



## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and considered the following documents:

Schools Transformation – Cabinet Paper: Ysgol Bro Caereinion

- Appendix A – Option appraisal Ysgol Bro Caereinion Language
- Appendix B – Ysgol Bro Caereinion Impact Assessment

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys and Finance and Corporate Transformation and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed:
  - That the Governing Body were in favour of the move along the Welsh Medium continuum.
- The Committee requested that:
  - The Portfolio Holder arrange to meet with the Governing Body in the near future.
  - The intake for the Secondary phase be extended from 2025 to 2027, to allow for the progression of English medium students both in Ysgol Bro Caereinion and feeder schools. This would align with the governing body request to allow more time for learners and staff to adjust along the Welsh Medium continuum.
  - Clarity be provided whether the plan was for Ysgol Rhiw Bechan to move along the Welsh language continuum.
  - Clarity for those feeder schools where pupils are taught through the medium of English, which high school would they receive free transport to.
  - An audit be undertaken of the number of lessons and resources provided through the medium of Welsh in dual stream schools. Parents also to be informed when timetables are formulated.
  - Information be provided to Scrutiny Committee of the number of learners from Dafydd Llwyd that cease their education through the medium of Welsh and it what year i.e., Yr.7, Yr. 9, Yr. 12.
  - The catchment secondary school for Dafydd Llwyd be reviewed as Bro Caereinion would be the only Welsh Medium High School in Northeast Powys.
  - The Local Authority review and explore the possibility of having central contracts for Welsh Medium teachers, allowing for further utilisation of technology and remote teaching techniques, as vitally important that the Welsh Medium education provision in Powys is improved dramatically.
- The Committee remained unconvinced about:

- The scheduled commencement of the TROCHI support in September 2025, should be implemented as soon as possible, to allow every learner and staff member to be immersed in the language at the earliest opportunity.
  - The Local Authority's ability to sustain and maintain 13 high school sites across Powys.
  - That the necessary Officer and financial support would be implemented in a timely manner to support this unique journey for North Powys and Bro Caereinion.
- The Committee expressed concern:
    - That there was no capital expenditure information available to Committee, to attract learners, schools have to be in receipt of capital investment, for maintenance and building requirements to attain and sustain flagship status.
    - Of the sustainability of Bro Caereinion if Llanfyllin and Llanidloes develop their offer of Welsh Medium Education in the future.
    - The school transport policy was not in line with the proposal documents and catchment area maps. There has to be consistency and equity within our policy for all Powys schools.

Scrutiny's Recommendations to Cabinet are that:	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1. The scheduled commencement of the TROCHI support in September 2025, should be implemented as soon as possible, to allow every learner and staff member to be immersed in the Welsh language at the earliest opportunity.			
2. The school transport policy was not in line with the transformation documents and catchment area. There has to be consistency and equity within our policy for all			

Powys schools			
<p>3. There was no capital expenditure information available to the Committee. To attract learners, schools have to be in receipt of capital investment, for maintenance and building requirements to attain and sustain flagship status.</p>			
<p>4. That the necessary support would be implemented in a timely manner to support this unique journey for North Powys and Bro Caereinion.</p>			
<p>5. The sustainability of Bro Caereinion, if Llanfyllin and Llanidloes develop their offer of Welsh Medium Education in the future, be secured.</p>			
<p>6. The catchment secondary school for Dafydd Llwyd be reviewed as Bro Caereinion would be the only Welsh Medium High School in Northeast Powys.</p>			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or

at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e., by 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on:

County Councillors:

G. Thomas (Chair), G.D. Jones (Vice Chair), D. Bebb, A W Davies, Bryn Davies, D. Meredith, S McNicholas, L. Roberts,

Co-Opted Members:

K. Chedzoy, S. Davies, M. Evitts.