



## **CABINET - 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

**SUBJECT: 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOOLS BAND B PROPOSAL -  
STATUTORY OBJECTION REPORT FOR: LLANCAEACH  
JUNIOR SCHOOL/LLANFABON INFANTS SCHOOL**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members in relation to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B proposal in respect of the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision on the existing Llanfabon Infants School site.
- 1.2 Members are asked to consider the information contained in the Objection Period Summary Report and approve the recommendations to proceed to planning application stage and full business case submission.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B proposals for the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School went to formal Statutory Notice stage between the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. No objections were received.
- 2.2 Members approval is being sought to authorise progression of the proposal to planning application stage and full business case submission to Welsh Government.
- 2.3 A Decision letter will be published setting out clearly the reasons for the decision with reference to the School Organisation Code 2018.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Cabinet Members are asked to: -
  - a) Note the information contained in the Objection Period Summary Report
  - b) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Planning Application Stage
  - c) Approve the recommendation to proceed to Full Business Case submission to

#### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To ensure Members are updated on the progress of Band B of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme (formerly referred to as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Capital programme).
- 4.2 To seek Member approval on the recommendations outlined in 3.1 in respect of the proposal to amalgamate Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision on the existing Llanfabon Infants School site.
- 4.3 To assist the Council in discharging its duties in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.

#### **5. THE REPORT**

##### **5.1 Band B**

- 5.1.1 The key aims of the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Band B (formerly referred to as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Capital programme) is to:

- Reduce the number of poor condition schools.
- Ensure that we have the right size schools in the right location, providing enough places to deliver Welsh and English medium education.
- Ensure the effective and efficient use of the educational estate for use by both Schools and the wider Community.

##### **5.2 Band B Phase 2**

- 5.2.1 The schemes identified as part of Phase 2 of the Authority's Band B proposals include the adaption and refurbishment of the old grammar school building on the former Pontllanfraith High School site to accommodate a Centre for Vulnerable Learners (Pupil Referral Unit), the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior and Llanfabon Infants school via the expansion of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate 275 pupils plus nursery, and a new build replacement Plasyfelin Primary school in the grounds of the existing school site to accommodate 420 pupils plus nursery.

##### **5.3 Phase 2 - Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School**

- 5.3.1 The proposal relates to the amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School via the expansion and refurbishment of the existing Llanfabon Infants site to accommodate the new 3-11 Primary School provision with places for 275 pupils plus nursery.
- 5.3.2 Further to Cabinet approval gained 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, a Statutory Notice for the proposal to amalgamate Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School was published, and the formal objection period ran between 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. All documentation was published in Welsh and English, complying

with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Information was also available in other languages and formats on request.

- 5.3.3 A prescribed list of recipients as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 were written to and a Statutory Notice was published electronically on the Council's website.
- 5.3.4 Hardcopies of the Statutory Notice were made available to both schools and displayed in the school foyers and on/in close proximity to the entrance gates. In addition, the school's internal communication network with parents and pupils was used to raise awareness of the process and publication of the Statutory Notice.
- 5.3.5 The Statutory Notice was published on a school day and consultees were given 28 days to respond to the document, with at least 15 of these being school days as defined by Section 579 of the Education Act 1996.
- 5.3.6 The objection period opened on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 (a school day) and concluded at midnight on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to provide adequate time for response and conscientious consideration to any responses received.
- 5.3.7 No objections were received during the Objection Period as outlined in 5.3.6.
- 5.3.8 Under Section 49 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 when objections have been received proposers must publish a summary of the statutory objections and the proposer's response to those objections ("the Objection Report").
- 5.3.9 As no statutory objections were received, there is no requirement to publish an Objection Report. However, for consistency and transparency, an Objection Period Summary Report in relation to the proposal to amalgamate Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School has been compiled and attached as an annex to this report.
- 5.3.10 The Objection Period Summary Report and Decision Notice will be published electronically on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools page on the Council's website. Hard copies will be available on request.

## **5.4 Conclusion**

Pursuant to the requirements of the School Organisation Code 2018, the formal statutory objection period has now concluded. This report has been compiled along with the Objection Period Summary Report to provide Members with the necessary information to make an informed decision as to the final determination for the proposal to amalgamate Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision on the existing Llanfabon Infants School site.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report as it merely updates on the progress of individual projects.

## 7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An initial Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for this proposal was undertaken alongside the original Consultation Document forming part of the outline consultation pack which is published on the Council's website.
- 7.2 The Integrated Impact Assessment has been reviewed to include any additional elements highlighted through the statutory consultation process. The purpose of this further assessment is to take account of any further information that has come forward through the consultation or otherwise.

### Link to Integrated Impact Assessment

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Phase 2 of the Authority's 21st Century Schools Band B proposals, currently totals £18,500,000. The Authority's contribution within this sum is £5,925,000 as detailed below.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
Centre for Vulnerable Learners	£1,375,000 (25%)	£4,125,000	£5,500,000
Llancaeath/Llanfabon	£1,400,000 (35%)	£2,600,000	£4,000,000
Plasyfelin Primary	£3,150,000 (35%)	£5,850,000	£9,000,000

- 8.2 The Authority's contribution will be met from the remaining funding of £1.209m previously earmarked for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and through the recently approved earmarking of a further sum of £4.716m from the Authority's Place-Shaping Reserve.
- 8.3 The Welsh Government Grant allocation for individual projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Band B (formerly referred to as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Capital programme) is calculated consistently across Wales using the Building Bulletin regulations BB98 - Secondary, BB99 – Primary and BB104 – Special/Pupil Referral Units. There are a number different elements which have been included in the calculations provided for each of the Phase 2 proposals, which include:
- Proposed standard price per square metre
  - Furniture fitting and equipment per pupil
  - ICT per pupil
- 8.4 Largely due to a combination of the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit there are currently significant inflationary increases within the construction sector. This is being kept under close review but the current projected costs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme will be subject to change. Members will be updated further as matters progress.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This will be dependent on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the process.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)  
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

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Mark Williams, Interim Head of Property Services  
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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 Objection Period Summary Report - Llancaeath Junior School / Llanfabon Infants School