

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
14 December 2021**

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

REPORT TITLE: Llanfyllin Catchment Transformation

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report gives an update on the transforming education work in the Llanfyllin catchment.
- 1.2 The report requests Cabinet approval to amend the Cabinet decisions made on the 18th March 2021 and the 6th July 2021 in respect of Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
- 1.3 The report requests approval of the following recommendations:
- i) Not to proceed with the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, based on the outcome of the Feasibility Study
 - ii) Not to proceed with the existing planned consultations on the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
 - iii) To instruct the Transforming Education Team to bring forward alternative proposals for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School without delay.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has been developing plans for the Llanfyllin catchment since the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved in April 2020.
- 2.2 The following is a summary of the key Cabinet decisions which have been taken to date in respect of the Llanfyllin catchment:

29th September 2020: Llanfyllin Programme Business Case (PBC) considered and approved by Cabinet. The PBC outlined the preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment which is as follows:

- A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfyllin replacing the Ysgol Llanfyllin buildings.
- To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School and potentially other schools in the Welshpool catchment. Site to be confirmed.
- To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
- To provide an extension to Llansantffraid CiW Primary School.
- Possible closure of Llangedwyn CiW School, Llanfechain CiW School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

18th March 2021: Cabinet approved a paper requesting approval to commence the statutory process on proposals to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, and to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School following the completion of an extension to the school. Cabinet also approved the development of a Business Justification Case (BJC) and release of funding to support feasibility and design stages to enable work on the extension to Llansantffraid to commence.

6th July 2021: Cabinet approved a paper requesting approval to commence the statutory process on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Feasibility Study

- 2.3 To support the decision made by Cabinet on the 18th March 2021 in respect of proposals for Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W School, HoWPS were commissioned to undertake a feasibility study looking at the viability of providing 3 additional classrooms, remodelling the existing Early Years facilities and providing a Group Room and Hygiene Room at Llansantffraid C. in W. School, to enable the school to accommodate 90 additional pupils from September 2023. The feasibility study has now been completed.
- 2.4 The feasibility study explored the location of the school, the site constraints and the structure of the current building.
- 2.5 The report raises significant issues with expansion of the school in relation to the structure integrity, upgrading of existing heating and lighting systems and significant improvements required to car parking and highways access.

Business Justification Case

- 2.6 As agreed by Cabinet in March 2021, a Business Justification Case (BJC) for the planned extension to Llansantffraid C in W School was developed.
- 2.7 The BJC also identified issues and risks associated with the difficulty of accommodating the planned extension on the current constrained site, and the lack of alternative land / sites in the Council's ownership.

3. Advice

- 3.1 Given the findings of the Feasibility Study and Business Justification Case, Cabinet is therefore asked to approve the following recommendations in respect of the Llanfyllin catchment transformation:
- ii) Not to proceed with the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, based on the outcome of the Feasibility Study
 - ii) Not to proceed with the existing planned consultations on the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
 - iii) To instruct the Transforming Education Team to bring forward alternative proposals for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School without delay.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 This work will be carried out in house, therefore there are no additional resource implications at this stage.
- 4.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal: the recommendations can be accepted 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. Data Protection

- 6.1 The current proposal does not involve the processing of personal data.

7. Comment from local member(s)

- 7.1 No comments received.

8. Impact Assessment

8.1 An Impact Assessment is not needed at this stage, as matters are at a preliminary stage. If the matter proceeds, then Impact Assessments, including an Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Welsh language Impact Assessment and a Community Impact Assessment will be provided.

9. Recommendation

- i) Not to proceed with the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, based on the outcome of the Feasibility Study
- ii) Not to proceed with the existing planned consultations on the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
- iii) To instruct the Transforming Education Team to bring forward proposals for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School by March 2022 due to the low and reducing pupil numbers and the potential impact on the sustainability of the schools and the learner offer.

Discussions with stakeholders will commence immediately at the start of the new term (January 2022).

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