

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

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

**SUBJECT: Admission Arrangements for the 2018-19 School Year**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**Summary**

In accordance with the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code, the Authority has undertaken consultation with schools, other local authorities and Diocesan authorities in respect to its admission arrangements for the 2018-19 school year.

In addition, each parent of children in the four Community and Church controlled primary schools in the Gwernyfed catchment area were written to as changes were proposed to the capacity and annual admission numbers in line with the new school designs. The consultation proposed the following admission numbers for the four schools:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Hay on Wye CP School                     | 30 |
| Clyro C in W School                      | 17 |
| Ysgol y Mynydd Du<br>(Talgarth/Bronllys) | 21 |
| Llangors C in W School                   | 21 |

The proposed admission numbers for Clyro C in W and Hay on Wye CP Schools are increased from the current 15 and 24 respectively, while the proposed admission number of 21 for the new Ysgol y Mynydd Du in Talgarth was part of the consultation process undertaken on the closure of Bronllys CP and Talgarth CP Schools.

As the proposed admission number of 21 in Llangors is 3 below the current number of 24, the Portfolio Holder and Officers met with the governing body and representatives of the parent group on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017. At the meeting, it was agreed that, in addition to the 5 classrooms, the school would be provided with a large multi-use room of 51 square metres, which would allow the school to have a sixth teaching space, if required. Subsequent to the meeting, the Chair of Governors wrote to the Authority in respect to the proposed amendment to the admission number (a copy of the letter is attached)

In addition to the meeting, the Authority has received a number of letters from parents from the Llangorse area, together with a petition signed by 50 parents of the school and members of the surrounding community objecting to the proposed reduction to the annual admission number.

The calculation of a primary school's capacity is straightforward. The floor area of the available class space is divided by 1.86 square metres to arrive at the overall capacity of the school.

This figure is divided by 7 (Reception to Year 6) and rounded down to give the annual admission number for the school.

### **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'.

### **Options Considered/Available**

As the admission number of a school is assessed on a physical calculation, the only option available is whether the additional multi-use room in Llangors is included or excluded from the capacity calculation for the school. The additional area of 51 square meters would increase the overall capacity of the school by 27 and would increase the annual admission number by 3 to 24.

### **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

The inclusion of the multi-use area within the capacity calculation of the school will increase the number of surplus places in the school from 7.9% to 27.3%, which is significantly above the authority's target of 15% for any school.

It is proposed:

1. That the additional space in Llangors C in W School is treated as a community/large group area and is not included in the school capacity calculation.
2. That the annual admission numbers for the 4 schools in the Gwernyfed catchment area for the 2018-19 school year for which the Authority is the admission authority is set at:

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Hay on Wye CP School   | 30 |
| Llangors C in W School | 21 |
| Ysgol y Mynydd Du      | 21 |
| Clyro C in W School    | 17 |

3. That officers liaise with the headteacher and governing body of Llangors C in W School throughout the admissions process for the 2018-19 and subsequent year, to meet parental preferences up to a maximum of 24.
4. That Cabinet approve the amendments to the admission arrangements for the 2018-19 school year.

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**Local Member(s)**

Response from Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe:

I welcome the report in aspect of Hay school. The council has shown a sensible approach in handling the transition from now to the future new school in Hay. The proposed figure of 30 is in line with the schools and governors business management case.

Response from Cllr Melanie Davies:

I am opposed to the proposal to reduce the admission number for the new school at Llangorse from 24 to 21 on the grounds that the additional multi-use room should be included in the capacity calculation as this will give the school flexibility to offset small year groups which come through the school. The community have also made their views known on this issue, this reflects the concern around the reduction of places at Llangors School and the detrimental impact this reduction may have.

**Other Front Line Services**

No front line services are affected by this proposal

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

The Schools Finance Manager notes the contents of the report.

The Professional Lead-Legal notes that the consultation process and recommendation is in line with the School Admissions Code and that the Legal services will support where and when required to do so.

**Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc**

Not applicable

### **Corporate Communications**

Communications Comment: No proactive communications action at this stage

### **Statutory Officers**

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

The Solicitor to the Council (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.

| <b>Recommendation:</b>  | <b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>   |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
|---|---|----------------------|----|------------------------|----|-------------------|----|---------------------|
| <p>1. That the additional space in Llangors C in W School is treated as a community/large group area and is not included in the school capacity calculation.</p>  | <b>To ensure surplus places for the school are controlled within the Authority's target</b> |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
| <p>2. That the annual admission numbers for the 4 schools in the Gwernyfed catchment area for the 2018-19 school year for which the Authority is the admission authority is set at:</p> <table><tr><td>Hay on Wye CP School</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>Llangors C in W School</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Ysgol y Mynydd Du</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Clyro C in W School</td><td>17</td></tr></table> |   | Hay on Wye CP School | 30 | Llangors C in W School | 21 | Ysgol y Mynydd Du | 21 | Clyro C in W School |
| Hay on Wye CP School  | 30  |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
| Llangors C in W School  | 21  |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
| Ysgol y Mynydd Du   | 21  |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
| Clyro C in W School   | 17  |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
| <p>3. That officers liaise with the headteacher and governing body of Llangors C in W School throughout the admissions process for the 2018-19 and subsequent year, to meet parental preferences up to a maximum of 24.</p>   | <b>To meet parental preferences for pupil places within space available</b>                 |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |
| <p>4. That Cabinet approve the</p>  |   |                      |    |                        |    |                   |    |                     |

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|--|--|
| <b>amendments to the admission arrangements for the 2018-19 school year.</b> |  |
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|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b> | School Admissions Code |                       |          |
| <b>Within Policy:</b>         | <b>Y</b>               | <b>Within Budget:</b> | <b>Y</b> |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b> | <b>Cllr M Davies, Cllr W Powell, Cllr G Ratcliffe, Cllr S Davies, Cllr J Gibson-Watt</b> |
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| <b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>         | <b>Mr G E Jones, Mrs A Wozencraft</b>  |
| <b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b> | <b>2018-19 Schools Admission Round</b> |

|                              |              |             |                           |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Contact Officer Name:</b> | <b>Tel:</b>  | <b>Fax:</b> | <b>Email:</b>             |
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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

Welsh Government School Admissions Code