

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council

7th March 2019

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Phil Pritchard

The review of High Schools in South Powys was completed some 3 years ago, and it was confirmed that a review of High schools in North Powys would follow shortly afterwards, with particular reference to having 3 high schools all within a radius of 11 miles. There has been no such review carried out to date.

I would be grateful if you would confirm to me when is the review for North Powys going to be carried out, and will it be followed (as previously promised) by a review of some 7 or 8 small primary village schools, all within approximately 8 miles of Llanfair Caereinion, particularly identifying the potential savings for Powys County Council?

Response

In March 2018, Cabinet approved a new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan. There was no reference to considering any secondary schools within an 11 mile radius.

The Delivery Plan includes the following actions:

Ref.	Project	Links to priorities within the School Organisation Policy	What will the project deliver?	Progress to date
1.1	Implement the outcome of phase 1 of the secondary school review – North Powys	<i>New Welsh-medium provision to be established</i>	Recommendation on location for new provision and delivery plan	- Work progressing on new Welsh medium secondary provision in Newtown. Strategic Outline Case to be developed.
			Implementation period	tba

1.2	Complete phase 2 of secondary school review – North Powys	<p><i>Secondary schools to become ‘all through schools’ or part of multi-sited arrangements</i></p> <p><i>Improvements to the Powys schools estate, either as part of the Welsh Government’s 21st Century Schools Programme or as part of the Council’s Asset Management Programme</i></p>	Recommendations for secondary education in North Powys and implementation plan agreed	<p>Recommendations for secondary schools in North Powys are being developed in partnership with the schools themselves.</p> <p>The following developments are being progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Llanfyllin All Through School – consultation completed - Llanidloes High School and Llanidloes CP School – federation agreed - Initial discussions taking place with Llanfair Caereinion schools <p>Newtown High School is already a dual-sited school and Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is already an ‘all through school’</p>
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This Cabinet has not agreed to ‘review 7 or 8 small primary village schools, all within approximately 8 miles of Llanfair Caereinion.’ However, as stated within the School Organisation Policy, the authority expects ‘*Small primary schools^[1] to be part of formal collaborations / federations / amalgamations*’, and is working with the primary sector to achieve this.

^[1] The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school that contains fewer than 91 registered pupils in the Education (Small Schools) (Wales) Order 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1133/made>