



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26TH NOVEMBER 2020

**SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION BAND B
PROGRAMME – CONSULTATION REPORTS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update report Scrutiny Members in relation to the 21st Century Schools Band B proposals in respect of:

- **Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon**
Relocate Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon to a new purpose built Welsh-medium provision school to be situated on the vacant site of the former Cwmcarn High School
- **Trinity Fields School**
Expand the existing Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre, via a new building extension and outdoor play space

1.2 Members are asked to consider the information contained in both consultation reports and endorse the recommendations to Cabinet to proceed to Statutory Notice in relation to both proposals.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The 21st Century Schools Band B proposals for Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre and Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon went to formal consultation between the 14th September 2020 and the 26th October 2020.

2.2 To discharge the Council's duty under the School Organisation Code 2018, there is now a requirement for Cabinet members to give due regard to the content of each Consultation Report and determine whether or not it is appropriate to move to the next stage in the process.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Consider the information contained in both consultation reports.
- b) Endorse the recommendations to Cabinet to proceed to Statutory Notice in relation to both proposals.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme and seek Members views on the recommendations to Cabinet to proceed to the publication of Statutory Notice in respect of both proposals.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Band B

- 5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Education Band B investment programme, outlined by WG, is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

- 5.1.2 The first two schemes identified as priority for Phase 1 of the Band B programme are the expansion of Trinity Fields Special School and the relocation and expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon.

- 5.1.3 Further to Cabinet approval gained in March 2020, formal consultation for both proposals were carried out between 14th September 2020 and 26th October 2020.

- 5.1.4 A prescribed list of recipients as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 were written to and a consultation document was published in both hardcopy and electronically via the Authority's website based. Reasonable access to information was promoted from an Equalities perspective and other formats were available on request, including a child friendly version and video. In addition, in relation to the Trinity Fields proposal, Sports Wales and Penallta RFC were included as consultees.

- 5.1.5 Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee who met on the 22nd September endorsed both proposals.

- 5.1.6 The consultation period ran for 42 days (with at least 20 of these being school days) to provide adequate time for response and conscientious consideration has been given to any responses received.

- 5.1.7 There were 388 responses received in respect of the Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon and 1047 responses received in respect of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre. These are broken down into more detail in the respective Consultation Reports.

- 5.1.8 Consultation Reports in relation to both proposals have been compiled and have been attached as an annex to this report. The Consultation reports summarise each of the issues raised by consultees. Any areas of concern that have been raised through gathering the views of consultees during the consultation process have been responded to by means of clarification with supporting reasons. In addition, Estyn has provided a formal response in consideration of the educational aspects of the proposal which is included in the Consultation Reports.
- 5.1.9 The Consultation Reports will be published electronically on the 21st Century Schools pages on the Council's website. Consultees who have indicated in their consultation response that they wish to be notified will be advised by letter or email of the availability of the consultation reports along with the key stakeholders identified in the School Organisation Code 2018. A children friendly version of the Consultation Report will also be published.

5.2 Conclusion

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, formal consultation has now concluded in relation to both proposals and this report has been compiled to provide members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to whether to progress both projects to the next statutory stage which would include permission to publish of a Statutory Notice. The School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so at this stage.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 Caerphilly's Attainment Strategy: To raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy, confident, proud and ambitious and can access high quality educational opportunities, settings and experience.

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The proposal outlined in this document will contribute towards the Corporate Well-being Objectives, in particular the following:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, working with people and communities, looking to

prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

8.2 The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

- **Long Term** - Forecasting of pupil numbers has been utilised to identify the demand for school places to ensure sufficient Educational places in our schools. This information has been used to prioritise schools within the SOP.
- **Prevention** - Improving the quality of the Education estate generally will support pupils in their long term education and skills outcome in that they are more likely to succeed if their Educational experience is positive.
- **Integration** - The 21st Century Schools Programme is subject to BREEAM and Community Benefits of individual proposals are assessed and monitored for their impact on the Welsh economy. The proposals are also part of a strategy to promote Welsh Language and Culture.
- **Collaboration** – The 21st Century Schools Programme is collaboration between the Council and Welsh Government to improve the quality of the Education estate.
- **Involvement** – Through the consultation process the Council will ensure that there is full engagement with all relevant stakeholders, e.g. parents, pupils and the local community. Collaborative partnership working between 21st Century Schools and the Early Years Division who work with the voluntary sector.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 All relevant Equality Impact Assessments for individual projects were undertaken prior to moving to consultation stage and were made available to any persons who wished to receive copies in addition to forming part of each consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.
- 9.2 The proposals for Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon link with the Welsh Education Strategic Plan and the five year Welsh Language Strategy 2017-2022 and will therefore have a positive impact on Welsh Medium Education and promoting use of the Welsh language in the wider community.
- 9.3 The proposal in relation to Trinity Fields School will also have a positive impact on the children and young people with additional learning needs who are and will be attending the School.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 It was previously agreed to allocate £6.475 million to the 21st Century Schools and Education programme match funding.
- 10.2 Phase 1 of the programme, Trinity Fields expansion and the relocation and expansion of YGG Cwm Gwyddon totals £22,002,921 The Authority's contribution within this sum is £6.451m.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 These will be dependent on specific proposals and have been considered as part of the consultation process.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

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Background Papers:

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Consultation Report – Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
- Appendix 2 Consultation Report – Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon