

Business Case Addendum

Local authority name – NPT

Project name – Swansea Valley Primary

Business case stage – SOC/OBC

BCSG meeting date – 15 July 2020

Addendum date – 20 July 2020

Business Case Addendum

Local Authority response to Welsh Government following queries raised at the Business Case Scrutiny Group meeting on 15 July 2020.

1. School Admissions

The projected pupil numbers do not seem to support the need for a new school for 630 FT pupils and 140 PT pupils. On page 15 there is a table showing the capacities, NOR and pupil projections for the 3 schools.

	Capacity	NOR 2020	NOR 2024
Altwen	239	231	224
Godre'r Graig	161	144	136
Llangiwig	147	127	98
Total	547	502	458

This would suggest a new school with 490 to 510 FT places. Can the LA provide evidence of increasing demand for places in the future such approval for significant house building in the area?

The LA offers a number of options but these are limited to do minimum rebuild Godre'r Graig with a capacity of 150 and do nothing to the other 2 schools and variations close all 3 schools on build a new school with 630 capacity. Did the LA consider other options like close 2 schools, build one new school and refurbish the 3rd or close all 3 schools and build 2 new schools? Could we see why these options were dismissed?

LA Response:

2. Childcare

The application states that early years and childcare facilities are already available within walking distance of the new school, and it is expected that wrap around care will be easier to facilitate due to the location. What are there childcare facilities and how many childcare places do they offer?

Please provide further details regarding the proposed 160 nursery places. Is there a risk that some of the local provision above could be displaced, or are there plans for existing provision to be relocated to the new school?

What is the current demand for the 160 nursery places proposed at the school?

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What childcare service is being proposed, for example breakfast and after school club, full day care, delivery under the Childcare Offer, early education, Flying Start and so on.

Will this be an English/bilingual/Welsh medium childcare facility?

LA Response:

3. Digital Inclusion

Given the key focus of the business case is on community and community cohesion officials would of anticipated consideration and outlined planning for consideration as to whether the school internet provision can be opened up to allow for public access (e.g. community Wi-Fi) and for ICT equipment to be made available for community use. This would ideally be in the context of adult learning such as courses or sessions to help improve basic digital skills within the local community – with a focus on supporting the aim of improved health and wellbeing for the children and adults.

In addition, is the school aware of, and if not we would encourage them to do so, of our Welsh Government Digital Heroes initiative, which is part of our wider 'Digital Communities Wales: Digital Confidence, Health and Well-being' programme. Digital Heroes is a volunteering initiative whereby primary and secondary school pupils receive training from our programme on how to help someone get online and then go out into the community (or invite community members into the School) to help them with basic digital skills. This initiative can support the development and understanding of online safety for children which is critical in an increasingly digital world.

<https://www.digitalcommunities.gov.wales/digital-heroes/>

LA Response:

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4. Environment and Communities

It is good to read that the proposal intends to reduce energy use and carbon emissions with specific targets of (p.11):

- Reduction in combined gas and electricity consumption to 190kwh/m2 by September 2025
- Reduction in CO2 emissions to 50.5kg/m2 by September 2025

No detail has yet been provided about how this would be achieved, hopefully this can be further explained.

How will the applicant address the requirements of Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which requires public authorities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems in the exercise of its functions?

Proper consideration should be given to the following:

- Development of renewable energy generation, considerate water and waste management use and creation of ecologically resilient habitats on the new site should be included within the business case.
- Plans on creation of areas of biodiversity, any provision that would contribute to improving air quality and decarbonisation.
- Ensuring no net loss of playing fields and green spaces.
- Recognition of the role that renewables play in effective long term cost, environment and wellbeing solutions.
- How will future Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and green spaces be maintained? Please refer to

LA Response:

5. Economic Advice

The benefits template should be filled in to show the condition and suitability of the relevant buildings after completion of each option, not prior to work being done. Please can this be corrected?

LA Response: