



CABINET – 30TH NOVEMBER, 2016

SUBJECT: PROPOSED RHYMNEY 3-18 ALL THROUGH SCHOOL

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval from Members to commence a consultative process to establish a Rhymney 3 -18 school.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The report links directly to the Education for Life, sustainability and regeneration strategies, particularly in the context of provision of modern fit for purpose teaching and learning environments.
- 2.2 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016. In particular, as follows :
- A prosperous Wales as it details improved outcomes for learners, and reduces impact of poverty if people are able to gain skills to gain employment.
 - A healthier Wales, supporting vulnerable learners can improve their well-being and add educational achievement.
 - A more equal Wales, a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background is; and.
 - A Wales of cohesive communities (in the context of improving quality of life with attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities).

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Council is committed to developing and establishing innovative approaches to teaching and learning. This includes securing better outcomes through increased continuity in pupil learning and a joined-up strategy to learning, pastoral care and support.
- 3.2 Meetings took place in the summer term 2016 with representatives of the following :-
- Governors of Abertysswg Primary, Pontlloftyn Primary and Rhymney Comprehensive Schools
 - Local Council Members
 - Senior officers of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Those present supported the proposal of establishing the Rhymney 3-18 school.

- 3.3 It is now proposed that the Council seeks to establish a Rhymney 3-18 school. The new 3 -18 school would incorporate the new Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary School and the existing Rhymney Comprehensive on their sites. No additional build is proposed specifically for this proposal.
- 3.4 To progress this proposal, the Council is required to carry out a statutory consultation process. A consultation document will be produced and circulated widely to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to this process.
- 3.5 The proposed timescales for the statutory process are outlined in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 It is envisaged the consultation process will take place over a 6 week period commencing 3rd January and ending 16th February, 2017. There are a number of consultation events proposed where the proposal will be explained and allow questions. These details will be included within the consultation document.
- 3.7 Following consultation, CCBC's Cabinet will consider the views expressed and then decide whether to proceed with the proposal. If the decision is taken to proceed, a statutory notice will be published. The statutory notice will last for 28 days from the date of notice and enables people to express their views in the form of supporting or objecting to the proposal.
- 3.8 CCBC's Cabinet will make the final decision whether to proceed, unless the decision is called in for review by the Welsh Government, e.g. a governing body refers the proposal to Welsh Ministers.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Impact Assessment screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and no potential for unlawful discrimination has been initially identified affecting one or more of the target equality groups.
- 4.2 This will require more detailed work as the proposal evolves. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be formulated during the formal consultation process and will evolve through the process to establishing a 3-18 school which is anticipated for 1 January 2018.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed all through school was developed having regard to long term needs of children and young people, attempting to improve and prevent poor life chances.
- 5.2 The report contributes to the 5 ways of working in the context of a long term strategy and vision, (closely aligning with the principles of the recent Donaldson report and provide a more coherent basis for learning, teaching and assessment); integration approach (more closely aligning the primary and secondary phases) preventing problems occurring or getting worse (improving transition) and collaborating to meet the objectives.
- 5.3 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals and in particular in the context of :
- Corporate planning,
 - Risk management,
 - Workforce planning,
 - Financial planning, and
 - Asset management

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the formulas of both the primary and secondary schools would be combined to establish the all through school budget. As such, there would be no anticipated change to the level of Council resources and can be met from existing budgets.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There will be some changes to the staffing of the all through school but these are expected to be minimal. This process will be followed in accordance with the Council's HR policies.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are requested to agree to commence a consultative process to establish a Rhymney 3-18 school.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To seek views in providing continuity in transition and curriculum planning and developing stronger links with other feeder primary schools.

11. STATUTORY POWER

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

Author: Bleddyn Hopkins, Assistant Director, 21ST Century Schools
E-mail: hopkib@caerphilly.gov.uk
Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151
Dave Street, Corporate Director – Social Services
Christina HARRY, Corporate Director - Communities
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Councillor Derek Havard, Cabinet Member, Education
Councillor Gaynor Oliver (Pontlloftyn)
Councillor John Bevan (Moriah)
Councillor David Harse (Moriah)
Acting Headteacher, Abertysswg Primary School
Acting Headteacher, Pontlloftyn Primary School
Headteacher, Rhymney Comprehensive School
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Kathryn Peters, Corporate Policy Manager

Appendix 1 Proposed Timescale : Rhymney 3-18 All Through School

Background Papers: 21st Century Schools files
Council report 23 November 2010 (SOP)
Council report 3 November 2011 (SOP2)
School Organisation Code (2013)

Rhymney 3-18 All Through School

Proposed Timescales

Description	Proposed Date
Cabinet (to seek agreement to commence statutory process)	30 th November 2016
Formal (6 week) Consultation Process	3 rd January 2017 to 16 th February, 2017
Education for Life Scrutiny Committee to consider outcome of consultation process prior to Cabinet consideration.	27 th February, 2017.
Cabinet (to consider the results of the consultation process and decide on way forward)	15 th March, 2017
Publication of Statutory Notice (in the event that Cabinet agree this on 15 th March, 2017)	24 th April 2017 to 21 st May 2017
Final Decision by Cabinet	21 st June, 2017
3-18 All Through School established (in the event that Cabinet agree this on 21 st June 2017)	1 st January, 2018