

**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS, BAND B: EARLY YEARS, PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION TO SERVE ADAMSDOWN AND
SPLOTT: PRE- DECISION SCRUTINY**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by the Cabinet at its meeting on the 25 February 2021.
2. The reasons for the Cabinet Report is to:
 - Acquire the freehold interests for land at Lewis Road, Splott, in line with an independent valuation to deliver the replacement Willows High School, subject to Ministerial approval of the Welsh Government Business Justification Case, and delegate authority to conclude the acquisition.
 - Note that a non-statutory public engagement on the relocation of Willows High School will commence following the acquisitions.
3. Members are to note that Appendices 6, 7, 8 & 9 to the Cabinet report are not for publication as they contain exempt information of the description contained in paragraph 14 of Part 4 and paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Background

4. The Council has set out its vision to invest in its education estate to deliver “Inspiring, sustainable, community-focused schools in which children and young people can achieve their potential”. The rebuild and relocation of

Willows High School to Lewis Road forms a critical part of delivering on this vision for the children, young people and communities of Adamsdown, Splott and Tremorfa.

5. A Cabinet report outlining the strategic investment in the city's education estate through its Band B 21st Century School Programme was approved on 12 October 2017 (*attached as **Appendix 1** to the Cabinet report*).
6. This report outlined the challenges and opportunities facing Cardiff in the development of the education estate specific to the sufficiency, suitability and condition issues in Cardiff as assessed in 2017, which provided the basis of the funding request from Cardiff to Welsh Government under the Band B programme.
7. At its meeting on 11 July 2019 the Cabinet received a report requesting officers be authorised to consult on proposals for early years, primary school, secondary school and post-16 provision to serve Adamsdown and Splott.
8. The original proposals involved the expansion and transfer of secondary provision for 11-16 to 8FE and the establishment of a post 16 provision on the secondary site. It also proposed the closure of St Alban's RC Primary School at the request of the Catholic Archdiocese and the expansion of Baden Powell Primary School to 3FE with investment to expand Tremorfa Nursery to become an integrated children's centre. *A copy of the 11 July 2019 Cabinet Report is included at **Appendix 2** to the Cabinet report.*
9. At its meeting on 23 January 2020, Cabinet received a report setting out the outcome of the consultation (***Appendix 3** to the Cabinet report*). Following consideration of the decision of the Archdiocese and taking into account the key concerns raised by stakeholders, the Cabinet resolved to not progress the proposals. Cabinet also authorised officers to bring forward a further report setting out details of revised proposals for the provision of education places in Adamsdown and Splott.

10. Consistent with the decision made by Cabinet on 23 January 2020, the Council has taken into account the feedback from the consultation and changing projection data in bringing forward this proposal for relocating Willows High School at the appropriate size in new build facilities. This proposal located at the new site available at Lewis Road will provide considerably improved facilities and exciting opportunities to build links with local businesses and sports facilities.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

11. The draft Cabinet report sets out the following issues:

- Sufficiency of mainstream secondary school places / population changes and impact on provision required (*paragraphs 17 – 19, plus Appendix 4 of the cabinet report*).
- Summary of recent and forecast demand for places at entry to secondary education (*paragraphs 20 – 28*)
- Take up of places - Willows High School catchment area (*paragraphs 29 – 50, plus a map at Appendix 5*)
- The proposed new school (*paragraphs 51 – 61*)
- The importance of transformational change (*paragraphs 62 – 72*)
- Admissions and Catchment areas (*paragraphs 73 – 77*)
- Land Matters (*paragraphs 78 – 93, which includes CONFIDENTIAL appendices 6-9*)
- Community Engagement (*paragraph 94*)
- Local Member consultation (*paragraph 95*)
- Scrutiny Consideration (*paragraph 96*)

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

- Financial Implications (*paragraphs 98 – 103*)
- Legal Implications
 - Property (*paragraphs 104 – 106*)
 - Equalities and Welsh Language (*paragraphs 107 – 109*)
 - The Well-being of future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (*paragraphs 110 – 113*)

- Policy & Budget Framework (*paragraph 114*)
- Traffic Regulation (*paragraph 115 – 116*)
- HR Implications (*paragraph 117 – 120*)
- Property Implications (*paragraphs 121 - 122*)
- Traffic and Transport Implications (*paragraphs 123 - 150*)
- Equality Impact Assessment (*paragraphs 151 - 152*)

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

- Appendix 1: Cabinet Report, 12 October 2017
- Appendix 2: Cabinet Report, 11 July 2019
- Appendix 3: Cabinet Report, 23 January 2020
- Appendix 4: Projected availability of and demand for primary school and secondary school
- Appendix 5: Map of English-medium community primary and secondary school catchment areas
- Confidential Appendix 6: School Land (***confidential item***)
- Appendix 7: Schedule of the land assembly (***confidential item***)
- Appendix 8: Due Diligence, Valuer's Report and Heads of Terms (***confidential item***)
- Appendix 9: Land Assembly Acquisition Costs summary (***confidential item***)
- Appendix 10: Statutory Screening Tool including Equality Impact Assessment

14. The Cabinet is recommended to :

- To acquire the freehold interests for the land at Lewis Road, Splott in line with an independent valuation, subject to Ministerial approval of the Welsh Government Business Justification Case.
- To delegate responsibility to the Director of Economic Development (in consultation with Director of Education) for all matters relating to the acquisition of land.
- Note that officers will bring forward a report advising Cabinet of responses received following a public engagement exercise.

Scope of Scrutiny

15. 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 25 February 2021.

Previous Scrutiny

16. This Scrutiny Committee has considered this issue on the following dates:

- 10 October 2017¹
- 9 July 2019²
- 21 January 2020³

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 present the report to the Committee, and be 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

¹ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 10th October, 2017, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

² [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 9th July, 2019, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

³ [Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 21st January, 2020, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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

18 February 2021