

**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: PRIMARY SCHOOL
PLACES TO SERVE CATHAYS AND PARTS OF GABALFA,
HEATH, LLANDAFF NORTH AND PLASNEWYDD**

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS (COUNCILLOR SARAH
MERRY)**

AGENDA ITEM: 6

Reason for this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Cabinet of the responses received following consultation on proposals regarding primary school provision to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd.

Background

2. At its meeting on 17 December 2020, the Council's Cabinet authorised officers to:
 - consult on a proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from c0.9 Forms of Entry (FE) (192 places) to 1.5 FE (315 places) from September 2022
 - undertake a stakeholder engagement exercise to shape proposals that would be taken forward to provide an appropriate balance of Welsh-medium and English-medium primary school places to serve the area.
3. It was noted that consultation on the Admission Arrangements for the 2022/23 academic year would include a proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number of Allensbank Primary School from 45 to 30 places.

Issues

4. The consultation period ran from 29 January 2021 until 19 March 2021.
5. The consultation sought the views of stakeholders on an interim proposal to expand Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to 315 places and potential long term solutions to ensure an appropriate balance of English-medium and Welsh-medium primary school places.

6. The process involved:
- Publication of a bilingual consultation document outlining background, rationale and implications to parents, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of nearby schools, all Members of local wards, local residents and other stakeholders (a copy of the consultation document can be seen at Appendix 1);
 - Publication of information in community languages;
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams consisting of a prepared presentation and question and answer sessions with Staff and Governors at Allensbank Primary School (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 2);
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams consisting of a prepared presentation and question and answer session with Staff and Governors at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 2);
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams consisting of a prepared presentation and question and answer sessions with Governors at Albany Primary School, Gladstone Primary School and St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 2);
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams consisting of a prepared presentation and question and answer session with years 4, 5 and 6, in addition to school council pupil representatives from Ysgol Mynydd Bychan (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 3);
 - Consultation meeting via Microsoft Teams consisting of prepared presentation and question and answer session with year six pupil representatives at Allensbank Primary School (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 3);
 - Public consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams Live Event at which the proposal was explained and questions answered (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 4);
 - Drop-in sessions via Microsoft Teams with individuals where officers were available to answer questions (notes from the meetings can be seen at Appendix 5);
 - Letters setting out details of the proposal and where further information could be found were sent to local residents and businesses;
 - A consultation response slip for return by post or e-mail, attached to the consultation document;
 - An online response form at www.cardiff.gov.uk/allensbankmynyddbychan
7. For stakeholders who did not have access to digital platforms the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes via telephone was available.
8. The views expressed at Council organised meetings, drop in sessions, phone calls and on paper or electronically through the appropriate channels, have been recorded.

Responses received regarding the proposal during the consultation period

9. In total 209 responses were received including 175 online survey, 13 formal responses and a further 21 email responses.
10. Formal responses were received from:
 - Local Members for Gabalfa - Cllrs Rhys Taylor and Ashley Wood
 - Estyn
 - Member of Parliament for Cardiff North – Anna McMorrin MP
 - Member of the Senedd for Cardiff North - Julie Morgan AS/MS
 - Chair of Governing Body, Allensbank Primary School
 - Headteacher of Allensbank Primary School
 - Chair of Governing Body, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
 - Staff, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
 - Chair of Governing Body, Gladstone Primary School
 - Chair of Governing Body, St. Monica’s CiW Primary School
 - Chair of Governing Body, Ysgol Glan Ceubal
 - Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg (RhAG)
 - Cymdeithas Yr Iaith
11. Full copies of the formal responses can be seen at Appendix 6.
12. The response from Estyn set out its view that the proposal is likely at least to maintain the existing standards in terms of education, provision and leadership and management for children in the area in the short term. Estyn noted that the proposal supported the growth of Welsh-medium education in Cardiff suitably and the Welsh Governments Cymraeg 2050 aspirations, and that the consultation aligns with the Bilingual Cardiff Strategy, Cardiff’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and contributes towards achieving the targets that are set out in the Cymraeg 2050 strategy.
13. Estyn was however also of the view that overall the proposal did not support strategic long term-planning in relation to Welsh-medium education.
14. Views were sought from interested stakeholders via an online survey and a hard copy version of the survey within the consultation document.
15. Of the 175 responses to the wider stakeholder survey, 140 responses (79%) were received from stakeholders who identified themselves as parents. Of these, 84 were parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils, 23 were parents of Allensbank Primary School pupils and 16 were parents of Ysgol Glan Ceubal pupils. Forty seven (25%) responses were received from stakeholders who identified as local residents (24 of whom are also parents). The remaining responses were from a range of stakeholders including staff, governors, local members and other interested parties.

16. Of the 21 e-mail responses received, 20 were from stakeholders who identified themselves as parents. Of these, 13 were parents of Allensbank Primary School pupils, 4 were parents of Ysgol Glan Ceubal pupils and 3 were parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils. One stakeholder identified themselves as a local resident.
17. A summary of the responses received from all stakeholders, and appraisal of views expressed, can be seen at Appendix 7.
18. A summary analysis of the responses received are included in Appendix 8.
19. The details presented in this report represent the views expressed during the consultation process. These include the wider stakeholder survey, formal responses, e-mail responses, views expressed at public meetings, drop in sessions and pupil consultation meetings.

Responses received regarding the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and consolidation of Allensbank Primary School from 2022

Wider stakeholder survey

20. Of the 172 stakeholders who responded to the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from September 2022, 57% supported the proposal to increase places in Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, 33% did not support the proposal and 10% had no opinion.
21. However, of the 173 stakeholders who responded to the question regarding the proposal to locate additional places for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on the Allensbank Primary School site, 74% did not support the proposal, 18% supported the proposal and 8% had no opinion.
22. Of the 174 stakeholders who responded to the question regarding the proposal to reduce the number of places at Allensbank Primary school, 38% of respondents supported the proposal, 26% did not support the proposal, while 36% had no opinion.
23. The views expressed in the wider stakeholder survey reflect those raised in the e-mail responses received.
24. Reasons for supporting the proposed changes included:
 - Understanding of the rationale for expanding Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in line with demand if capacity is unavailable;
 - Understanding of the rationale for reducing Allensbank Primary School in line with demand and surplus capacity;
 - The rationale for sharing sites given close proximity of both schools;
 - Increasing Welsh-medium provision;
 - Commending the Council for working to support and meet Cymraeg 2050 targets.

25. Concerns raised related to:

- The potential impact of the proposed changes on Allensbank Primary School;
- The potential impact of the reduction in the available accommodation space on Allensbank Primary School;
- The potential impact on staff and pupils, arising out of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan operating across two sites;
- The perceived negative impact on Welsh language acquisition for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils accommodated on the Allensbank Primary School site ;
- The perceived negative impact on pupils and staff wellbeing at both schools;
- The difference in the racial demographic between the two schools;
- The perceived negative impact an enlarged school could have on the ethos and unity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;
- The perceived negative impact on prospective parents of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan pupils who may have concerns about the school operating across two sites;
- Catchment area arrangements, available capacity and undersubscription in other local welsh-medium schools (namely, Ysgol Glan Ceubal);
- The absence of long-term proposals for the development of Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan
- Uncertainty around the future of Allensbank Primary School.

Pupil representation – Allensbank Primary School

26. Officers met virtually via Microsoft Teams with Year 6 pupils of Allensbank Primary School to present the proposal and discuss the proposals and gather their opinions.

27. The points raised by the pupils included the following:

- Questions regarding potential changes to demand for Allensbank Primary School and what this would mean for the school;
- The benefits of interacting with other pupils, making new friends and learning from each other;
- The opportunity for more pupils to attend Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;
- Potential for communication issues due to language difference;
- Concerns for potential splitting of siblings and impact on parents having to attend two sites;
- Concerns around lack of space during the pandemic;
- Concerns around reduced playground space and time;
- Perceived disruption to learning.

Pupil representation –Ysgol Mynydd Bychan

28. Officers met virtually via Microsoft Teams with Years 4, 5 and 6 pupils of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan to discuss the proposals and gather their opinions.

29. The points raised by the pupils included the following:
- Questions regarding whether the short term solution would remain permanent;
 - Questions regarding alternative available land for a new build school;
 - The benefits of interacting with English speaking pupils in improving their Welsh;
 - The increase of Welsh speakers across Cardiff and positive contribution to Cymraeg 2050 targets;
 - Concerns around the potential splitting of friends and siblings across sites and the upset this could cause;
 - Perceived difficulties for parents potentially going to two sites;
 - Concerns around the negative impact on acquisition of Welsh and potential loss of language skills;
 - Perceived difference in resources available at Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;
 - Pupils stated a preference for a new build 2FE school.

Responses received regarding long term changes to primary school provision

30. A summary of the responses received from all stakeholders, and appraisal of views expressed, can be seen at Appendix 7.
31. A summary analysis of the responses received are included in Appendix 8.
32. As part of the consultation stakeholders were also asked to consider changes that could be made to support all children and families in the community to access a local school place. This information will be used to inform the development of proposals to ensure an appropriate balance of school places to serve the area in the long term.
33. Respondents were asked to share their views on longer term changes in relation to the school site(s) they were in favour of being used for each type of primary education (English medium places, Welsh medium places, and Church in Wales places).
34. The sites included the Albany Primary School site, the Allensbank Primary School site, the shared Gladstone Primary School/ St Monica's CiW Primary School site, and the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site.
35. Respondents to the survey indicated a preference for:
- English medium provision on the Albany Primary School site (78.7% of respondents) and the shared Gladstone/ St Monica's site (55.7%);
 - Welsh medium provision on the Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan sites (58.9% and 59.7% respectively);
 - Church in Wales provision on the shared Gladstone Primary School/ St Monica's Church in Wales Primary School site (85.5%).

36. However, as outlined in paragraph 14, the majority of responses received to the survey were from the parents of children at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School and these responses have to be considered within this context. Whilst the Council consulted with parents of children enrolled in primary schools across the wider area, few responses were received from parents of children enrolled at Albany, Gladstone or St Monica's primary schools (2, 0 and 3 responses respectively).
37. Furthermore, few responses were received from parents of children who are yet to apply for or enrol in primary education.
38. Any analysis of the responses received, and conclusions drawn from parents' responses must therefore be considered in the context of their weighting towards families enrolled at Allensbank Primary School or Ysgol Mynydd Bychan.
39. The main points raised in responses included:
- Wanting to ensure that demand for English-medium and Welsh-medium places is met;
 - Each school needing its own site;
 - Insufficient information provided in the consultation document regarding the long term position;
 - The location/proximity of sites suggested;
 - Being content with the current situation and do not see a reason to change things;
 - Being against the splitting of sites.
40. A number of alternative suggestions to the provision of primary school places were also put forward. These included:
- Establishing a new build 2FE school for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;
 - Utilising the current Cathays High School site for a new build Ysgol Mynydd Bychan;
 - Swapping the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School sites;
 - Doing nothing - make use of the surplus places available in existing nearby schools, Ysgol Glan Ceubal in particular;
 - Exploring alternative land options;
 - Adjusting existing catchment areas;
 - Enhancing and expanding the existing Ysgol Mynydd Bychan site.

Response to views expressed during the consultation on short-term and long term changes

41. The proposed changes were developed as part of the Council's commitment to developing Welsh-medium provision and to contribute to the Welsh Government targets set out in Cymraeg 2050.

42. Responses to the proposed changes acknowledged that proposals to increase Welsh-medium places serving the area should be brought forward.
43. Whilst there was support overall for the expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, the majority of respondents including the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan had a number of concerns and did not support the interim expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as proposed.
44. The concerns expressed related to the challenges around operating a school over two sites, the impact on staff and pupils at Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, and a lack of clarity around the long term position.
45. The Council has, consistent with the approach of other Local Authorities, brought forward proposals to expand Welsh-medium provision making use of existing surplus capacity in English-medium schools. Many of Cardiff's Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff have opened as starter classes sharing accommodation with English-medium schools, including most recently Ysgol Hamadryad sharing the site of Ninian Park Primary School in Grangetown prior to its permanent move to Butetown.
46. The next nearest Welsh-medium primary school to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Glan Ceubal, shares its site and building with Gabalfa Primary School. Similar permanent arrangements are in place at other schools including Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen Y Groes and Bryn Celyn Primary School. Cardiff also has two dual stream primary schools, namely Creigiau Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School. It is highly likely that the city-wide expansion of Welsh-medium provision to meet Cymraeg 2050 targets in future will require some site sharing arrangements between Welsh-medium and English-medium schools or streams in the short term or permanently.
47. The layout of the Allensbank site also includes separate buildings, which would further allay any concerns around immersion.
48. The Council also sought to engage with local stakeholders and with each school community on longer term changes at the formative stage of their development to ensure that any such changes are developed with their input, and any concerns identified could form part of the strategic changes necessary.
49. There were also concerns that the targeted increase in demand for Welsh-medium provision may not be realised and that both schools could be left in the position of having to manage the proposed interim arrangement over a prolonged period.
50. The Council recognises that the education system is a key element in ensuring that children are able to develop their Welsh language skills, and for creating new speakers. At September 2020, approximately 18%

of the Reception age primary school places available city-wide were in Welsh-medium classes.

51. The Council is committed to the expansion of Welsh-medium education. In order to make further progress towards the Welsh Government target of 25-29% of pupils in Welsh-medium education by 2031, the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education at Reception age would need to increase.
52. Additionally the issue of surplus capacity in English-medium provision remains.
53. Where there is a higher than necessary number of school places, resources are being deployed inefficiently that could be better used to improve the quality of education for all learners. Combined with this are the difficulties associated with operating a primary school with a high proportion of its places unfilled. The size of the school, and the relatively low number of children on roll, means that the school will face financial difficulties.
54. Whilst there was support for the development of Welsh-medium education to support progress toward Cymraeg 2050 and support specifically for the expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, the interim proposal as set out in the consultation was not supported.
55. Intakes to primary schools city-wide are expected to reduce overall in coming years as the number of children in each pre-school age is lower than in recent intakes.
56. This is reflected in number of applications for entry to Reception in September 2021 submitted by the closing date for applications of 11 January 2021, prior to the consultation.
57. In the initial round of allocations on 16 April 2021, the Council had processed 37 applications for admission to Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, including 33 within the catchment area of the school, for the 30 places available. The Council agreed the admission of 30 children to the school.
58. The Council agreed the admission of all 21 applicants for admission to Allensbank Primary School, including 17 children within the catchment area of the school, compared to 45 places available at the school.
59. The number of applicants offered places at Albany Primary School, Gladstone Primary School and Ysgol Glan Ceubal were 28 and 24 and 20 respectively.
60. Whilst Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd (60 reception places) and Ysgol Y Wern (90 reception places) were fully subscribed at entry, each school was able to admit all applicants seeking a place in their catchment area school (53 and 85 in catchment allocations respectively).

61. City-wide, whilst the percentage of children enrolling in Welsh-medium Reception places in September 2021 is similar to that in September 2020 (c18.5%), the number of places allocated has fallen from c760 to c680 as a consequence of a reduced population.
62. City-wide, admissions data indicates that Welsh-medium Reception classes will retain c19% surplus places in the September 2021 intake. There is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for Welsh-medium places in September 2021 and until the 2023/24 school year based on the current pattern of uptake of places. However, longer term changes to provision would need to be made in order to make progress towards the Cymraeg 2050 targets.
63. Concerns were also raised during the consultation that the expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan would negatively impact the take up of places at neighbouring Ysgol Glan Ceubal, and that alternative measures should be brought forward to support its growth.
64. Taking the above information into account, it is recommended that the proposed expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from 2022 is not progressed.
65. During the consultation, views were also sought on the provision of English-medium and Welsh-medium places to serve the area in the long term, with a number of alternative options put forward by respondents.
66. Any long term solution should seek to:
 - Expand Welsh-medium provision serving the existing catchment area of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan by 1 form of entry
 - Reduce English-medium surplus places to serve the combined catchment areas of Allensbank Primary School, Albany Primary School and Gladstone Primary School;
 - Provide greater certainty and stability of leadership, management, teaching and support staff, to support continued focus on teaching standards and improved outcomes for pupils;
 - Enable investment in school buildings to improve the learning environment.
67. Estyn noted in their consultation response that the proposed changes did not support strategic long term-planning in relation to Welsh-medium education. However the Council's current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020, approved by Welsh Government, was developed at a time of higher birth rates and when projected intakes to primary education were at higher levels than at present. The Council's new WESP will set out the next steps in strategically increasing the proportion of children in Welsh-medium education to support the Cymraeg 2050 target of 1 million Welsh speakers.
68. Proposals for the expansion of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan sought to provide additional places to support the continued expansion of Welsh-medium

education and to contribute towards the Cymraeg 2050 targets, but acknowledged the overall sufficiency of places in coming years.

69. City-wide admissions data for September 2021 intake confirms the anticipated reduced take up of places in Welsh-medium and English-medium schools city-wide as a consequence of a falling population.
70. In accordance with the timetable set by Welsh Government, the Council is working closely with its partners on the Cardiff Welsh Education Forum to develop the new ten year WESP for the city. It is expected the plan will be available for public consultation in autumn 2021 before being submitted for approval to the Welsh Government in early 2022. The first ten year Plan will commence on 1 September 2022 and expire on 31 August 2032.
71. Consultation on the draft WESP will seek views on how best to grow Welsh-medium education and on how to meet the local targets set by Welsh Government, in order to inform future proposals. The consultation on the WESP will seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders city-wide, and also in the communities who responded to this consultation.
72. It is therefore prudent that responses to the WESP consultation in autumn 2021 are considered when developing revised proposals for primary school provision to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd, ahead of consideration by Cabinet.

Admission Arrangements

73. The Council's draft School Admissions Policy 2022/2023 was issued for consultation on 18 December 2020 to all those the Council are required to consult with as set out in the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code (Headteacher, Governing Bodies, Diocesan Directors, neighbouring Local Education Authorities). The consultation closed on 5 February 2021. Details of the consultation were promoted via social media and schools.
74. The proposed changes to the arrangements for 2022/2023 included:
 - an increase in the Admission Number for Ysgol Mynydd Bychan subject to approval by the Council's Cabinet of the proposal to increase the capacity of the school to 315 places
 - a reduction in the Admission Number for Allensbank Primary School to 30.
75. The policy was published on the Council website with details of how responses could be submitted which provided an opportunity for any interested parties to comment.
76. Responses were requested to be returned by 5 February 2021.

77. At its meeting on 18 March 2021, the Council Cabinet considered a report on the consultation and resolved that the Council's School Admission Arrangements 2022/2023 as set out in the Admission Policy 2022/2023 be agreed.

Impact on the Welsh Language

78. The Council works closely and constructively with partners on its Welsh Education Forum, which includes representatives of nursery, primary, secondary and further education, childcare, RhAG and the Welsh Government. The Forum actively informs the planning of Welsh-medium places, to continue to drive the Council's plan to sustainably increase the number of learners within Welsh-medium schools and those learning Welsh in English-medium schools.
79. The Council, and its partners on the Welsh Education Forum, are committed to driving the increase in number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh, to meet the targets within Cardiff's WESP, and to meet the targets set out in the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy.
80. The Council monitors birth rates, the yield from proposed housing and the patterns of take-up in Welsh-medium provision at primary and secondary age, with a view to bringing forward appropriate plans to meet any increased demand.
81. The Council must ensure that the expansion of school provision is brought forward in a strategic and timely manner, which does not compromise existing provision. Significantly or rapidly expanding Welsh-medium primary school provision would, inevitably, have an impact on the take-up of places in other schools, and in turn on the ability of schools to balance budgets and to attract or retain staff.
82. The Council's aspirations for increasing the number of Welsh speakers, and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050, propose a significant change. Cymraeg 2050 sets national targets of educating 40% of learners in Welsh-medium schools, and a further 30% of learners being educated in English-medium schools being fluent in Welsh. At present, c17% of Cardiff children entering primary education are educated in Welsh-medium schools or classes.
83. As outlined in paragraph 58, there is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate demand for Welsh-medium places in September 2021 and until the 2023/24 school year based on the current pattern of uptake of places; however, longer term changes to provision would need to be made in order to make progress towards the Cymraeg 2050 targets.

Local Member consultation

84. Local members were consulted as part of the consultation. A formal response from Cllrs Rhys Taylor and Ashley Wood is included in Appendix 6.

Reason for Recommendations

85. Whilst there was support overall for the expansion of Welsh-medium education, the majority of respondents including the Headteachers and Governing Bodies of Allensbank Primary School and Ysgol Mynydd Bychan did not support the interim expansion of the Ysgol Mynydd Bychan as proposed.
86. In the short term there is sufficient capacity across the wider area to accommodate the demand for places.
87. The Cardiff Welsh Education Forum is currently developing the new 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for the city. The plan aims to set out the next steps in growing Welsh-medium education to support the Cymraeg 2050 target of 1 million Welsh speakers. It is expected the plan will be available for public consultation in the autumn before being submitted for approval to Welsh Government in January 2022.
88. Further work will be undertaken to bring forward permanent school organisation proposals which address the issues that informed the original proposal, take account of the issues raised during the consultation, and which align with the long term strategic aims of Cardiff's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 .

Financial Implications

89. The recommendations to this report note that the published admission number for Allensbank Primary School will be reduced from 45 to 30, from September 2022. As schools' revenue budgets are predominantly predicated on the basis of pupil numbers, any reduction in pupil numbers would mean that the revenue budget for Allensbank would potentially reduce in comparison to previous years, should overall pupil numbers reduce. Current published admissions figures reflect present schools intake. Any reduction in the overall budget for the school could present challenges in terms of ensuring a balanced budget. Therefore, it is critical that the school is able to reduce its current expenditure levels to be able to operate within a reduced budget. As part of this, consideration will need to be given to any exit costs, should there be a need to reduce the overall staffing compliment within the school.
90. The other recommendations to this report seek approval for alternative proposals to be considered and brought to a future Cabinet meeting. This recommendation does not, in itself result in any direct financial implications. However, any alternative proposals that are developed will need to consider a range of financial aspects. These may need to include issues such as; financial resources required to fund pupil places, additional learning needs requirements, transport implications and capital

financing requirements, should any significant work to buildings be required. Also, should the alternative proposals result in the opportunity to dispose of school sites, consideration will need to be given to future use of the sites, demolition costs and costs associated with disposal of a capital receipt. Any capital receipt will need to be prioritised for use in meeting the capitals receipts target connected to the funding of the School Organisational Plan Programme.

Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate)

91. Under the Education Act 1996, the Council has a general statutory obligation to promote high standards of education and to provide sufficient school places for pupils of compulsory school age.
92. A local authority can make school organisation proposals, including making regulated alterations to a community school, under sections 42-44 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ('the Act'), subject to compliance with the Act and the School Organisation Code 2018 ('the Code').
93. The Council must consult on its proposals (in accordance with section 48 of that Act and the Code). The report sets out the public consultation process that has been duly undertaken.
94. Following the public consultation, the Council is required to publish and circulate to all interested parties (listed in the Code) a consultation report:
 - (i) summarising each of the issues raised by consultees;
 - (ii) responding to these by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons;
 - (iii) setting out Estyn's response to the consultation in full; and
 - (iv) responding to Estyn's response by means of clarification, amendment to the proposal or rejection of the concerns, with supporting reasons.
95. The consultation report may also make recommendations to the Cabinet about how to proceed, ie. to publish the proposals as consulted on with any appropriate modifications, to abandon the proposals and retain the status quo or to significantly recast the proposals and re-consult.
96. This Cabinet report, together with the appendices, constitutes the required consultation report. In considering this matter, the Cabinet is required to review the proposals, having regard to all further relevant information put forward during the consultation period (and otherwise).
97. The report recommendation, in light of the consultation responses, is to discontinue the current proposals, to instruct officers to explore revised proposals and bring a report back to a future Cabinet meeting. Members need to be satisfied that the proposed way forward is reasonable and appropriate having regard to the consultation responses. It should be noted that any revised proposals brought

forward in due course will be subject to a further consultation process in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Code.

98. In considering the proposals, the Council must have regard to its public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties, Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. The Protected characteristics are: age, gender reassignment, sex, race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion or belief – including lack of belief.
99. When taking strategic decisions, the Council also has a statutory duty to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage ('the Socio-Economic Duty' imposed under section 1 of the Equality Act 2010). In considering this, the Council must take into account the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers and must be able to demonstrate how it has discharged its duty.
100. An Equalities Impact Assessment should be carried out to identify the equalities implications of the proposed decision, including inequalities arising from socio-economic disadvantage, and due regard should be given to the outcomes of the Equalities Impact Assessment.
101. The Council must also be mindful of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards and consider the impact of its proposals upon the Welsh language.
102. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to consider how its decisions will contribute towards meeting its well being objectives (set out in the Corporate Plan). Members must also be satisfied that the Council's decisions comply with the sustainable development principle, which requires that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
103. Further legal advice will be provided as proposals are revised and progressed.

HR Implications

104. The report notes that the agreed School Admission Arrangements 2022/2023 as set out in the Admissions Policy 2022/2023 included an Admission Number of 30 for Allensbank Primary School.
105. The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team of Allensbank Primary School will need to consider addressing their budget deficit position

whilst reviewing their staffing establishment alongside the decline in the number of pupils currently on roll.

106. This will require full staff and trade union consultation and support will be provided by HR People Services.
107. Where a reduction in the levels of staffing is required, a key aspiration for the Council is to achieve staff reductions as far as possible either through voluntary redundancy or redeployment, rather than compulsory means. The Council is committed to maximising opportunities for school staff to secure employment in other Cardiff schools and therefore facilitates a redeployment process under the School Redeployment and Redundancy Policy.

Property Implications

108. Strategic Estates would support the Education team on asset management and any future land matters required as part of the future review process.
109. In the event of any land transactions, negotiations or valuations required to bring forward any future proposals, they should be done so in accordance with the Council's Asset Management process and in consultation with Strategic Estates and relevant service areas.

Traffic and Transport Implications

110. Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary School operate on constrained sites. Each site experiences issues with traffic and parking during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.
111. Recently the Council introduced CCTV enforcement cameras in Llanishen Street outside Allensbank Primary School to enforce against parking on the 'Keep Clear' zig zag markings.
112. A temporary, staffed road closure was introduced outside Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on Canada Road when schools re-opened in summer 2020 following lockdown. This was to restrict vehicular access near the school in order to provide safe space for social distancing.
113. When schools re-opened in September 2020, concerns were raised by parents and ward members regarding traffic and parking outside Ysgol Mynydd Bychan on New Zealand Road.
114. An expansion of capacity at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and the issues of traffic and parking at both Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Allensbank Primary referred to above underline the need to introduce measures which discourage car travel and promote active travel to both school sites. One such measure is the introduction of a School Street which would restrict vehicular access along the street to residents, blue badge holders and authorised permit holders during drop off and pick up times. There is also

potential to do this on part of Llanishen Street. Plans are being progressed for School Streets on both streets, however both proposals will require consultations with residents and local businesses.

115. Officers have now obtained Welsh Government funding to create School Streets on both New Zealand Road, and Llanishen Street outside Allensbank Primary School later in this financial year. These will make the environment outside each school safer and more conducive to walking and cycling.
116. Another instrument is the development and implementation of a School Active Travel Plan. The Council is committed to ensuring that every school in Cardiff has an Active Travel Plan by 2022. Such a plan identifies actions by the school to support and encourage active travel to school and will also identify any improvements to on-site and off-site infrastructure required to facilitate active journeys
117. All new (including reorganised) schools need to have a plan in place from the outset of their operation. The Council's Active Travel Plans officers can support the development of the Active Travel Plans and can support with engagement on the Active Travel Plans as part of an implementation of a proposed expansion of places.

Equality Impact Assessment

118. An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached as Appendix 9.
119. The assessment notes that the points raised during the consultation should inform any revised proposals for primary school provision to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Not progress the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Mynydd Bychan from c0.9 Forms of Entry (FE) (192 places) to 1.5 FE (315 places) from September 2022
2. Authorise officers to bring a further report to Cabinet for consideration, setting out details of revised proposals for permanent changes to primary school places serving Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd
3. Note that the agreed School Admission Arrangements 2022/2023 as set out in the Admissions Policy 2022/2023 includes an Admission Number of 30 for Allensbank Primary School.

4. Note that the proposed increase in the Admission Number to 45 places at Ysgol Mynydd Bychan in the Admissions Policy 2022/2023 will not be implemented.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Melanie Godfrey Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
	11 June 2021

The following appendices are attached:

- Appendix 1: Consultation document
- Appendix 2: Notes of meetings with staff and governors
- Appendix 3: Notes of meetings with pupils
- Appendix 4: Notes of public meetings
- Appendix 5: Notes of drop in sessions
- Appendix 6: Formal responses
- Appendix 7: Summary of consultation responses
- Appendix 8: Summary analysis of responses
- Appendix 9: Equality Impact Assessment