



CABINET – 5TH JULY 2017

SUBJECT: RHYMNEY 3-18 SCHOOL: OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY NOTICE

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the outcome of the Statutory Notice and to determine whether to proceed with the proposal to establish Rhymney 3-18 school.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Authority has followed procedures outlined in the School Organisation Code (2013) to create a 3-18 School on the Rhymney Comprehensive site.
- 2.2 As no objections were received during the Statutory Notice period, the final stage in the process is for Cabinet to make a decision on the proposal.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016. In particular, as follows:
- A healthier Wales, supporting 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).

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Cabinet, at its meeting on 15th March 2017 agreed to proceed to the publication of a Statutory Notice on the above proposal
- 4.2 The Statutory Notice was subsequently published on 8th May 2017 and a copy is attached as Appendix 1. As indicated in the School Organisation Code 2013, all consultees were notified and were given an opportunity to object to the proposals. The Statutory Notice provided a 28 day notice period for objections and the Notice period ended on 5th June 2017.
- 4.3 There were no objections received in relation to the proposal.
- 4.4 In the event Cabinet approves the proposal it is recommended to proceed with the establishment of Rhymney 3-18 school from 1st January 2018, as outlined in the notice.

5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

5.1 The content of the report contribute to the wellbeing goals (as noted in 3.1) and in particular in the context of

- Involvement/Collaboration – this report is the result of a detailed and thorough consultation process.
- Long Term – this proposal as evidenced above produces long term benefits for the school learners and the community in general.
- Prevention – the proposal supports a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening has been completed, in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, and no discrimination was found.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this proposal.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This will be dependent upon the staffing structure recommended by the Governing Body.

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 A detailed consultation process was undertaken and reported to Cabinet. The relevant consultees, as per the School Organisation Code, have been updated at the various stages of the process.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Cabinet are recommended to determine whether to establish the Rhymney 3-18 school with effect from January 2018.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To determine the proposal in accordance with the School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and subsequent School Organisation Code 2013.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
The School Organisation Code. Welsh Government (2013).

12.2 This is a Cabinet function.

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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 Philippa Marsden, Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning
Lynne Donovan, Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Anwen Rees, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager
Mark Williams, Building Consultancy Manager
Headteachers of Rhymney Comprehensive, Abertysswg Primary and Pontllytyn Primary Schools
Kim Dufty, Chair of Governors Rhymney Comprehensive
Councillor Gaynor Oliver, Vice-Chair of Governors Rhymney Comprehensive and Chair of Governors Pontllytyn Primary School
Julie Richards, Vice-Chair of Governors Pontllytyn Primary School
Brian Hales, Chair of Governors Abertysswg Primary School
Councillor David Harse, Vice-Chair of Governors Abertysswg Primary School
Councillor John Bevan

Background Papers:

Education for Life Scrutiny 5th July 2016 (All Through Schools)

Cabinet 30th November 2016 (Proposed Rhymney 3-18 All Through School)

Education for Life Scrutiny 27th February 2017 (Consultation – Proposal to Establish Rhymney 3-18 School)

Cabinet 15th March 2017 (Consultation – Proposal to Establish Rhymney 3-18 School).

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Statutory Notice.

This Statutory Notice is published by Caerphilly County Borough Council

NOTICE is given in accordance with Section 42 and 43 of the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 and the School Organisation Code that Caerphilly County Borough Council having consulted such persons as required, propose to:

1. Extend the age range of Rhymney Comprehensive School, Mill Field, Abertysswg, Rhymney NP22 5XF from 11 – 18 to 3 – 18.
2. Discontinue the new Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary School, Mill Field, Abertysswg, Rhymney NP22 5XF.

The schools are currently maintained by Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Caerphilly County Borough Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the Council's response to these queries and the views of Estyn are available at <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/21st-Century-Schools>

It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1st January 2018.

Caerphilly County Borough Council will be the admission authority. It is not proposed that the admission arrangements to the school will make any provision for selection by aptitude or ability. The admission number for Reception to Year 6 when the proposal has been implemented will be 34 and for year 7 to 13 when the proposal has been implemented will be 209.

At primary phase, the school will have capacity for 240 full-time pupils plus nursery. At secondary phase the school will have capacity to provide for 1185 pupils.

Admission to the school will be via automatic transfer for full-time pupils on roll as at January 2018 at Rhymney Comprehensive and Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary (subject to parental preference). All other admissions will be via the Council's School Admission Policy.

The catchment areas for the Rhymney 3 -18 school will be the same catchment area as the current Rhymney Comprehensive and Abertysswg/Pontlottyn School.

Transport arrangements will be in line with Caerphilly County Borough Council's Home to School Travel Policy.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of this proposal, that is to say by the **5th June, 2017**, any person may object to the proposal.

Objections should be sent to the The Chief Education Officer, Caerphilly County Borough Council, Ty Penallta, Tredomen Parc, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7PG or email rhymney3-18school@caerphilly.gov.uk Support of the proposal can also be sent to the above address or email.

Signed: Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer. Dated: 8th May, 2017.

Explanatory Notes:

(This note does not form part of the Notice but is intended to explain its general meaning)

(i) It is intended to establish a Rhymney 3-18 school by extending the age range of Rhymney Comprehensive School from 11-18 to 3-18. The new school will incorporate the new Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary School. All pupils on roll at the 2 schools (Rhymney Comprehensive and Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary) as at 1st January 2018 will be guaranteed a place at the school (subject to any parental preference).

(ii) Prospective pupils (including nursery pupils transferring to full-time education) will need to apply for a place at the new school in line with the Council's Admission Policy. The Council's most current School Admissions Policy can be viewed on the Council's website: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Admissions-and-appeals/Starting-school-booklet>

(iii) It is intended that the new school will open on 1st January 2018.

(iv) The reasons for the proposal are set out in the consultation document which is available on the Council's website: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/Consultations/Abertysswg-and-Pontlottyn-replacement-school-consu>

(v) The Authority's School Transport policy is available from the Council's website: <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Admissions-and-appeals/Starting-school-booklet>

(vi) Hard copies or alternative versions of all documentation may be obtained upon request from School Admissions, Ty Penallta, Tredomen House, Ystrad Mynach CF82 7PG.