

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

Date: 8th March 2022

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

**REPORT TITLE: Transforming Education Programme – Llanfyllin
Schools Transformation Progress Update**

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides a progress update following Cabinet's recommendations on 21st December 2021, as outlined below:

- *Not to proceed with the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, based on the outcome of the Feasibility Study.*
- *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.*
- *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.*

2. Background

2.1 On the 29th September 2020, Cabinet approved a Programme Business Case which put forward a preferred way forward for the transformation of education in the Llanfyllin/North Welshpool catchment areas.

2.2 Following on from this, Cabinet agreed that formal consultation should commence on proposals to close Llangedwyn C.i.W Primary School and Llanfechain C.i.W Primary School. Cabinet also agreed that a feasibility study should be carried out into the possibility of building an extension at Llansantffraid C.i.W Primary School to provide sufficient Church in Wales places in the area.

2.3 Cabinet also approved proceeding to formal consultation on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

2.4 The outcome of the initial feasibility study was that there were significant challenges in providing an extension to Llansantffraid C.i.W

Primary School. There would also be a need to decant the school to a temporary location whilst the building work took place, at a cost. Cabinet considered a report about the position on the 21st December 2021 and agreed the recommendations outlined in 1.1. above.

3. Progress Update

- 3.1 Initial informal discussions have now started with schools in the area – specifically Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon (Llanfechain C.i.W Primary School and Llangedwyn C.i.W Primary School) and Llansanffraid C.i.W Primary School. An initial discussion is planned to take place soon with Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The purpose of these initial discussions is to gain a greater understanding of local issues and pressures on the schools, as well as to begin to consider possible options that may address challenges faced by the schools as they are three very small schools located within a relatively geographic area, with two of the schools already operating as a formal federation. The future strategic provision of Church in Wales places in the area is a key factor for consideration and dialogue will also take place with the Diocese of St. Asaph.
- 3.2 Officers were also able to observe the significant capacity issues at Llansanffraid C.i.W Primary School, within classrooms, early years setting and outdoor areas, and further investigations will now be carried out into possible solutions which will include discussions with other local stakeholders, as well as consideration of possible alternative sites.
- 3.3 It has, however, not been possible to bring any new proposals to Cabinet by March as requested, due to officers workload and the need to focus on other proposals that are further progressed. It is expected that proposals will be brought back to Cabinet later this year.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 N/A

6. Comment from local member(s)

- 6.1 N/A

7. Impact Assessment

- 7.1 N/A

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that Cabinet notes the progress update.

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