**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**DECISION NOTICE**

**SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013**

**Proposal to make a regulated alteration to Brynmenyn Primary School, Bryn Road, Brynmenyn, Bridgend, CF32 9LA in the form of an enlargement to the school and relocating the school to a new building on land adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen.**

The above mentioned proposal, published on 25th June 2015 by Bridgend County Borough Council under sections 42 - of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, required Cabinet approval to determine to implement it.

On 1st September 2015 Cabinet carefully considered the published proposal, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. No objections were received in respect of the proposal. In exercising its powers under the Act, Cabinet have determined to approve the proposal.

As a result, Brynmenyn Primary School will relocate to land adjacent to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen and be enlarged so as to provide 420 pupil places plus a 60 place nursery. The date of implementation will be January 2018.

In determining the proposal, Cabinet were satisfied that this proposal is sound in education, financial and strategic terms.

**Summary**

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| In summary, Cabinet have approved the proposal as they believe that it will:   * Maintain the standard of education provision overall in the area      * Ensure there are sufficient pupil places to meet demand |

The reasons for the decision in respect to the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code are as follows:

**Quality and Standards of Education**

It is Estyn’s opinion that the proposal will help increase the number of school places available and will help benefit pupils at Brynmenyn through the provision of a modern and less crowded teaching and learning environment, reducing pressure for places on other schools within the area and is consistent with the local authority’s strategy for school re-organisation.

The most recent Estyn inspection report and monitoring report both indicate that standards at the existing school, along with leadership and management are improving, and therefore a change to a new and larger school should at least maintain standards.

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| The Council will take all practicable steps to minimise disruption for all pupils by working closely with the Head teacher and Governing Body in terms of transition to the new school. |
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| **Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools**  This proposal will meet the increased demand for education places for the planned housing developments within the Valleys Gateway area. Primary places at the three existing schools are at or nearing capacity with Brynmenyn currently overcrowded and this proposal, together with a future catchment change will ease the pressure on places at Tondu and Bryncethin Primary Schools. |

**Resourcing of education**

The Formula Funding allocation provided to the school will increase as the new school will be larger. This proposal allows for a reduction in the school estate and removal of a backlog of school maintenance at two sites.

The costs of the scheme will be contained within the approved capital programme budget of £8.7 million.  The anticipated cost of the new school will be met from the Welsh Government’s 21st Century Schools Programme, for which approval in principle has been received, and the Council’s capital programme as approved by Council.

**Other General Factors**

The Council will consult on a future catchment change affecting all primary provision in the Valley’s Gateway area in due course. Any proposals for future catchment changes will be informed by a detailed analysis of the demographics of the area.

*This decision is subject to the call in procedures as set out in the Council’s constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a call in of the decision take place, all stakeholders would be informed.*