

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris  
Leader**

**REPORT TITLE: Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon – Proposal Paper**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1. This report requests Cabinet approval to commence the statutory process on the following proposal, in order to move Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon along the language continuum:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon from bilingual (dual-stream) to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

1.2. The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Options Appraisal  
Appendix B – Impact Assessment

**2. Background**

**Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys**

2.1. On the 14th April 2020, a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved by the Leader via a delegated decision.

2.2. The Strategy was developed following extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders during two separate periods between October 2019 and March 2020.

2.3. The Strategy sets out a new vision for education in Powys, which is as follows:

*‘All children and young people in Powys will experience a high quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.’*

2.3 The Strategy also sets out a number of guiding principles which will underpin the transformation of education in Powys. These are as follows:

- *A world class rural education system that has learner entitlement at its core*
- *Schools that are fully inclusive, with a culture of deep collaboration in order to improve learner outcomes and experience*
- *A broad choice and high quality of provision for 14 – 19 year old learners, that includes both academic and vocational provision, meeting the needs of all learners, communities and the Powys economy*
- *Welsh-medium provision that is accessible and provides a full curriculum in Welsh from Meithrin to age 19 and beyond Provision for learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) that is accessible as near to home as is practicably possible, with the appropriate specialist teaching, support and facilities that enables every learner to meet their potential*
- *A digitally-rich schools sector that enables all learners and staff to enhance their teaching and learning experience*
- *Community-focused schools that are the central point for multi-agency services to support children, young people, families and the community*
- *Early years provision that is designed to meet the needs of all children, mindful of their particular circumstances, language requirements or any special or additional learning needs*
- *Financially and environmentally sustainable schools*
- *The highest priority is given to staff wellbeing and professional development*

2.4 The new Strategy sets out a number of Strategic Aims and Objectives, to shape the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. One of these Aims is to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', and a commitment 'to move schools along the language continuum.'

### **3. The Case for Change**

#### **WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN YSGOL DYFFRYN TRANNON**

The number of English-medium pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon has decreased over recent years. Current pupil numbers at the school are as follows:

	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>
Welsh-medium	11	15	13	16	12	21	9	97

English-medium	0	0	1	1	4	2	4	12
Total	11	15	14	17	16	23	13	109

The very low number of English-medium pupils at the school causes a challenge to the school in providing appropriate provision for these learners. Pupils are taught in small classes, with a high number of year groups in each class.

The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes an aim to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', as well as an objective to 'move schools along the language continuum'.

In order to meet these aims and objectives, the Council is keen to explore options to change Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon's language category in order to address the small number of pupils accessing English-medium provision at the school. This would ensure that all pupils attending the school have the opportunity to become fluent in Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aspiration to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

#### **4. Information about Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon**

The following is a summary of key data relating to the school:

	<b>School Type</b>	<b>Language Category</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon</b>	Community Primary School  School building owned by Powys County Council	Dual Stream	20

#### **Pupil Numbers**

##### **i) Current pupil numbers<sup>1</sup>**

	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>
Welsh-medium	11	15	13	16	12	21	9	97
English-medium	0	0	1	1	4	2	4	12

<sup>1</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

Total	11	15	14	17	16	23	13	109
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**ii) Historical pupil numbers<sup>2</sup>**

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon</b>	124	118	122	138	121	125	129

**iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>3</sup>**

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon</b>	116	111	101	99	94

**iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>4</sup>**

	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon</b>	119	106	N/A	N/A

**Building Capacity and Condition**

**i) Capacity**

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity:

	Current Capacity <sup>5</sup>	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon</b>	170	109 (64.1%)	61 (35.9%)

**ii) Building condition**

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school.

<sup>2</sup> PLASC

<sup>3</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates

<sup>4</sup> Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school – November 2020

<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon	B Good	B Good	Yes

### **Standards of Education**

#### **i) Estyn**

	Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	February 2017
<b>Standards</b>	Adequate
<b>Well Being</b>	Good
<b>Learning Experiences</b>	Adequate
<b>Teaching</b>	Good
<b>Care, Support and Guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning Environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Good
<b>Improving Quality</b>	Adequate
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Good
<b>Resource Management</b>	Adequate
<b>Outcome</b>	The school will produce an action plan that shows how it will address the recommendations. Estyn will review the school's progress.

#### **ii) School Categorisation<sup>6</sup>**

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
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<sup>6</sup> 2019

Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon	N/A	D	Red
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### **Financial information**

#### **i) Cost per pupil<sup>7</sup> (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)**

	<b>Budget share per school</b>	<b>Budget share per pupil</b>	<b>Notional SEN budget</b>	<b>Non ISB funds devolved to the school</b>
Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon	£549,0000	£4,650	£24,000	£5,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

### **5. Statutory Process for School Organisation Proposals**

5.1 The process for school organisation proposals is set out by the Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code (2018). The process is summarised below:

#### **i) Consultation**

Consultation would be carried out with stakeholders as required by the Code. This includes consultation with the pupils at both schools, to ensure that their views are taken into account, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Feedback from the consultation would be collated and summarised, and a report would be presented to the Cabinet. Cabinet will consider the report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal or to not proceed with the proposal.

If Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

#### **ii) Statutory Notice**

If Cabinet decides to proceed, a Statutory Notice would be published, which would give a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

<sup>7</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

If there were objections, the authority would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the authority's response to them. A further report would be presented to the Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

iii) Implementation

If Cabinet approves the proposal, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the Statutory Notice or any subsequently modified date.

6. Advice

6.1 Officers have carried out an options appraisal on the language category of Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon. This is attached to this report as Appendix A.

6.2 The options appraisal includes the following:

- Consideration of key data relating to the school
- Identification of options
- SWOT analysis of each option
- Assessment of each option against a number of critical success factors
- Identification of an emerging preferred option
- Further consideration of the emerging preferred option against factors listed in the School Organisation Code (2018) as factors to be taken into account when developing school organisation proposals.

6.3 Based on the options appraisal carried out and further consideration against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code, the preferred option is as follows:

**Change Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon's language category to Welsh-medium**

6.4 The reasons for this are:

- Would enable the school to operate more efficiently as a single stream school
- All pupils at the school would study through the medium of Welsh and would develop bilingual skills
- Potential to increase the number of pupils studying through the medium of Welsh
- More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh

- Improvement in pupils' Welsh language skills through improved Welsh ethos
- Would ensure that all pupils would be taught in appropriately sized year groups
- Potential financial saving to the authority
- Meets all of the Critical Success Factors

6.5 It is therefore advised that Cabinet approves a recommendation to commence the statutory process on the following proposal:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon from bilingual (dual-stream) to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

6.6 Should the recommendation to commence the statutory process be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in February 2021.

6.7 It must also be noted that implementation of this proposal does not preclude that school from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

## **7. Resource Implications**

7.1 The amount of funding provided to schools is driven by the funding formula. Any change to the formula funding provided will impact on the Council's revenue budget. Based on the current formula, the formula funding requirement will reduce as a result of these proposals and it is estimated that changing the school's language category would eventually result in annual revenue savings to the Council of £122k per annum, once the school is fully single-stream. There would be no saving in the first year, and although there would be opportunities for savings as the phasing takes place, this would be dependent on pupil numbers.

7.2 The Council will continue to work with the school to ensure that the school budget complies with the scheme for financing schools and is within the funding envelope available.

7.3 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report and can support the recommendation.

## **8. Legal implications**

8.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.



- 8.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”.

**9. Comment from local member(s)**

- 9.1 No comments received.

**10. Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 10.1 An initial impact assessment in respect of the recommendation is attached. The impact assessment considers the proposal’s impact on the Welsh Government’s well-being goals, as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

- 10.2 The summary of the impact assessment is as follows:

The draft impact assessment indicates that the impact of the proposal is positive overall. The proposal would eventually provide a more sustainable model for delivering education in Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, ensuring that all pupils are fully bilingual in Welsh and English when they leave the school. The proposal is to change the school’s language category over time, which would minimise the impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, but would also ensure that, eventually, all pupils would be taught through the medium of Welsh, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. This would lead to enhanced opportunities to promote the Welsh language within the school and within the community and would provide those pupils with bilingual skills to take into the workplace.

- 10.3 Should Cabinet approve the commencement of the statutory process in respect of the recommendation, the impact assessment would be updated throughout the process, to take account of feedback received.

**11. Recommendation**

- 11.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process on the following proposal in order to move Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon along the language continuum:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon from bilingual (dual-stream) to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

Contact Officer:	Marianne Evans
Tel:	01597 826155
Email:	Marianne.evans@powys.gov.uk

Head of Service: Emma Palmer – Head of Transformation & Communications  
Lynette Lovell – Interim Chief Education Officer

Corporate Director: Dr Caroline Turner

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION X