Local Member consultation (paragraph 97)*

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

- *Financial Implications (paragraphs 99 - 105)*
- *Legal Implications including EIA where appropriate (paragraphs 106 - 117)*
- *HR Implications*
 - *The Court Special School (paragraph 118)*
 - *Moorland Primary School (paragraph 119)*

- Transport Matters
 - Transport matters relating to The Court at the proposed Fairwater Primary School site (*paragraphs 120 - 126*)
 - Transport matters relating to The Court at the proposed St Mellons CiW Primary School site (*paragraphs 127 - 131*)
 - Transport matters relating to Moorland School SRB (*paragraphs 132 - 136*)
- Property Implications (*paragraphs 137 - 139*)
- Equality Impact Assessment (*paragraphs 140 – 141, plus Appendix 4*)

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

- Appendix 1: Cabinet Report, 14 December 2017
- Appendix 2: Projections and Forecasts
- Appendix 3: Specialist provision maps showing location of existing provision
- Appendix 4 - Equality Impact Assessment

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

12. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) authorise officers to consult on proposals to:
 - Increase the capacity of The Court Special School from 42 to 72 places. The school would transfer to new build accommodation across two sites at Fairwater Primary School and the current St Mellons, CiW Primary School site in Llanrumney from September 2025.
 - Establish a Specialist Resource Base (specialist resource base) for up to 20 primary aged children with Complex Learning Needs (CLN) at Moorland Primary School from September 2022.

- (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

13. 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

14. 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.
15. 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

16. 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

17. 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