



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH OCTOBER 2023

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING BAND B
PROGRAMME – YSGOL Y LAWNT AND UPPER RHYMNEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL PROPOSAL**

**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 Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The purpose of the report is to consult with members on the proposal outlined below:

- **Relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School**
The proposal seeks to create sustainable school buildings with some shared facilities, to accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and Community use. The two schools will continue to provide both Welsh and English Medium Primary education and remain as separate entities, situated within the new dual purpose building.

2.2 The consultation process will proceed in line with the requirements of Welsh Government Statutory Code document no 011/2018 - School Organisation Code 2nd Edition 2018 where exemptions do not apply.

2.3 The consultation period for the proposal commenced on the 28th September 2023 and ends midnight on the 9th November 2023.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Note the information contained in the report and the attached consultation pack.

- b) To obtain Members views as part of the consultation process for the proposal which will be noted as part of the minutes of this meeting and included in the Consultation Report 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 proposal 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 where applicable.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Consultation in respect of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School.

- 5.1.1 The key aims of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B investment programme, outlined by Welsh Government, is:

- *Investment Objective One* - to provide efficient and effective educational infrastructure that will meet current and future demand for places

To include:

- The right number of places for the delivery of Welsh and English medium education
 - Addressing sufficiency issues where relevant
 - Reducing in Backlog maintenance costs for schools
 - Working towards Net Zero Public Sector Buildings in line with Welsh Government Carbon Reduction Commitments
- *Investment Objective Two* – to optimise the use of infrastructure and resources, to deliver public services for our communities.

This will include:

- Flexibility of our assets so that space and facilities available for our stakeholders are maximised.

- 5.1.2 The schemes identified for Phases 1 & 2 of the Band B programme were:

- A new and enlarged replacement Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon on the former Cwmcarn High School site.
- An extension of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
- The amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision
- A new net zero carbon replacement Plasyfelin Primary School on the existing site
- The establishment of a Centre for Vulnerable Pupils (Pupil Referral Unit) on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site

- 5.1.3 This scheme identified for the next phase of the Band B programme, is the relocation

of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School to a new build dual purpose site.

- 5.1.4 The two schools will continue to provide both Welsh and English Medium Primary education and remain as separate entities.
- 5.1.5 The new school build will be designed to maximise local infrastructure, sustainability and energy efficiencies and meeting the Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon School requirements.
- 5.1.6 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.
- 5.1.7 The consultation period for the proposal commenced on the 28th September 2023 and will close midnight on the 9th November 2023.
- 5.1.8 Following consultation, all the comments received during the consultation period will be compiled into a Consultation Report as prescribed by Welsh Government in respect of the Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary proposal.
- 5.1.9 The Consultation Report will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide as to whether to proceed, make changes or not to proceed with the proposal.
- 5.1.10 Should Cabinet decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice 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 at this stage. 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.
- 5.1.11 Full details of the Consultation Process for the proposal can be found in the main Consultation Document as part of the attached consultation pack.

5.2 **Conclusion**

- 5.2.1 Members are asked to note the information contained in this report and the supporting consultation pack documentation with a view to providing views on the proposal in their capacity as a 'consultee' under the School Organisation Code 2018.
- 5.2.2 Members views will be included in the Consultation Report which will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide on how the proposal will progress as outlined in 5.1.9 and 5.1.10.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

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

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A full Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed in relation to the proposal to ensure compliance with the socio-economic duty, Sections 1 to 3 of Equality Act 2010.

[Link to IIA \(Cymraeg\)](#)

[Link to IIA \(English\)](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The estimated proposed project cost for the relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary, which forms the next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme, totals £17,605,140.
- 8.2 Costings are based on Building Bulletin 98 and the Welsh Government 2024 Cost allowance. Subject to approval to proceed, further verification will be undertaken by the Council's Quantity Surveyor prior to submission to Welsh Government (WG).
- 8.3 The Authority's contribution of £6,052,119 to be set aside from the Authority's Place Shaping reserve.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
New School Build	£5,777,916 (35%)	£10,730,414 (65%)	£16,508,330
SRB (16 places)	£274,203 (25%)	£822,607 (75%)	£1,096,810
TOTAL PROJECT	£6,052,119	£11,553,021	£17,605,140

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

10. CONSULTATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

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Appendices:

[Link to Consultation Pack – Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School \(Cymraeg\)](#)

[Link to Consultation Pack – Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School \(English\)](#)