

## **Determination Statement**

### **Proposal to open a 3-16 school to replace Groes Primary School and Dyffryn School at Bertha Road, Margam, Port Talbot.**

Determination of this proposal complies with statutory requirements under the Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and Welsh Government's Code on School Organisation.

At its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, the Council's Cabinet received a report that no objections had been received in respect of this proposal. This meeting followed the end of the period for the submission of objections.

Cabinet Members determined to implement the proposal effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

Having carefully considered the proposal, the fact that no objections had been received and the supporting evidence from Council officers, Cabinet Members approved implementation of the proposal. The decision will enable the Council to comply with the legislative requirements necessary to facilitate the implementation of the proposal which will assist the Council in meeting its duty to secure efficient education in its area.

In reaching their decision, Cabinet Members gave consideration to the following:

#### **Education**

- The proposal to establish a new build, 3-16 all-through school at an existing school site in the Margam area brings two established schools together under a single management and leadership structure. This will support continuity of pupil learning and deliver improvements in pupil outcomes and well-being. In addition, the proposal provides staff with greater opportunity for curriculum and career development.
- The new school will be built on the site jointly occupied by Groes Primary School/ Dyffryn (upper) School and will remove the split-site arrangement, bringing Dyffryn (upper) School and Dyffryn (lower) School on to one site.
- It will deliver more efficient and effective use of resources, resulting in revenue savings for reinvestment in the general schools budget.
- Both Groes Primary and Dyffryn School are successful schools and have been judged by Estyn as having good outcomes for pupils. Creating a single management structure with a single vision and ethos, and consistent policies and processes will build upon the successes of the two existing schools.

#### **Finance**

- The cost of the new build will be met from the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme and financing by the Council.

- When the new 3-16 school opens on 1st September 2018 it will receive a budget appropriate for an all-through school. Revenue savings generated by efficiencies will be re-invested in the education budget. In this regard, the proposal supports the Council's effective management of its education budget and promotes the more equitable distribution of funding across local schools.

### **Impact of the new build school**

- The Equality Impact Assessment has shown a neutral impact on protected groups.
- There are potential teaching and learning benefits for staff working at a 3-16, all-through school, including greater opportunity for staff development and career progression through a broader range of experiences.
- Although a new all-through school rationalises provision across the three existing sites, there will be employment opportunities at the new school for existing school staff.
- The new 3-16, all-through school will provide greater opportunities for pupils to access a wider range of specialist staff and facilities and increase opportunities for learning. With one leadership team operating across the age range of the school, pupils and parents will experience continuity in school policy and practice, and transition between key stages can be better managed and facilitated for the benefit of pupils.
- The community impact assessment recognised the importance of both Dyffryn School and Groes Primary in providing a venue for school based events and extra-curricular activity. The new school should enhance community/school interaction as it is intended that the new school's facilities, internal and external, will be made available for community use when not required by the school.

### **Strategic School Improvement Programme**

