



CABINET - 14TH DECEMBER 2016

**SUBJECT: ABERTYSSWG/PONTLOTTYN PRIMARY AND ISLWYN HIGH SCHOOL
– REVISED PROPOSED OPENING DATES**

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to notify relevant parties of the delay in implementation dates of the above projects.

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

Abertysswg / Pontlottyn Primary

- 3.1 The Statutory Notice was published on 20 April 2015 and ended on 18 May 2015. This notice originally specified a new school opening date of 1 January 2017.
- 3.2 The business case processes became protracted, particularly in relation to the estimated costs of the scheme.
- 3.3 The full business case (FBC) received final approval from Welsh Government (WG) on 13 June 2016. This inevitably caused a delay to the project.
- 3.4 A contractor (Willmott Dixon) was subsequently appointed and commenced site surveys and mobilisation in September 2016.

- 3.5 A plan for the build programme was agreed in November 2016 and it is envisaged the scheme will be completed in December 2017 and the new school will open in January 2018 at the commencement of the Spring term. The Council's Starting School book for 2016/17 acknowledged this delay by not making any changes to existing arrangements for that academic year.
- 3.6 In view of the delay in school opening, it is necessary to advise relevant parties in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013.

Islwyn High School

- 3.7 The Council published a Statutory Notice on 3 March 2014 to discontinue Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Secondary Schools and establish a new school on the Oakdale plateau 3 site. The proposed date was 1 September 2016.
- 3.8 This change took effect on 1 September 2016 insofar as Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Secondary Schools were discontinued and the new Islwyn High School was established, albeit operating initially on the 2 previous school sites.
- 3.9 The contractor (Wilmott Dixon) commenced the build programme in the summer of 2015 and it soon became evident that the school build would not be completed until end April 2017.
- 3.10 The newly constituted Governing Body met in November 2016 and agreed to open the new school for staff on 26 June and pupils shortly after, following closure days to facilitate the move.
- 3.11 The headteacher has kept parents, staff, governors, etc. up to date with developments, including timescales. Members have also received update reports at Scrutiny Committee. The Council has also updated its Starting School booklet 2016/17 to reflect the revised school/site arrangements from September 2016.

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 Equalities Impact Assessments were completed as part of the statutory process.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 5.1 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 communities) and collaborating to meet the objectives.
- 5.2 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 None.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

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 the revised school opening dates to enable relevant parties to be advised as per School Organisation Code 2013.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To meet the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2013 in respect of delays and school openings.

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

Acting Headteacher, Abertysswg Primary School

Acting Headteacher, Pontllytyn Primary School

Headteacher, Rhymney Comprehensive School

Headteacher, Islwyn High School

Mark Williams, Building Consultancy Manager

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

Background Papers: 21st Century Schools files

Council report 23 November 2010 (SOP)

Council report 3 November 2011 (SOP2)

School Organisation Code (2013)