

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Pete Roberts  
Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys

**REPORT TITLE:** Establishing a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the following:

- To make a regulated alteration to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth from September 2023.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet members of the Objections received during the statutory Objection Period, and to determine whether or not to implement the proposal.

1.3 The report is supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix A** – Statutory Notice
- **Appendix B** – Objection Report
- **Appendix C** – Updated Integrated Impact Assessment
- **Appendix D** – Updated Equalities, Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessments

**2. Background**

**Ysgol y Cribarth**

2.1 Ysgol y Cribarth is located in Aber-craf, at the north of the Ystradgynlais catchment.

2.2 It opened in a new building in 2012 following the reorganisation of all schools in the Ystradgynlais catchment. At this time, the 10 schools in the catchment were merged to create 4 new schools. 3 English-medium schools were established – Ysgol y Cribarth, Ysgol Bro Tawe and Ysgol Golwg y Cwm, and one Welsh-medium school was established to serve the catchment area – Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr.

2.3 The school currently operates as a single stream English-medium school, however since September 2021, the school has also operated a Welsh-medium foundation phase class on a pilot basis, as part of a pilot scheme that was supported by Powys County Council. This class has continued to operate in the 2022/23 academic year. There are currently 20 pupils in the Welsh-medium class.

2.4 Current pupil numbers at the school are as follows<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	8	6	5	0	0	0	0	19
English-medium	6	12	20	19	14	15	20	106
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>125</b>

2.5 Following the successful introduction of the Welsh-medium pilot class at the school, an Options Appraisal paper regarding the school's future language category was considered by Cabinet on the 13th December 2022, which identified a preferred option to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at the school.

2.6 The formal establishment of a Welsh-medium stream at the school would be in line with the Strategic Aim set out in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to '*improve Welsh-medium provision across all key stages,*' and the Strategic Objective to '*Move schools along the language continuum*'.

2.7 Following consideration of the Options Appraisal, Cabinet agreed to carry out consultation on the following proposal:

- To make a regulated alteration to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth from September 2023.

### **The Consultation Period**

2.8 Consultation on the proposal to establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and ended on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

2.9 A Consultation Report listing the issues raised during the consultation and the Council's response to them was published. This was considered by Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 14/06/23

- 2.10 At the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth through the publication of a Statutory Notice.

### **Statutory Notice**

- 2.11 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the following:

*‘To make a regulated alteration to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth, School Road, Abercraf, SA9 1XD.*

*This will be introduced on a phased basis from 1st September 2023, building on the Welsh-medium pilot class which currently operates at the school. ‘*

- 2.12 The Statutory Notice was published on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 for a period of 28 days, in accordance with the guidance within the School Organisation Code (2018). A copy of the Statutory Notice is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.13 The objection period ended on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **Objections**

- 2.14 1 objection was received during the statutory objection period. This is summarised in the Objection Report which is attached as Appendix B, along with the Council’s response to the issues raised.

## **3 Advice**

- 3.1 Having considered the objection received, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with implementation of the proposal to establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth, as outlined in the Statutory Notice (Appendix A).
- 3.2 The reasons for this are outlined below:
- Would provide continuity for pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school
  - Would provide an additional opportunity for pupils in the catchment to access Welsh-medium provision
  - Welsh-medium provision would be more accessible to pupils living in the north of the catchment
  - Pupils at the school would have the opportunity to study through the medium of Welsh and develop full bilingual skills, if they so wished
  - Potential to increase the number of pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in the locality and in Powys

- Potential to increase the pupil numbers at the school
- Would provide continued access to English-medium provision at the school alongside Welsh-medium provision
- Positive impact on the school's Welsh ethos, which could provide more opportunities for English-medium pupils
- Supports the aim in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education to support schools to move along the language continuum
- Would contribute towards the targets in the Council's WESP
- Would contribute towards the Welsh Government's 2050 target of 1m Welsh speakers

3.3 The target would be to implement the change on a phased basis as outlined in the Statutory Notice, starting in September 2023.

3.4 It must be noted that proceeding with the proposal to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at the school does not preclude that school from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

4.1 The foundation phase pilot is currently supported by Transformation funding of £95,000 in 2022-23 and £40,000 in 2023-24 (for the summer term only) which would cease if the Welsh medium stream is formally established. If this is agreed, the school's formula-led delegated funding would increase by approximately £26,500 in 2023-24 (for the 7 months from September 2023 to March 2024) and by a further £37,300 in 2024-25. As another year group joins the Welsh stream in September 2024, formula funding will increase by approximately £26,600 in addition.

4.2 In the short-term, initial modelling suggests that the formula-led delegated funding for the school would be approximately £90,000 more per annum than if the school remained a single-medium school. In the medium to long term the additional funding required for transitioning to a dual stream school then falls to £60,000 more per annum than the funding required for a single-medium school.

4.3 These additional costs would be funded by savings realised as part of the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 that formed part of the 2023-24 approved budget. It should be noted that these are estimated costs based on projected pupil numbers for future years. The actual costs of implementation will depend on the actual pupil numbers attending the school at the time of implementation.

4.4 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the report and the funding position as set out in the paragraphs above and can support the recommendation.

## **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view
- 5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) ; I note the legal comment and support the recommendations.”

## **6. Comment from local member(s)**

- 6.1 No comments received.

## **7. Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 An initial impact assessment was considered by Cabinet on the 13th December 2022.
- 7.2 In addition, a range of draft impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation documentation. These included an Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.
- 7.2 The draft impact assessments were updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period and the updated impact assessments were considered by Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 when considering whether or not to proceed with the publication of a statutory notice.
- 7.3 These have been further updated following the objection period, and the updated versions are attached as Appendix C and D.

## **8. Recommendation**

- To receive the Objection Report in respect of formally establishing a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth.
- To approve the proposal to make a regulated alteration to formally establish a Welsh-medium stream at Ysgol y Cribarth from September 2023.

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