



Report of the Director of Education

Education and Skills Service Transformation Committee
24 January 2024

Right Schools in the Right Places

Purpose:	The report presents a draft of the proposed Strategic School Provision Plan for Swansea
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For Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A report was taken to the Education and Skills Service Transformation Committee (STC) on 26 July 2023 that presented contextual information regarding the school stock in Swansea and proposed the production of a school organisation plan.
- 1.2 A further report was taken to the Education and Skills STF on 8 November 2023 that provided an outline of a proposed School Provision Plan for Swansea.
- 1.3 This report, the third and final for this municipal year, presents a draft Strategic School Provision Plan for consideration.

2. Strategic School Provision Plan

- 2.1 A Strategic School Provision Plan (SSPP) should be produced for consideration by Cabinet.
- 2.2 The SSPP should be a contextual document that draws conclusions about the need to add or to remove school places within the City and County of Swansea. Once adopted, the plan can help the council,

schools, parents and local communities to understand the need for school places and establish future demands. It can provide a basis on which the council and others can consider proposals for opening, closing or changing the character of schools, subject to the availability of resources.

- 2.3 The SSPP would be a key reference document for school organisation proposals and would align with the Sustainable Communities for Learning Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) that would run on a parallel timeline, i.e. for a nine-year period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2033, with data refreshed every three years. This will align with the SOP that will run from 1 April 2024 for a nine-year period, with three-year 'waves' as part of that programme.
- 2.4 A first draft of the SSPP is attached at Appendix A. This draft includes the following contents but is not an exhaustive list, and additional sections can be added, particularly through consultation:
- Pupil numbers
 - Capacity/Surplus Capacity
 - Additional Learning Needs
 - School Buildings and Accessibility
 - Vocational Provision
- 2.5 The SSPP can culminate in a section that will give conclusions to influence effective planning of school provision. For example, the conclusions could identify a number on roll or a level of surplus capacity that would trigger a review of school provision in that area.
- 2.6 Appendices have not been included at this stage but can be added if STC is happy to continue with the proposed outline.

3. Co-Production and Consultation

- 3.1 With STC endorsement, the draft SSPP can be shared with relevant officers to review and enhance relevant sections.
- 3.2 A revised draft can be refined through the council's QEd (Quality in Education) Programme Board – a cross-cutting group with representation from the Education Directorate and Corporate Building Services.
- 3.3 Further refinement can take place through headteacher consultative groups and learner voice opportunities.
- 3.4 It is proposed that a final draft is approved by Cabinet, with future school organisation linked to this approved plan. The plan will be refreshed every three years to update statistics and any other relevant data.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 4.1.3 This report is for information only. Any initiatives developed following this review will be subject to the IIA process as required.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A Draft Strategic School Provision Plan