

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
HAVERFORDWEST ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL
TASK AND FINISH GROUP
MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2018**

Present:

Cllr Mike Stoddart,
Cllr Tim Evans,
Cllr Lyndon Frayling,
Cllr Alison Tudor,
Cllr Stan Hudson,
Cllr Reg Owens,
Cllr Michael Williams (Chair)
Cllr Phil Baker (Observer),

Jon Haswell, Director of Finance
Kate Evan-Hughes, Director for Children and Schools
Darren Thomas, Head of Highways and Construction
Barry Cooke, Head of Property
Shafi Alam, Highways Engineer
Cath Davies, 21C Programme Co-ordinator

1.0 Apologies

1.1 Andrew Nicholas, Project Manager

2.0 Terms of Reference

- 2.1 Cllr Michael Williams was appointed as Chair of the Task and Finish Group
- 2.2 DT went through the proposed Terms of Reference for the Group. All members were in favour of accepting the proposed Terms of Reference

3.0 Progress Update

- 3.1 The Head of Highways and Construction introduced the paper which was circulated prior to the meeting taking place.
- 3.2 21C Programme Co-ordinator confirmed that despite rumours of Welsh Government shortening the timeframe of Band B, a position statement had been received from WG confirming that they have committed to supporting all the proposals/projects contained within the Band B SOPs with the commitment extended for as long as it takes to deliver the projects.
- 3.3 Cllr Mike Stoddart reminded members of the group that the key issue in the road that would need to be built from Scotchwell roundabout and there had been conflicting advice from the Cabinet Member whether Welsh Government had insisted that the only route available was from Scotchwell roundabout or whether any alternative route was acceptable.

- 3.4 The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that a number of options had been presented to WG, who had responded in writing that a fourth arm off the Scotchwell roundabout is the preferred option due to it having minimal impact on the network efficiency. Further explanation was provided on the mitigation measures that need to be in place when introducing a slip road off a strategic road network
- 3.5 Cllr Reg Owens questioned whether the costings of the road would be classified as a risk to the project. The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that it would be classified as a risk as only works carried out within the curtilage of the school are eligible for 21C funding and therefore works associated with the road would not be eligible for funding. A Project Risk Register is currently being developed and this risk will be included on the register.
- 3.6 The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that if a fourth arm was to be constructed, the roundabout would have to be widened. Whilst the exact cost of the works is currently unknown, a high level estimate is that the works would be in the region of £2.9 million. The Head of Property confirmed that this estimate includes the acquisition cost of the land in accordance with figures already discussed with the landowner, however does not include costs associated with Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) if that was the route the Authority would have to take.
- 3.7 Cllr Reg Owens questioned whether the cost of bring a slip road off the A40 would be cheaper than bring the road up off the roundabout. The Highways Engineer confirmed that there were potential savings which could be made, however there were other risks associated with this proposal.
- 3.8 The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that work carried out to date by the Project Manager identified that the ideal site location for the new build would be on the location of the existing school building and therefore any additional access would need to take this into account.
- 3.9 The procurement route for the new school was explained, with the likely procurement route being a 2 stage process – similar to the procurement route followed for the Welsh Medium School.
- 3.10 Discussions took place about the potential decanting of pupils during the building phase, should STP be the chosen site. The Head of Highways and Construction stated the newly appointed Headteacher of the new school was keen for the sixth form to remain on the Sir Thomas Picton site during the build process although all options were currently being explored.
- 3.11 Cllr Mike Stoddart questioned whether pupils from the English Medium School could occupy the Welsh Medium School in Withybush. The Director for Children and Schools stated that it would not be appropriate to mix pupils from the English medium school with pupils from the Welsh medium school during the build process.
- 3.12 Following a question from Cllr Tim Evans, it was confirmed that the vacated Ysgol Glan Cleddau had been considered for use during a potential decant.
- 3.13 The Head of Highways and Construction informed the group that the Project Manager was currently working on the plans for a complete decant from the STP

site and was currently considering the placement of temporary classrooms i.e. portacabins on the Tasker Milward site for the duration of the build.

- 3.14 Cllr Stan Hudson questioned whether the existing hall at STP will be retained. The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that there are currently no plans to retain the hall due to the current condition of the building and the restriction it would place on the location of the new build.
- 3.15 The 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator informed members of an Open Doors event that was being held by Bouygues UK Ltd – the contractor currently responsible for the new build at Pembroke. It was agreed that a separate visit would be arranged for members of the Task and Finish Group to the new build at Pembroke.
- 3.16 Following questions from members, the Leisure Services Officer stated the biggest challenge for Leisure Services in determining the site for the new school is whether to replace / include / exclude provision that will be lost once the school is situated on one site.
- 3.17 Discussions are currently taking place with Tennis Wales about additional funding that may be available to re provide indoor tennis facilities should the new school be situated on the STP site.
- 3.18 Cllr Alison Tudor questioned whether there would be any safeguarding concerns with the pupils being temporary located on the Tasker Milward site – in particular during use of the playing fields which are located across the road. The Director for Children and Schools stated that it is a risk which can be mitigated in the short term and would be a lesser safeguarding risk than managing pupils on a live construction sites. The Director for Children and Schools also stated that she sees there being no issue with the unions on a short term basis.
- 3.19 Cllr Alison Tudor questioned whether pupils with Additional Learning Needs would be detrimentally affected during a temporary decant. The Director for Children and Schools stated that there will be appropriate transition arrangements put in place and the Authority has a proven track record of temporary relocating schools e.g. St Davids
- 3.20 Cllr Alison Tudor questioned what will happen to the land at STP if it was not used for the school. Feedback from a number of her constituents was that they would rather have the school there than a large housing estate, where the traffic movements would only be an issue during two small periods of the day.
- 3.21 The Head of Highways and Construction stated that there have been a significant amount of work carried out to review the existing infrastructure around the school including an independent optioneering report. This included an option of creating a one way system around back lane, however they all proved unfeasible.
- 3.22 Cllr Mike Stoddart questioned had a transport assessment been carried out for the Tasker Milward site. The Head of Highways and Construction stated that there had been no complaints received as a direct consequence of the school, with any complaints received a consequence of the highways network.
- 3.23 Cllr Mike Stoddart again questioned whether WG had stated whether the fourth arm off the roundabout was a preferred option or the only option. The Head of

Highways and Construction confirmed that WG had stated it was their preferred option.

- 3.24 Further discussions took place where it was agreed that the risk associated with the road would not reduce following the six month period before going back to Council – the risk will only reduce once planning permission had been obtained.
- 3.25 Cllr Mike Stoddart questioned if the STP site proved inaccessible, would the existing highways network around the TM site be able to cope with the significantly increased number of pupils. The Head of Highways and Construction stated that at present, the highways network copes with Tasker Milward, Ysgol Dewi Sant and Ysgol Glan Cleddau all being situated in the same area. Ysgol Glan Cleddau pupils will be moving to the new Welsh medium School in Witybush from September 2018, when Ysgol Dewi Sant will also be moving back to St Davids.
- 3.26 The Highways Engineer provided members of the group with an update on the work that has been carried out on the SSSI. An ecology consultant has been appointed and will carry out numerous surveys which will dictate what mitigation measures will have to be put in place. It may take 12 months to complete all the surveys
- 3.27 As part of the planning process, the Authority will have to satisfy the planners that there are no alternative sites or access points available. There is also a high risk that Welsh Government will call in the scheme which may impact on the delivery programme.
- 3.28 The Head of Property showed members a plan highlighting where land was held by third parties around the STP site. Cllr Tim Evans stated that he believes the Authority should continue to pursue the option of bringing a fourth arm up off the roundabout. The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that there would be no issues with building the road, but the ecology work presented a real risk to the project.
- 3.29 The Head of Highways and Construction confirmed that further discussions would take place with Welsh Government to explore the options available and clarify their current position.
- 3.30 Cllr Phil Baker also asked for clarification on the ownership of the unregistered piece of land which was shown on the land ownership plan.
- 3.31 Cllr Alison Tudor asked if it would be possible for Pembrokeshire College to make a statement to confirm that they are not actively pursuing pupils from the new English medium school, if it was to temporarily be situated on the TM site. The Director for Children and Schools stated that the College could be approached to make an appropriate statement, however members had a duty to assist the Authority in reassuring members of the public.
- 3.32 Both Cllr Tim Evans and Cllr Alison Tudor confirmed that one of the major advantages of the STP site were the superior sports facilities.
- 3.33 The Director for Children and School made Task and Finish Group members aware that at present, there are approximately 30 pupils from Portfield School who access mainstream education on a daily basis at TM. This will not be possible if the school was to be situated on the STP site. Cllr Reg Owens questioned the

validity of this statement as pupils could be bused to the STP site and staff trained appropriately to administer medicine if necessary.

- 3.34 The Head of Highways and Construction concluded that if the site selection issue could be resolved, the build programme is two and a half years.
- 3.35 The Head of Property confirmed that discussions had taken place with the landowner's surveyor and a formal offer had been made, which is higher than the value of the land. The offer has not been accepted as yet, however the landowner was aware that a paper was being presented to Cabinet and potential CPO of the land.
- 3.36 Cllr Michael Williams reiterated that following discussions, with the exception of any overwhelming issues, the Task and Finish Group were still in favour of the Sir Thomas Picton site.