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| SUBJECT: | CONSULTATION PAPER FOR INCLUSION REVIEW. |
| MEETING: | CABINET |
| DATE: | 4TH JULY 2018 |
| DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: | ALL |

1. PURPOSE:

This report seeks to provide Cabinet with an update on the statutory consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the proposed new delivery model of services for pupils with Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion services across Monmouthshire.

This report also seeks permission from Cabinet to amend the consultation timeline, allowing for an opportunity for further reflection on the feedback received during the consultation process and consider how this may impact on the proposed delivery model going forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To approve the amended timeline associated with this statutory consultation process, which proposes that Cabinet take their final decision on 5th December 2018 rather than 7th November 2018 as originally proposed.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 On 7th March 2018 Cabinet gave approval for the local authority to engage in the statutory consultation process which proposed a new model for the delivery of ALN and Inclusion services.
- 3.2 The proposed new delivery model outlined the following:

Establishment of a new special school that will deliver the full range of provision required to meet the needs of children and young people aged 3-19 with ASD, SEBD, PMLD and severe learning difficulties within the County. The existing Mounton House Special School will close as a result of the proposal and form the site of the new special school.

The new special school will offer provision for a wide range of Additional Learning and behavioural needs delivered through multiple satellite settings placed across the County. The proposal will ensure provision is provided locally to children whose needs cannot be met within mainstream settings and require more specialist support. The existing Pupil Referral Service (PRS) will also be enhanced to provide a greater range of outreach support and provision for children and young people at risk of exclusion.

- 3.3 The consultation period commenced on 16th April 2018 for a period of 6 weeks, concluding on 27th May 2018.
- 3.4 During the consultation period, officers engaged in an extensive consultation process with the community and key partners. Consultation sessions with children, staff, governors and parents were undertaken for the 8 schools identified as being directly affected by the proposed new delivery model. A consultation meeting with staff and management committee for the Pupil Referral Service was also undertaken.
- 3.5 Following the closure of the consultation period, officers are now analysing the responses received and preparing the consultation report required to engage in the next stage of the statutory process.
- 3.6 The consultation process thus far has identified many positives and on balance shows support for the proposed new delivery model. The general themes around the positive feedback received were:
- The proposals will ensure equity across the county in terms of the provision offered for children with ALN and behavioural difficulties through the delivery of a single management structure
 - The proposals provide greater opportunities for children and young people to be educated within their communities alongside their peers.
 - The proposals enhance the support to schools through the delivery of onsite inclusion centres, which will provide opportunities to support children often at risk of exclusion.
 - The clear approach of early intervention, development of skills and capacity within the school system is welcome and aligns to the National and Regional position.
- 3.7 However, the process has also identified some key themes / areas of concern which in summary include:
- The management arrangements for the proposed new delivery model, which would see the new special school taking responsible for the satellite Special Needs Resource Base (SNRB) centres as opposed to the schools on which they are currently hosted.
 - A concern regarding the lack of equity associated with the proposals and as a result the distances that children and young people may still need to travel even with the provision located within Monmouthshire.
 - The proposed designations for some of the satellite SNRB centres located on school sites and whether the current provision available can meet these needs
 - How the needs of children with moderate learning difficulties would be met outside of an SNRB environment
 - The proposal for a mixed gender, full age range provision for children with ASD and SEBD on the same site raised some concerns both in terms of safety of pupils and general management arrangements.
- 3.8 An amendment to the timeline as proposed below would allow for an opportunity to fully explore and reflect on the concerns raised prior to bring further recommendations to Cabinet.

| Consultation Stage | Date |
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| Cabinet to receive a copy of the consultation report with recommendations on a delivery model against which statutory notices will be published | 5th September 2018 |
| Statutory Notices are published and statutory objection period opens | 17th September 2018 – 15th October 2018 |
| Cabinet to receive objection report and take final decision on whether to implement the proposals | 5th December 2018 |
| Proposals Implemented | Between 1st April 2019 and 1st September 2019 |

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

There were four options considered, which were detailed in the consultation document considered and agreed by Cabinet on 7th March 2018.

A copy of the consultation document has been included under appendix 1.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

This is included in appendix 2.

6. REASONS:

The consultation process was designed to allow the authority to test some specific models of provision and to illicit key concerns from stakeholders. To that extent the process was very successful and given the richness of the feedback officers require more time to ensure that all of the potential options are tested and any new permutations developed.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Within the original preferred model, (once fully operational), a full year savings of £500,000 was identified. However, if agreed there will only be partial saving in 2019-20 of £200,000.

A further report to Cabinet offering recommendations to implement a preferred delivery model will be brought to the Cabinet meeting on 5th September 2018 and will reflect any changes to the above, if applicable.

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

This is included in appendix 3.

9. CONSULTEES:

CYP DMT
Cabinet Member for Education

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Welsh Government School Organisation code

11. AUTHOR:

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12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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Evaluation Criteria – Cabinet, Individual Cabinet Member Decisions & Council

Appendix 2

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| Title of Report: | CONSULTATION PAPER FOR INCLUSION REVIEW |
| Date decision was made: | 4th July 2018 |
| Report Author: | Nikki Wellington |

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| What will happen as a result of this decision being approved by Cabinet or Council? |
| This will allow the Children and Young People Directorate to consult all partners on the proposed changes to the inclusion provision across Monmouthshire. |
| 36 Month appraisal |

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| What benchmarks and/or criteria will you use to determine whether the decision has been successfully implemented? |
| Meeting more of the needs of our young people within Monmouthshire. Reduce the number of pupils that need to access education in other authorities. |
| 36 month appraisal |

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| What is the estimate cost of implementing this decision or, if the decision is designed to save money, what is the proposed saving that the decision will achieve? |
| Once the model is fully operational, the full year savings will be £500,000, however if agreed there will only be partial saving in 2019-20 of £200,000. |
| 36 month appraisal |

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| Any other comments |
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