

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

**Uned Gymorth Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Addysg, Blynyddoedd
Cynnar a Phobl Ifanc
(UGGA)
Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate
Support Unit (EDSU)**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: 01656 642617

Ein cyf / Our ref: EDSU/LH

Dyddiad / Date: 16 January 2026

Dear stakeholder

In 2022, the local authority undertook a statutory consultation process in respect of a proposal to make a regulated alteration to Heronsbridge School to increase the number of pupils for whom the school makes provision to 300 and to relocate the school from its current location at Ewenny Road, Bridgend to Island Farm, Bridgend with effect from the beginning of the autumn term 2025.

The proposal would result in Heronsbridge School transferring to a new school building on Island Farm, Bridgend. The new building would be designed for 300 learners with autism spectrum disorder, severe learning difficulties and profound and multiple learning difficulties at primary, secondary and Post-16 levels. The school would have two houses for learners requiring residential provision.

On 18 October 2022, the outcome of the statutory notice was reported to Cabinet. Cabinet was advised that, given the specialist nature of the school, meaningful consultation with a structured programme of engagement with stakeholders was required and following an in-depth review of the programme, it was recommended that the school opening date should be modified to allow sufficient time for the stakeholder consultation to take place.

Having considered this matter and the view of the governing body, Cabinet approval was received to implement the proposal with a modified opening date of the beginning of the spring term 2026.

Since Cabinet's decision, although work has progressed on the scheme, the project's timeline has been negatively impacted, due to funding and cost increases experienced by the construction industry. This resulted in a delayed appointment of a design and build contractor and consequently, this affected the approved opening date.

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However, following Council approval of additional capital funding for the project, in 2025, Cabinet approval was received to tender the scheme and, following the outcome of this process, to appoint Kier Construction to progress the design development. The company is making good progress in this regard and is taking the scheme through the design stages in consultation with key stakeholders. This work has informed a revised programme for delivery of the project.

This matter was formally reported to Cabinet on 13 January 2026, and approval was sought to modify the opening date for the school.

Having considered the milestone activities and approvals required to deliver the scheme, together with the observations of the Headteacher and Chair of Heronsbridge School's Governing Body, Cabinet determined to modify the opening date to come into effect at the **beginning of the autumn term, 2028.**

The Cabinet decision of 13 January 2026 is subject to the call-in procedures as set out in Part 4 Rules of Procedure in the Council's Constitution which allows decisions taken by Cabinet but yet to be implemented to be reviewed. Should a valid call-in notice from an Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received, all stakeholders would be informed.

Yours sincerely



Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey (Mr)
Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People
Bridgend County Borough Council