

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET REPORT
FOR PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
14th June 2011**

REPORT AUTHOR: Gareth Jones
Senior Manager, Central Services

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS –
MAESYDDERWEN CATCHMENT REVIEW

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

The purpose of the report is to approve the temporary or shadow governance arrangements for the Maesydderwen catchment review.

Proposal

A ministerial decision is still awaited on the review of primary schools in the Ystradgynlais area involving the closure of the existing ten schools and the construction of four new ones. Given the desire to complete these new schools by September 2012 and particularly to appoint staff, it is necessary to set up the shadow governing body arrangements.

The attached document sets out the proposed process for establishing the temporary governance arrangements for the Maesydderwen catchment review.

The New Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005 dictate that for temporary governing bodies of community primary schools there can only be 13 governors comprising 3 LEA, 4 parent, 4 community, 1 teacher and 1 staff governor. The table below outlines the responsibilities and the process for each type of governor that is being proposed.

The new process has been put together following consultation with headteachers, chairs of governors and elected members for the area. The main differences from the existing process for appointing governing bodies are as follows:-

LEA governors – The proposal is for member(s) from the wards containing the schools that feed in to the new schools to nominate this type of governor, as opposed to the member(s) from where the new school is located. It also introduces a decision making role for the portfolio holder if no agreement can be reached by local members.

Parent/staff governors – The proposed process identifies new criteria to be used by the portfolio holder and the Head of Schools when choosing from expressions of interest submitted. The criteria are length of service, relevant experience and representation from closing schools.

An earlier draft of the temporary governing body arrangements was considered by the Learning in the Community Programme Board on 29th March 2011 where it was agreed as a basis for consultation. The amended document following local consultation was

considered again by the Programme Board on 24th May where it was agreed that the portfolio holder would sign off the final arrangements.

Type of governor	Number (Total 13)	Responsibility of	Process
Temporary LEA Governors	3	Powys County Council	Local member(s) nominate from existing LEA governors. If no agreement – Portfolio Holder to decide.
Temporary Parent Governors	4	Powys County Council	Invite expressions of interest from existing parent governors. Head of Schools and Portfolio Holder to appoint on behalf of PCC.
Temporary Staff Governors	1	Powys County Council	Invite expressions of interest from existing staff governors. Head of Schools and Portfolio Holder to appoint on behalf of PCC.
Temporary Teacher Governors	1	Shadow governing body	
Temporary Community Governors	3	Shadow governing body	
Additional Temporary Community Governors	1	Shadow governing body	Nominated by the Town/Community Council(s) served by the school.

Corporate Improvement Plan

A priority of the Corporate Improvement Plan is to provide high quality educational opportunities for all.

Options Considered/Available

An option was considered which involved using the existing process for appointing governors but following consultation this was amended to take in to account the representations received and the particular local circumstances in Ystradgynlais.

Preferred Choice and Reasons

The preferred choice was selected following consultation with the ten head teachers and their governing bodies as well as local members. There were concerns that there should be local arrangements that suited local circumstances and that the process needed to be transparent and clearly understood. The head teachers are now happy with the proposed arrangements and that their comments have been taken on board.

The target for implementation of the new arrangements is the end of the school year 2010/11 for the composition of the four new governing bodies to be known, although the lack of ministerial decision may make this difficult to achieve. The target is for the shadow governing bodies to appoint the four head teachers in the autumn of 2011 with other teaching staff appointed in the early part of 2012.

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

One of the proposed new schools is a Welsh medium school which will promote the Welsh language in the locality.

Parts of the Ystradgynlais area are a priority for the council and the Welsh Government for regeneration.

The arrangements for governance need to be mindful of equalities legislation as the temporary governing bodies will be responsible for the appointment of head teachers and other staff.

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

It is in the best interests of children and young people that robust arrangements are in place for the organisation of the temporary governing bodies of the new schools.

Local Member(s)

Local members in the Ystradgynlais area were consulted on the draft arrangements and their comments incorporated in to the final document.

Other Front Line Services

None identified.

Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

The Principal Solicitor has confirmed that the proposals meet with the appropriate governance regulations.

The Principal Accountant for Community, Skills and Learning comments that there are no financial implications associated with this proposal, the process will be actioned within existing staffing resources.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

None identified

Communications

The outcome of this process will need to be communicated to the schools in the area and to local members. An e-bulletin will be circulated to these and other stakeholders by the middle of June 2011.

Statutory Officers

The view of the Strategic Director, Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) is "I have no views to add to those made by the Principal Solicitor".

The view of the Strategic Director, Finance & Infrastructure (Section 151 Officer) is that there are no financial implications for this proposal.

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.

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
That the Temporary Governing Body Arrangements for the Maesydderwen catchment review are approved as a basis for appointing shadow governing bodies for the four new primary schools.		To ensure that the temporary governing bodies are in place in good time to appoint staff and ensure efficient governance of the new schools.	
Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y
Relevant Local Member(s):	Councillors K. Pathak, G Gwillim, J. Steadman, S. McNicholas and S. Davies		
Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Douglas Wilson – Head of Schools		
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	July 15 th 2011		
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
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Background Papers used to prepare report:

The New Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005