

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**12 March 2019**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander  
Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language**

**SUBJECT: Llanfyllin All-through School**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the Council has carried out consultation on the following proposals:
- To close Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School
  - To establish a new bilingual all-through school for pupils aged 4-18 on the current sites of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet members of the responses received to the consultation and to determine whether or not to proceed with the statutory process to close Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School and to establish a new all-through school on the current sites of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School through the publication of a Statutory Notice.
- 1.3 The proposed recommendation to Cabinet was discussed by Full Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. A summary of the discussion, together with officer comments on the issues raised, are attached as Appendix E (to follow).
- 1.4 The report is supported by the following appendices:
- **Appendix A** – Consultation Document
  - **Appendix B** – Consultation Report
  - **Appendix C** – Minutes of meetings with School Councils, Governors and Staff
  - **Appendix D** – Updated Impact Assessments
  - **Appendix E** – Full Council discussion – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (to follow).

**2. Proposal**

Background

The Consultation Period

2.1 On the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Cabinet considered a report relating to establish an All-through School in Llanfyllin. At this meeting, Cabinet determined the following:

‘To commence consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code on the amalgamation of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School, by closing Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School and opening a new all-through school on the current school sites. The target date is to close the two schools on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and to open the new all-through school on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.’

2.2 Consultation on the proposal to amalgamate the two schools and establish a new all-through school commenced on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and ended on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

2.3 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.

2.4 Consultees were asked 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 School Transformation Team, or by writing to the School Transformation Team.

2.5 During the consultation period, meetings were also held with the following:

- Staff of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School
- Governors of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School
- School council of Llanfyllin C.P. School
- School council of Llanfyllin High School

The minutes of these meetings are attached as Appendix C, and the issues raised in the meetings are included in the Consultation Report (Appendix B).

2.6 In addition, two drop in sessions were held during the consultation period, to give people the opportunity to discuss the proposals with officers and county councillors. One session was held in Llanfyllin C.P. School and the second was held in Llanfyllin High School.

### Consultation Responses

2.7 76 respondents completed the consultation response form which was included in the consultation document, including paper copies and responses submitted using the online response form. In addition, 4 other written responses were received.

2.8 The consultation response form asked respondents to answer a number of questions. The findings are provided in full on pages 5 and 6 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B).

2.9 The written responses received included a response by Estyn, which is provided on page 15 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B).

### Consultation Findings

2.10 As part of the consultation, a consultation response form was issued, which was completed by 76 respondents. 38% of respondents indicated that they were associated with Llanfyllin C.P. School, 55% indicated that they were associated with Llanfyllin High School, and 17% of respondents indicated that they were associated with another feeder school in the Llanfyllin catchment.

2.11 The consultation response form asked respondents whether or not they agreed with the proposal to establish a new all-through school in Llanfyllin. The findings are outlined in the full on pages 5-6 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B), and are also provided below:

3. *Do you agree with the current proposal to establish a new all-through school in Llanfyllin?*

Yes	40	63%
No	18	29%
Don't know	5	8%
Total responses	63	

4. *Do you think that the Council should be considering any other options for Llanfyllin instead of the proposal to establish a new all-through school?*

Yes	19	31%
No	28	45%
Don't know	15	24%
Total responses	62	

2.12 Written comments were also provided in the consultation response form. These comments, as well as issues raised in written responses and those raised in the consultation meetings, are listed in the Consultation Report (Appendix B) from page 18 onwards, along with the Council's response to these issues. The issues raised relate to the following headings:

1. General comments in support of the proposal
2. General comments not in support of the proposal
3. Issues relating to the impact on pupils
4. Issues relating to the impact on staff

5. Queries regarding the impact on feeder schools
6. Comments regarding the Welsh language / Welsh-medium provision
7. Financial queries
8. Need for investment in buildings
9. Issues relating to post-16 provision
10. Comments about Llanfyllin High School
11. Reference to Council policies / priorities
12. All-through School Model
13. Comments about the Consultation Documentation
14. Other options
15. Other queries

2.13 The findings of the consultation, as summarised in 2.11 above, suggest that the respondents' preferred option is to proceed with the proposal to establish a new all-through school in Llanfyllin.

### The Proposal

2.14 Based on the findings of the consultation, the proposal to Cabinet is as follows:

- i) To receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal outlined in 1 above
- ii) To approve the publication of a Statutory Notice proposing the following:
  - To close Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School
  - To establish a new bilingual all-through school for pupils aged 4-18 on the current sites of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School

2.15 The Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal stated the following:

'The Council is currently carrying out a review of its fair funding formula, which is expected to be implemented from the 2019/20 financial year

As the outcome of the review of the fair funding formula is currently unknown, it is not possible to estimate what the financial impact would be. However, the new school would be expected to operate within the budget allocated to it based on the new fair funding formula.'

2.16 Details of the funding allocations under the new funding formula have now been released. Based on the new funding formula, the total funding to be provided to the two schools in 2019/20 is as follows:

Llanfyllin High School	£3,267,799
Llanfyllin C.P. School	£574,821
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,842,620</b>

Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish a new all-through school in Llanfyllin, the total funding that would be provided to the school based on the new funding formula 2019/20 figures is **£3,799,939**.

Funding provided to Llanfyllin High & C.P. School	£3,842,620
Funding provided to new all-through school	£3,799,939
<b>Estimated saving to the Council</b>	<b>£42,681</b>

Therefore, it is anticipated that implementation of the proposal would result in an annual saving to the Council of approximately **£42,681**.

- 2.17 Should the Council proceed with establishing an all-through school in Llanfyllin, the school would be funded in accordance with the new funding formula, and the new school would be expected to operate within the budget allocated to it. The new school's curriculum and staffing structure would be the responsibility of the temporary governing body, and the curriculum and staffing structure set by the temporary governing body would be expected to be within the budget available to the new school.
- 2.17 In line with the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, should either school be in a deficit budget position on closure of the school, the deficit is written off.
- 2.18 It is anticipated that Statutory Notices will be published before the end of March 2019, and that a further report, summarising any objections received, will be considered by the Council's Cabinet before the end of the academic year.
- 2.19 The target would be for the new school to open in September 2020.

### **3. Options Considered / Available**

- 3.1 A number of options were considered in respect of Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School. These are outlined in the consultation document in respect of this proposal (Appendix A).
- 3.2 A number of other options were suggested during the consultation. These are outlined in the Consultation Report (Appendix B).

### **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 4.1 As outlined in section 2 above, the outcome of the consultation exercise carried out suggests that the preferred option is to

amalgamate Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School and to establish a new all-through school on the current sites of the two schools.

4.2 Therefore, the preferred choice is to proceed with amalgamating Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School, and to establish a new all-through school on the current sites of the two schools.

4.3 The reasons for this are as follows:

- To provide a more sustainable model for delivering primary and secondary Welsh-medium and English-medium education in Llanfyllin
- To enable education in Llanfyllin to be provided more efficiently
- To provide robust leadership to pupils in all phases of education
- To improve the quality of education to pupils in all phases of education
- To provide seamless progression through each key stage of education
- The outcome of the consultation carried out suggested that this is the preferred option.

## **5. Impact Assessment**

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes

5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes

A range of draft impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation documentation. These included a Single Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These draft impact assessments have been updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and are attached in Appendix D.

## **6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

6.1 Learning and Skills is one of the four priorities outlined in Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-23. Within this priority, the Plan includes a commitment to 'Improve our schools infrastructure'. In order to achieve this, 'we will implement our new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan to develop a more efficient schools network, with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve.'

## **7. Local Member(s)**

7.1 Cllr Peter Lewis (Llanfyllin): It is excellent that in the consultation nearly two thirds of people support a Llanfyllin All Through School. This will

safeguard a Welsh and English Medium Education Provision at Llanfyllin after over 10 years of uncertainty for teachers, pupils and parents. I fully support this and ask the Cabinet to do so.'

Cllr Bryn Davies (Llanwddyn): Dydy'r tystiolaeth ddim yn gryf un ffordd neu'r llall. Gall fod yn llwyddiant ac mae manteision addysgiadol i'w canfod mewn ysgolion o'r fath ble mae'r nod ydy galluogi bob plentyn fod yn ddwyieithog.

Gall yr un manteision addysgiadol ddod i'r amlwg mewn ysgolion gydol oes uniaith Saesneg, ond yn amlwg dydy ysgolion o'r fath yn cyfrannu dim at ddwyieithrwydd y disgyblion na'r ardal. Yn ysgol uwchradd Llanfyllin mae tua 80% o'r plant yn uniaith Saesneg a thua 20% yn ddwyieithog. Mae yna raniad yn yr ysgol gynradd hefyd.

Oni bai bod yna newid sylweddol yn agweddau/dealltwriaeth o'r hyn sydd ei angen i normaleiddio dwyieithrwydd, y tebygrwydd ydy bydd un corff llywodraethol ac un tim rheoli yn ceisio rhedeg pedair ysgol ar yr un safle.

Fel sydd wedi digwydd dros y degawdau fydd y blaenoriaeth ariannol llethol yn cael ei wario ar addysg sy'n sicrhau nad ydy'r plant yn datblygu eu gallu na'u hyder gyda'r iaith Gymraeg.

Mae angen blaenoriaethu addysg ddwyieithog i bawb gyda'r arbedion ariannol sylweddol uwchben yr arbrawf o redeg pedair ysgol gyda nodau gwahanol fel un ysgol.

Fe ddylai bod Fforwm Addysg Gymraeg yn bodoli i ystyried cynigion o'r fath.

Translation: Comments on the cabinet papers regarding establishing an all through school.

The evidence isn't compelling one way or another. It could be a success and there are educational advantages to be found in such schools where the aim is to enable every child to be bilingual.

The same educational advantages can emerge in English medium all through schools but obviously such schools do not contribute anything to the bilingualism of the pupils or the area.

In Llanfyllin high school about 80% of the children are English language only and about 20% bilingual. There is also a split in the primary school.

Unless there is a significant change in attitude/understanding of what is needed to normalise bilingualism, the likelihood is that there will be one governing body and one management team trying to run four schools on the one site.

As has happened over the decades, the greater part of the financial priority will be spent on education which ensures that children do not develop their ability or confidence in the Welsh language.

Bilingual education needs to be prioritised for everyone with the substantial financial savings unconnected to the experiment of running four schools with different goals as one school.

A Welsh Education Forum should exist to consider matters of this kind.

**8. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council?                      Yes

**9. Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report?      Yes/No

Have they made a comment? 'This report is of public interest and requires a news release and use of appropriate social media to publicise Cabinet's decision.'

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

10.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view

10.2 The Schools Finance Manager comments:

'The All-through school model will provide opportunity for the school to work more effectively and efficiently as one school. Finance and Schools Service will continue to work closely with the schools to ensure the financial position of both schools is maintained within the requirements of the Scheme for Financing schools. Upon implementation of the All Through School the existing balances for each school will cease, and the balance will be retained / met by the authority. The current projected balance for March 2019 is Llanfyllin CP School = £4k. Llanfyllin High School = (£93k).

The All Through School will be funded in line with the new formula as two separate schools except for the following adjustments; Remove the minimum 0.2 Management time capacity (primary formula), and the ALNCo as one school. This will deliver a saving of £42,681.'

10.3 HR:

The Schools HR Team will continue to work with Headteachers, Staff, Governors, Trade Unions and other officers of Powys County Council



to ensure that any changes that are required will be made in line with the School's adopted policies and procedures.

**11. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised? No

**12. Statutory Officers**

The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the comments of finance. It is critical that both schools manage their budget within the requirements of the scheme up to the point of the All Through School opening, to limit the impact of any remaining deficit on the Council.

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows: "I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

**13. 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>
i)	To receive the Consultation Report and the views of Full Council in respect of establishing an all-through school in Llanfyllin	To understand the issues raised during the consultation period.
ii)	To approve the publication of a statutory notice to close both Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School from the 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020, and open a new bilingual all-through school for pupils aged 4-18 on the sites currently occupied by Llanfyllin C.P. School and Llanfyllin High School from the 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020.	To provide stability and security of local provision.

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	School Organisation Policy		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>Cllr Lucy Roberts – Llandrinio</b> <b>Cllr Arwel Jones – Llandysilio</b> <b>Cllr Emyr Jones – Llanfihangel</b> <b>Cllr Peter Lewis – Llanfyllin</b> <b>Cllr Aled Davies – Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant /</b>
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	<b>Llansilin</b> <b>Cllr Gwynfor Thomas – Llansanffraid</b> <b>Cllr Bryn Davies – Llanwddyn</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Marianne Evans</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>End of March 2019</b>

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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION 5