

Appendix E – Full Council Discussion – 7th March

In accordance with the motion approved by Full Council in July 2016, a discussion on the recommendation took place at the Full Council meeting held on the 7th March.

A webcast of the meeting is available to view via the following link: https://powys.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/409897. The discussion on this matter takes place between 2.35.29 and 3.24.17.

The concerns / queries raised are outlined below, as well as a response.

Issue	Response
<p>Concern that unless there is a change in the understanding of what is needed to normalise bilingualism, there is a danger that the governing body will essentially be trying to manage 4 schools on one site.</p>	<p>This concern is noted, however the proposal is also an opportunity to develop Welsh-medium education in the area. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the Council would encourage individuals who are concerned about the impact on Welsh-medium education to engage with the new school in order to encourage the further development of Welsh-medium education in the school.</p> <p>The Council and the Welsh Government's intention is that all schools develop along the Welsh language continuum, therefore the expectation is that all schools, in particular dual stream schools, would continue to develop their Welsh language provision in order to provide the best possible opportunities to pupils. Funding will be provided to support this provision in accordance with the new funding formula.</p> <p>In addition, as outlined on page 33 of the Consultation Document:</p> <p>'It is also possible that implementation of the proposal could have a positive impact on the Welsh language ethos in the secondary sector in Llanfyllin as a result of amalgamating with a primary school that has a higher percentage of Welsh-medium pupils than Llanfyllin High School.'</p>
<p>Concern that priority is being given to this development, which wasn't even on the agenda a couple of years ago, whilst developing Welsh-medium education has been on the agenda for years, but there has been very little development.</p>	<p>The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan outlines the actions that are being taken by the authority to develop Welsh-medium education. It is acknowledged that there needs to be more pace and progress to develop Welsh-medium education in the county.</p>
<p>A review of sixth forms is due to start – how can this proposal go through now when there could be</p>	<p>The current proposal is to establish an all-through school for pupils aged 4-18 in Llanfyllin, which would continue to provide access to sixth form provision in Llanfyllin.</p>

<p>proposals under way for the sixth forms?</p>	<p>However, a key priority of the Council's School Organisation Delivery Plan is to 'Develop a new county-wide sixth form delivery model'.</p> <p>Should any changes to sixth form provision across Powys be proposed in the future which would affect the provision in Llanfyllin, these would be subject to a separate consultation exercise. This current proposal does not mean that further changes cannot happen.</p>
<p>The Council promised a review of high schools in the North – the proposal should come after a review of high schools has taken place</p>	<p>In March 2018, Cabinet approved a new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan. A key priority within the Policy is 'secondary schools to become either all through schools or dual-sited schools'.</p> <p>One of the first actions in the Delivery Plan is to review secondary provision in North Powys therefore officers have been in discussions with North Powys secondary schools, to explore the possibility of meeting the key priority outlined above.</p> <p>As a result, the following developments are being progressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Llanfyllin All Through School – consultation completed - Llanidloes High School and Llanidloes CP School – federation agreed - Initial discussions taking place with Llanfair Caereinion schools about the possibility of establishing an 'all through school.' <p>Newtown High School is already a dual-sited school and Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is already an 'all through school'</p> <p>Whilst this approach appears to take a piecemeal approach, it is part of a bigger plan and can deliver more rapid results than a 'big-bang' approach.</p>
<p>The portfolio holder for education is unwilling to engage in discussion on transformation.</p>	<p>The School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan places an emphasis on developing proposals for change from the ground up, through early engagement with school communities. The Portfolio Holder for Education is supportive of this approach.</p>
<p>What has been the cost of the consultation to date?</p>	<p>The cost of the consultation to date has been minimal – the cost of staff that have been facilitating the process is included within core staffing costs. The only additional cost was printing costs and transport costs for staff attending consultation meetings / engagement sessions in Llanfyllin.</p>
<p>What is the next stage in terms of cost?</p>	<p>Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the process, the next stage would be to publish Statutory Notices, and a 28 days Objection Period would follow. A further report</p>

	<p>outlining any Objections received would be presented to Cabinet in due course, and Cabinet would be asked to make a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal. Again, this work would be carried out by core staff, therefore the additional cost would be minimal.</p> <p>Should any similar consultation exercises be carried out in the future, the expectation is that these would also be carried out by core staff, therefore the additional cost to the Council would be minimal.</p>
<p>Would like to see a business case – there is some financial information here, would like more information on this.</p>	<p>Information about the proposal, including the case for change and financial implications, is all included within the Consultation Document. Updated information, to reflect the new Funding Formula, is provided in the Cabinet Paper. This suggests that implementation of the proposal would result in an annual saving to the Council of £42,681.</p>
<p>The Portfolio Holder for Education needs to come forward with papers and evidence to back up her claim that transformation of schools would increase transport costs.</p>	<p>Information about the cost of transport is included whenever a school reorganisation proposal is considered.</p>