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To: Parents, Carers and Guardians of children attending Cowbridge Comprehensive School; Headteacher, Staff and Governing Body of Cowbridge Comprehensive School; Prescribed Consultees

Re: Notification of Implementation Delay for Cowbridge Primary Provision (Phase I).

Dear Consultee,

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is currently implementing phase 1 of expanding primary provision in Cowbridge. This relates to the determination to progress the proposal to increase the number of primary school places in Cowbridge from September 2022 by;

- Changing the age range of Cowbridge Comprehensive School from 11 - 19 to 3 - 19;
- Increasing the capacity of Cowbridge Comprehensive School from to 1,586 places to 1,796 places to accommodate 210 English medium primary school places with an additional 48 part-time nursery places; and
- Constructing a new school building on the Cowbridge Comprehensive School site to accommodate the primary and nursery places.

On 22nd March 2021, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet determined to approve the proposal. This will result in an additional 210 English medium primary school places and 48 part-time nursery places in Cowbridge. A new self-contained building will be constructed on the Cowbridge Comprehensive School site to accommodate the primary and nursery phases.

The timeline for the proposal to be implemented was based upon the best available evidence at the time the proposal was determined. This was reflected in the anticipated September 2022 implementation date. However, since the proposal has been approved the Council has been progressing the development but there have been a number of unforeseen delays which have affected the proposal's implementation.

The development of the proposal cannot be started until planning consent and drainage consent (known as SAB approval) have been achieved. These are separate processes to the proposal being approved by the Council's Cabinet. Consequently, a planning application was submitted to the Local Planning Authority on 27th October 2021. Based on the submission date it

was anticipated a determination would be forthcoming in December 2021, but additional information was requested by the Local Planning Authority. Due to the request for additional information and the need for it to be fully considered a determination on the planning application was delayed until 2nd March 2022.

The proposed development required to implement the education proposal was approved on 2nd March 2022. However, the delay in acquiring planning consent impacted upon the original programme for the project which aimed to start construction on 14th February 2022, with a planned completion in February / March 2023.

The initial plan was to implement part of the proposal in September 2022. This would have seen Cowbridge Comprehensive take on a reception class on the existing school site within a separate building, which was surplus to requirement. However, due to the delayed delivery this was not considered a viable option.

In terms of the predicted proposal delivery, under the current timeframe the new school building would be complete before September 2023 with construction starting in June 2022. The school would likely be complete by July 2023.

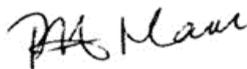
Under the current timeframe the building would be ready to accommodate pupils in September 2023.

Consequently, the implementation date of September 2022 will not be achieved. Section 6.1 of the School Organisation Code states if a proposer is satisfied that a proposal would be unreasonably difficult to implement on the original date, they may delay up to three years. The implementation of the proposal will be delayed by 1 year. Based on the information outlined above it is considered that it would be unreasonably difficult to implement the proposal on the original date.

The proposal will be implemented by September 2023.

If you have any queries regarding the implementation of the proposal, please do not hesitate to get in contact using the following email address:
sustainablecommunitiesforlearning@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Paula Ham
Date: 06/05/2022