

SUBJECT:	Consultation Report on proposal to establish and additional learning needs (ALN) Facility and make an alteration to the schools capacity at Monmouth Comprehensive School
MEETING:	Cabinet
DATE:	6th January 2016

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to establish an additional learning needs (ALN) Facility and make an alteration to the schools capacity at Monmouth Comprehensive School.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 To consider the attached consultation report and agree to publish the proposal in the form of Statutory Notices to:-
- (i) Make a prescribed alteration to the capacity of Monmouth Comprehensive School from 1671 to 1600 places
 - (ii) Establish an Additional Learning Needs facility at the school.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The statutory consultation process on the proposals took place between the 19th October 2015 and 6th December 2015.
- 3.2 A file of all the comments and views received during the consultation period has been made available to Elected Members as part of this process and, before any decisions are made, the file has been located in the members library.
- 3.4 Based on views received in writing and at the drop-in session and through consultation with the School Council it was evident that establishing the Additional Learning Needs facility at Monmouth Comprehensive School will enhance the provision at the school. The school aims to be a fully inclusive community for students of all abilities, challenges, race, gender and social origin and this proposal will enable the school to be even more inclusive and enable children and young people with moderate to severe learning difficulties at key stages 3 and 4 to access education within the County and their own community.

- 3.5 In relation to the proposal to reduce the capacity of the school, overall there has been less comment on this part of the proposal however the main comments that have been received have focussed on catchment areas and whether there will be enough places for pupils living in the school catchment area.

The Local Authority acknowledges that Monmouth Comprehensive is a popular school and was oversubscribed last year however it also has to address surplus places as a whole within the secondary sector.

The Local Authority is mindful that the other secondary schools in the County have a high level of surplus places and this means that financial resources are not being used in the most efficient and effective way to improve the quality of education.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 The consultation report represents the Council's responsibility as part of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to publish a consultation report and:

- Summarises each of the issues raised by consultees.
- Responds to these issues.
- Sets out Estyn's view of the overall merits of the proposal.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The continuation of the process will be built into the present work programme of officers within Children and Young People Directorate.
- 5.2 The total capital investment for the additional learning needs facility is £1.2 million which has already been secured as part of the 21st century Schools funding, with 50% coming from Welsh Government.
- 5.3 The table below provides examples of the cost of resource base provision compared with special school provision were Monmouthshire pupils are placed.

Example Placement Costs	Pupil numbers	Average cost per pupil
Example of resource base provision in county £406,521	75	£5,420.28
Example of resource base provision in county Less Average Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) £264,965	75	£3,532
Example of Special School placement (Out of county) £41,3136	15	£27,542
AWPU (teaching element)	Ages	£1,823.43

only) Secondary	11-14	
	Ages 14 – 16	£2,063.36

As can be seen from above there is a substantial saving in placing children within our own Authority's schools. The funding for the revenue costs for the unit will be generated by saving on out of county placements as the pupils will be educated within Monmouth.

Full savings will not be generated in the 1st year and will be over a number of years as pupils are placed in the unit. However there will be corresponding savings within staffing costs.

5.4 The funding for the 21st century schools programme has been agreed on the basis of the new school having a capacity of 1600 and a 55 place ALN facility.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The future generation's process has been completed and is at Appendix 2.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications associated with this report

8. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet Members
DMT
SLT

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The Government of Maintained School (Wales) Regulations 2005
The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
School Organisation Statutory Code 006/2013
Consultation Document on Proposed Closure of Llanfair Kilgeddin VA CIW primary School.

10. AUTHOR:

Cath Sheen – Client Liaison Officer.

11. CONTACT DETAILS:

E-mail: cathsheen@monmouthshire.gov.uk
[Tel: 07595 647637](tel:07595647637)

