

Case for Taskers site not yet made says council cabinet



Further to an officer report which recommended the adoption of the Tasker Milward site as the preferred option for the construction of a new English Medium School in Haverfordwest, the Council's Cabinet have resolved to commission further feasibility work on the Sir Thomas Picton School site prior to making a final recommendation to Council.

Addressing Cabinet, Cllr David Lloyd, Cabinet Member for Education said:

"I fully understand the context for the report's recommendation. Having reflected on the narrow criteria that the report was working within, however, I would like further work to be undertaken within a six-month period specifically to explore:

- 1) The cost and time implications associated with the construction of a road link to the Sir Thomas Picton site from the Scotchwell roundabout.
- 2) The cost and time implications of the road link crossing a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 3) The cost and deliverability of a full decant of students from the STP site to the Taskers site during the construction of the new school in the event of the STP site being adopted.

"The proviso for such work to be undertaken, however, must be that it should not imperil the creation of a new school given the timeframes of Band B 21st Century Schools' funding," Cllr Lloyd added.

Supporting Cllr Lloyd's proposal, Cllr Paul Miller said: "In my view the case for the Tasker Milward site has not yet been made. We need to ensure that the right site is chosen through this process and while I accept the arguments about costs are valid I don't think an additional £2m for a new access road, within the context of a £50m new school which will serve the town of Haverfordwest for the next 50 years or more, is a particularly material consideration."

Cllr Miller added: "We want the best site, to deliver the best school and I look forward to receiving the further information my colleague has quite rightly requested."

Cllr David Simpson, Leader of Pembrokeshire County Council, also supported the call for a further investigation of the Sir Thomas Picton site in a unanimous decision by Cabinet Members.