

SPECIAL CABINET – 15TH JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT: FORMER ST. ILAN SITE: WELSH-MEDIUM DEVELOPMENT

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet Members to proceed to Statutory Notice and seek permission to proceed with design development re phase 2, which relates to the relocation of YGG Caerffili.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The report links directly to the Education for Life and Sustainability Strategies.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Council, at its meeting on 7th August 2012, agreed to proceed to statutory processes in relation to the secondary part of the development.
- 3.2 A formal consultation process (accompanied by a consultation document) took place between 1st October and 30th November 2012. During this period a series of meetings were also convened which are outlined below:

Wednesday 7th November : Separate meetings for school council, staff, governing body and parents of Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (YGCR) pupils.

Thursday 8th November : Separate meetings for school council, staff, governing bodies and parents of Ysgol Ifor Bach/YGG Y Castell/YGG Caerffili pupils.

Tuesday 13th November : Drop-In session 9.00am – 5.00pm.

Tuesday 13th November : Public/Community meeting 7.00pm.

- 3.3 A summary of the outcome of the consultative process is outlined below.

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni

- 3.4 School Council

The proposal was fully supported by the 7 pupils in attendance. They were keen to maintain links between the 2 sites and thought it a good idea to organise sports teams at both sites to play each other.

3.5 Staff

The 41 staff present were fully supportive of the proposal. Clarification was sought re the statutory process. A question was raised re 6th form provision and it was stated this would be addressed at a later date.

3.6 Governing Body

The 6 governors present were fully supportive of the proposal.

3.7 Parents

No parents attended the meeting.

Ysgol Ifor Bach/Ysgol Y Castell/YGG Caerffili

3.8 School Councils

This was a very lively meeting and a large number of questions were raised, mainly operational ones.

3.9 11 pupils were in favour of the proposal with 1 abstention as the pupil was undecided given the split site nature of the facilities.

3.10 Staff

A number of questions were raised including curriculum, site development and design issues. All staff were in favour of the proposal.

3.11 Governing Bodies

A large number of issues were raised for clarification. All 18 governors present were in favour of the proposal.

3.12 Parents

Questions raised included parking arrangements, management of a building site and facilities to be made available. 48 of the parents were in favour of the proposal with 3 abstentions.

Drop-in-Session

3.13 Only 2 persons attended throughout the day who sought clarification of the proposals.

Public/Community Meeting

3.14 A total of 16 attended. 12 were in favour of the proposals with 4 (residents) abstentions.

Other Responses

3.15 A total of 18 responses were received, 17 of which were supportive of the proposal.

3.16 The 17 positive responses were as follows:

- 8 parents
- 3 town/community council
- 2 staff
- 1 RhAG (parent group)
- 1 governor
- 1 Junior & Youth Forums
- 1 Participation & Inclusion Project

3.17 The final response was from Van Community Council. It was acknowledged that Welsh-medium secondary provision needed expansion but there were questions re use of St. Ilan site, as follows:

Why was the original 7-14 proposal changed to 3-18 (separate Primary & Secondary)
Split between former St. Ilan site and main Fleur-de-Lis site
Transportation to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini.

3.18 A response was sent to the Van Community Council on 23 November in relation to each of the issues raised. No further communication has been received.

3.19 Copies of the meeting notes are available in the Members' Resource Area for inspection.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and some low level or minor impact as described below has been identified affecting one or more of the target equality groups.

4.3 There have been 2 parent and governor meetings in the last 2 years where some concerns were raised regarding the Welsh-medium secondary development on the former St. Ilan site.

4.4 At the most recent of these (14 March 2012) parents were given reassurances regarding their concerns. It was also acknowledged that there are, however, very significant longer term positive impacts regarding this development, not least that otherwise many Caerphilly Basin resident pupils will not be admitted to YGCR in the future and would not receive secondary Welsh-medium education in CCBC, if at all.

4.5 The formal meetings in November 2012 were also very positive and there have been no objections raised during the entire formal consultation process from 1st October to 30th November 2012.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Phase 1 cost amounts to £4.463m.

5.2 The anticipated cash profile of the project is as follows:

<u>FINANCIAL</u> <u>YEAR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u> <u>£m</u>
2012/13	3.5
2013/14	4.4
2014/15	5.5
2015/16	5.7
2016/17	0.9

- 5.3 CCBC has already earmarked its £10m match funding share (50%) for this project.
- 5.4 This funding is at risk until the statutory processes have been satisfactorily completed and the final business case has been approved by WG.
- 5.5 An additional 50% lump sum (circa 57.5k) will be allocated to reflect the split site arrangements. This will cover issues such as travelling between sites.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A core number of staff will be based at the site from its development. A limited number of staff will be deployed between the main Fleur-de-Lis and former St. Ilan site.
- 6.2 Consultations have taken place and a significant number of YGCR staff have indicated their wish to be based at the former St. Ilan site. Redeployment mileage will be payable in accordance with present policy, as appropriate.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 Detailed consultations have taken place as referred to in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet approval is sought to proceed to Statutory Notice and seek permission to proceed with design development of phase 2 on the site which relates to the relocation of YGG Caerffili.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To proceed with the former St. Ilan site development to meet the increasing Welsh-medium secondary demand.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 School Standards & Framework Act 1998 and the Education (School Organisation Proposals) (Wales) Regulations 1999.
- 10.2 This is a Cabinet function.

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List of Consultees as per consultation document.

Background Papers: 21st Century Schools Priority 1 Bid

