

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**21<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Education and Property**

**REPORT TITLE: Strategic Review of Schools**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on developments relating to the Council's Strategic Review of Schools, and to seek approval to carry out wider engagement in order to inform the next steps.

1.2 The report is supported by the following appendices:

**Appendix A** – School Conference Report

**Appendix B** – Summary of Engagement Exercise

**Appendix C** – Case for Change Report

**Appendix D** – Transforming Education in Powys – A Vision for Powys Schools

**2. Background**

2.1 On the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report relating to Post-16 provision in Powys. This report presented the findings of the Stage 1 review of sixth form provision in Powys which had been carried out, and recommended developing a detailed business case considering the cost-benefit implication and impact of structural change to sixth form provision in Powys. The intention was that this business case would be considered by Cabinet in January 2020.

2.2 At around the same time, Estyn's report on its recent inspection of Powys Education Services was published. The report outlined significant concerns regarding the Council's progress on school reorganisation, and includes a recommendation to 'Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post-16, Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of children and young people of Powys.'

2.3 In order to meet the critical challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the recent Estyn inspection, the Council has recognised the

need to review education provision in the county more broadly than just post-16, and has been engaging with a range of key stakeholders in order to shape a vision for education in Powys for the future.

2.4 The engagement carried out to date has consisted of the following:

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2019** – Members seminar

**24<sup>th</sup> October 2019** – Schools Conference, which was attended by Headteachers and School Governors from schools across Powys

**11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Engagement with school governors as part of the governor briefings arranged in North, Mid and South Powys

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019** – Engagement with school staff in each cluster area

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019** – Schools Service Staff

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2019** – Town and Community Councils

2.4 All engagement events used the same format:

- A data presentation, giving an overview of the current Powys schools infrastructure. The data presented is available online at: <https://sway.office.com/8aTHND8fR5JPYfik?ref=email>
- Group discussions to complete a SPIN<sup>1</sup> exercise in order to identify the problems facing the Powys schools infrastructure and what we need to do to address this.

2.5 Feedback from all sessions was collated, and the findings are summarised in **Appendix A and Appendix B.**

2.6 Based on the feedback received during the engagement events, a Case for Change Report has been prepared, which outlines the key challenges facing education in Powys. This is attached as **Appendix C.**

2.7 In addition, a further draft document has been prepared which outlines an emerging vision for education in Powys. This is attached as **Appendix D.**

2.8 The intention is that the document attached in Appendix D is the subject of Stage 2 of the engagement exercise during the Spring Term, following which an updated document and implementation plan will be considered by Cabinet. The questions included in the document will be amended according to audience for use during the engagement exercise.

### 3. **Advice**

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<sup>1</sup> SPIN:

What's the current Situation?

What's the Problem we want to fix?

What's the Implication if we don't do anything?

What do we Need to do?

- 3.1 It is advised that Cabinet approve proceeding with Stage 2 of the engagement exercise as outlined in 2.8 above.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

##### *Finance*

- 4.1 The Finance team will continue to support this work as it moves forward, in order to understand the financial implications of any proposals brought forward following the outcome of the engagement exercise.

The work will be carried out by existing officers from within the Council's base budget and management of change funding, there are no additional financial implications at this stage.

##### *HR*

- 4.2 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 Council policy and with Schools' adopted policies and procedures. The team are also happy to provide advice and guidance on HR considerations during the development of any plans relating to this report.

##### *Section 151 Officer*

- 4.3 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes section 4.1 above.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 Legal: "The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view."
- 5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report."

#### **6. Comment from local member(s)**

- 6.1 N/A

#### **7. Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 An Impact Assessment is not required at this stage. Impact assessments will be carried out as this work proceeds.

#### **8. Recommendation**

8.1 The recommendations are as follows:

<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
i) To receive Appendices A, B, C and D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To understand the issues raised during Stage 1 of the Engagement exercise</li> <li>- To understand the challenges facing education in Powys</li> <li>- To understand the emerging vision for education in Powys</li> </ul>
ii) To approve carrying out Stage 2 Engagement on the 'Transforming Education in Powys' document (Appendix D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to inform the development of the vision for education in Powys.</li> </ul>
iii) To approve officers engaging in discussions with neighbouring authorities and key partners as part of the development of a new vision for education in Powys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure that opportunities for learners are maximised</li> </ul>
iv) Following the engagement exercise, to approve that officers bring forward to Cabinet in April 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A revised vision and guiding principles that will underpin future transformation for schools in Powys; and</li> <li>- An implementation plan to begin the journey to realise that vision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To ensure that the vision for education in Powys takes account of stakeholder feedback</li> <li>- To ensure sufficient pace to transform education in Powys, in accordance with Estyn's recommendation.</li> </ul>
Interim Chief Education Officer: Lynette Lovell Chief Executive and Senior Responsible Officer: Caroline Turner Head of Transformation and Communication/Programme Lead: Emma Palmer	