

Ref: Ein Cyfeirnod: Cathays High School/Ysgol Uwchradd Cathays  
Date: Dyddiad: 19 October/19 Hydref 2021

Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to update you on proposals published by the Council to:

- Increase the capacity of Cathays High School from 1,072 places (5.5 forms of entry with 247 sixth form places) to 1,450 places (8 Forms of Entry with 250 sixth form places) from September 2023;
- Replace the Cathays High School buildings with new build accommodation on the Maindy Centre site adjacent to Crown Way and North Road;
- Expand the current Specialist Resource Base (SRB) for learners with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) from 16 to 50 places in purpose built accommodation in the new school buildings.

Following feedback during the consultation period earlier this year, further work was undertaken to produce an indicative red line boundary map for the proposed school site which takes account of the views expressed in consultation. This was published on the Council website here: [www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/cathayshighproposals).

A report on the consultation was considered by the Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 17 June 2021.

The report informed Cabinet of the 494 responses received during the consultation, the issues raised, the Council's response to these and recommendations on the way forward. The report also identified and addressed concerns raised during the consultation, in particular uncertainty around the location/ layout of the new build school and the potential impact on open access space.

Following consideration of the consultation report, the Council's Cabinet resolved to proceed with the proposals and authorised the publication of a statutory notice.

At its meeting on 14 October 2021 the Council Cabinet considered the proposals, the statutory objections submitted and the local authority response to the issues raised.

It was noted that there were 425 objections. The concerns raised are summarised in the objection report together with the response from the Council. It was considered that responses made by the Council answered the issues raised.

The objection report is available to view on the Council website:

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 14th October, 2021, 2.00 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://www.moderngov.co.uk)



A number of objections to the school proposals related to the replacement of the Maindy velodrome with new Cardiff velodrome provision at the International Sports Village (ISV) which is planned for completion ahead of construction of the new Cathays High School. Details of the progress made to develop the new Cardiff velodrome at the ISV can be found at [www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk](http://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk)

**The Cabinet approved the proposals in respect of changes to Cathays High School, as set out above, without modification.**

The approval is subject to the Charity Commission's consent in relation to the Maindy site being held in a charitable trust.

The Cabinet was satisfied that:

- The consultation on the proposed changes was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (November 2018).
- The proposal was published in accordance with the requirements of the Code and contained all of the required information.
- The proposal provides 21<sup>st</sup> Century new build facilities that will ensure there are appropriate, high quality school places for young people, which meet the needs of Cardiff's growing population. High quality learning environments have a strong impact on improving pupil outcomes and will support the delivery of the new 'Curriculum for Wales' for learners (aged 3 – 16) along with providing facilities that allow for real world, practical learning with local organisations and employers
- The proposal would increase the number of English-medium secondary school places which will contribute towards meeting projected demand in the area
- The proposal would increase the number of specialist resource base (SRB) places for learners aged 11-19 with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The proposal would allow the further development of the specialist provision and increase the number of places available from 16 to 50. This would help to ensure there are sufficient places to meet increased demand arising out of a growing pupil population and a growing incidence and identification of ASC in Cardiff
- The proposal would address the substandard condition of the existing buildings and remove the maintenance backlog
- The proposal would provide a fully accessible new building compliant with the Equality Act 2010
- The proposal would provide new sports and learning facilities that would enhance opportunities for use by pupils and the local community.
- There are no related school organisation proposals

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The increase to the capacity of the school will take effect from September 2023. It is anticipated that building work would start in the 2023/24 school year and be completed in readiness for pupils to use all new facilities in the 2025/26 school year.

### **Referral of Local Authority Decision to the Welsh Ministers**

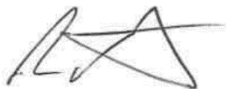
Under section 54 of the 2013 Act where proposals have been approved by a local authority the following bodies may before the end of 28 days beginning with the day of the decision, refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration;

- i. Another local authority affected by the proposals;*
- ii. The appropriate religious body for any school affected;*
- iii. The Governing Body of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals;*
- iv. A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals; and*
- v. A further education institution affected by the proposals*

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

If you have any queries or require additional information please contact the School Organisation Planning Team on 029 2087 2720 or via email to [schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schoolresponses@cardiff.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Richard Portas  
**Programme Director**  
**School Organisation**

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