



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4TH NOVEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON SCHOOL PLACES – PRIMARY & SECONDARY

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the provision of school places across the Council.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report identifies the provision of school places by means of an updated school places plan. This has been produced for the period 2013/14-2023/24.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The report considers the provision of school places to ensure the Council's key strategies are best achieved.

3.2 The report also links to the Learning theme of 'Caerphilly Delivers', the Local Service Board Single Integrated Plan and the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Attached to the report (Appendix 1) is an updated School Places Plan 2013/14-2023/24.

4.2 The plan includes details of:

- Population projections 2008-2033
- CCBC pupil projections to 2019 (Primary) and 2023 (Secondary)
- Distribution of school sizes (Primary and Secondary)
- Analysis of projected surplus places (Primary and Secondary).

4.3 The School Places Plan will assist with the formulation of future key strategic decisions, to include:

- Size and viability of schools
- Future pupil projections
- Current and future levels of surplus school places
- School type, including age ranges.

4.4 The development of the Council's LDP will also be critical with the assessment of future school place planning strategies. Decisions on strategies to 2031 will have very significant

impact across the County Borough and these will require detailed consideration and will form the basis of regular reporting to Members.

- 4.5 Updated Property condition surveys are being completed for schools and these will impact upon school place planning for the future, in conjunction with the capital programme and 21st century schools developments.
- 4.6 A series of key issues have been identified which will require more detailed assessment in future with the development of, e.g.:
- Future phases (2 + 3) of secondary rationalisation as per Band A of 21st Century Schools Programme
 - Bid proposals for future Band B of 21st Century Schools Programme
 - Structural options for Primary schools, having regard to future and projected sizes of schools
 - Reduction in surplus school places to meet WG Ministerial targets
 - Catchment area reviews, in the context of future projected demand for school places.
- 4.7 It is anticipated that these issues will result in reports to Members which will commence in the near future.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified. The key issues identified in the School Places Plan however do take into account issues of faith, Welsh language and gender (in terms of same-sex provision) and all school buildings, whether new or adapted existing ones, take disability access issues into account as part of the design brief.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 These will be dependant upon future proposals and funding.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 No direct personnel implications at present.

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 note the updated details contained in the School Places Plan 2013/14-2023/24 and the key issues identified which will require future reports for consideration by Members.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To apprise Members of developments in school places and agree a way forward for future proposed reports.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1: School Places Plan 2013/14 – 2023/24.