

Item 8G



PLANS for a new multi-million-pound college campus that aims to regenerate Bridgend have taken another step forward this week despite the project being described as “complex”.

The former police station and Cheapside multi-storey car park will be signed over to Bridgend College following discussions by members at the monthly Bridgend council cabinet meeting.

It means the college will now take charge of the property on a long-term lease as it looks to go forward with the next stage of development.

Work will begin with the demolition of the Brackla One multi-storey car park, which was closed due to structural issues in January 2021.

The former police station in the town centre has already been razed in recent weeks.

However, due to a number of factors, the project has been described as “extremely complex”.

The cabinet report, presented at the July 18 meeting, read: “The demolition of the multi-storey car park is extremely complex given its structural composition and further challenges posed by its proximity to the mainline rail network and bounded by both Asda and Aldi.”

“The demolition of the car park can only be brought forward on receipt of Network Rail permissions and suitable indemnity insurance being in place.”

Council officers have said they will now go out to tender for the demolition

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work in August 2023, with work expected to be completed on the site by April of 2024.

Once the site is cleared, developers will look to begin further work to relocate the college’s current facilities at its Cowbridge Road campus into two new buildings at Cheapside, worth more than £50m.

While planning for the site has still not been granted, if given the go-ahead it would include a modern campus with amenities such as standard classrooms, IT suites, multi-purpose studios, catering kitchens, hair and beauty salons, dance studios and performance areas.

There would also be 250-seat theatre alongside a cafe and cycle storage.

Plans say that creating the new campus will not only produce a modern environment for students to study in, but will also contribute to the local economy, with daily student and staff footfall bringing increased spend for local businesses.

At the meeting, council leader Huw David said: “It is indeed a very, very exciting project and will secure the biggest-ever single investment in Bridgend town centre, and the biggest-ever investment in an educational project in the county borough as well.”