

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS – MAENDY PRIMARY SCHOOL – CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This executive summary explains the reasons and consultation arrangements in relation to a proposal to rebuild and expand Maendy Primary School to 420 places (plus 30 place nursery), and explains the next stage of the process.

2 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To provide details of consultation arrangements in respect of this proposal.

3 Key Messages

- 3.1 Torfaen County Borough Council's 21st Century Schools proposals were well received by Welsh Government. The programme has been well documented, with the council taking the decision to include every school as part of it in October 2010. The council sought the views of all interested parties on its programme during a series of roadshows that were held across the county borough in March 2011. The outcome of this public engagement was reported to cabinet in July 2011.
- 3.2 This executive summary relates to a proposal as it affects Maendy Primary School as identified in Band B of the programme and confirmed again following review in 2017.
- 3.3 The current buildings require replacement, and the capacity of the school needs to be increased to cater for new demand in the area coming from the South Sebastopol housing development.
- 3.4 A statutory consultation is required because we propose to increase the capacity of the school from 231 to 420 places, and the conclusion of that consultation will ultimately determine whether the building project proceeds or not.
- 3.5 It is proposed that this change is implemented on 1st September 2023.

4 Background

- 4.1 The Outline Business Case (OBC) in relation to this proposal was submitted to Welsh Government during the Autumn Term 2019. The council received approval to proceed to the next stage. Cabinet have now approved the submission of the Final Business Case (FBC) to Welsh Government for an investment of £11,460,000 in a replacement school for Maendy Primary School on the existing site.

The four Investment Objectives we will deliver as a result of this project are:

- Improving the effectiveness and outcomes of service to all learners.

- Providing economies and efficiencies in the provision of the service.
- Providing new and enhanced opportunities to all learners.
- Improving learner experience and attractiveness to all learners.

4.2 Formal consultation is required because the proposal requires an enlargement of the premises which would increase the capacity of the school by at least 25% or 200 pupils compared with the school's current capacity. In this case, from 231 to 420 places.

4.3 It is proposed that the new Maendy building would be ready for occupation in September 2023.

5 Issues and findings

5.1 The regulations require that consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the consultation document, with at least 20 of these being school days. Taking this into account, the consultation period will begin on Monday 24th February 2020 and close on Monday 6th April 2020.

5.2 Consultation will be initiated through the publication of a consultation document, and distributed to prescribed consultees contained within the School Organisation Code 2018, inviting views on the proposal. Consultation will also be undertaken with children and young people.

5.3 The consultation document will include contextual information about the proposal, outline the changes being considered, the rationale for these, details of the consultation process and incorporate a response form. Consultees will be advised of contact addresses to send in comments via e-mail.

5.4 The consultation process will also be promoted online, via the Torfaen Council website and social media channels.

Views or comments can be made:

- By writing to Mr Dermot McChrystal, Chief Officer, Education & Lead Director for Children and Young People (FAO Mark Horton) c/o Torfaen County Borough Council, Civic Centre, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6YB.
- By email: 21stcenturylearning@torfaen.gov.uk.
- By completing a response proforma(attached as an appendix to the consultation

document) and returning it to the above mentioned address.

5.5 The consultation event have been arranged as follows:

DAY/DATE	TIME	VENUE	INTENDED AUDIENCE
Tuesday 10 th March 2020	3.30pm to 6.00pm	Maendy Primary School, Wayfield Crescent, Cwmbran, NP44 1NH.	Teaching, non-teaching and support staff, Governors, parents/carers of Maendy Primary School and all other interested parties.

6 Key Issues.

6.1 Statutory consultation is necessary, because the council is proposing an increase in the physical capacity of the school

6.2 Specifically, the capacity and associated Admission Number will be increased from 1st September 2023, when the new Maendy building would be ready for occupation.

7 What happens next?

7.1 The following indicative timeline details what happens next and sets out the statutory process:

- Initial consultation on process (6 weeks) – 24th February 2020 to 6th April 2020
- Cabinet receive report on outcome of consultation and consider next steps – April 2020.
- If agreed, statutory notices are published (28 day objection period) – April/May 2020
- Objections considered and next steps considered – May/June 2020
- Proposal implemented – start of 2023/24 academic year.

8 Conclusion / Summary

8.1 The implementation of this proposal will form an essential part of Torfaen's 21st Century Schools Programme, in terms of:

- managing surplus places effectively
- allowing the Local Authority to rationalise its building stock and therefore have fewer schools to maintain and fund
- being able to provide a high standard and breadth of education for all the pupils in the community.

9 Further information

A full copy of the consultation document referred to in this executive summary can be obtained by telephoning 01495 766910 or by visiting the Council's website: www.torfaen.gov.uk.

If further information is required regarding this proposal please contact Mark Horton
Tel: 01495 766910 or email: mark.horton@torfaen.gov.uk

