

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

30 April 2019

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

SUBJECT: Llanfyllin All-through School

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 12th March 2019, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing to close Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School from the 31st August 2020, and to establish a new all-through school in Llanfyllin from the 1st September 2020.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet members of the outcome of the statutory objection period.
- 1.3 The report includes a recommendation to proceed with the establishment of an all-through school in Llanfyllin from the 1st September 2020.
- 1.4 The report is supported by the following appendices:
 - **Appendix A** – Statutory Notice
 - **Appendix B** – Objection Report
 - **Appendix C** – Updated Impact Assessments

2. Proposal

Background

The Consultation Period

- 2.1 Consultation in relation to establishing an all-through school in Llanfyllin was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) from the 27th November 2018 to the 31st January 2019.
- 2.2 A Consultation Report listing the issues raised during the consultation and the authority's response to them was published. This was discussed by Full Council on the 7th March 2019, and was considered by Cabinet on the 12th March 2019.

- 2.3 At the meeting on the 12th March 2019, Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process to establish an all-through school in Llanfyllin through the publication of a Statutory Notice.

Statutory Notice

- 2.4 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 12th March 2019, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the following:

'From 31 August 2020:

- i. *The Council proposes to discontinue the following two schools:*
- *Llanfyllin Community Primary School, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5BJ*
 - *Llanfyllin High School, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5BJ*

From 1 September 2020:

- i. *The Council proposes to establish a new bilingual community school for boys and girls aged 4-18 years old, that will operate on the current sites of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School.'*

- 2.5 The Statutory Notice was published on the 20th March 2019 for a period of 28 days, in accordance with the guidance within the School Organisation Code (2018). A copy of the Statutory Notice is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.6 The objection period ended on the 17th April 2019.

Objections

- 2.7 One objection was received during the statutory objection period. The issues raised in this objection and the Council's response to these issues are listed in the Objection Report, which is attached as Appendix B.

The Proposal

- 2.8 Having considered the objection received, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with implementation of the proposal to close Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School from the 31st August 2020, and to establish a new all-through school in Llanfyllin from the 1st September 2020, as outlined in the Statutory Notice (Appendix A).
- 2.9 It is estimated that implementation of the proposal would lead to annual savings to the Council of £42,681.

3. Options Considered / Available

- 3.1 N/A

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 As outlined in section 2 above, one objection was received during the Statutory Objection period.
- 4.2 Having considered the issues raised in this objection, the preferred option is to proceed with amalgamating Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School as outlined in the Statutory Notice (Appendix A), and to establish a new all-through school on the current sites of the two schools.
- 4.3 The reasons for this are as follows:
- To provide a more sustainable model for delivering primary and secondary Welsh-medium and English-medium education in Llanfyllin
 - To enable education in Llanfyllin to be provided more efficiently
 - To provide robust leadership to pupils in all phases of education
 - To improve the quality of education to pupils in all phases of education
 - To provide seamless progression through each key stage of education
 - The outcome of the consultation carried out suggested that this is the preferred option.
 - Only one objection was received during the statutory objection period

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes

A range of draft impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation documentation. These included a Single Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These impact assessments were updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and updated versions were attached to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 12th March.

The impact assessments have been updated again to reflect issues raised during the statutory objection period. Updated versions are attached as Appendix C.

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 Learning and Skills is one of the four priorities outlined in Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-23. Within this priority, the Plan

includes a commitment to 'Improve our schools infrastructure'. In order to achieve this, 'we will implement our new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan to develop a more efficient schools network, with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve.'

7. Local Member(s)

7.1 Comments will be provided in the meeting.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

9. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

Have they made a comment? 'This report is of public interest and requires a news release and use of appropriate social media to publicise the Cabinet's decision.'

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

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

10.2 Finance: As the proposal reaffirms the original proposal there is no change in the financial position to that included in the original report.

10.3 HR: The Schools HR Team will continue to work with Headteachers, Staff, Governors, Trade Unions and other officers of Powys County Council to ensure that any changes that are required will be made in line with the School's adopted policies and procedures

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows: "I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

12.2 The Head of Financial Services (Section 151 Officer: I note the comments of the Finance Manager.

13. 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:
i) To receive the Objection Report in respect of establishing an all-through school in Llanfyllin	To understand the issues raised during the objection period.
ii) To approve the proposal to amalgamate Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School in order to establish a new all-through school on the current sites of the two schools, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Closing Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School from the 31st August 2020- Establishing a new all-through school on the current sites of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School on the 1st September 2020	To provide stability and security of local provision.

Relevant Policy (ies):	School Organisation Policy		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Cllr Lucy Roberts – Llandrinio Cllr Arwel Jones – Llandysilio Cllr Emyr Jones – Llanfihangel Cllr Peter Lewis – Llanfyllin Cllr Aled Davies – Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant / Llanfyllin Cllr Gwynfor Thomas – Llansanffraid Cllr Bryn Davies – Llanwddyn
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	September 2020

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: