

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE  
28<sup>TH</sup> February 2017**

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

**SUBJECT: Secondary School Reorganisation Programme  
Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools**

**OBJECTION REPORT**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**Summary**

1. Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the authority published a Statutory Notice to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. The Statutory Notice was published on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
2. This report provides information about the outcome of the statutory objection period, and includes a recommendation to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.
3. The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Objection template  
Appendix B – Objection report

**Background**

4. Formal consultation in relation to proposals for Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013) from the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 to the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. A Consultation Report listing the issues raised during the consultation and the authority's response to them was considered by Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
5. Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the authority published a Statutory Notice proposing to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that will operate across the

current sites of the two schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. The Notice was published on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 for a period of 28 days, in accordance with the guidance within the School Organisation Code. Due to a publication matter, the objection period was extended until the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

6. A total of 1788 objections were received during the statutory objection period:
  - 78 individual written responses
  - 1695 responses were a copy of a single objection template signed by individual objectors (Appendix A)
  - 12 responses were copies of the single objection template signed by individual objectors, but which also included additional comments.
  - Of the objections received, five were from organisations.
7. The issues raised in the objections received during the statutory objection period and the authority's response to these issues are listed in the Objection Report in respect of this proposal, which is attached as Appendix B.

### **Proposal**

8. Having considered all the objections received, it is recommended to confirm the Cabinet's decision dated 27<sup>th</sup> September to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.
9. The reasons for this are as follows:

The Proposal aims to establish a sustainable model of secondary provision, which would be able to deliver high-quality education that would meet the needs of pupils in mid Powys.

*The benefits of the Proposal are as follows:*

- ***Improved leadership at all levels:** When streamlining the leadership structure following the joining of two schools into one split site secondary school, the newly appointed governing body are able to place the strongest leaders in each position within the new leadership structure. This means we can have the strongest governors, senior leaders, subject leaders and pastoral leaders – those who have the best track record of securing high outcomes and delivering the highest level of care - leading school improvement across the two sites. The joining of two schools represents an opportunity for a step change improvement in the quality and capacity of leadership at all levels.*
- ***Improved leadership leads to improved teaching:** Professor David Reynolds has stated: 'we know that effective leadership of a school from the Headteacher and through to other 'middle leadership' positions is important in its own right and important in generating...high quality classroom teaching' (WG PDG guidance 2013-15). Leadership and teaching quality are linked. The research is clear, by securing a step change improvement in leadership, we are able to secure a step change improvement in teaching quality.*

- *Improved coaching and mentoring support opportunities for staff: It is essential that time is allocated to enable the best teaching staff in different subject areas to travel between sites (or communicate regularly via video conferencing arrangements) in order to provide mentoring/coaching/resources for their colleagues on the other campus. This ongoing mentoring support and training can have a considerable impact on teaching quality. One there is a world of difference between the potential impact of loose school-to-school collaboration between separate schools, and the level of collaboration and support in a single school with split sites. The extent to which leaders are willing to invest finite time into engaging in mentoring, coaching and training of staff on the second campus of a single school is considerably higher if leaders are going to be held to account for standards and provision on both sites.*
- *Economies of scale leads to greater investment in teaching and learning: By having a single leader of each curriculum area across the two school sites and a more streamlined senior leadership structure, savings can be generated over time. The new leadership team would be able to invest these savings in whatever way they believe would make the greatest impact on standards.*
- *The Authority has established a school across two sites. Newtown High School now includes the John Beddoes Campus in Presteigne. Standards have improved on both sites, but in particular at the John Beddoes campus. In 2015, 62.4% of pupils at Newtown HS achieved the L2+ indicator which was a 7.6 percentage point improvement on the previous year.*
- *Whilst it will be the decision of the new governing body how it wishes to deliver post-16 education, the Proposal does provide an opportunity to establish a critical mass of post-16 learners, should the new governing body wish to establish one sixth form centre. At KS3 and KS4, it is not expected that pupils would travel between sites. However, the new governing body would be responsible for how it structures the curriculum and timetable, and it may be possible that some subjects would be taught on one site only at KS4. This would increase the options available to those pupils.*
- *The school would be categorised as a bilingual (dual-stream) school with the Welsh-medium provision delivered from the Builth Wells site.*

'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**

Detailed Impact Assessments in relation to the Proposal were considered by Cabinet on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

### **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)**

### **Other Front Line Services**

N/A

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

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

**Finance:** The Schools Finance manager notes the contents of the report. The financial information included within the consultation document and Cabinet report of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 includes a split-site allowance in respect of a school operating over a split-site. This information could now change following cabinet's decision to review the formula for a split-site allowance, following consultation on the authority's funding formula that took place in late 2016. If there are any changes to funding resulting from any review to the split-site allowance, these would be deferred to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 or the opening date of any new split site school.

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

N/A

## **Corporate Communications**

**Communications Comment:** This report is of public interest and requires use of news release and 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 have nothing to add 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 confirm the decision of Cabinet made on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to close Bulth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.</b>	<b>To establish a sustainable model of secondary education in Mid Powys that would be able to deliver high-quality education.</b>

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	School Transformation Policy		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Y	<b>Within Budget:</b>	Y

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	School Transformation Team
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2018

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Marianne Evans		N/A	Marianne.evans@powys.gov.uk

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**