



## **CABINET REPORT**

Date Written	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021
Report Author	Anthony Lewis
Service Area	Learning
Committee Division	Strategic
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2021

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **3-16 Voluntary Aided Catholic School – Site Consultation**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the proposals to design and build a new 3-16 Voluntary Aided (VA) Catholic School on the site of the Greenie playing fields, and to seek approval to extend the consultation recently undertaken to allow further opportunity for stakeholders including residents, parents, staff, governors, parishioners and other interested parties to have their say regarding the site options in the consultation.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S) that**

2.1 The extension of the recent site options consultation to allow further opportunity for all stakeholders including all households in the Penydarren, Galon Uchaf and Gurnos Wards to participate in the consultation, be approved.

2.2 The presentation of a final report to Full Council setting out the outcome of the consultation together with proposals for the site of the new school, including the Traffic Impact Assessment, be approved.

#### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 On 26th May 2021, the local authority approved that design development for proposals to build the new 3-16 VA School on the Greenie be progressed to the next stages.

- 3.2 Prior to considering the scheme for final approvals further consideration of a detailed Traffic Impact Assessment was required as well as ensuring that the scheme meets the needs of local residents, the school community, Gurnos FC, and other users of the Greenie playing fields and facilities.
- 3.3 In recognition of the public response expressed on social media that a large number of residents were not aware of the public consultation, this report outlines a way forward to address those concerns.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Following the consultation undertaken in April/May 2021 the preferred option of residents was to build on the Greenie playing fields and to relocate the playing fields to the southern end of the site on the Buttercup fields, ensuring a comprehensive drainage system and new pitch facilities are provided.
- 4.2 As outlined in 3.3 discussions between officers and Councillors recognises the strength of feeling within the community for further consultation to provide the opportunity for more people to engage.
- 4.3 It is proposed that this consultation be undertaken as an extension to site consultation 2 and be effective from Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 4.4 All consultation responses already provided from the recent consultation April/May 2021 will be included in the final consultation report.
- 4.5 Following the closure of the consultation on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, a final consultation report detailing the outcome of the overall site consultation will be prepared for consideration and a final decision on the site by Full Council.

## **5.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 Extend the public consultation on the siting of the 3-16 VA Catholic School to cover the period Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- 5.2 Prepare an updated consultation report for Full Council detailing the final outcomes from the consultation responses together with proposals for the site of the new school, including the Traffic Impact Assessment.
- 5.3 Pending Council's approval of a site to build the new 3-16 school, a final scheme will then be developed for Welsh Government approval and further statutory consultations will also be required to secure planning approvals before any construction work could begin.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications with this report as the required 15% local authority match funding for the 3-16 VA school project is secured within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and WG approvals have been provided within the Band B programme envelope for the project.

6.2 Any further financial implications to deliver the project will be reported to Council as part of the final consultation report.

## 7.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral/Not Applicable	
<b>1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives</b>	2 of 4	0 of 4	2 of 4	
<b>2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Integration</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> <li>• Involvement</li> </ul>	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5	
<b>3. Protected Characteristics</b> (including Welsh Language)	3 of 10	0 of 10	7 of 10	
<b>4. Socio-economic Disadvantage</b>	6 of 6	0 of 6	0 of 6	
<b>5. Consultation and Engagement</b>	<b>Undertaken</b>	<b>Due to be Undertaken</b>	<b>Not Required</b>	
	1 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	
<b>6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal</b>	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	
	1 of 1		0 of 1	
<b>7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems</b>	<b>Maintained</b>	<b>Enhanced</b>	<b>Reduced</b>	<b>Neutral/Not Applicable</b>
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<b>Summary</b>				
<b>The main positive impacts are:</b>	The main positive impacts are that the proposal to choose a 3-16 school site with a shared and enhanced community facility makes a positive contribution to the 'Best Start to Life' and 'Living Well' wellbeing objectives.			
<b>The main negative impacts are:</b>	The temporary lack of access to the community facilities that need to be relocated during the construction phase is the main negative impact. The loss of green open space will be compensated with the provision of enhanced facilities that remain accessible to the community.			

**SUE WALKER**  
**CHIEF OFFICER LEARNING**

**COUNCILLOR LISA MYTTON**  
**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
3-16 VA School Site Consultation 2 Cabinet report	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	Intranet
3-16 VA School Site Consultation Cabinet report	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Intranet
School Reorganisation 3-16 VA School Cabinet Report	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Intranet
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme Cabinet Report	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Intranet
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Strategic Outline Programme (SOP)	August 2017	Learning Department
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B SOP Revision Annex 1	February 2019	Learning Department
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>

***Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.***