

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
May 24th 2016**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: Welsh-medium Stream at Ysgol Dolafon

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd March 2016, the authority published a Statutory Notice to discontinue the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon, Llanwrtyd Wells and to change the language category of the school from dual stream to English-medium. The Statutory Notice was published on the 7th April 2016.

This report provides information about the outcome of the statutory objection period, and includes a recommendation to discontinue the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon from the 31st August 2016.

Background

Formal Consultation

Formal consultation in relation to closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013) from the 8th January 2016 to the 19th February 2016. A Consultation Report listing all issues raised during the consultation and the authority's response to them was considered by Cabinet on the 22nd March 2016.

Statutory Notice

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd March 2016, the authority published a Statutory Notice to discontinue the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon on the 7th April 2016 for a period of 28 days, in accordance with the guidance within the School Organisation Code.

No objections were received during the statutory objection period.

Proposal

As no objections were received during the statutory objection period, it is recommended that the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon is discontinued from the 31st August 2016. Alternative Welsh-medium provision for pupils currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon would be provided at Builth Wells CP School, which is a dual stream primary school. Transport would be provided to pupils in accordance with the authority's Home to School Transport Policy.

It is estimated that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon would lead to annual savings of £17,271.

One Powys Plan

'Transforming Learning and Skills' is a key priority within the One Powys Plan, and the Authority's aim is to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their potential'. The plan states that the Authority needs to 'reorganise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.

Options Considered/Available

N/A

Preferred Choice and Reasons

N/A

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

An Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal was produced and was considered by Cabinet on the 22nd March 2016 when considering whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of discontinuing the Welsh-medium stream.

A Community Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Impact Assessment in respect of this proposal were included in the Consultation Document. A number of issues relating to the proposal's impact on the community and the Welsh language were raised in the consultation responses. These were listed in the Consultation Report produced in respect of this proposal, along with the authority's response to them.

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

The Authority's Schools Transformation Programme is intended to improve educational outcomes for children and young people. This aligns with the aspiration to improve safeguarding and well-being for children and young people.

Local Member(s)

(Explain whether or not the proposal has particular effect on or significance for only one or some electoral divisions (as opposed to applying with equal force across the whole County) and, if so, set out the views of the Local Member(s) of that/those electoral divisions)

Other Front Line Services

N/A

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

Legal: The Professional Lead – Legal has commented as follows: The process of formal consultation as set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013 has been followed, and the discontinuation of the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon is in line with current Local Authority priorities.

Finance: I can confirm the estimated savings in the report of £17,271 inclusive of transport costs. There are no redundancy costs included in the figures. Finance will continue to work with the school to manage the changes arising in order to ensure compliance with the Scheme for Financing Schools in relation to setting a balanced budget

HR: Any staffing issues will be managed in line with the Human Resources policies of the affected schools.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

N/A

Corporate Communications

Communications Comment: The report is of public interest and requires the use of news releases and social media to publicise the decision.

Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by Finance.

The Professional Lead-Legal (Deputy 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.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the discontinuation of the Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol Dolafon and change the language category from Dual Stream to English-medium from the 31 st August 2016.	To ensure future sustainability of primary education

Relevant Policy (ies):	School Transformation Policy, Welsh in Education Strategic Plan		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Cllr T J Van-Rees
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	School Transformation Team
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	31 st August 2016

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: