

**From:** [Redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 10:34 AM

**To:** [JulieMorgan@senedd.wales](mailto:JulieMorgan@senedd.wales)

**Subject:** Cathays High

Hi Julie

Did you know they slipped in the demolition of the velodrome in with the planned expansion of the school?

This has been down so they can justify accessing £2 .4 million of education funds to pay for a new smaller velodrome down the bay.

There are nearly 4000 objections to this plan.

They cannot build on the velodrome but the council did not publicise this fact during the consultation period.

They want to use the velodrome area for sport pitches - the school already uses it for sport.

The velodrome doesn't need to be demolished for the school to use it for this reason.

They want to expand the school to take nearly 400 pupils from out of catchment. This will mean the school having over 1000 children out of catchment!

The whole available area over both sites for school buildings and outdoor space is 46000 SQM. In order to meet wag standards for sport pitches alone for a school with 1400 pupils is 60,000sqm.

There is a FB group - save maindy velodrome which has lots of information. It has all been taken from the flawed consultation documents and cabinet meetings, plus links to articles.

There are currently 435 places available in willows so why bus them to Cathay's?

Regards

[Redacted]

Eich cyf/Your ref Letter 31/08/21  
Ein cyf/Our ref TO/JMEWL/10996/21



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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[Redacted]

21 September 2021

Dear [Redacted]

The Minister has forwarded an e-mail from you to Julie Morgan and has asked me to respond on his behalf. Thank you for alerting me to some further information and queries surrounding the proposal by Cardiff Council to redevelop the Cathays High School on the Maindy Velodrome site. The Minister has already responded to other correspondence from interested parties on the same subject and my response remains broadly unchanged from his previous response.

I am aware that the project to expand Cathays High School is included in Cardiff's Strategic Outline Programme for investment under our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme, however, the case for funding is currently at a very early stage and we are currently awaiting a Strategic Outline Case for consideration. As part of the Programme's business case process the case for change will be rigorously assessed by policy officials, including those with responsibility for sports provision and school organisation, to ensure the proposed investment is fit for purpose and to ensure that all statutory obligations are met. Any offer of funding would be subject to the satisfactory completion of statutory proposals for school re-organisation. In relation specifically to any requests for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges funding to support the re-provision of the Velodrome elsewhere, any such request would form part of the Business Case and therefore as yet has not materialised.

The responsibility for planning school places rests with local authorities rather than the Welsh Government. Local authorities have to keep under review the extent to which their existing pattern of school provision meets current and forecast demand for school places and the requirements of delivering the modern curriculum. The Welsh Government does not normally get involved in the planning of school places.

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 sets the legislative framework for school reorganisation and requires Welsh Ministers to publish a school organisation code. The Code imposes requirements on those bringing forward and determining proposals to reorganise schools. <https://gov.wales/school-organisation-code>

If a local authority proposes to make significant changes to a school it must follow statutory procedures. In the first instance, they must consult interested parties explaining the reasons for bringing forward the proposal, ensuring those consulted have sufficient information to allow them to form a considered view and make suitable arrangements for them to express those views in writing.

Restrictions imposed in response to Coronavirus do not mean statutory school reorganisation proposals are not able to proceed. Non statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Government advised local authorities and other proposers to take the implications of any restrictions into account and take all steps possible to ensure consultations are fair and inclusive recognising the unique circumstances in which they take place.

I am aware that between 29 January and 19 March 2021 Cardiff Council consulted on a proposal to expand and redevelop Cathays High School. Having considered consultation responses and published a consultation report the Council decided to proceed by publishing a statutory notice on 29 June providing a 28 day period ending 26 July in which anyone could object.

Under the 2013 Act most proposals which receive objections will be decided by the local authority. However, a proposal approved or rejected by a local authority can be referred to the Welsh Ministers for consideration if certain limited parties (listed below) decide to take this step within 28 days of the local authority's determination:

- another local authority affected by the proposals;
- the appropriate religious body for any school affected;
- the governing body of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals;
- a trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school subject to the proposals; or
- a further education institution affected by the proposals.

I am not aware that any of the parties listed above have made representations to Welsh Ministers since the determination by the Council. Welsh Government Officials will consider the detail of the Strategic Outline Case for the project when and if it is submitted for approval.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Colleges Programme