

Welsh Medium Primary Options and Revenue Implications

Options Appraisal

A Welsh medium options appraisal was carried out in line with the business case and pre-consultation requirements, assessing how each option contributes to fulfilment of the investment objectives, critical success factors and transformation criteria. Figure 1 below, provides an overview of the options, along with the strengths and weaknesses associated with each option:

| Figure 1 | | | |
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| Option I | Option II | Option iii | Option iv |
| Maintain the Status Quo | Do minimum – Locate on existing English-medium school site with capacity to accommodate a Welsh-medium seedling provision (Inclusive of childcare, nursery and reception year groups, with additional year groups opening for pupil progression each year thereafter) | Locate Welsh-medium school on existing primary school site with external capacity for the Welsh-medium temporary accommodation to be sited (Inclusive of childcare, nursery and reception year groups, with additional year groups opening for pupil progression each year thereafter) | Secure new site for Welsh-medium primary school and establish both seedling provision in temporary accommodation along with the land to build a 210 place primary with nursery. (The childcare facility and the nursery and reception year groups come into effect in September 2021, with additional year groups opening for pupil progression each year thereafter) |
| Strengths and Weaknesses | Strengths and Weaknesses | Strengths and Weaknesses | Strengths and Weaknesses |
| There are no strengths associated with this proposal. The proposal would not secure additionality in terms of Welsh-medium education provision and would not support increased numbers of Welsh speakers in line with the Welsh Government aspiration for 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. | This proposal - although not significantly, would reduce revenue implications in the short-term. This option could result in increased capital costs in the medium to long-term, due to the remodelling costs, extension and/or new build costs. | This proposal - although not significantly, would reduce revenue implications in the short-term. This proposal could offer the opportunity to secure integration and partnership work with an existing school. | This proposal – without income generation and childcare cost recovery, has the highest revenue implications. This proposal would be fully immersive and fulfil both the term and conditions of the Welsh Medium Grant; whilst also creating additionality and securing the delivery of |

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| <p>It would not address the identified latent demand for Welsh-medium education within the Tredegar/Sirhowy Valley.</p> <p>*This is not considered to be a viable option</p> | <p>This option is not sustainable in the medium to long-term, may not be suitable for extension and would not be fully immersive.</p> <p>The works undertaken to create suitable facilities for a seedling growth model, could result in increased surplus places in the medium to long-term.</p> <p>There are programming and financial profiling implications associated with working on live school sites, which could result in delays and/or increased costs.</p> <p>In other authorities i.e. Cardiff, where co-located models have been used, they have resulted in a negative impact particularly on Welsh-medium learners with the seedling development coming secondary to the running of the English-medium school. This model affected staff and pupils, in terms of moral, identity and belonging.</p> <p>*This is not considered to be a viable option</p> | <p>Detailed site investigations are required to confirm viability of the development, but could reveal that the land is not suitable for the development.</p> <p>There are programming and financial profiling implications associated with working on live school sites, which could result in delays and/or increased costs.</p> <p>This option may not be fully immersive, should recreational, resource and other spaces be shared throughout the school.</p> <p>*This option requires further detailed investigation in order to assess the benefits and viability</p> | <p>outcomes aligned to the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2017-20).</p> <p>The school development could be phased and/or developed in line with pupil projections and demand.</p> <p>There are income generation opportunities available i.e. Licensing, co-location etc. which could reduce both revenue implications and surplus.</p> <p>*This option is viable, however, it has the highest revenue financial implications</p> |
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New Welsh Medium Primary School Funding

Background

1. Initial calculations illustrate that there are revenue budget implications for a new build primary school (based on additional pupils rather than existing pupils transferring from existing schools). However, this is likely to be displacement of existing learners which will reduce the funding requirement for the proposal, but has consequences for existing school budgets.
2. Based on a phased intake of pupils, by year 7 (when the school is at full operation and based on an assumption of new learners entering the school), the additional funding requirement is £941,000 per annum (based on the 2020/2021 Fair Funding Formula)
3. Three further options are being considered:
 - **Option 1** – do nothing
 - **Option 2** – locate new school within an existing school building
 - **Option 3** – locate new school on an existing school site with external capacity
4. This note considers the implications on the revenue budget for options 2 and 3, compared to the base option (now called option 4 – new build option).
5. A detailed site assessment was undertaken when exploring the most suitable site to locate a new school, and can be provided if necessary – the summary of which is detailed below:

Education, Planning, Technical Services and Estates carried out an appraisal of Council owned sites within the Tredegar/Sirhowy valley, in order to identify sites that could accommodate the new school development. The Council considered a number of sites to accommodate the development including:

 - **Chartist Way** - Strong potential site, some constraints that can be overcome.
 - **Deighton Ground Stockton Way** – Has some constraints to overcome and is a protected green space. The site is also in very close proximity to an existing English-medium school, which could create destabilisation.
 - **Tredegar Business Park** – Not suitable and has significant constraints to be overcome.
 - **Playing Fields at Tredegar Comprehensive School** – Not suitable and has significant constraints to be overcome.

In consideration of access, ecology, archaeology, flood risk, infrastructure, supplies and services, it was determined that the most suitable site for the school – pending further investigation, would be Chartist Way. Should the proposal proceed, detailed site investigations would commence; however, the Council have a good knowledge of what would be required to ensure the site is developable.

Revenue budget implications

6. We can assume that:
 - APWU funding will be the same for options 2, 3 and 4.
 - “**Other factors**” funding will be the only variable in funding between the options.

- Option 2 will be based in an existing school, with a floor area suitable for a 210 place primary school and that funding will not be applied for such items as building maintenance, caretaking, cleaning, energy and rates (as the existing school will receive funding for these areas)
- For option 3, in the absence of a known external floor area, the costs are based upon the school within the Tredegar area with developable external land.
- The Education Transformation team are currently undertaking investigations into licensing and usage options, which could offset revenue pressures for the school i.e. liaising with Newport City Council on a similar proposal taken forward in their area.
- Options 3 and 4 would require an income generation target of approximately £100,000, which would not be factored into the revenue funding requirements for the Council, but could have a positive effect on the surplus/deficit for the new school.

Premises licensing options which could achieve this target are as follows:

- Establishment of a childcare setting with running costs and rental to be paid to the Council - approximately £20,000 per/annum (this figure is based upon 100 square metre room use including activity room and toilets, along with rental costs)
- The Council has a licensing protocol in place to support and secure 3rd party use of school buildings, the demand for which is currently being explored. However, upon initial discussion with colleagues in Regeneration the following opportunities have been identified for further exploration:
 - The Eden Centre are looking for space for an additional Education Centre within the Ebbw Vale and/or Tredegar area.
 - College Gwent have a lack of capacity within their current building and utilise the General Offices etc. for student activities and exams.
 - Aneurin Leisure office space.
 - In consultation with Businesses it has been identified that there is a lack of space for training providers.

7. In summary, for years 1-7 (with year 1 being a part year), the additional revenue budget required for options 2-4 are as follows:

- **Option 2** - £237,000 rising to £780,000 per annum
- **Option 3** - £261,000 rising to £823,000 per annum
- **Option 4** - £327,000 rising to £941,000 per annum

8. By year 7, therefore, option 2 will require £161,000 less funding per annum, compared to option 4.

9. By year 7, therefore, option 3 will require £118,000 less funding per annum, compared to option 4.

In conclusion, the funding requirements for the 3 options are not significantly different, mainly due to AWPU funding formula arrangements.

7B. If we assume that the school is populated entirely from pupils in existing BGCBC schools, the ISB funding situation will be:

Certain existing individual schools will have decreasing funding, due to decreasing pupil numbers.

The new Welsh medium provision will have increasing funding, due to increasing pupil numbers.

If we assume, therefore, that there will be no additional funding requirement for the AWPU element, there will be an increased funding requirement for the 'other factors' element.

8. In summary, for years 1-7 (with year 1 being a part year), the additional revenue budget required for options 2-4 are as follows:
 - **Option 2** - £176,000 rising to £317,000 per annum
 - **Option 3** - £200,000 rising to £360,000 per annum
 - **Option 4** - £265,000 rising to £478,000 per annum
9. By year 7, therefore, option 2 will require £161,000 less funding per annum, compared to option 4.
10. By year 7, therefore, option 3 will require £118,000 less funding per annum, compared to option 4.
11. No calculation has been made on the impact on the PRC budget for those schools affected by falling pupil numbers