**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**DECISION NOTICE**

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

On 15th June 2016, after a period of consultation, Bridgend County Borough Council published a statutory notice of its proposal to make a regulated alteration to Pencoed Primary School of Penprysg Road, Pencoed, Bridgend CF35 6RH by relocating the school (including the Heol y Cyw campus) to the site currently occupied by the school’s playing fields on Penprysg Road. No objections to the proposal were received during the public notice period. On 6th September 2016 Cabinet carefully considered the published proposal, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Cabinet determined to approve the proposal.

As a result, Pencoed Primary School (including the Heol y Cyw campus) will relocate to a new school building on the site of the existing school’s playing fields. The school’s capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 510 (for pupils aged 4-11) plus 70 full time equivalent nursery places, 8 places for the visually impaired, 8 infant observation places and 2 classes of 15 places for pupils with moderate learning difficulties.

The admission number for the age group 4-5 at the school in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented will be 72. The date of implementation will be 1st April 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
* Ensure pupil places are suitably located
* Lead to a greater efficiency in the resourcing of education

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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 (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales) opinion that a move to a new school building is likely to at least maintain the quality of the outcomes and provision in the area. The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include allowing all pupils and staff of Pencoed Primary school to be located on one site within a brand new facility, savings on repairs and maintenance expenditure of the current aging school buildings, community provision incorporated into the new school build and providing a better learning environment for pupils.

The Foundation Phase curriculum places a great deal of emphasis on experiential and outdoor learning. New school buildings in Wales take this into consideration so that the learning environment effectively supports the curriculum activities and the ways in which teachers are expected to organise learning experiences and to teach. Outdoor learning experiences continue to be an important part of the curriculum at key stage 2. A move to a school that is purposely built around the needs for teaching and learning in the twenty first century should greatly improve the ability of the school to deliver the full curriculum at the Foundation Phase and at key stage 2 impacting positively on the quality and standards in education.

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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 demand for future pupil places within the area. |

**Resourcing of education and other financial implications**

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.

*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.*