

SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF SCHOOL PLACES IN CALDICOT TOWN
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	16th DECEMBER 2020
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to advise Cabinet Members of a desire to enter into statutory consultation processes concerning the provision of School places in Caldicot Town.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 For Members to agree to enter into the statutory consultation processes that seeks to obtain the views of consultees on increasing the number of Primary School places in Caldicot Town.
- 2.2 For Members to receive and approve the draft consultation document (appendix 2) which proposes to increase the school capacity of Dewstow and Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary Schools from 210 to 280 (140 places across the town)

As Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary School is Voluntary Aided with the Governing Body responsible for the School's admission arrangements, the proposal to extend the school is brought forward in partnership with the Governing Body and Diocese as part of the school places review.

- 2.3 To agree to undertake the initial stage of this review in line with the timeline proposed under appendix 1.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The School Organisation Code (2018) places responsibility on local authorities in Wales for ensuring that there are sufficient and suitable school places across the County to educate its children and young people.
- 3.2 This review focuses on the provision of school places in the Caldicot cluster, more specifically, on the provision of Primary school places in the Caldicot town area of the cluster.
- 3.3 The review of school places across Caldicot town has been instigated through concerns that the provision of primary school places in the town area is insufficient to support the forecasted demand.

3.4 Primary School provision across the Caldicot cluster is currently facilitated across the following schools:

School	Admission Number (per year group)	Total Capacity
Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary	30	210
Castle Park Primary School	30	210
Dewstow Primary School	30	210
Durand Primary School	30	210
Magor CIW Primary School	55	388
Rogiet Primary School	30	210
Undy Primary School	51	359
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin	25	180

3.5 On an annual basis, the Council completes returns to the Welsh Government concerning its Planning of School places. This return analyses the County's position with regards to surplus places and projected demand.

3.6 Welsh Government recommend that the planning of school places and associated management of surplus places are measured against the following model, and appropriate actions undertaken through means of school organisation proposals in circumstances where concerns are identified.

Level of surplus	Colour code	Action
0 – 10 %		An appropriate number of surplus places with close monitoring to ensure surplus places are no lower than 10%
10 – 15 %		A reasonable number of surplus places with close monitoring to ensure they remain within this category
15 – 24%		High levels of surplus places where close monitoring and opportunities for review should be considered
25% and over		Significant level of surplus places with appropriate action to be taken through reorganisation proposals

3.7 The position across the Caldicot cluster is currently assessed as falling within the yellow category, with 15.1% surplus places (combined English and Welsh Medium) recorded as at September 2020. The English Medium proportion currently stands at 12.1%.

3.8 However, concerns rest with the provision of school places within the Primary schools serving in the Town area of the cluster. The schools identified under this criterion are:

- Archbishop Rowan Williams Church in Wales Primary School
- Castle Park Primary School
- Dewstow Primary School
- Durand Primary School
- Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin

3.9 For the above schools, the surplus places position is recorded at 11.5% (September 2020), however, the English Medium proportion is only 2.6% surplus places. 3 of the 4 English medium Schools listed above have no available places in any year group, with the fourth school holding a healthy 10% surplus places.

3.10 As a result of this position, it is often the case that the Council is unable to comply with the parental preference of families residing within the town area of the cluster, with some young people required to travel in excess of 4 miles to alternative schools in the cluster. This has implications for home to school transport costs.

3.11 To exacerbate this position, the Caldicot town area is subject to significant housing developments over the next 5 years. The following schemes have received Planning approval:

Development	Catchment School	No of Dwellings
Sudbrook Shipyard	Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary	46
Sudbrook Papermill	Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary	212
Crick Road	Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary	285
Church Road	Castle Park Primary	130
Total Town		673

3.12 The building works at Sudbrook Shipyard and Sudbrook Papermill have commenced, however, the Council anticipates that approximately 134 primary aged pupils could arise from the developments between now and 2024.

3.13 As a result of the shortfall in school places within the town area, the Council has been successful through Planning processes in securing section 106 education contributions

from the developers to the sum of £1,595,504 to invest in creating additional school places.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

The attached consultation document lays out 5 options considered prior to arising at the proposals outlined in this report. These are:

- i) Do Nothing and maintain the status quo
- ii) Increase the capacity of 1 school in the town to 315, and increase of 105 school places across the town
- iii) Increase the capacity of 2 schools in the town to 315, and increase of 210 school places across the town
- iv) Increase the capacity of 1 school in the town to 420, and increase of 210 school places across the town
- v) Increase the capacity of 2 schools in the town to 280, and increase of 140 school places across the town

Option 5 is the preferred option, which we propose to deliver through increasing the capacity at Archbishop Rowan Williams and Dewstow Primary Schools

The full options appraisal is available under appendix 3 of the consultation document.

5. REASONS:

The Council has a responsibility as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to consult with appropriate stakeholders when giving consideration to any significant school reorganisation proposals.

The reasons that this request has been brought forward have been set out above.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The Council has been successful in securing section 106 education contributions to invest in the supply of school places within the town, ensuring our future provision is sufficient to meet demand.

The table below details the funding that has been secured by the Council to support these proposals:

Development name	No of Dwellings	Secured S106 Claim
Sudbrook Shipyard	46	0
Sudbrook Papermill	212	439,286
Crick Road	285	811,078
Church Road	130	345,140
Total	673	1,595,504

The costs associated with the extension of Archbishop Rowan Williams CIW Primary and Dewstow Primary Schools is estimated to be in the region of £1,150,500 (build costs), allowing a contingency of approximately £445,004 to invest in the external areas of the school sites, which will be required to support an increase in School capacity.

7. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

Please see attached.

8. CONSULTEES:

CYP DMT
Cabinet Member for Education
Church in Wales Diocese

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Government School Admission Code 2013
School Organisation Code (2013)

10. AUTHOR:

Matt Jones, Access Unit Manager

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644585

E-mail: matthewdjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1

Timeline for Review

Process	Key dates
Publication of formal consultation document	11 th January 2021
Deadline for responses to consultation proposals	22 nd February 2021
Consultation report to be presented to Cabinet Publication of consultation report <i>Cabinet consider consultation report and determine whether to proceed with proposals</i> If agreed - Proceed to next stage If not agreed - proposals will end	7 th April 2021
Publication of Statutory Notices and enter into objection period <i>If approved, the Statutory Notice will be published on the County Council's and any other proposer's websites and posted in the named schools and other conspicuous places within the community. Copies of the notice will be made available to the relevant schools to distribute to pupils, parents/carers and members of staff.</i> <i>Opportunity to formally object to the proposals.</i>	19 th April 2021
Deadline for submitting objections to proposals <i>28 days from date of publishing statutory notices</i>	18 th May 2021
Objection report presented to Cabinet <i>Cabinet Consider objection report and determine whether to implement proposals in light of any objections received</i>	7 th July 2021
Council publish Cabinet decision	July 2021
Implementation of proposals <i>Staggered implementation – please see appendix 4</i>	September 2021 – September 2022

