

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
December 15th 2015**

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

SUBJECT: Crickhowell Specialist Centre

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 9th September 2015, the authority carried out a formal consultation on the closure of the Specialist Centre at Crickhowell CP School from the 6th October 2015 to the 17th November 2015.

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the responses received to this consultation and to determine whether or not to proceed with the statutory process to close the Specialist Centre at Crickhowell CP School.

The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Consultation Document
Appendix B – Consultation Report
Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment

Background

Formal Consultation

Formal consultation was carried out from the 6th October 2015 to the 17th November 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The consultation documentation was distributed to stakeholders as required by the Code, and was available on the Council's website throughout the Consultation Period. The Consultation Document that was issued is attached as Appendix A.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing and returning a response form, or by writing or e-mailing the School Transformation Team.

3 written responses were received to the Consultation. The issues raised in the responses and the Authority's response to these issues are listed in Appendix B – Consultation Report.

Consultation with Pupils

A Young People's Version of the Consultation Document was also available throughout the Consultation Period. In addition, officers from the Authority met with the School Council of Crickhowell CP School during the Consultation Period to discuss the proposal with them. The notes of this meeting are included in Appendix B – Consultation Report.

Proposal

Following consideration of the issues raised in the Consultation Report and the authority's response to them, it is recommended that a Statutory Notice for the closure of the Specialist Centre at Crickhowell CP School from the 31st March 2015 is published.

Closure of the Centre would realise savings of approximately £67,000 per annum to the authority.

One Powys Plan

'Transforming Learning and Skills' is one of the priorities within the One Powys Plan. Within this priority, the Plan states that *'There is a need to review the provision of Additional Learning Needs and Behaviour services'*, and that the authority will *'Work with our partners to review and re-configure services for children and young people with additional learning needs to...provide improved support for children and young people and all schools.'*

Options Considered/Available

N/A

Preferred Choice and Reasons

N/A

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

The Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal has been updated following the Consultation Period, and is attached as Appendix C.

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

The wellbeing and educational progress of young learners is central to delivery of the ALN strategy. Having full access to mainstream classes with appropriate levels of support facilitates access to the school curriculum delivery model and the range of relationships that all other children in school enjoy. This gives children equal access to the range of opportunities both socially and academically within a school.

Local Member(s)

Other Front Line Services

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

Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view provided that Members have read and taken into account the Consultation report in appendix B.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

Corporate Communications

Statutory Officers

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.

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| Recommendation: | Reason for Recommendation: |
| To approve the publication of Statutory Notices for the closure of the Specialist Centre at Crickhowell CP School with effect from 31 st March 2016 | To ensure that support to children with additional learning needs is provided in an efficient way. |

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| Relevant Policy (ies): | | | |
| Within Policy: | Y | Within Budget: | |

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| Relevant Local Member(s): | Cllr John G Morris |
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| Person(s) To Implement Decision: | Senior Manager – School Transformation |
| Date By When Decision To Be Implemented: | 31 st January 2015 |

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| Contact Officer Name: | Tel: | Fax: | Email: |
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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION 3