



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22ND SEPTEMBER 2020

**SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B
PROGRAMME – CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF
TRINITY FIELDS SPECIAL SCHOOL AND RESOURCE
CENTRE AND YSGOL GYMRAEG CWM GWYDDON**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to officially consult with Members in respect of the Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre and Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon proposals.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to consult with members on the proposals for the expansion of provision at Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre and relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon onto the former Cwmcarn High site.
- 2.2 The consultation period for both proposals commenced on the 14th September 2020 and ends on the 26th October 2020.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to:
- a) Note the information contained in the report and the attached consultation packs
 - b) To obtain Members views as part of the consultation process for both proposals which will be noted as part of the minutes of this meeting and included in the Consultation Report document which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are consulted with regards to the outlined proposals and assist the Council in discharging its duty in consulting stakeholders in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Consultation in respect of the Band B Phase 1 proposals

5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B investment programme, outlined by Welsh Government, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

5.1.2 The first two schemes identified are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

5.1.3 As part of the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018 and Section 42/44 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, proposals must be published when we make a 'regulated alteration' to a maintained school and consultation must be undertaken with Members and wider Stakeholders as outlined in the attached documentation.

5.1.4 Each scheme will be considered separately and has its own associated documentation. The consultation period for both proposals commenced on the 14th September 2020 and will end on the 26th October 2020.

5.1.5 Following consultation, all the comments received during the consultation period will be compiled into a Consultation Report in respect of each proposal. Both reports will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide as to whether to proceed, make changes or not to proceed with each individual proposal.

5.1.6 Should Cabinet decide to proceed, individual Statutory Notices will be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing and sent to the Council within the notice period. Formal Responses can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice. Full details of the Consultation Process can be found in the full Consultation Document as part of the attached documentation.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as the process outlined by Welsh Government is being adhered to ensure transparency, balanced and open decision making.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 Caerphilly's Attainment Strategy: To raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy, confident, proud and ambitious and can access high quality educational opportunities, settings and experience.

7.2 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Authority in meeting these objectives in particular the following:

Well-being Objective 1 – Improve Education opportunities for all.

Well-being Objective 2 – Enabling Employment.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

8.2 The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

- **Long Term** - Forecasting of pupil numbers has been utilised to identify the demand for school places to ensure sufficient Educational places in our schools.
- **Prevention** - Improving the quality of the Education estate generally will support pupils in their long term education and skills outcome in that they are more likely to succeed if their Educational experience is positive.

- **Integration** - The 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to BREEAM and Community Benefits of individual proposals are assessed and monitored for their impact on the Welsh economy. The proposals are also part of a strategy to promote Welsh Language and Culture.
- **Collaboration** – The 21st Century Schools Programme is collaboration between the Council and Welsh Government to improve the quality of the Education estate.
- **Involvement** – Through the consultation process the Council will ensure that there is full engagement with all relevant stakeholders as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018, e.g. parents, pupils and the local community. Collaborative partnership working between 21st Century Schools and the Early Years Division, Health and Social Services.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 All relevant Equality Impact Assessments for individual projects have been undertaken prior to moving to this consultation stage and are available to any persons who wish to receive copies. These proposals link with the WESP and the five year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 and will therefore have a positive impact on Welsh Medium Education. The proposal in relation to Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre will also have a positive impact on the children and young people with additional learning needs who are and will be attending the School.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Phase 1 of the programme, Trinity Fields expansion and the relocation and expansion of YGG Cwm Gwyddon totals £22,002,921 The Authority's contribution within this sum is £6.451m.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This will be dependant on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the consultation process.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
 School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
 Legislation (Wales) Act 2019

Author: Andrea West, 21st Century Schools Manager

Consultees: Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director Communities
Councillor Barbara Jones, Cabinet Member, Education and Achievement
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Carol Andrews, Vice Chair of Education Scrutiny Committee
Steve Harris, Interim Head of Business Improvement Services & Acting S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sue Richards, Head of Education Planning & Strategy
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion & ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Anwen Cullinane, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities, Welsh Language & Consultation)
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ros Roberts, Business Improvement Officer
Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Background Papers:

Consultation Pack – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon

Consultation Pack – Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre