

Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee

25th June 2018

Scrutiny briefing on 21st Century Schools Programme – Welshpool Primary Project and Ysgol Calon Cymru

At the Cabinet meeting on 19th June 2018 the above matter was considered. A Local Member asked a series of questions and Cabinet decided to approve the recommendation subject to the views of Scrutiny.

Attached to the scrutiny agenda is a copy of the Cabinet report together with a copy of the questions asked by the Local Member.

The public webcast from the Cabinet Meeting is available online and Scrutiny Members are asked to view this recording prior to the meeting.

Cabinet have particularly asked that scrutiny comment on the following:

‘What is the rationale for where and how this £3million available for Band A will be spent’.

Scrutiny need to ensure that this session is restricted to the matter before them. There will be other opportunities for considering associated matters.

Particular areas of focus have been largely covered by the Local Member’s questions however the following areas may add to a full consideration of the issue:

- Whilst the Council may not be in possession of a suitable Town Centre site in Welshpool what attempts were made to investigate a land swap or land purchase on which a new school could be built (and the old site disposed of) and how would such costs compare to the additional costs that have been incurred with the listing of Ysgol Maesydre?

- Now Ysgol Maesydre is to be retained and included in the new site will the Listed Building section be available for teaching or will teaching be exclusively provided in the new building. In essence, have savings from a smaller new build been included in the overall sum or is the Listed Building section in addition to a full sized new build.
- If Welshpool Welsh Medium School is moving to Band B what effect will this have on Band B projects? Does Band B expand to include this an additional project (effectively costing more to the local authority and Welsh Government) or will an existing project be removed from Band B (if so which one) or is a project from Band B being brought forward to Band A (if so is this Ysgol Calon Cymru). In essence why is this money being spent on Ysgol Calon Cymru instead of other Condition C schools?