

Date: 18 October 2023

My Ref: CYP/SOP_Fairwaterpublic_Oct23



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PUBLIC LETTER

Councillor Sarah Merry
Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah,

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 OCTOBER 2023 – SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: FAIRWATER CAMPUS BAND B REDEVELOPMENT

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Committee for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to provide us with the opportunity to consider the draft report on Fairwater Campus Band B Redevelopment, prior to Cabinet on the 19 October 2023. Please also pass on our thanks to Melanie Godfrey; Richard Portas; Michele Duddridge-Friedl; Brett Andrewartha; and Wayne Ganderton.

The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

The committee commends the report to Cabinet and supports the recommendations contained within it. Other comments and observations are as follows:

The committee welcome the ambitious and exciting proposals for the Fairwater campus and the news that this will be the largest development of its kind in the UK. The committee looks forward to monitoring the development closely going forward.

Timelines and timescales for delivery

Members sought assurances relating to the delivery of such a project and asked whether you were confident that timescales were achievable; and that the project would remain at the quality proposed and would provide value for money. We were

satisfied with responses given at the meeting, but Members agreed that, given the scale of the project and its unique status, we will be seeking to monitor and review the project regularly (including site visits) to ensure that Members are satisfied that the project is being delivered on time and to budget. We would **request** that you provide Members with known timelines where this committee could receive updates and we will timetable these accordingly.

The SOP Task & Finish Group could provide a positive contribution to this work away from formal committee, if required.

Community-related matters

Members asked a question in relation to the social value aspect of the proposal. We were informed that this will be a major focus for the SOP Team, and the committee would welcome an update in due course. Therefore, we **request** an indicative timeline when the output of this work could be reported back to committee.

Members enquired about the location of the community facilities and any safeguarding issues in relation to this and were satisfied with the response.

Members questioned you about the parking on-site and whether this was sufficient. Members were concerned about the impact on the community in relation to this matter; and would **request** that, when Fairwater Campus next comes to committee, officers from Highways be included to give their views and perspective. This issue is a matter that we will monitor closely. Please provide contact details of relevant officers.

Financial Matters

In the open session, Members sought clarification about the Welsh Government contribution to the project, and were informed that mainstream school contributions are usually 65%; and special schools at 75%; therefore this project would average approximately 70% WG contribution, with the remaining 30% being funded by the Council via borrowing and reserves.

In addition, Members asked whether funds for future maintenance and upgrades to facilities at the site had been factored in and were told that this is an area that is being considered carefully at the moment. We would therefore **request** further information on this issue and seek assurances that maintenance and upgrade issues are being included.

Future Proofing

Members asked a number of questions relating to surplus places; the impact of other developments (e.g. Plasdwr); and ensuring capacity at Cantonian; Woodlands and Riverbank during the transition period. Whilst Members were satisfied with the responses at the meeting, this will be an issue that we will continue to monitor closely going forward.

To **recap**, we are requesting you:

1. Provide Members with known timelines where this committee could receive updates in relation to the whole project.
2. An indicative timeline when the output the social value aspect of this proposal could be reported back to committee.
3. Agreement that, when Fairwater Campus next comes to committee, officers from Highways be included to give their views and perspective. Please provide contact details of relevant officers.
4. Provide further information and assurances relating to future maintenance and upgrades to facilities at the site.

There are no formal recommendations arising from this letter.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, please pass my sincere thanks to all who attended Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN

Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: CYPSC Members
Melanie Godfrey - Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Richard Portas - Programme Director for the School Organisation Programme
Brett Andrewartha - School Organisation Programme Planning Manager
Michele Duddridge-Friedl - Operational Manager, School Organisation Programme Strategy
Wayne Ganderton – SOP Team
Claire Deguara – Cabinet Support Office
Melanie Jackson – PA to the Deputy Leader
Helen Eager - PA to the Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
Paula Williams – PA to the SOP Director
Tim Gordon and Jeremy Rhys – Media and Comms
Gavin McArthur – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Cllr John Lancaster – Group Leader
Cllr Rodney Berman – Group Leader
Cllr Andrea Gibson – Group Leader