



## **CABINET – 15TH MARCH 2017**

**SUBJECT: CONSULTATION – PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A RHYMNEY  
3 – 18 SCHOOL**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151  
OFFICER**

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- 1.1 The attached report was considered by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on Monday 27th February 2017. The report sets out the proposals as part of the consultation process. Members were reminded that Cabinet, at its meeting on 30th November 2016, agreed to proceed to a formal consultation process that was undertaken between the 3rd January 2017 and 16th February 2017. A summary of the main issues from the consultative meetings were outlined.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Committee were advised that 13 written responses had been received (3 in favour of the proposal, with 7 against and 3 who did not feel strongly either way). The responses are largely consistent with those outlined during the consultation meetings. The main issues raised both written and orally were summarised, many of which do not directly relate to the 3-18 school, including distance criteria. Members were referred to Appendix 2 of the report that sets out the views of Estyn in relation to the proposal. The proposed timetable was also set out.
- 1.3 Clarification was sought in relation to the current Head Teacher's in place for the individual schools and it was explained they are currently appointed in an 'Acting' capacity and no compulsory redundancies across the schools are anticipated. It is intended that one Head of School and 3 Phase Leaders will be appointed from within the 3 schools. The driver for this is that each Teacher will already know the children within their own schools and the Phase Leaders will get to know the children in their allocated areas. It was also confirmed that the budget will remain the same for the new school. In terms of merging the schools, it has been agreed that a 'working group' will be set up to include representatives from Rhymney, Pontlottyn and Abertysswg School for the preparation and during the transition period.
- 1.4 A Member queried if a Resource Base in the Rhymney 3-18 School had been considered and was informed there is currently sufficient capacity within the Rhymney area (Base in Deri).
- 1.5 Having fully considered the report, the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee unanimously supported the proposals contained therein and recommended they be submitted to Cabinet.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Consultation – Proposal To Establish A Rhymney 3 – 18 School