

# Public Document Pack



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## CABINET

Tuesday, 25th March, 2025

### SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

4.	<b>YSGOL CALON CYMRU PROPOSAL PAPER</b>
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Recommendations from the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

(Pages 3 - 6)

16.	<b>ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES BY THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Matthew Dorrance, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys.

(Pages 7 - 24)

17.	<b>PCC OLDER PEOPLES CARE HOMES: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SERVICE DESIGN AND OPERATING MODEL</b>
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Addendum to the report.

(Pages 25 - 26)

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## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and considered the following documents:

**Ysgol Calon Cymru Cabinet Paper – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (Eng / Cym)**

**Appendix A Calon Cymru Options Appraisal Feb 2025 (Eng / Cym)**

**Appendix B Ysgol Calon Cymru Transformation – Impact Assessment (Eng / Cym)**

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

Scrutiny made the following observations:

The Committee noted that:

- This model had been previously considered in 2015/16, however not pursued as the preferred option in the Full Business Case of 2016.
- To make this proposal work the quality of teaching and learning was as or more important than the building.

The Committee requested that:

- Representations be made to Welsh Government by Cabinet in respect of funding to achieve the Welsh Government's target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- Cabinet petition Welsh Government to consider a clearer definition of terminology from Welsh Medium education to Bi-lingual Outcome Education to assist learners, parents and carers make informed decisions on learners education.
- More proactive information be shared by the Authority on outcomes of a bilingual education.
- Reports were to include all school and stakeholder engagement information that had taken place.
- School Transformation papers should include information on leisure provisions available to schools involved and any investment opportunities to enhance the community offer in line with the community focussed schools policy.
- Current and proposed catchment maps be provided for all future papers for both the English and Welsh Mediums, as concern expressed of a lack of clarity of overlapping maps for learners, parents and carers.
- Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet receive a breakdown of the £107m costs between the 2 sites.
- Future Cylch Meithrin development was key to future Welsh medium learner number increasing and must be a key consideration or element in future transformation proposals.

The Committee were unconvinced that:

- That the Powys Home to School Transport policy was applied with parity across the County and requested a breakdown of the estimated additional transport costs of £64K.
- That the timeline of completion for September 2029 was achievable.

The Committee expressed concern that:

- There was not a strategic long term vision alongside this paper.
- This proposal was deemed the easiest option to establish Welsh medium education in the south of the County, rather than the right first time option.
- Catchments could be extended once Welsh medium education established, causing further concern.
- Welsh Government Working Group developments of cross border Welsh medium Secondary education would result in Powys exporting Powys residing learners, with no influence over outcomes and future prospects for those learners in Powys.
- Equity for all schools, regardless of site, under the current financial regulations following Transformation programmes was not present.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1. Representation to be made to Welsh Government for additional funding to support WG target of Welsh Speakers by 2050			
2. Representation to be made to the Welsh Government for clearer definitions Welsh Medium Education to Bilingual Outcome education, to enable parents to make informed decisions			
3. Powys County Council to provide more proactive public communication for parents on bilingual education.			
4. Long-term vision to be provided on all transformation programmes.			
5. The concern			

remains in respect of the timeline on this transformation programme, and whether it was achievable.			
6. Catchment maps to be provided within papers to Scrutiny and public consultations of current and proposed maps.			
7. School transport remains a concern as conflicting information provided to different areas of Powys.			
8. To consider equity for all schools, regardless of site, under the financial regulations following Transformation programmes.			
9. Recruitment and retention plans must be included in the information provided to Scrutiny on all transformation projects, in particular for Welsh Medium/ bilingual outcome Education.			
10. Welsh Government Working Group on Cross County Education information to be provided to Scrutiny, as concern heightened that Welsh medium Education would be undertaken outside of Powys for Powys residing learners.			

<p><b>11.</b> Assurance sought that wider engagement across the catchment would be completed, prior to any proposal papers and consultation process.</p>			
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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 25.05.2025**

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on :

County Councillors:

G. Thomas, L. Roberts, A W Davies, B Davies, G Morgan, C Robinson, A Davies, G E Jones, C Masefield.

Co-Opted Members:

S. Davies.

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