



## **EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10TH JANUARY 2022**

**SUBJECT: 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES BAND B  
PROGRAMME - CONSULTATION REPORT: LLANCAEACH  
JUNIOR SCHOOL/LLANFABON INFANTS SCHOOL**

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

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Scrutiny Members in relation to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B proposal in respect of the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider the information contained in the Consultation Report and endorse the recommendations to Cabinet to proceed to Statutory Notice.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B proposals for went to formal consultation between the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021
- 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 the Consultation Report and determine whether or not it is appropriate to move to the next stage in the process.
- 2.3 A Consultation Report has been compiled and attached as an annex to this report. The Consultation Report summarises each of the issues raised by consultees. Any emerging themes 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.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Prior to a report being presented to Cabinet, Scrutiny Members are asked to: -
- a) Consider the information contained in the Consultation Report.
  - b) Endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to Statutory Notice in relation to the to the proposal to create a new Primary School provision through the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of Phase 2 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Capital Band B programme
- 4.2 To seek Members endorsement on the recommendations to Cabinet to proceed to the publication of Statutory Notice in respect of the proposal
- 4.3 Assist the Council in discharging its duties in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **5.1 Band B**

- 5.1.1 The key aims of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B investment programme, outlined by Welsh Government, 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.

#### **5.2 Band B Phase 2**

- 5.2.1 The schemes identified as part of Phase 2 of the Band B programme include the adaption and refurbishment of the old grammar school building on the former Pontllanfraith High School site to accommodate a Centre for Vulnerable Learners (Pupil Referral Unit), the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior and Llanfabon Infants school via the expansion of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate 275 pupils plus nursery, and a new build replacement Plas-y-felin Primary school in the grounds of the existing school site to accomodate 420 pupils plus nursery.

#### **5.3 Phase 2 - Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School**

- 5.3.1 The proposal relates to the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School via the expansion and refurbishment of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accomodate the new 3-11 Primary School provision with places for 275 pupils plus nursery.

- 5.3.2 Further to Cabinet approval gained on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, formal consultation for the proposal was carried out between 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- 5.3.3 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.
- 5.3.4 Members of the Education Scrutiny Committee who met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 in their capacity as a consultee under the School Organisation Code 2018, endorsed the proposal, voting 12 For, 0 Against and 0 Abstentions.
- 5.3.5 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.
- 5.3.6 There were 11 responses received in respect of the proposal to create a new Primary School provision through the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School. In addition, a number of pupils at both schools engaged in the consultation process through 'learner voice' sessions which have been reported on separately. These are broken down into more detail in the Consultation Report.
- 5.3.7 A Consultation Report has been compiled and has been attached as an annex to this report. The Consultation Report summarises each of the issues raised by consultees. Any emerging themes 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 Report.
- 5.3.8 The Consultation Report will be published electronically on the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Report along with the key stakeholders identified in the School Organisation Code 2018.

## 5.4 **Conclusion**

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, formal consultation has now concluded in relation to this proposal and this report has been compiled along with the Consultation Report to provide members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to whether to progress the proposal to the next statutory stage which would entail 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. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An initial Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for this proposal was undertaken alongside the original Consultation Document forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.
- 7.2 The Integrated Impact Assessment has been reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process. The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

### Original

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/IIA/Llancaeacj-junior-lanfabon-infants-schools-sep202>

### Updated

<http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/IIA/CCBC-Integrated-Impact-Assessment-Llancaeacj-and-L>

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Phase 2 of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme, currently totals £18,500,000. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £5,925,000 as detailed below.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Centre for Vulnerable Learners	£1,375,000 (25%)	£4,125,000	£5,500,000
Llancaeacj/Llanfabon	£1,400,000 (35%)	£2,600,000	£4,000,000
Plasyfelin Primary	£3,150,000 (35%)	£5,850,000	£9,000,000

- 8.2 The Authority's contribution will be met from the remaining funding of £1.209m previously earmarked for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and through the recently approved earmarking of a further sum of £4.716m from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve.
- 8.3 The Welsh Government Grant allocation for individual projects within the 21st Century Schools Band B programme is calculated consistently across Wales using the Building Bulletin regulations BB98 - Secondary, BB99 – Primary and BB104 – Special/Pupil Referral Units. There are a number different elements which have been included in the calculations provided for each of the Phase 2 proposals, which include:
- Proposed standard price per square metre
  - Furniture fitting and equipment per pupil
  - ICT per pupil
- 8.4 Largely due to a combination of the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit there are currently significant inflationary increases within the construction sector. This is being kept under close review but the current projected costs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools

Programme will be subject to change. Members will be updated further as matters progress.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This will be dependent on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the process.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

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

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 Consultation Report - Llancaeach Junior School / Llanfabon Infants School