

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**CABINET EXECUTIVE
17th September 2019**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander
Portfolio Holder for Education and the Welsh
Language

SUBJECT: Review of Sixth Form Provision 2019

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the findings of the authority's review of sixth form provision and to make recommendations about the next steps.
- 1.2 The report is supported by the following appendix
- **Appendix A** – Review of Sixth Form Provision – Stage 1 2019
 - **Appendix B** – Learner Survey 2019
 - **Appendix C** – Learning and Skills Committee Observations

2. Proposal

Background

- 2.1 In March 2018, Cabinet approved a new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan. One of the priorities within the Delivery Plan is 'to develop a sustainable model of post-16'. In order to do this, the authority has carried out a Stage 1 review of the current system.
- 2.2 The review has been undertaken by officers within the authority, but discussions have also taken place with Powys secondary headteachers and other forums.
- 2.3 A survey of young people's views was carried out as part of this review.

3. Options Considered / Available

N/A

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 To consider the findings of the review and agree recommendation to move to Stage 2 of the Review.

5. **Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

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 N/A

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

Have they made a comment? 'The report is of public interest and requires the use of pro-active news release and social media to publicise the recommendation.'

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: 'Finance support the short term solutions and the financing of these, alongside the redistribution of the current grant funding in a fairer and more equitable manner, which align the funding formula principles. The impact on individual schools will need to be considered in order to ensure any funding changes are managed appropriately.
- Finance will support phase 2 in respect of the development of a business case and any modelling required.'
- 10.4 HR: The Schools HR Team will continue to work with headteachers, employees, Governors and trade union representatives to ensure that

Powys County Council's policies and procedures are followed in consulting upon and implementing proposed changes.

11. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? Yes, 8th July 2019. (Report attached as Appendix C)

12. Statutory Officers

12.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows: "I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

12.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the comment of the Schools Finance Manager.

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.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>i) To receive Stage 1 of the Review of Sixth Form Provision</p>	<p>To understand the issues raised during the consultation period.</p>
<p>ii) To approve the recommendations of the Review as follows:</p> <p>a) That the short term solutions outlined in section 5.1 of Appendix A are fully supported and implemented with immediate effect</p> <p>b) That the authority proceeds to Stage 2 of the review – to develop a detailed business case that considers the cost-benefit implication and impact of structural change as outlined in section 5.2 of Appendix A.</p> <p>c) That the authority carries out further engagement, focussed on the learners, in</p>	<p>To improve the sustainability of the current sixth form system</p> <p>To have a detailed cost-benefit appraisal of the impact of structural change in Powys sixth forms.</p> <p>To ensure that the views of learners are considered when determining how to proceed.</p>

order to inform the business case.	
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Relevant Policy (ies):	School Organisation Policy		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	End of July 2019

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: