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

Purpose of the 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 14 October 2021. The purpose of the attached report is to enable the Cabinet to consider recommendations to hold public consultation on a range of proposals, consistent with the Cardiff 2030 vision for education and learning, to strategically extend and realign special school and Specialist Resource Bases which would provide:
 - 136 additional Secondary and post-16 Emotional health and wellbeing needs (EWHN) places;
 - 139 additional Secondary age Complex Learning and Autism Spectrum Condition places;
 - 42 additional Age 3-19 Complex Learning and Autism Spectrum Condition places; and
 - 150 additional Primary Complex Learning and Autism Spectrum Condition places.

Background

2. At its meeting on the 12 of October 2017, the Cabinet received a report 'Developing the School Estate' which outlined the challenges and opportunities facing Cardiff in the development of the education estate.

3. The report outlined the sufficiency, suitability and condition issues in Cardiff which provide the basis of the funding request from Cardiff to Welsh Government under the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme. A copy of the 14 December 2017 Cabinet Report is included at Appendix 1.
4. 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.
5. Proposals in relation to Riverbank and Woodlands were agreed by the Welsh Minister on 21 July 2020.
6. At its meeting on 15 July 2021 the Cabinet authorised officers to consult on proposals for The Court Special School and the establishment of Specialist Resource Base provision at Moorland Primary School for learners with complex learning needs. A copy of the 15 July 2021 Cabinet Report is included at Appendix 2.
7. The Cabinet report brings forward the proposals to expand Emotional Health & Wellbeing provision for secondary age and post 16 learners, identified in the Council's 21st Century Schools Band B programme, to address the shortfall of places and to provide the best opportunities for learners.
8. While the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme will provide opportunities to address special school sufficiency issues, there will also be a need to take steps to extend provision to meet demand for places beyond this.

Key Proposals of the Cabinet Report

9. The Cabinet Report proposes the following:
- authorise officers to consult on proposals as outlined in paragraph 54 of the Cabinet report (Appendix A).
 - note the proposal for an increase in the designated number at The Marion Centre Specialist Resource Base, at The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School, from 42 to 66 places from September 2022.
 - note that the statutory consultation process to increase the designated number at the Marion Centre at The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School is to be undertaken by the governing body of the school, and instruct officers to provide all reasonable assistance in this regard.
 - note the proposal for an increase in the designated number at Whitchurch High School Specialist Resource Base from 70 to 100 from September 2022
 - note that the statutory consultation process to increase the designated number at the Whitchurch High School Special Resource Base is to be undertaken by the governing body of the school, and instruct officers to provide all reasonable assistance in this regard.
 - authorise the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning to formally respond on behalf of the Council to the public consultations issued by the governing bodies of The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School and Whitchurch High School in due course.
 - 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.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

10. The following issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at

Appendix A:

- Achieving Cardiff's Learning Entitlement Goal (*paragraphs 9 - 15*)
- Sufficiency in the Special Sector (*paragraphs 16 – 25*)
- Demand for places (*paragraphs 26 – 32*)
- Secondary and Post 16 Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs provision (*paragraphs 33 - 38*)
- Secondary and post 16 Complex Learning and Autism Spectrum Condition provision (*paragraphs 39 - 41*)
- Primary Complex learning/ autism provision (age 4-11) (*paragraphs 42 – 47*)
- Proposed Schemes Overview (*paragraphs 48 - 54*)
- Secondary age and Post 16 Emotional Health and Wellbeing proposals
 - Greenhill Special School (*paragraphs 55 - 60*)
 - Land matters relating to Greenhill Special School - Existing site (*paragraphs 61 - 66*)
 - Dutch Garden Centre site (*paragraphs 67 - 71*)
 - Ty Glas site, Llanishen (*paragraphs 72 - 75*)
 - Cardiff West Community High School Emotional Health and Wellbeing Base (*paragraphs 76 - 78*)
 - Eastern High Emotional Health and Wellbeing Base (*paragraphs 79 - 81*)
- Secondary Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition proposals
 - Llanishen High School (*paragraphs 82 – 86*)
 - Marion Centre, The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School (*paragraphs 87 - 92*)
 - Whitchurch High School (*paragraphs 93- 98*)
 - Willows High School (*paragraphs 99 - 103*)
 - Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (*paragraphs 104 -106*)

- 3-19 Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition places
 - Ty Gwyn Special School (*paragraphs 107 - 110*)
 - Primary Complex Learning Needs and Autism Spectrum Condition proposals
 - Llanishen Fach Primary School (*paragraphs 111 - 114*)
 - Marlborough Primary School (*paragraphs 115 - 118*)
 - Meadowbank Special School (*paragraphs 119 -121*)
 - Pentreban Primary School (*paragraphs 122 - 125*)
 - Springwood Primary School (*paragraphs 126 - 129*)
 - The Hollies Special School (*paragraphs 130 - 135*)
 - Health provision (*paragraphs 136 - 137*)
 - Addressing Condition and Suitability (*paragraphs 138 - 143*)
 - Admissions Arrangements (*paragraph 144*)
 - Impact of the proposals on the Welsh Language (*paragraphs 145 - 155*)
 - Learner Travel Arrangements (*paragraphs 156 - 159*)
 - Community Impact (*paragraphs 160 - 162*)
 - Wellbeing of Future Generations (*paragraphs 163 - 165*)
 - Local Member consultation (where appropriate) (*paragraph 166*)
 - Scrutiny consideration (*paragraph 167*)
 - Reason for Recommendations (*paragraph 168*)
11. The draft cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
- Financial Implications (*paragraphs 169 - 175*)
 - Legal Implications including EIA where appropriate (*paragraphs 176 - 186*)
 - HR Implications
 - Greenhill Special School (*paragraph 187*)
 - Cardiff West Community High School (*paragraph 188*)
 - Eastern High (*paragraph 189*)
 - Llanishen High School (*paragraph 190*)
 - The Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales High School (*paragraph 191*)
 - Whitchurch High School (*paragraph 192*)
 - Willows High School (*paragraph 193*)

- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf (*paragraph 194*)
 - Ty Gwyn Special School (*paragraph 195*)
 - Llanishen Fach Primary School (*paragraph 196*)
 - Marlborough Primary School (*paragraph 197*)
 - Meadowbank Special School (*paragraph 198*)
 - Pentreban Primary School (*paragraph 199*)
 - Springwood Primary School (*paragraph 200*)
 - The Hollies Special School (*paragraph 201*)
 - Property Implications (*paragraphs 202 - 204*)
 - Traffic and Transport Implications (*paragraphs 205 - 214*)
 - Transport matters relating to Greenhill School at the proposed Ty Glas site (*paragraphs 215 - 222*)
 - Transport matters relating to Greenhill School at the proposed Dutch Garden Centre site (*paragraphs 223 - 228*)
 - Equality Impact Assessment (*paragraph 229, plus Appendix 6*)
12. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:
- **Appendix 1:** Cabinet Report, 14 December 2017
 - **Appendix 2:** Cabinet Report, 15 July 2021
 - **Appendix 3:** Projections and Forecasts
 - **Appendix 4:** Cabinet Report, 15 February 2018
 - **Appendix 5:** Cabinet Report, 23 September 2021
 - **Appendix 6:** Statutory Screening Tool

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 14 October 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

7 October 2021