

# Public Document Pack



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

Os yn galw gofynnwch am - If calling please ask for  
Stephen Boyd

Ffôn / Tel: 01597 826374

Ffôn Symudol / Mobile:

Llythyru Electronig / E-mail: [steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk](mailto:steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk)

## CABINET

Tuesday, 26th September, 2023

### S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K

1.	<b>LLANFYLLIN / NORTH WELSHPOOL CATCHMENT REVIEW</b>
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To consider the comments and recommendations of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

(Pages 3 - 8)

2.	<b>YSGOL BRO CAEREINION LANGUAGE CATEGORY</b>
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To consider the comments and recommendations of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

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## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and considered the following documents:

#### Schools Transformation - Llanfyllin / North Welshpool Catchment Review

- Cabinet Paper – Llanfyllin Catchment Review
- Appendix A – Llanfyllin Engagement Report
- Appendix B – Llanfyllin Catchment Review June 2023 V2
- Appendix C – Llanfyllin Impact Assessment

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys and Finance and Corporate Transformation and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee requested that:
  - Assurance be given that pupils displaced, due to closures of small schools, would not be subject to further moves as the Transformation programme progressed. It would be less disruptive if planned changes all happened as one.
  - Clarification of the projected future numbers data included new builds, and that the information would be provided to the Scrutiny Committee.
  - That schools are not closed prior to proper consideration given of capital investment programmes.
  - Lessons learned from previous schools moved on the Welsh Medium Continuum, that the monitoring and evaluation information be shared with parents, learners, and schools to assist with future transitions.
  - Information be provided to the Scrutiny Committee on all subjects taught through the Medium of Welsh and English from Yr7 to Yr13 in every school, and that this be made available to parents and learners at the commencement of every academic year.
  - A clear timeline of investment in schools be made available.
  - Assurances be given for the provision and commitment for Cylch and Ti a Fi in the catchment area, to promote the early years learning through the medium of Welsh.
- The Committee remained unconvinced about:
  - The delay in commencement of the Llanfyllin Catchment Review and required the differences in outline from the October 2020 paper be highlighted.
  - The SWOT analysis provided, as it does not take into consideration the extensive flooding that occurs in the Bryn Hafren area.
  - The provision of clear data, to understand the pupil flow, the whole geography of an area must be understood.
  - The actual pace of transformation

- The Committee expressed concern:
  - That this process had not given a sufficient timeframe for all issues to be addressed, nor for all Local Members to be appraised of documents to provide adequate response to parents, staff, and learners alike.
  - That all reference to Capital expenditure has been removed. It is important for Members to be made aware of the timeframe and when investment will be made, to provide our communities with clarity of plans and commitment by the Local Authority.
  - Due to the catastrophic backlog in maintenance projects, can Cabinet provide assurance that pupils will not be moved from a closed school to a school that has a lower condition grading.
  - That the Impact Assessment provided was reliant on new build projects. In reality 2 cohorts of Primary School children could have progressed through their education before new builds were completed, therefore the Impact Assessment would be deemed irrelevant.
  - That the Transport Policy is not in line with the Transformation programme, for example cross-border issues. There has to be consistency and equity within our policy for all schools.
  - Border schools need to have consistent transport policy across Powys, one that is not detrimental to Welsh Medium education. The Committee are unclear of School transport costs of transporting learners across the border.
  - There were no timescales for the pace of transformation programmes, recorded within any of the document provided, which is essential to keep members parents and schools informed.
  - If school closures are to happen, where and what is the capacity of other schools within the catchment area to receive these learners.
  - That the school transport policy was not in line with the proposal documents and catchment area maps.
  - New builds discussed need to have the capacity to deal with the proposals within the documents.
  - Needs more information to local members, realise the impact on other schools in the catchment area.
  - Of the lack of clarity within the proposals before the Committee of what the ultimate ambition is for Education within Powys.

<b>Scrutiny's Recommendations to Cabinet are that:</b>	<b>Accept (plus Action and timescale)</b>	<b>Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)</b>	<b>Reject (plus Rationale)</b>
1. The impact assessment provided was reliant on new build projects. In reality 2 cohorts of Primary School children could have progressed through their education before new builds			

<p>were completed, therefore the Impact Assessment would be deemed irrelevant.</p>			
<p>2. The border schools need to have consistent transport policy across Powys, one that is not detrimental to Welsh Medium education. The Committee are unclear of School transport costs of transporting learners across borders.</p>			
<p>3. If school closures are to happen, what and where is the capacity of other schools within the catchment area.</p>			
<p>4. The Committee require a response for the delay in commencement of the Llanfyllin Catchment Review and requested the differences in outline from the October 2020 paper be highlighted.</p>			
<p>5. The process had not given a sufficient timeframe for all issues to be addressed, nor for all Local Members to be appraised of documents to provide adequate response to parents, staff, and learners alike.</p>			
<p>6. Due to the catastrophic backlog</p>			

<p>in maintenance projects, can Cabinet provide assurance that pupils will not be moved from a closed school to a school that has a lower condition grading.</p>			
<p>7. The school transport policy was not in line with the proposal documents and catchment area maps. There has to be consistency and equity within our policy for all Powys schools.</p>			
<p>8. All reference to Capital expenditure has been removed. It is important for Members to be made aware of the timeframe and when investment will be made, to provide our communities with clarity of plans and commitment by the Local Authority.</p>			
<p>9. That any new build would be required to have the capacity to deal with the proposals noted within the documents.</p>			
<p>10. There were no timescales for the pace of transformation programmes, recorded within any of the documents provided, which is essential to keep Members,</p>			

Governing Bodies, parents, and schools informed.			
11. Of the lack of clarity within the proposals before the Committee and of what the ultimate ambition is for Education within Powys			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e., by 20th November 2023

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023:  
 County Councillors:  
 G. Thomas, G.D. Jones, D. Bebb, A.W. Davies, B. Davies, S. McNicholas, D. Meredith, L. Roberts,  
 Co-Opted Members:  
 K. Chedgzoy, S. Davies, M. Evitts.

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## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and considered the following documents:

Schools Transformation – Cabinet Paper: Ysgol Bro Caereinion

- Appendix A – Option appraisal Ysgol Bro Caereinion Language
- Appendix B – Ysgol Bro Caereinion Impact Assessment

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys and Finance and Corporate Transformation and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed:
  - That the Governing Body were in favour of the move along the Welsh Medium continuum.
- The Committee requested that:
  - The Portfolio Holder arrange to meet with the Governing Body in the near future.
  - The intake for the Secondary phase be extended from 2025 to 2027, to allow for the progression of English medium students both in Ysgol Bro Caereinion and feeder schools. This would align with the governing body request to allow more time for learners and staff to adjust along the Welsh Medium continuum.
  - Clarity be provided whether the plan was for Ysgol Rhiw Bechan to move along the Welsh language continuum.
  - Clarity for those feeder schools where pupils are taught through the medium of English, which high school would they receive free transport to.
  - An audit be undertaken of the number of lessons and resources provided through the medium of Welsh in dual stream schools. Parents also to be informed when timetables are formulated.
  - Information be provided to Scrutiny Committee of the number of learners from Dafydd Llwyd that cease their education through the medium of Welsh and it what year i.e., Yr.7, Yr. 9, Yr. 12.
  - The catchment secondary school for Dafydd Llwyd be reviewed as Bro Caereinion would be the only Welsh Medium High School in Northeast Powys.
  - The Local Authority review and explore the possibility of having central contracts for Welsh Medium teachers, allowing for further utilisation of technology and remote teaching techniques, as vitally important that the Welsh Medium education provision in Powys is improved dramatically.
- The Committee remained unconvinced about:

- The scheduled commencement of the TROCHI support in September 2025, should be implemented as soon as possible, to allow every learner and staff member to be immersed in the language at the earliest opportunity.
  - The Local Authority's ability to sustain and maintain 13 high school sites across Powys.
  - That the necessary Officer and financial support would be implemented in a timely manner to support this unique journey for North Powys and Bro Caereinion.
- The Committee expressed concern:
    - That there was no capital expenditure information available to Committee, to attract learners, schools have to be in receipt of capital investment, for maintenance and building requirements to attain and sustain flagship status.
    - Of the sustainability of Bro Caereinion if Llanfyllin and Llanidloes develop their offer of Welsh Medium Education in the future.
    - The school transport policy was not in line with the proposal documents and catchment area maps. There has to be consistency and equity within our policy for all Powys schools.

<b>Scrutiny's Recommendations to Cabinet are that:</b>	<b>Accept (plus Action and timescale)</b>	<b>Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)</b>	<b>Reject (plus Rationale)</b>
1. The scheduled commencement of the TROCHI support in September 2025, should be implemented as soon as possible, to allow every learner and staff member to be immersed in the Welsh language at the earliest opportunity.			
2. The school transport policy was not in line with the transformation documents and catchment area. There has to be consistency and equity within our policy for all			

Powys schools			
3. There was no capital expenditure information available to the Committee. To attract learners, schools have to be in receipt of capital investment, for maintenance and building requirements to attain and sustain flagship status.			
4. That the necessary support would be implemented in a timely manner to support this unique journey for North Powys and Bro Caereinion.			
5. The sustainability of Bro Caereinion, if Llanfyllin and Llanidloes develop their offer of Welsh Medium Education in the future, be secured.			
6. The catchment secondary school for Dafydd Llwyd be reviewed as Bro Caereinion would be the only Welsh Medium High School in Northeast Powys.			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or

at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e., by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on:

County Councillors:

G. Thomas (Chair), G.D. Jones (Vice Chair), D. Bebb, A W Davies, Bryn Davies, D. Meredith, S McNicholas, L. Roberts,

Co-Opted Members:

K. Chedgzoy, S. Davies, M. Evitts.