
**THE EXPANSION OF PENTYRCH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSERY PROVISION AT THE SCHOOL**

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 10 March 2022.

2. The purpose of the Cabinet report is to inform Cabinet of the responses received following consultation on proposal regarding the expansion of Pentyrch Primary School and the establishment of nursery provision at the school. The Service Area seeks authorisation to proceed and where appropriate to publish proposals in accordance with section 48 of The Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Background

3. At its meeting on 15 July 2021, the Council's Cabinet agreed a recommendation to hold public consultation on the proposals to:
 - Increase the number of primary school places at Pentyrch Primary School from 140 places to 210 places
 - Extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11, from 3 to 11 by establishing nursery provision at the school to allow for 48 part-time places

4. This Scrutiny Committee considered the above proposals on the 13th July 2021, and extracts from the Chair's letter arising from this issue, and corresponding response from Councillor Merry is attached at **Appendix B.**

Structure of Papers

5. The following issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at **Appendix A:**
 - Responses received regarding the proposal during the consultation period (*points 7 – 18 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Views Expressed (*points 19 – 23 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Engagement with pupils at Pentyrch Primary School (*points 24 – 26 in the Cabinet report, plus Appendix 4*)
 - Response to views expressed (*points 27 – 43 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Admission to Reception classes – September 2022 (*points 44 – 47 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Admissions arrangements (*points 48 – 49 in the Cabinet report*)
 - School Governance (*points 50 – 51 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Community Impact (*points 52 – 59 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Wellbeing of Future Generations (*points 60 – 63 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Local Member Consultation (*point 64 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Scrutiny Consultation (*point 65 in the Cabinet report*)
6. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
 - Financial Implications (*points 67 – 69 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Legal Implications (*points 70 - 84 in the Cabinet report*)
 - HR Implications (*points 85 – 87 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Property Implications (*points 88 - 89 in the Cabinet report*)
 - Traffic and Transport Implications (*points 90 - 99 in the Cabinet report*)
 - EIA (*point 100 in the Cabinet report; plus Appendix 8*)

7. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:
 - **Appendix 1** – Consultation Document
 - **Appendix 2** – Notes of meetings with Pentyrch Primary School Staff and Governing Body
 - **Appendix 3** – Notes of public consultation meeting
 - **Appendix 4** – Notes of pupil meeting
 - **Appendix 5** – Formal responses received
 - **Appendix 6** – Summary of consultation responses
 - **Appendix 7** – Summary analysis of consultation responses
 - **Appendix 8** – Equality Impact Assessment

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

Consultation Methodology

8. The consultation period ran from 14 December 2021 until 25 January 2022.
9. The consultation 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 found in Appendix 1.
 - Publication of information in community languages upon request.
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams with Staff at Pentyrch Primary School. Notes from the meeting can be found in Appendix 2.
 - Consultation meetings via Microsoft Teams with Governing Body at Pentyrch Primary School. Notes from the meeting can be found in Appendix 2.
 - Public consultation meeting via Microsoft Teams at which the proposal was explained and questions answered. Notes from this meeting can be found in Appendix 3.

- Consultation meeting via Microsoft Teams with pupil representatives at Pentyrch Primary School. Notes from this meeting can be found in Appendix 4.
 - An online survey.
 - Drop-in sessions via Microsoft Teams where officers were available to answer questions. No requests made for these.
 - 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 from at www.cardiff.gov.uk/pentyrchschoolproposals
10. In line with national Coronavirus restrictions that were in place during the consultation period all meetings took place virtually via Microsoft Teams.
11. For stakeholders who did not have access to digital platforms the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes via telephone was available

Results

12. The Council received 82 responses submitted through the online consultation form.
13. In addition, four formal responses were also submitted from:
- Estyn
 - Pentyrch Primary School Governing Body
 - Pentyrch Community Council
 - Proprietor, Pentyrch Nursery
14. Of the 82 responses received, over half (53.7%) were from local residents, followed by around two in five (42.7%) from a parent or guardian.

15. Of those who provided their postcode when responding, the vast majority (89.9%) of respondents live within Pentyrch. A small proportion (3.4%) reside in the Creigiau/ St Fagans area and the remainder (6.8%) live in other electoral wards.
16. Just over half (53.7%) of all the respondents supported the proposal to increase the capacity of Pentyrch Primary School from 140 to 210 places. About two out of five respondents did not agree with this part of the proposal.
17. However, when considering the 24 responses submitted by those identifying themselves as affiliated to Pentyrch Primary School, agreement with the proposal rises to 87.5%.
18. Around two in five (41.5%) of all respondents supported the proposal to establish nursery provision at the school, whilst over half (51.2%) stated they did not. When considering the 24 responses submitted by those identifying themselves as affiliated to Pentyrch Primary School, agreement with the proposal rises to 54.2%.

Views Expressed

19. Reasons for supporting the proposed changes included:
 - Expansion of the school would help retain a school within Pentyrch to serve the local community.
 - Nursery provision would support the growing needs of the community.
 - There is insufficient nursery provision for local residents.
 - The proposal allows children to enter the school environment earlier, which supports transition.
 - Continuity of provision in a school.
 - Concerns around standards of current private nursery provision.
 - More convenient for parents wishing to attend a local nursery class.

- Nursery place with wraparound care perceived as a positive for working families who currently need to travel outside Pentyrch to access this type of offer.
20. Whilst there was support for the development of the school there were a number of concerns raised related to the proposed increase in the capacity of the school from 140 to 210 school places:
- Traffic issues around the school site, including potential to exacerbate congestion, parking, pollution and danger to pedestrians
 - Lack of demand for additional primary school places
 - Disruption of construction period
21. A number of concerns were raised related to the proposal to establish nursery provision at the school:
- Traffic issues around the school site, including congestion, parking, pollution and danger to pedestrians
 - Lack of demand for nursery places
 - Stating support for the existing nursery provision in the village and the negative impact the proposal could have on this business
 - Potential job losses at private nursery
 - Part-time nursery places don't suit parents

Engagement with pupils at Pentyrch Primary School

22. Officers met virtually with pupils from years 3,4,5 and 6 from Pentyrch Primary School to discuss the proposals and gather their opinions.
23. The points raised by the pupils included the following:
- A school library would be of benefit to pupils as part of any changes to the school.
 - Would like a new hall for lunchtimes.
 - Where would the extension be built?
 - How would the build affect the play area/school yard; would not want to lose any of the playground or green space.

- When would the building works be done; would this be while pupils were in school?
- Would the old part of the school stay the same?
- Would part of the school be knocked down?
- What would happen to the existing nursery provision in the village?
- What would happen to clubs if the village hall closed?
- How many extra pupils would come to the school?
- It would be good to have more children at the school.
- A bigger school and new friends would be a good thing.
- If there are more children, there will be more friends
- Would older children be able to mix the younger ones?
- The school is too small.

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

24. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- Authorise officers to issue a statutory notice to:
 - Increase the number of primary school places at Pentyrch Primary School from 140 places to 210 places
 - Extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11, from 3 to 11 by establishing nursery provision at the school to allow for 32 part-time places
- Note that prior to implementation of the proposals a further report will be provided to the Cabinet providing details of any objections received, the proposed responses to those objections and recommendations for implementation or otherwise of the proposals.

Scope of Scrutiny

25. 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 10 March 2021.

Way Forward

26. 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 Brett Andrewartha (SOP Programme Manager) will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
27. 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

28. 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

29. 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

3 March 2022