



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

20TH SEPTEMBER 2018

PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH PRIMARY EDUCATION PROVISION FOR THE LLANILID HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, COUNCILLOR J ROSSER.

Authors: Andrea Richards, Head of 21st Century Schools and Julie Hadley, School Organisation Manager.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to begin the relevant and required statutory consultation for the proposal to establish new Primary education provision to serve the new housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan. This will be achieved, in the first instance, by treating the new building that will be provided by the housing developers as an extension to the dual-language provision at the existing Dolau Primary School.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note the information contained within this report;
- 2.2 Give formal approval to commence consultation on the specific proposal to establish new Primary education provision to serve the new housing development at Llanilid, Llanharan.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To progress the proposals in accordance with the process outlined in Welsh Government legislative guidance (the School Organisation Code).

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Outline planning consent for the construction of up to 1,850 homes at the former Llanillid Opencast Site, Llanharan, was granted by the Council's Development Control Committee in January 2016, following over six years of discussion and consideration of the proposals between Council officers and agents representing the landowners. The delay in applying for and granting planning consent was mainly due to the complex nature and large scale of the proposals, and the fact that the original agents responsible for the planning application went in to administration.
- 4.2 As part of the planning process, the Council will collect a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on each dwelling constructed, which will be utilised to provide the essential infrastructure that is required to support a housing development of this size. It has already been agreed that a new Primary school, of 540 places in total (including Nursery provision) will form part of the essential infrastructure. The housing developers have requested that they be allowed to construct the school building and hand it over to the Council at an agreed point in time; the Council has agreed to this request. A further planning application for full permission to commence the first phase of house construction has been received and is due to be considered by the Council's Planning and Development Committee in September 2018; if permission is granted, house construction will commence before the end of the year.
- 4.3 The Council currently maintains, within close proximity of the development site, an established dual language school, namely Dolau Primary School. This school offers education provision in either Welsh Medium or English Medium, subject to parental preference. Our proposal in respect of the establishment of new Primary education for the adjacent Llanilid development is to open the new school building as an extension to Dolau Primary in the first instance.
- 4.4 When establishing a new school, the first part of the process is to appoint a temporary governing body, who are then responsible for appointing a new Headteacher for the new school. The next stage of the process is for the Headteacher and temporary governing body to agree an outline staffing structure for the new school and once approved, to make the necessary appointments to the posts agreed on this structure.
- 4.5 In order to agree a staffing structure, the governors must firstly be provided with a draft budget for the new school, of which 80% is provided based on the estimated number of pupils that will attend the new school when it opens. This work is usually undertaken during the

year preceding the school opening. Estimating the number of children who may attend a brand new school that is being constructed to serve housing development, that is still in its relatively early stages of construction is extremely difficult, which makes this essential preparatory work problematic to say the least.

- 4.6 Dolau Primary School is a successful, high performing school, as evidenced by the data and other information included within the consultation document for this proposal, which is attached as Appendix 1. The last Estyn inspection of the school, undertaken in July 2015 made the following statement in respect of the standards of leadership and management of the school 'Members of the senior management team contribute effectively to the school's shared vision, and work successfully together. The headteacher has established a robust three-tiered management and leadership structure. This provides inexperienced leaders with worthwhile opportunities to lead curriculum based initiatives when senior members of staff receive promotion to other posts in different schools. This very well-organised leadership framework develops future leaders successfully'.
- 4.7 It is considered, therefore, that to open a new school provision for Llanilid, as an extension of Dolau Primary School, in the first instance, rather than establishing a brand new school, is in the best interests of the pupils who will attend and the staff who will work there. The existing leadership team of Dolau, recognised by Estyn as being extremely successful will be able to establish the new provision to the same high standards currently achieved at this school. It will also remove the need to appoint a new Headteacher and the uncertainty connected with creating a staffing structure with unknown pupil numbers; as the school grows in size more staff will be appointed to cater for the increasing numbers of pupils who will attend as more houses are constructed and occupied. The Headteacher will be able to utilise the new school accommodation and transfer some of the existing classes of Dolau to the new building, as he sees fit.
- 4.8 The Council will undertake appropriate traffic impact assessments to improve the 'Safe Routes' in the community which will involve additional on-site drop off areas for parents to improve traffic and road safety management in and around the curtilage of the new building and the existing school. A safe access pathway to link the two buildings will also be created. The Council will also work with parents and the community to promote and encourage sustainable travel such as promoting walking and cycling to reduce the impact of traffic around the school at key times of the day.
- 4.9 Dolau Primary School will continue to offer dual language provision, which will give parents the freedom to choose which language

medium they wish for their child to be educated in, either English, or Welsh.

- 4.10 The Llanilid housing development is expected to yield a total of 1,850 housing units; when all are constructed it is expected that the total available capacity of the new school building and that of the existing Dolau Primary building will be utilised. It is also likely that further housing development, possibly of over 3,000 units may be constructed in this part of the County Borough in future years. This number of houses will require the construction of more education facilities, both for Primary and Secondary aged pupils, to serve the growing community. There will therefore be a need for further reorganisation of education provision in the future, which will include the consideration of establishing the new school building at Llanilid as a separate school in its own right; the language medium of this school will also need to be determined at this point in time.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Welsh Language, Equality and Community Impact Assessments are being prepared in respect of this proposal and will be published on the Council's website together with the consultation document that outlines the proposal in detail. Copies of these documents will be prepared in readiness for the commencement of the consultation process and will be published as outlined above.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The consultation process in respect of this proposal will be undertaken under the arrangements outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code. These arrangements stipulate that consultation must be undertaken when the proposals are at a formative stage and that consultation documents must be prepared and circulated to prescribed consultees, as well as being published on the Council website.
- 6.2 A consultation document for the proposal outlined in this report is attached as Appendix 1; the proposed consultation period for the proposal, if it is agreed to progress this matter will run from 1st October to 31st December 2018. Details of meetings that will be organised will be added to the document once they have been confirmed.

7. THE STATUTORY PROCESS

- 7.1 The process for making a regulated alteration to a school is set out in the Welsh Government statutory code document 006/2013 – the School Organisation Code. The Code sets out the policy context and general principles for reviewing the supply of school places and sets

out the factors that need to be taken into account by those bringing forward proposals. It also outlines the format of the consultation process and identifies the key stakeholders that must be consulted.

- 7.2 The Welsh Government has recently conducted consultation on revisions to the above Code and it is expected that a new statutory document will be put in place by 1st November 2018. The attached consultation document and the consultation process will therefore be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this revised Code.
- 7.3 The initial consultation on the proposal outlined in this report will involve all key stakeholders as outlined in the revised Code. This consultation will take place over a 12-week period (not including school holidays) and the proposed timetable for the whole process is as follows:
- Consultation period 1st October 2018 – 31st December 2018
 - Report back to Cabinet on outcome of consultation – January 2019
 - Statutory Notice published (if approved by Cabinet) for a 28 day period – February 2019
 - Report back to Cabinet on outcome of statutory notice period and details of objections received, with appropriate recommendations – March 2019.
- 7.4 The School Organisation Code now makes provision for local authorities to determine their own statutory proposals; under the former arrangements, if just one objection was received following publication of the statutory notice, the proposals had to be forwarded to the Welsh Ministers, who would make the final decision as to whether the proposal could be implemented or not. This only now occurs when specific circumstances exist, e.g. if the proposal involves the removal of 6th form provision from a school. This specific proposal will therefore be determined by the Council's Cabinet at the conclusion of the consultation process outlined in the timetable above.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The capital cost of constructing the new school will be met by the housing developers (Persimmon Homes) as part of their Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) responsibilities. It has already been agreed that the developers will construct the new school building, to a design specification and accommodation schedule agreed by the Council; on completion, the developers will hand the building over to the Council.

9 LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND THE WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 9.1 The Council's Corporate Plan commits to "Continue to invest in improving school buildings, to ensure the County Borough's pupils have the learning environment fit for the 21st Century." The proposals considered in the report have taken into account the seven well-being goals and the five ways of working.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 Members are asked to consider the attached consultation document, to agree to its publication and to give officers approval to commence the required statutory consultation process to progress this proposal.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

The background papers included as appendices to the report are:

- **Consultation Document**
(various Impact Assessments are being prepared and will be completed prior to consultation commencing)

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