

- To create a Resource base at a Faith Based Primary school (such as

to the proposals. The Statutory Notice period concluded on the 26th July 2023 and there were no objections to the proposals.

- 2.6 A full business case has been prepared in relation to the implementation of the proposal and is attached as **Appendix 2**.

3. **Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Option 1 - It is recommended that:

- Cabinet recommend that Council considers and accepts this Objections report, with evidence from the Statutory Notice (**Appendix 1**) and grants approval to proceed to the implementation stage;
- The full business case (**Appendix 2**) be accepted in relation to the implementation of the resources bases from September 2023 onwards.

Option 2 – Cabinet does not accept the Objections report and business case in relation to implementation of the resourced bases from September 2023

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

- 4.1 In accordance with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), there is a statutory requirement for Councils to consult upon and publish school reorganisation proposals. Education is a strategic priority within the Corporate Plan. In order to enable people to 'Maximise learning and skills for all to create a prosperous, thriving, resilient Blaenau Gwent'.

specialist provision will increase significantly year-on-year, and learners are likely to be traveling longer distances to receive specialist education extending their school day, care etc. and placing further pressures on the Home-to-School Transport budget. The cost associated with Out of County placements and home to school transport represents a significant risk to the Council. However, there are also risks associated with implementing the resource bases, in particular costs of necessary building/adaption rates which may increase if inflation continues to be high or rises further.

5.3 **Legal**

Legal advice has been sought in relation to the Statutory Notice. In accordance with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), there is a statutory requirement for the Council to undertake formal consultation with all interested and affected parties.

5.4 **Human Resources**

The proposed increase in pupil numbers will require the Governing Body of all affected schools to plan for the workforce requirements in readiness for the respective expansions. Organisational Development will provide advice, support and guidance to the Governing Bodies for the workforce planning and consequential recruitment processes.

5.5 **Health & Safety**

The Corporate Health and Safety Team have initially been consulted with regards to the impact associated with any physical works planned within education settings and will be further consulted as the projects are progressed.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

6.1.1 The Statutory Notice was published for the statutory 28-day period plus the 1 day of publication from 26th June 2023 until 26th July 2023. This timeframe is known as the objection period. During the objection period the Council did not receive any objections to the proposal.

6.1.2 Please refer to the full business case (**Appendix 2**) relating to the implementation of the proposal

6.2 **Expected outcome for the public.**

The public can expect a fair and equitable consultation process, which is fully compliant with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018).

6.3 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**

Stakeholder engagement is a key focus of all school organisation proposals. The proposal has been subject to consultation in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2018), which has been used to inform the decision-making process. In addition, in line with the code, pupils have been consulted with via the school councils of the affected schools.

6.4 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**

The proposal looks to secure additional provision for both Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ALN Resource Base (ALNRB) provision in line with local demand for places for the long-term development, and sustainability of the education system in Blaenau Gwent.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The proposal seeks to address sustainability issues associated with the future growth and development of the ALN reform Act and resource base placements in the County Borough