

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

May 24th 2016

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education**

**SUBJECT: Formal Consultation - Talgarth and Bronllys C.P.
Schools**

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

1. Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 26th January 2016, the authority has carried out a formal consultation on the following proposal:
 - **To close Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools from August 2017, and to establish a new community primary school on the current sites in September 2017, until a new school building is constructed on a new site in Talgarth and opens in September 2018**
2. The purpose of this report is
 - to receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal related to Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools; and
 - to recommend the publication of statutory notices for the closure of Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools on the 31st August 2017, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and to establish a new community primary school on the 1st September 2017 that will operate across the current two sites. Upon the opening of a new school building in Talgarth, the two current sites will close.
3. The report is supported by the following appendices:
 - Appendix A – Consultation Document
 - Appendix B – Consultation Report
 - Appendix C – Impact Assessments

Background

Formal Consultation Period

4. Formal consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013) from the 7^h March 2016 to the 18th April 2016. The consultation documentation was distributed to stakeholders as required by the Code, and was available on the Council's website throughout the Consultation Period.
5. The consultation document was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period. The document was also distributed to stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code (2013). The consultation document that was issued is attached as Appendix A.
6. Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing the online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the Schools Transformation Team, or by writing to the Schools Transformation Team.
7. During the consultation period, meetings were also held with the following:
 - Staff at Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools
 - Governors at Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools
 - Parents / community at Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools
 - School Councils of Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools

Consultation Responses

8. A total of 52 written responses were received to the consultation. This includes responses received via the online response form, the paper response form, other written responses and responses from pupils received using the questionnaire in the young people's version of the consultation document.
9. All issues raised during the consultation period, including those raised in written responses and those raised in the consultation meetings, are listed in the Consultation Report (attached as Appendix B), along with the authority's response to these issues.

Proposal

- i) To receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal related to Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools.
 - ii) to recommend the C.P. Schools on the 31st August 2017, in accordance with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and to establish a new community primary school on the 1st September 2017 that will operate across the current two sites. Upon the opening of a new school building in Talgarth, the two current sites will close.
10. A financial analysis of the draft recommendation has been carried out.
- From September 2017, the total net savings are £49,495.00 – as the school operates across two sites as an interim arrangement;
 - From September 2018, the total net savings for the new school on a single site are £62,477.00.

One Powys Plan

'Transforming Learning and Skills' is one of the priorities within the One Powys Plan. Within this priority, the Plan states that *'There is a need to review the provision of Additional Learning Needs and Behaviour services'*, and that the authority will *'Work with our partners to review and re-configure services for children and young people with additional learning needs to...provide improved support for children and young people and all schools.'*

Options Considered/Available

N/A – consultation is a statutory requirement in any school reorganisation proposals.

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 has been produced and is attached as Appendix C.

A Community Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix D.

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

The wellbeing and educational progress of young learners is central to delivery of the ALN strategy. Having full access to mainstream classes with appropriate levels of support facilitates access to the school curriculum delivery model and the range of relationships that all other children in school enjoy. This gives children equal access to the range of opportunities both socially and academically within a school.

Local Member(s)

No comments were received by the Local Members.

Other Front Line Services

N/A

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

HR: If a decision is made to proceed with the proposal outlined in this report, any implications for staff employment would be taken forward by the schools, supported by HR, in line with the relevant employment law and the schools' policies and procedures.

Finance Business Partner Schools comments: I can confirm the estimated interim and final savings of £49,495 and £62,477 within the report.

The figures have been updated to take account of the 2016/17 funding formula in place and has been run for the proposed school on current numbers, this generates the majority of the funding, however for premises related elements a number of assumptions have been made, as follows for the final option:

- Floor areas have been provided for the proposed school
- Rates have been maintained at current cost
- Statutory testing has been included at the cost of similar size school
- Grounds area has been included as the current site for Talgarth

These figures do not include any redundancy costs

Both schools ended the 15/16 financial year in a surplus position and in accordance with the scheme for financing of schools, finance are working with the schools to ensure that resources are used appropriately.

Capital and Financial Planning Accountant comments: I can confirm that the New School in Talgarth is included in the Capital Programme. The assumption is that the school will be funded by a 50% WG grant, excluding any site access works which have to be funded solely by the Council. The site purchase is included in the budget for the project.

The Professional Lead Legal comments: the process of formal consultation as set out in the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code 2013 has been followed, and the closure of the Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. schools is in line with current Local Authority priorities.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

N/A

Corporate Communications

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

Statutory Officers

The **Professional Lead Legal (Deputy Monitoring Officer)** has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.”

The **Strategic Director Resources** (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments made by Finance, and notes that Welsh Government is expected to fund 50% of the Capital cost.

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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal related to Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools; • to recommend the publication of statutory notices for the closure of Talgarth and Bronllys C.P. Schools on the 31st August 2017, in accordance with the School Standards and 	<p>To provide a sustainable model of education within the Gwernyfed Primaries Catchment Area</p>

<p>Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, and to establish a new community primary school on the 1st September 2017 that will operate across the current two sites. Upon the opening of a new school building in Talgarth, the two current sites will close.</p>	
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Relevant Policy (ies):	School Transformation Policy		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Cllr Steve Davies and Cllr William Powell
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	End of May 2016

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Betsan Ifan	01597 826954	N/A	Betsan.ifan@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report: