

9 February 2010



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

PROPOSED RE-ORGANISATION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE WHITCHURCH AREA

The Council has recently consulted on proposals to reduce the number of surplus English-medium places in the Whitchurch area, to establish Whitchurch High School at a capacity appropriate for its catchment population and to meet the rising demand for Welsh-medium education. The original consultation document can be accessed on the Council's website (www.cardiff.gov.uk). To access the document, enter the Learning area of the Council's website and select 'Schools for the Future' from the Schools section.

During the consultation period a number of meetings were held, with the local community and affected schools, and around 1,000 written responses were received. The feedback from this exercise included a number of alternative suggestions and also the expression of a number of concerns.

In consideration of this further information and as part of the ongoing consultation process officers consider it necessary to seek your views on a further modified option which has emerged during the process before drafting the consultation report for consideration by the Executive. This to ensure that elected members have all relevant information before them before making a final decision.

This additional option, whilst still achieving the original objectives set by the Council, keeps all existing school land in use for school purposes, facilitates a smooth transition to new arrangements, allows for flexibility to respond to any future growth in pupil numbers and delivers a level of capital investment proportionate to the scale of the re-organisation now proposed.

Details of this modified option are outlined below:

Whitchurch High School to be reduced in size from 12 forms of entry (FE) to 11 FE from September 2012 and then to 10 FE from September 2015 with no further reduction proposed beyond this. No change of catchment area is proposed. An investment programme of £5.6m would result in the removal of poor quality/demountable accommodation and refurbishment/adaptation of permanent school buildings. This does not involve any sale of land or increased sharing of land on the school's 2 sites.

Eglwys Wen and Eglwys Newydd Primary Schools to be closed and replaced with a new 2.5FE English-medium primary school with nursery on the site currently shared between Eglwys Wen and Ysgol Melin Gruffydd from September 2012, with no sale of land now proposed. An investment programme of £2.2m would result in refurbishment and adaptation/extension to the permanent buildings, without the need for any additional demountable classrooms during the transition period. Furthermore, all existing demountable classrooms would be removed on a phased basis until the proposal is fully implemented. It is proposed that the new school would serve the combined catchment areas of the two existing schools.

Ysgol Melin Gruffydd to transfer to the site currently occupied by Eglwys Newydd as a 2FE Welsh-medium school from September 2012. An investment programme of £4.9m

PLEASE REPLY TO: Schools & Lifelong Learning Service, Room 210, County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW Tel 029 2087 2917, Fax 029 2087 2777 E-mail: schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk



would result in refurbishment and adaptation/extension to the permanent buildings including the provision of a nursery. All demountable/substandard buildings, including additional provision needed during the transition period, will be removed on completion of the building works.

Given below is a summary of costs and resources for this modified option compared to the original three consulted on:

| | OPTIONS ORIGINALLY CONSULTED ON | | | NEW OPTION |
|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Option 1 £M | Option 2 £M | Option 3 £M | Option 4 £M |
| Table 1: Costs & Resources for Whitchurch Proposals | | | | |
| Capital Investment | | | | |
| Whitchurch High School | 7.935 | 7.935 | 7.935 | 5.547 |
| EM Primary | New 2 FE EM School on Heol Don Site Alt/Extension to Eglwys Newydd 2FE Alt/Extension to Eglwys Wen 2.5FE | 6.402 4.775 | 4.435 | 2.164 |
| WM Primary | Alt/Extension to Melyn Gruffydd 2FE New 2 FE WM on Heol Don Site Alt/Extension to Eglwys Newydd 2FE | 0.971 | 0.971 6.402 | 4.775 |
| Other Associated Works | 0.414 | 0.114 | 0.577 | 0.195 |
| Total Capital Investment | 15.722 | 13.795 | 19.349 | 12.681 |
| Organisational Restructure Costs | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.600 |
| TOTAL COSTS | 16.722 | 14.795 | 20.349 | 13.281 |
| Scheme Specific Resources | | | | |
| Capital Receipts | 6.150 | 4.100 | 6.500 | 1.000 |
| Revenue Release Savings | 1.555 | 1.555 | 1.555 | 1.555 |
| General Resources | 9.017 | 9.140 | 12.294 | 10.726 |
| TOTAL RESOURCES | 16.722 | 14.795 | 20.349 | 13.281 |

Attached is a response sheet which you are invited to complete and return to the address at the foot of this letter. Alternatively, you are welcome to send responses by letter or e-mail to schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk. In order to be considered please ensure that your response includes your name and postal address. Should you have any specific questions on this modified proposal please contact the School Organisation Planning Team on (029) 2087 2917.

Please ensure that we receive responses by 4pm on Friday, 5 March 2010. These will then be considered, summarised and made available in conjunction with the responses on the original proposals in a full report to the Executive. They will then have the responsibility of considering all options & responses before coming to a final decision on a proposal which will be the subject of a statutory notice.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Jones
Chief Officer, Schools & Lifelong Learning

PLEASE REPLY TO: Schools & Lifelong Learning Service, Room 210, County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW Tel 029 2087 2917, Fax 029 2087 2777 E-mail: schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk

Consultation Response Form: Questionnaire

What are your views on the additional option outlined in this letter?

Would you wish to comment on the merits of this option compared to the three previous options consulted on?

Do you wish to make any other comments?

Your
Name: _____ Date _____

Address:

Your Status: e.g. Pupil / Parent / Governor / Member of Staff / Other

Thank you for your comments. Please return this form to Room 210 County Hall, Cardiff CF10 4UW by **4pm on Friday, 5 March 2010.**