



## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and considered the following documents:

Cabinet Paper – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Proposal Summer 2024

Appendix A – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Option Appraisal Spring 2024

Appendix B – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Impact Assessment

Appendix C – Impact Assessment Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Spring 2024

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed:
  - The Portfolio Holders agreement that the outcome Consultation report would be brought to Learning and Skills Committee.
  
- The Committee noted:
  - The Councils commitment to transport learners to the closest school, including those across national and council borders.
  
- The Committee requested:
  - They receive a detailed breakdown of savings per pupils using the correct financial information (2024/25), to allow for impact on overall budget to be appropriately assessed for the receiving schools. This revised information needs to be updated prior to Consultation paperwork being disseminated.
  - Further quantified information of the impact of a learner receiving education outside of Powys.
  - A chart depicting the individual year groups of all possible receiving schools, to accurately ascertain the impact on numbers within classes.
  - The community impact on the closure of a school was severe and that the community must be included in proposals for alternative uses of school buildings and land, in the first instance.
  - The narrative within the report must and should accurately reflect the facts and not misrepresent the situation, for example, 90% of learners actually live closer to Shropshire schools.
  - Trochi provision be provided as soon as practicably possible.

- The Committee remained unconvinced about
  - The validity of the report as data used is old e.g., Condition survey information is from 2016. This must be rectified prior to any public consultation.
  - The capacity of the proposed Powys receiving school in terms of individual year groups.
  - Projected costs and the basis for transport to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant over other schools within catchment and Shropshire.
  - Consideration being given to explore all available options.
  
- The Committee expressed concern:
  - That as the majority of learners from Bro Cynllaith were taught currently through the medium of English, leading to a possible increased percentage of learners in the English stream compared to Welsh Stream, the language continuum progression of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant would be affected.
  
  - That the current draft Home to School Transport Policy does not reflect the proposals in appendix A, with a question posed by Committee of does Powys Policy override Welsh legislation.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<b>1. Assurance sought, if proposal was accepted, that the progression of the language continuum of Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, would not be affected, if the numbers of English medium learners surpassed Welsh medium learners.</b>			
<b>2 The current draft Home to School Transport Policy does not reflect the proposals in appendix A, with a question posed by Committee of does Powys Policy override Welsh legislation.</b>			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

County Councillors:

R G Thomas, L Roberts, A W Davies, B Davies, G Morgan, S McNicholas, A Davies, G E Jones, C Masefield, C Robinson

Co-Opted Members:

S. Davies, M. Evitts.

K. Chedzoy Declared and Interest as Chair of Governors at Bro Cynllaith and did not participate in the discussion on this item.