THE CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL

THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL ENGLISH-MEDIUM AND WELSH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN AND AROUND THE BUTETOWN, CANTON, GRANGETOWN AND RIVERSIDE AREAS (the ‘Four Wards’)

Reason for this Report

1. This report is prepared in accordance with the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code, statutory document 006/2013.

2. Its purpose is to set out the objections received to the statutory notice to increase the capacity of Ninian Park Primary School from 2FE to 3FE with additional part-time nursery places serving the age range 3-11 on its existing site from September 2017 and the statutory notice to establish a new 2FE Welsh-medium primary school with nursery on the Hamadryad site located adjacent to the Hamadryad playing fields off Hamadryad Road, Cardiff which were published on 07 January 2016 and the Council’s response to these objections.

The Proposal

3. At its meeting on 10 December 2015 the Cabinet in accordance with the terms of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act, approved a recommendation for the publication of statutory notices to:

- increase the capacity of Ninian Park Primary School from 2FE to 3FE with additional part-time nursery places serving the age range 3-11 on its existing site from September 2017.

- establish a new 2FE Welsh-medium primary school with nursery on the Hamadryad site located adjacent to the Hamadryad playing fields off Hamadryad Road, Cardiff (the school is to open initially at 1FE only in temporary accommodation adjacent to the Ninian Park Primary School site in the accommodation formerly occupied by Ysgol Tan yr Eos on Virgil Street, Cardiff).

4. The decision was made by Cabinet having reviewed the responses to the consultation which had been undertaken (in accordance with the School Organisation Code) between 07 September and 19 October 2015.

5. The notices were published on the Council website, displayed at schools/sites affected and in the local area on 07 January 2016. Additional stakeholders identified in the Welsh Government School Organisation Code as needing to receive either a hard copy of the notices or be emailed a link to the Council website were notified of publication of the notices.
Objections Received and Council Response

6. The points raised in the objections received are set out in bold/italics below. The paragraphs following these points contain the Council’s response to the objections.

7. There were no objections to the proposal to increase the capacity of Ninian Park Primary School.

8. Two objections to the proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school on the Hamadryad site were received.

9. The first objection was from a parent of a child who attend Ysgol Pwll Coch and is concerned that there is a possible chance that their child will be moved from Ysgol Pwll Coch to the proposed new school which would cause considerable difficulties. Additionally it is hoped that a younger sibling will attend Ysgol Pwll Coch Nursery in September 2016.

10. The second objection was regarding traffic around the Hamadryad site. The objector is concerned that the establishment of the new school will add to existing traffic congestion in the area.

11. Admissions to the new Welsh-medium primary school would be to the Reception age group only in the first instance with admissions to older year groups (subject to spaces being available) as the school grows. Primary aged children already on the roll of Ysgol Pwll Coch would not be required to transfer to the proposed new school.

12. Children in Cardiff are entitled to a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday and must attend for a minimum of five half days. Nursery places are not allocated on a catchment area basis. Wherever possible places are offered in a local community nursery school or nursery class within two miles of a child’s place of residence. If places are unavailable in local community nursery schools or nursery classes, parents may apply for nursery education place funding with an approved provider that has to demonstrate is able to meet with relevant quality.

13. Parents of children who are admitted to Ysgol Pwll Coch for nursery education will still need to apply for a place at the School if they want their child to transfer to the reception class. Attendance at the nursery will not guarantee admission to the school.

14. In the event of catchment area changes being implemented the relevant oversubscription criterion gives priority to those pupils with older siblings in the school and who are resident in the existing catchment, “Where an older sibling was directed by the Council to an alternative school because the alternative school was previously the catchment area school, if the parent desires, the Council will admit younger siblings to the alternative school. This applies only where the older sibling is in attendance at the alternative school during the academic year to which the application relates. In addition the
younger sibling must be residing in the same address (or an address within the catchment area that was the subject of the change before it was implemented) that the older sibling was living at the time of the original application”.

15. Traffic and transport implications will be considered as part of the Transport Assessment that will be required as part of the formal planning application and therefore until this is completed it will not be possible to predict the outcomes. The information from this assessment will inform any stipulations made as condition of planning consent should this proposal be permitted to proceed to implementation.

16. The speed limit is currently 30mph in the vicinity of the Hamadryad site, though due to the layout of the surrounding streets the traffic speeds are likely to be low. The availability of parking around the school site is extremely limited as there are a significant number of existing Resident Parking bays and parking restrictions.

17. An initial assessment suggests that due to the existing site constraints vehicle access to this school site will have to be restricted. In order to improve the pedestrian access to the school the following improvements would be required:

   a. One-way system on Hamadryad Road, including a School Safety Zone with speed tables and pedestrian crossing facilities near the school entrance;
   b. Signalised pedestrian crossing facilities at the James Street/Dumballs Street junction;
   c. Bus only access on Hunter Street and parking for commercial bus provision;
   d. Improvements to the pedestrian crossing facilities on Corporation Road and Avondale Road.

**Admission Arrangements including catchment areas**

18. If implemented, pupils would be admitted into the Reception age group of the new Welsh-medium primary school from September 2016. Places would be allocated based on proximity (distance) to the Hamadryad site as there would be no catchment area arrangements in place at this time.

19. The establishment of each individual school catchment area requires the Council to undertake a formal consultation. The Council, in its role as admission authority, consults with schools annually in respect of school admission arrangements, including school catchment areas.

20. School admission arrangements have been set until the end of the 2016-17 school year.

21. It is expected that, following further analysis of the take-up of Reception places in 2015 and 2016, any proposed changes to Welsh-medium primary
school catchment areas would be consulted on in early 2017 or 2018 and the arrangements implemented in September 2018 or 2019.

22. It should be noted that the additional school places proposed are to meet existing shortfalls and contribute towards the projected yield from a number of housing developments proposed during the period ending 2026. It is therefore likely that the demand for places within each geographical area will change over time and as a consequence it would be necessary to review and potentially further revise catchment area arrangements.

Financial Implications

23. The realigned 21st Century Schools Programme totalling £167.6 million was approved by Cabinet in March and submitted to Welsh Government (WG). The Welsh Government subsequently approved in-principle a slightly reduced programme of £164.1 million. Within this re-aligned programme are in principle approved budgets of £8.3 million for the delivery of additional Welsh Medium provision and £6.5 million for the delivery of additional English Medium Provision in the areas of Butetown, Grangetown, Riverside and Canton.

24. The Welsh medium Provision Project budget is also required to fund the purchase of the land at Hamadryad Road which forms part of the proposals and is currently anticipated to cost approximately £2 million and to be completed by 31st March 2016.

25. At this stage both projects have SOC / OBC stage business case approval proposals prior to Full Business Case approval from WG will be undertaken by the Local Authority at the risk of not achieving Full Business case approval and therefore the anticipated 50% WG funding contribution to the project costs.

26. There is a financial risk attached to the Welsh Medium proposals at the Hamadryad site related to potential Transport and Highways Infrastructure costs which are likely to impact upon the project budget. Depending upon the extent of the works required which still needs to be fully resolved. The financial impact on the project budget is likely to be a minimum of £260,000 based on estimates from the Council’s Highways section. This represents a risk as these additional costs would reduce the contingency element currently factored into the project budget ahead of the main construction contract costs being determined.

HR Implications

27. The temporary Governing Body of the new school working with the Council will need to put in place leadership arrangements in advance of the school opening in September 2016. This is to allow time for organisational and staffing decisions to be taken so that the school is appropriately resourced for the opening in September 2016. Options for leadership will need to be
considered, which could include partnership or an interim arrangements, particularly for the period whilst the school is located on its temporary site.

28. HR People Services will offer support to the Temporary Governing Body and leadership in establishing an initial staffing structure and recruitment to this ready for the school opening. The Temporary Governing Body may again need to consider interim arrangements for staffing whilst the school becomes fully established.

29. The Headteacher and the temporary Governing Body will also need to consider the HR policies and procedures that it would adopt in relation to the employment and management of staff. The Council will advocate the adoption of the HR Manual for Schools which has been designed to provide policies and procedures, information and guidance to governing bodies, Head teachers and staff, on the human resources issues and employment matters affecting schools.

30. The full adoption of the HR Manual would ensure that any staffing vacancies at the school would provide opportunities for individuals on the school redeployment register, in line with the Council’s Redeployment and Redundancy Policy for schools.

Cabinet Decision

31. **RESOLVED:** that

- The proposals as set out in paragraph 2 be approved without modification.
- Officers be authorised to take the appropriate actions to implement the proposals as set out in paragraph 2.
- Officers be authorised to publish a summary of the statutory objections and the Authority’s response to those objections (referred to as the “Objection Report”) within 7 days of the determination of the proposal.
- Officers to be authorised to publish the decision within 7 days of determination of the proposal.
- approval of any necessary contracts be delegated to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, Director of Legal Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Education and Lifelong Learning following the respective grant approvals by the Welsh Government.

Nick Batchelor  
**Director of Education and Lifelong Learning**  
**March 2016**