

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**January 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones  
Portfolio Holder for Education**

**SUBJECT: Welshpool Town Primary Education**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**Summary**

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, the authority published a Statutory Notice to establish a new English-medium Church in Wales (Voluntary Controlled) (C in W) Primary School and a new Welsh-medium Community Primary (CP) School in Welshpool. The Statutory Notice was published on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and the Objection Period ended on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016.

This report provides information about the outcome of the statutory objection period, and includes a recommendation to proceed with the proposals for primary education in Welshpool.

The report is supported by the following appendix:

Appendix A – Objection Report

**Background**

**Formal Consultation**

Formal consultation in relation to the proposals for Welshpool town was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013) from the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016. A Consultation Report listing all issues raised during the consultation and the authority's response to them was considered by Full Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and by Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.

**Statutory Notice**

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, the authority published a Statutory Notice on behalf of the authority and the Diocese which proposed the following:

From 31 August 2017:

- i) The Council proposes to discontinue the following four schools:
  - Ardwyn Nursery and Infants School
  - Gungrog Nursery and Infants Church-in-Wales (Voluntary Controlled) School
  - Oldford Nursery and Infants School
  - Ysgol Maesydre

From 1 September 2017:

- i) The Diocese proposes to establish a new English-medium Church-in-Wales (voluntary controlled) primary school that will operate initially on the current sites of Ysgol Maesydre, Gungrog and Oldford Schools, until it transfers in 2018/19 to a new school building that will be built on land at Welshpool High School;
- ii) The Council proposes to establish a new Welsh-medium community primary school that will operate initially from the current site of Ardwyn School, until it transfers in 2018/19 to a new school building that will be built on the current site of Ysgol Maesydre.

The Notice was published on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for a period of 28 days, in accordance with the guidance within the School Organisation Code.

### Objections

One objection was received during the statutory objection period. The issues raised in this objection and the authority's response to these issues are listed in the Objection Report in respect of this proposal, which is attached as Appendix A.

### Proposal

Having considered the objection received, it is recommended to confirm the Cabinet's decision dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 to implement the proposals for primary education in Welshpool, as outlined above.

It is estimated that implementation of the proposal will lead to a total net annual saving of £114,110 upon the establishment of the two new schools (on the current sites) from September 2017, subject to any additional interim costs. When the schools move into their new buildings in 2018/19, it is estimated that implementation of the proposal will lead to a total net annual saving of £202,792.

### One Powys Plan

'Transforming Learning and Skills' is a key priority within the One Powys Plan, and the authority's aim is to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their potential'. The plan states that the authority needs

to 'reorganise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.

### **Options Considered/Available**

N/A

### **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

N/A

### **Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc**

A Single Integrated Impact Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Impact Assessment on the proposal were produced and updated following the consultation period.

The updated impact assessments were considered by Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 when considering whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of the proposals for Welshpool.

### **Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing**

The authority's Schools Transformation Programme is intended to improve educational outcomes for children and young people. This aligns with the aspiration to improve safeguarding and well-being for children and young people.

### **Local Member(s)**

No comments received.

### **Other Front Line Services**

N/A

### **Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

**HR:** The Schools HR Team will continue to work with the relevant Governing Bodies, Shadow Governing Bodies, Headteachers, Staff and Trades Unions to provide advice so that any proposals that are agreed by Cabinet can be

implemented in line with the relevant Powys County Council and School policies.

**Finance:** The Schools Finance Manager comments as follows: ‘the estimated savings included in the report have been rerun through the formula. The savings are based on the 2016-17 formula, after amendments for raising the age of admission.’

**Legal:** The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.

### **Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc**

N/A

### **Corporate Communications**

Communications Comment: The report is of public interest and requires use of news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision.

### **Statutory Officers**

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and would remind Members that before reaching a decision, they must first have read the Objection Report in Appendix A to the report”.

### **Members’ Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
<b>To approve the proposals in respect of primary education in Welshpool town:</b>  <b>From 31 August 2017:</b> <b>i) To discontinue the following four schools:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ardwyn Nursery and Infants School</b></li><li>• <b>Gungrog Nursery and Infants Church-in-Wales (Voluntary Controlled)</b></li></ul>	<b>To provide a sustainable model of English-medium and Welsh-medium primary education in Welshpool town.</b>

<p><b>School</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oldford Nursery and Infants School</li> <li>• Ysgol Maesydre</li> </ul> <p><b>From 1 September 2017:</b></p> <p>i) To establish a new English-medium Church-in-Wales (voluntary controlled) primary school that will operate initially on the current sites of Ysgol Maesydre, Gungrog and Oldford Schools, until it transfers in 2018/19 to a new school building that will be built on land at Welshpool High School;</p> <p>ii) To establish a new Welsh-medium community primary school that will operate initially from the current site of Ardwyn School, until it transfers in 2018/19 to a new school building that will be built on the current site of Ysgol Maesydre.</p>	
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<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	School Transformation Policy		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Y	<b>Within Budget:</b>	Y

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	Cllr Francesca H Jump / Cllr Phil Pritchard / Cllr Graham Breeze
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	Marianne Evans
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017

<b>Contact Officer Name:</b>	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>Fax:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**