

Document Pack



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County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2018

- AMENDED AGENDA -

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, 3 SPILMAN STREET, CARMARTHEN** AT **2.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 14TH MAY, 2018** FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Mark James CBE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

Democratic Officer:	Michelle Evans Thomas
Telephone (Direct Line):	01267 224470
E-Mail:	MEEvansThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ref:	AD016-001

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**14 COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS AND 3
ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS**

PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 7 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Liam Bowen |
| 2. | Councillor | Kim Broom |
| 3. | Councillor | Betsan Jones |
| 4. | Councillor | Jean Lewis |
| 5. | Councillor | Darren Price [Chair] |
| 6. | Councillor | Emlyn Schiavone |
| 7. | Councillor | Dorian Williams |

LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|---------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Dot Jones |
| 2. | Councillor | Gary Jones |
| 3. | Councillor | Shahana Najmi |
| 4. | Councillor | Bill Thomas |

INDEPENDENT GROUP – 2 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Ieuan Wyn Davies |
| 2. | Councillor | Edward Thomas [Vice-Chair] |

UNAFFILIATED 1 MEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 1. | Councillor | John Jenkins |
|----|------------|--------------|

NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs V. Kenny | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Mrs J. Voyle Williams | Church in Wales Representative |

ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)

Term of office expires on the 31/03/2020

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mrs M. Jones | Area 1 – Dinefwr |
| 2. | Mrs G. Cornock-Evans | Area 2 – Carmarthen |
| 3. | Mr J. Davies | Area 3 - Llanelli |

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.
3. DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS.
4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED).
5. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF GORSLAS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 110 TO 210. 5 - 74
6. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE NURSERY PROVISION AT YSGOL PARC Y TYWYN BY INCREASING ITS AGE RANGE FROM 4-11 TO 3-11. 75 - 138
7. TASK AND FINISH REVIEW 2015/16 - ACTION PLAN MONITORING - MAY 2018. 139 - 150
8. TIC PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS UPDATE. 151 - 154

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF GORSLAS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 110 TO 210

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice, the ECS Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Reasons:

- To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.
- To formulate views for submission to Executive Board / County Council for consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board/County Council for decision: YES

Executive Board – 23rd May 2018; County Council – 13th June 2018

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans</p> <p>Report Author: Simon Davies</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Director of Education & Children's Services</p> <p>Modernisation Services Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246522 EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF GORSLAS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 110 TO 210

Background

Gorslas Primary School is a Welsh medium primary school located in the centre of the village of Gorslas, near Cross Hands. The school has a capacity for 110 pupils between the ages of 4-11 years old. The school was established in the 1920's and caters for pupils within the area of Gorslas and the surrounding areas. Over the last few years, the demand for Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire has been increasing and this is also true for pupil numbers at the school, where the school is currently over capacity **(further details on the capacity issues are documented within the attached Consultation Document).**

A review of the problems, difficulties and service gaps associated with the existing arrangements at Gorslas Primary school has clearly established that:

- There is a misalignment between the capacity of the school and the demand for Welsh medium education places.
- The existing school building does not meet Welsh Government standards in terms of the facilities it offers and the area space required.
- The site and buildings are insufficient in meeting the needs of the wider community.
- Staff and pupils have to transfer between the mobile classrooms and the main school building.
- There is insufficient space, indoor and outdoor, to deliver and enhance the Foundation Phase curriculum and play opportunities for all learners.
- Access/car parking at the school is limited and causes disruption at school drop off/pick up times.

On 20th June 2016, the Executive Board approved a revised Modernising Education Programme and 21st Century Schools Band A Programme and within Carmarthenshire County Council's 21st Century Schools Band A funding envelope of £86.7m a scheme is being developed to provide Gorslas Primary School with a new school building which will address the issues noted above.

It is proposed that the capacity of the new school will be 210, which will allow the school to accommodate current and future demand for Welsh medium education places. The new school building will also provide space to accommodate a 30 place external nursery and facilities suitable for teaching and learning in the 21st Century. The scheme is currently in development and it is proposed that the new school building will be ready for occupation by 1st September 2019.

As it is proposed to increase the capacity of the school by more than 25% of its current capacity (110), a statutory process must be followed in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013 to formalise this arrangement.

Statutory Proposal

Due to the increase in demand for Welsh medium education places, the Local Authority propose to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 from 1st September 2019 when occupation at the new school building is proposed.

The Process

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 6th November 2017 to 17th December 2017. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report and were presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive Board for consideration and determination on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice.

On the 26th February 2018, approval was granted by the Executive Board for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice (attached) was published on 5th March 2018. The notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council which ended on the 1st April 2018. No objections were received in response to the notice therefore there is no Objection Report.

The full suite of documents (attached) which consists of: Consultation Document, Consultation Report and the Statutory Notice will be presented to the Executive Board and ultimately will be presented to the County Council for their determination.

This provides the ECS Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the County Council whether or not to implement the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Should the County Council agree to implement the proposal, the capacity of Gorslas Primary School will be increased from 110 to 210 from 1st September 2019 when occupation at the new school building is proposed.

Recommendation

Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice, that the ECS Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

**YES: Consultation Document
Consultation Report
Statutory Notice**

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: G. Morgans Director of Education & Children's Services
S. Davies Modernisation Services Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017, Corporate Strategy and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.

2. Legal

Appropriate consultation will need to be initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.

3. Finance

Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

4. ICT

None

5. Risk Management Issues

Continuing with the current capacity of the school would not reflect the present position and would not address the capacity issues experienced. The statutory consultation is required to formalise the arrangements. The proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 may impact on the demand for school places within the area. The situation will be monitored as part of the Schools Admission Process and ongoing data forecasting and analysis through the Authority's Modernising Education Programme.

6. Physical Assets

As a result of the scheme to provide Gorslas Primary School with a new school building, the school will re-locate to a new building with a capacity of 210 school places.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **G. Morgans** **Director of Education & Children's Services**
 S. Davies **Modernisation Services Manager**

1. Scrutiny Committee – The Scrutiny Committee were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.

2. Local Member(s) – Cllrs. Darren Price and Aled Vaughan Owen were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period. No formal objections were received to the statutory notice.

3. Community / Town Council – Gorslas Community Council were formally notified of the Statutory notice period. No formal objections were received to the statutory notice.

Observations were received from Gorslas Community Council during the formal consultation period – the observations are included within the attached Consultation Report.

4. Relevant Partners – All relevant partners were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Staff side representatives and other organisations were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Stage 2 Approval – Permission to Notice	http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s18974/Summary.pdf
Stage 1 Approval – Permission to Consult	http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s16462/SUMMARY.pdf
Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014- 2017	http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en
MEP Biennial Review	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk Executive Board 20 th June 2016
21 st Century Schools Website	www.21stcenturyschools.org

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of

Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210

Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to achieve their full educational potential

6 November 2017

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services



EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani
www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

YOUR COUNCIL doitonline
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Modernisation Services Section

Simon Davies, Modernisation Services Manager

**If you require this information in large print, Braille or on
audiotape please contact the Department for Education
& Children**

Telephone: 01267 246618

E-mail: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Foreword

As part of its statutory obligation to keep the number and type of school places under review, the County Council has adopted a wide-ranging programme designed to improve school buildings and enhance opportunities for learning. The strategy reflects the vision and policies established by the County Council which embraces the requirement to deliver services, to clear standards – covering both cost and quality – by the most economic and effective means. In our drive to continually improve on the services made available to all learners, we must maximise the finite resources available to the Council, and continue to work in partnership with all those who have a contribution to make to the process of learning and the well-being of both children and their families. Schools of the future will need to serve as a focus for a wide range of services dedicated to serving the needs of the community through a joined up approach.

Carmarthenshire is blessed with many very able teachers but the continuing changes to the curriculum places a heavy demand on their skills to meet the wide ranging demands of all children. Although the processes of learning, and skills of teaching, are extremely important, deep subject knowledge on the part of the teacher is essential if learners with their various gifts in different areas are to discover and develop their talents to the full.

Schools designed to meet current demands are expected to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through high quality and inspirational teaching. In the planning of new provision it will be important to ensure that our schools are properly equipped to enhance opportunities for social inclusion, sustainable development, equal opportunities and bilingualism. In practical terms we need to ensure that provision reflects the changing patterns of population, with schools based in the right location with accommodation and facilities fit to serve the needs of all learners in the twenty first century.

Consultation will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties. The information set out in this document is intended to clarify the proposals for your school and support the consultation process.



Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

Glossary of Abbreviations

ALN	Additional Learning Needs
AN	Admission number
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CP	Community Primary
DS	Dual Stream
EM	English medium
Estyn	Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
LA	Local Authority
MCSW	Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales
MEP	Modernising Education Programme
NOR	Number on Roll
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Census Data
PT	Part time
WESP	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
WG	Welsh Government
WM	Welsh medium

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1. Introduction

The County Council has its legal responsibility to review the number and type of school it has in the area and whether or not it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

As part of this process the Council has published its vision on how it sees the future for all of the primary schools in the County and this includes consulting on the future shape of education in the Gorslas area. The proposals for change included in this document are in line with that long term objective.

This document seeks to stimulate the process of consultation by explaining the Authority's preferred option for the future provision of primary education for the pupils of the Gorslas area. The document offers an opportunity for consultees to put forward any comments, observations or alternative proposals they wish to be considered.

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013) and will involve identified interested parties, including school governors, school staff, parents and pupils.

It is intended that the formal changes be implemented from September 2019 when occupation is proposed at the new building.

The main purpose of this document is to provide information and to gather the views of identified interested parties. You may wish to make use of the attached response pro-forma included in **Appendix E** on the last page of this document or by e-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk for any response.

2. Context – Present Arrangements (Status Quo)

2.1 Background

Gorslas Primary School is a Welsh medium primary school located in the centre of the village of Gorslas, near Cross Hands. The school has a capacity for 110 pupils between the ages of 4-11 years old. Gorslas Primary School was established in the 1920's and caters for pupils within the area of Gorslas and the surrounding areas. Over the last few years, the demand for Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire has been increasing and this is also true for pupil numbers at the school, where the school is currently over capacity.

A review of the problems, difficulties and service gaps associated with the existing arrangements at Gorslas Primary school has clearly established that:

- There is a misalignment between the capacity of the school and the demand for Welsh medium education places.
- The existing school building does not meet Carmarthenshire's standards in terms of the facilities it offers and the area space required.
- The site and buildings are insufficient in meeting the needs of the wider community.
- Staff and pupils have to transfer between the mobile classrooms and the main school building.
- There is insufficient space, indoor and outdoor, to deliver and enhance the Foundation Phase curriculum and play opportunities for all learners.
- Access/car parking at the school is limited and causes disruption at school drop off/pick up times.

As a result, it is the Local Authority's intention to provide Gorslas Primary School with a new school building suitable for teaching and learning in the 21st Century with space to accommodate an external nursery. In relation to the new school building, the proposal is to increase the capacity of the school from 110 to 210 when the new school building is ready for occupation. The proposal at Gorslas is a key element of the Modernising Education Programme in that it will deliver a key element of the future strategic provision for future primary education in the Gorslas area.

2.2 Schools which may be affected by this proposal

The catchment area of Gorslas Primary School is surrounded by the following Community Primary Schools:

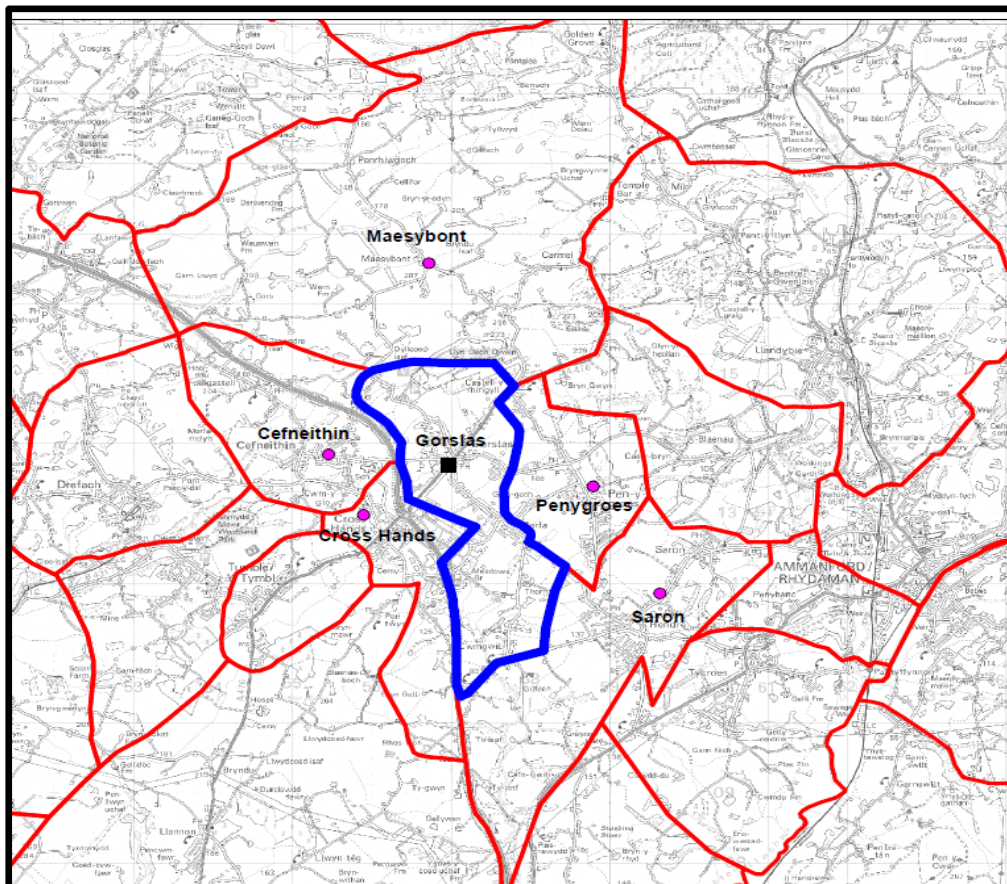
Maesybont Primary School, Maesybont, Llanelli, SA14 7SU
Cefneithin Primary School, Cefneithin, Llanelli. SA14 7DE
Cross Hands Primary School, Cross Hands, Llanelli, SA14 6SU
Saron Primary School, Saron, Ammanford, SA18 3LH
Penygroes Primary School, Penygroes, Llanelli, SA14 7NT

2.3 General School Information

Name of School	Type of School	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity	NOR – January 2017 PLASC	Nursery age pupils – January 2017 PLASC	Total Head Count - January 2017 PLASC	Age Range
Gorslas	Community Primary	WM	13	110	107	15	122	4-11
Maesybont	Community Primary	WM	5	44	22	1	23	4-11
Cefneithin	Community Primary	WM	12	97	69	7	76	4-11
Cross Hands	Community Primary	WM	19	168	118	26	144	3-11
Saron	Community Primary	WM	30	240	208	21	229	4-11
Penygroes	Community Primary	WM	23	186	171	10	181	4-11

WM – Welsh Medium

The following diagram outlines the catchment areas of schools surrounding Gorslas Primary School's catchment area.



2.4 Pupil Numbers

The table below shows the pupil numbers for Gorslas Primary School for January 2017 and the previous four years:

Gorslas Primary School	3yrs (PT)	3yrs	4yrs (PT)	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs	NOR	Nursery Age Pupils	Total Head Count
Jan-17	0	15	0	15	14	16	14	23	13	12	107	15	122
Jan-16	0	3	0	14	16	12	21	13	14	18	108	3	111
Jan-15	0	6	0	15	10	22	13	14	19	13	106	6	112
Jan-14	0	6	0	10	22	13	14	20	13	13	105	6	111
Jan-13	0	5	0	23	15	14	20	13	13	12	110	5	115

2.5 Pupil Projections

The following table shows the actual pupil total and the pupil projections for the next five years for Gorslas Primary School.

	Actual (Total Head Count) Jan 2017	Projected Pupil Total (Total Head Count)				
		Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Jan 2022
Gorslas Primary School	122	127	129	122	124	124

2.6 Pupil Capacity Information

The methodology for the calculation of school capacities was changed in 2006 following the implementation of new Welsh Government guidelines "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales" (MCSW) which was implemented by the Authority in 2008. Prior to 2008, the More Open Enrolment methodology was used. Spare places numbers for Gorslas Primary School are shown in the following table.

	MSCW Capacity				
	Jan-17	Jan-16	Jan-15	Jan-14	Jan-13
Gorslas Primary School Capacity	97	95	104	104	104
Pupil Numbers (NOR)	107	108	106	105	110
Surplus	+10	+13	+2	+1	+6
% Surplus	10.30% over capacity	13.68% over capacity	1.92% over capacity	0.96% over capacity	5.77% over capacity

As can be seen from the table, Gorslas Primary School has been over capacity for a number of years. This proposal will have a significant positive impact on the capacity issues at the school, as is clearly demonstrated by the table.

2.7 School Attendance Data

Improving attendance is a national priority, if children are not in school, they cannot learn.

The Authority analyses and shares data for every primary school on a half-termly basis to help schools to maintain a focus on attendance. The analysis uses data for pupils in years 1 to 6 and follows the same approach as the statutory attendance return each September. The most recent attendance data for the school is shown in the following table:

School	Attendance Data 13/14	Attendance Data 14/15	Attendance Data 15/16
Gorslas Primary School	94.6	94.9	94.4

2.8 Building Facilities

Gorslas Primary School was built around the 1920's and is located on a flat site in the centre of the village. The school is of a brick walled and slate roofed traditional construction with a flat roofed corridor extension at the front and an extension to the rear accommodating the toilet facilities.

The following information was taken from the most recent property building survey carried out at the school in 2010 by EC Harries as part of the National 21st Century School Programme assessment of all schools in Wales on behalf of the Authority.

The school was banded from A to D according to building condition and ranked in priority from 1 to 3 depending on when the work was recommended to be carried out

Condition	
A	Good (No Deterioration)
B	Satisfactory (Minor Deterioration)
C	Poor (Major Deterioration)
D	Bad (Life Expired)

Priority	
1	Urgent (Year 1)
2	Essential (Year 2)
3	Desirable (Years 3 to 5)

The suitability of the building as an education resource was also banded from A to D as shown in the following table:

Suitability	
A	Good – Suitable levels for teaching, learning and well-being in schools
B	Reasonable – Behaviour / morale and management adversely affected
C	Poor – Teaching methods inhibited
D	Bad – Severe situation and / or unable to teach the curriculum

The findings from the survey for Gorslas Primary School is as follows:

School	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Gorslas Primary School	B3	B

In October 2015, the Authority conducted a further desktop exercise to review the existing school buildings. It was determined that the condition of Gorslas Primary School had **deteriorated** during this period.

School	Condition Rating	Suitability Rating
Gorslas Primary School	C	B

2.9 National School Categorisation System

The Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of the national School Categorisation System in September 2014. The system is not purely data-driven but also takes into account the quality of leadership and teaching and learning in our schools. The system will not take the place of Estyn reports, Estyn will continue to inspect schools and provide an external check on the national school categorisation system when inspecting.

The new system evaluates and assesses schools and places them in a support category using the following information:

- A range of performance measures provided by the Welsh Government.
- Robust self-evaluation by the school on its capacity to improve in relation to leadership and teaching and learning.
- Assessment of the school's self evaluation by challenge advisers in the regional consortia, agreed with the local authority.

The new categorisation system will give a clear and fair picture of a school's progress. There is a three step process in generating a category for a school, firstly after the performance data and self-evaluation have been analysed a draft support category is generated for each school. This category is discussed with the school by regional consortia and then agreed with the local authority.

There are four support categories:

Green Support Category	A highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement. These schools have a track record in raising the standards that pupils achieve and have the capacity to support other schools to do better.
Yellow Support Category	An effective school which is already doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve. By identifying the right support and taking action, it has the potential to do even better.
Amber Support Category	A school in need of improvement which needs help to identify the steps to improve or to make change happen more quickly. Through discussions with the regional school improvement service and local authority, the school will receive a tailored package of support.
Red Support Category	A school in need of greatest improvement and will receive immediate, intensive support. Progress will be closely monitored to make sure that the necessary improvements take place as quickly as possible.

The table below summarises the data for Gorslas Primary School for 2016/2017;

School	Standards Group*	Improvement Capacity*	Support Category
Gorslas	1	B	Yellow

* Framework and criteria for self-evaluation and ability to self-improve in relation to leadership, teaching and learning (standards group 1–4, with 1 being the highest group and 4 the lowest), and the capacity to improve (A–D, schools with an improvement capacity of A showing the greatest capacity to improve and those with an improvement capacity of D showing the least capacity to improve).

As can be seen from the table above Gorslas Primary School has been categorised in the Yellow category reported as an effective school which is doing well and knows the areas it needs to improve.

2.10 Estyn Inspections

As part of a national programme of school inspections, Estyn commissions reviews of all schools. The most recent Estyn inspection for Gorslas Primary School took place in March 2014 and consultees may access the finding either via the Estyn website at www.estyn.gov.uk or you may request a copy from the Local Authority (for which a charge in respect of photocopying may be made).

During each inspection, inspectors aim to answer three key questions. Inspectors also provide an overall judgement on the school's current performance and its prospects for improvement. In these inspections, inspectors use a four point scale:

Judgement	What the judgement means
Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice.
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement.
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths.

The inspection judgements awarded for Gorslas Primary School are shown in the following table:

Summary	Inspection Judgement
The school's current performance	Adequate
The school's prospects for improvement	Good
Key Questions	Inspection Judgement
How good are the outcomes?	Adequate
How good is provision?	Good
How good are leadership and management?	Good

Following the inspection in March 2014, Estyn evaluated the school's progress during a monitoring visit in June 2015. It was judged that that the school had made good progress in respect of the key issues for action and therefore was subsequently removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring.

3. Evaluation of Present Arrangements

3.1 Quality and standards in education

3.1.1 Outcomes (standards and wellbeing)

As noted in section 2.10, Estyn inspected Gorslas School in March 2014, judging its Current Performance to be 'Adequate' and its Capacity to Improve to be 'Good.' The school's good progress against the recommendations then witnessed its removal from the 'Estyn Monitoring' category in June 2015. Since then, the school has continued to strengthen and improve outcomes for pupils, achieving Welsh Government Standards Group 1 status in January 2017. This reflects the Core Subject Indicator at the end of KS2 continuing to improve over the last four years in addition to other specific areas of improvement in end of Key Stage outcomes. In addition to such achievements, the school focuses strongly on developing all pupils' wellbeing. This is well-evidenced through pupils consistently demonstrating high levels of understanding, care, politeness and courtesy. The school prides itself on the standards of pupil behaviour and emotional well-being. This makes a significant contribution to an ethos that promotes and supports effective learning throughout the school.

3.1.2 Provision

The school continues to enhance and refine its provision for all pupils in a creative and sustainable manner. Staff interact well through collaborative planning systems which are effective in underpinning a strong school ethos of a joint community approach focused on high expectations. This work has resulted in progress and improvement on an annual basis across the school. Effective interventions are extended to all pupils who have specific individual needs. These are identified in an early and supportive manner, linking with parents and partners to ensure the highest levels of provision relevant to each child. The quality of teaching continues to flourish and benefit from specifically targeting areas such as AfL strategies, consistency in pupil feedback and marking etc. The school's provision also benefits greatly from an effective team of support staff working in close collaboration with teachers and pupils.

3.1.3 Leadership and Management

The Governing Body, Headteacher and staff share an enthusiastic and defined vision for their school. An effective model of distributed leadership has evolved across the school resulting in clear improvements in pupil provision and outcomes. An ongoing culture of high expectation exists throughout the school. As a result, teachers, staff and governors are industrious, passionate and wholly focused on developing every child to his/her full potential within a fully inclusive environment. The school benefits from a wide range of effective partnership working with parents, the community and networks of schools and various support agencies.

3.1.4 Impact of the proposal on Quality and Standards in Education

The proposed revised provision will provide all pupils currently educated at Gorslas School with access to an enhanced school environment. This will facilitate further improvement upon the existing good standards, provision and leadership.

3.2 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

The Local Authority has considered the sufficiency of places and the likely demand for places in the future. Over the last few years, the demand for Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire has been increasing and this is also true for demand at Gorslas Primary school, where the school is currently over capacity. As can be seen in section 2.6, the school has been over capacity for the last five years and as a result a mobile classroom was installed in September 2015, with a further additional mobile installed ready for academic year 2017/2018.

In addition, based on January 2017 PLASC data:

Number of pupils living within Gorslas Primary School catchment area attending Gorslas Primary School	78
Number of pupils living within Gorslas Primary School catchment area but attending other schools	140
Total number of pupils living within the Gorslas Primary School catchment area	218

Whilst not all pupils living within the Gorslas Primary School catchment area are currently attending the school, the Local Authority is proposing to increase the capacity of the school from 110 to 210 to manage current and future demand for Welsh medium education places.

3.3 Resourcing of education and other financial implications

3.3.1 Surplus Places / Capacity Issues

As documented in section 2.6, the school is currently over capacity and has been for the last few years. As a result, a mobile classroom was installed in September 2015 and a further additional mobile classroom was installed ready for the 2017/2018 academic year. As there is a clear misalignment between the capacity of the school and the demand for Welsh medium education places, this proposal will alleviate the current capacity issues at the school and will ensure that there is sufficient number of places available to accommodate future demand.

3.3.2 Transport Costs

Transport arrangements will be made in accordance with the County Council's home to school transport policy. There will be no change to transport costs.

3.3.3 Capital Costs / Capital Receipts

Within Carmarthenshire County Council's 21st Century Schools Band A funding envelope of £86.7m a scheme is being developed to provide Gorslas Primary School with a new school building. This will be funded by the Welsh Government and the Local Authority subject to business case approval by Welsh Government.

Any capital receipts received as a result of the scheme to provide Gorslas Primary School with a new school building will be re-invested into the Modernising Education Programme.

3.3.4 School Budgets

Based on 2017/18 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,354 at Gorslas Primary School which is lower than the county average of £3,649.

4. Objectives

Our vision in Carmarthenshire is to provide viable, sustainable and efficient schools which are fit for purpose for the 21st Century with the right school in the right place for current and future pupils ensuring access to high quality learning opportunities for all children. Our long term aim as part of our 21st Century Schools Programme is to create school learning environments that meet the needs of the communities and provide the best learning provision for the area.

The mission of our Modernising Education Programme is to:

“transform the network of nursery, primary and secondary schools serving the county into a strategically and operationally effective resource that meets current and future need for school based and associated community focused education, where appropriate investing in the development and improvement of buildings, infrastructure and spaces, so that schools are appropriately located, designed, constructed or adopted to foster the sustainable development of the people and communities of Carmarthenshire.”

The strategic aims of our Modernising Education Programme are to:

- Develop a schools network that is educationally sustainable and resource efficient for the long term.
- Develop a structure of provision so that every learning setting is capable of providing a high quality education to all of its registered learners, either as an individual institution or as part of a formal federation or collaboration with other settings or providers.
- Develop infrastructure at all schools that is equipped for learning in the 21st century and supports the achievement of core objectives for raising educational standards and maintaining them at high levels of performance.
- Deliver a strategic approach to capital investment, integrated with a programme for the rationalisation of provision across the schools network to effectively match supply with demand.
- Rebuild, remodel, refurbish or modernise all school settings that are to be retained for the long-term, so that they conform as closely as practicable with adopted design standards.
- Contribute to the achievement of wider policy objectives, for example, community regeneration and renewal, healthy lifestyles, etc, through the development of appropriate enabling infrastructure.

- Improve the efficiency and educational viability of the schools sector by reducing the number of empty places to a reasonable level, whilst facilitating wherever practicable the expression of parental preference, responding effectively to demographic change.
- Configure schools and invest in modern school premises so that the whole school system in Carmarthenshire is equipped to support the effective implementation of the Schools Effectiveness Framework and secure improving outcomes for children and young people.

The strategic objectives of the MEP align neatly with the national objectives;

- Improved learning environments for children with better educational outcomes.
- Greater economy through better use of resources to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the education estate.
- A more sustainable education system reducing the recurrent cost and carbon footprint.

5. Options for Change

In developing a preferred option the Authority considered a range of alternative options. Each option was evaluated against key objectives and criteria to determine which options best suited the aspiration of Carmarthenshire to provide a viable and sustainable school which is suitable for teaching and learning in the 21st Century.

5.1 Main Options Considered

Option 1	Status Quo – Maintain the school in its present format with no investment.
Option 2	Increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School by 30 places (by installing a mobile classroom).
Option 3	Increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School to 180 places (by refurbishing the current school building and constructing a new block at the existing site).
Option 4	Increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School to 210 places (by providing a replacement building).

5.2 Advantages / Disadvantages of Each Option

Option 1	
Status Quo - Maintain the school in its present format with no investment	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • No statutory procedures necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option does not address the current capacity issues at the school. • This option does not allow opportunities to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh medium education at the school. • Does not allow the highest quality teaching and learning provision. • There is insufficient space, indoor and outdoor, to deliver and enhance the Foundation Phase curriculum and play opportunities for all learners.

Option 2	
Increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School by 30 places (by installing a mobile classroom)	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • No statutory procedures required. • Addresses short term capacity issues at the school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option does not meet the long term demand for Welsh medium education within the area. • Two mobile classrooms are currently installed at the school site – there is insufficient space to accommodate a further additional mobile classroom. • Pupils and staff have to travel between the main school building and mobile classroom. • Does not allow the highest quality teaching and learning provision. • There is insufficient space, indoor and outdoor, to deliver and enhance the Foundation Phase curriculum and play opportunities for all learners.

Option 3	
Increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School to 180 places (by refurbishing the current school building and constructing a new block at the existing site)	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • Addresses medium term demand for Welsh medium primary places. • Improved facilities for teaching and learning in the 21st Century. • Moving along the Welsh language continuum by providing greater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option does not meet the long term demand for Welsh medium primary education within the area and does not meet the Local Authority's strategic objectives. • Statutory process required.

<p>opportunities to access Welsh medium within the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is insufficient space available at the current site to accommodate a new block construction. • Transitional arrangements would need to be in place whilst construction works are undertaken. • Capital investment required.
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<p align="center">Option 4 (Preferred Option)</p> <p align="center">Increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School to 210 places (by providing a replacement building)</p>	
<p>Advantages</p>	<p>Disadvantages</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This option meets the current and long term demand for Welsh medium primary places within the area. • Moving along the Welsh language continuum by providing greater opportunities to access Welsh medium within the area. • No transitional arrangements are required whilst construction works are undertaken. • Improved facilities for teaching and learning in the 21st Century. • Ensures that the highest quality teaching and learning provision for WM primary education is available. • Provides space to deliver and enhance the Foundation Phase curriculum and play opportunities for all learners. • An opportunity to share facilities with the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory process required. • Slight increase in travel distance and time for pupils. • Capital investment required.

6. The Proposal

6.1 Rationale for Change

As outlined previously, Carmarthenshire County Council has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in the area and is required to make sure that they are located in the right place, have the right facilities for the future and have the right resources to deliver education and learning for pupils.

The school currently has a capacity for 110 pupils between the ages of 4-11. However as noted previously, over the last few years the demand for Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire has been increasing and this is also true for pupil numbers at the school. The school is currently over capacity; and as documented in section 2.6; has been for the last few years. This has demonstrated that there is a clear misalignment between the capacity of the school and the demand for Welsh medium education within the area. As a result a mobile classroom was installed in September 2015, with a further additional mobile classroom installed ready for the 2017/2018 academic term.

As a result, the Local Authority are currently developing a scheme to provide Gorslas Primary School with a new school building suitable for teaching and learning in the 21st Century, which will accommodate current and future demand for Welsh medium education.

6.2 The Proposal

Due to the increasing demand for Welsh medium education places in the Gorslas area, it is the Local Authority's proposal to:

- increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 from 1st September 2019 when occupation at the new building is proposed.

6.3 Additional Learning Needs Provision

There will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with additional learning needs at the school. However when the new school building has been completed, the improved facilities will directly enhance teaching and learning for all learners including those from more vulnerable groups including ALN learners.

6.4 School Catchment Area

There will be no change to the current school catchment area.

The preferred location of the site for the new school building is Gorslas Park which remains within the existing catchment area of Gorslas Primary School, therefore the designated catchment area will be based on that of the existing school.

6.5 Secondary School Transfers

There will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education.

6.6 Transitional Arrangements

There will be no change for pupils whilst building works are undertaken, pupils will remain on their current school site until the building works are complete. Pupils would relocate to their new school in September 2019 when occupation is proposed.

6.7 Advantages and Disadvantages of the Proposal

Advantages

- Increased opportunities for access to Welsh medium education.
- Addresses current capacity issues at the school.
- Ensures that the school can accommodate future demand for Welsh medium school places.

Disadvantages

- Statutory process required to implement the proposal.

6.8 Risks and Counter Measures

Risk		Counter Measure
1.	Failure to obtain statutory approval to implement the process.	- Follow guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2013.
2.	Failure to gain approval of business cases.	- Follow guidelines as set out in the 21 st Century Schools and Education Funding Programme business case guidance.

6.9 Financial Implications - Revenue

Gorslas Primary School is funded in accordance with the County Council's Fair Funding policy and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within the County Council, based on the new school's pupil numbers and facilities.

6.10 Admission Arrangements

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Gorslas Primary School. The current admission number (AN) is 13. If the proposal is implemented the admission number (AN) will be increased to 30. If you have any queries in relation to admission to the school the contact details for Carmarthenshire LA are as follows:

The School Governance and Admissions Unit,
Carmarthenshire Local Authority,
Department for Education and Children,
Block 2,
Main Building,
St. David's Park,
Carmarthen. SA31 3HB

Tel No: 01267 246449

Fax : 01267 246746

E-mail: rjonesevans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

6.11 Transport Impact Assessment

Based on January 2017 PLASC address data 78 (total NOR and nursery age) pupils attending Gorslas Primary school lived within the catchment area, whilst 44 pupils lived outside the catchment area. It must also be noted that again based on January 2017 PLASC address data, there were 140 pupils living within the Gorslas catchment area attending other schools.

Based on January 2017 PLASC address data, on average pupils travelled 2.8 miles to reach the current Gorslas Primary School site with an average travel time of 7.1 minutes. Using the same data, pupils on average would travel 2.9 miles to reach the new site with an average travel time of 7.2 minutes. Based on this assessment, there would be a very slight increase of 0.1 miles in travel distance and 0.1 minutes in travel time for pupils.

6.12 Community Impact Assessment

Please refer to Appendix A of this consultation document for full details of the Community Impact Assessment undertaken.

6.13 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Please refer to Appendix B of this consultation document for full detail of the Welsh Language Impact Assessment undertaken.

6.14 Equality Impact Assessment

Please refer to Appendix C of this consultation document for full details of the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken.

7. The Statutory Process

The Consultation Process

The consultation on this proposal will follow guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013).

Who will be consulted?

This document will be sent to the following interested parties:

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) – Gorslas Primary School	Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities
Governors and Parents/Guardians – Gorslas Primary School	Diocesan Director of Education Church in Wales and RC
Local County Councillors	Estyn
Community Councillors – Gorslas Community Council	Regional Transport Consortium
Assembly Member (AM) / Regional Members / Members of Parliament (MP)	*Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire
Welsh Ministers	National Union of Teachers (NUT)
SEN Partners	Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)
LA Special Educational Needs Division	National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
ERW – Education through Regional Working	UNISON
	Voice the Union
Families First Carmarthenshire	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Flying Start	
Child Care / Early Years	Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)
Communities First Partnership	GMB Union
Public Services Board	UNITE the Union
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Cae'r Ffair Nursery
Welsh Language Commissioner	Cylch Meithrin Cefneithin Gorslas

* Consultation document sent to Headteacher and Chair of Governors (Maesybont CP, Cefneithin CP, Cross Hands CP, Saron CP and Penygroes CP) and Secondary Schools (Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth, Ysgol Bro Dinefwr)

Consultation with Pupils

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of Gorslas Primary School to participate in the consultation process during a session which will be conducted at the school with the challenge adviser.

The information gathered from the consultation with pupils will form part of the consultation report which will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration following the consultation period.

Consultation Period

The consultation period for this proposal starts on 6th November 2017 and ends on 17th December 2017. During this period you can ask questions and express your views by writing a letter or completing the attached response form in Appendix E. Letters and response forms should be sent to the following address by no later than noon on 17th December 2017.

Mr Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services,
Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB
Or E-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Consultees can submit their views in favour of or against a proposal. Responses received during the consultation period will not be treated as statutory objections. If consultees wish to object, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period outlined below.

Considering your Views

Within 13 weeks of 17th December 2017 a consultation report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposal and details of consultation undertaken with the pupils.

The Executive Board of Carmarthenshire County Council will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If the Executive Board decides to continue with the proposal Carmarthenshire County Council must publish a statutory notice.

Statutory Notice

The statutory notice will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website and posted at Gorslas Primary School. Copies of the notice will be made available to

the school to distribute to pupils, parents, guardians, and staff members (the school may also distribute the notice by email).

The notice will set out the details of the proposal and invite anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within a period of 28 days. If objections are received an objection report will be published on the Carmarthenshire County Council website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised and provide Carmarthenshire County Council’s response to those objections.

Determination of Proposal

Carmarthenshire County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so, the County Council will take into account any statutory objections that it received.

Decision Notification

Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council’s website.

The Statutory Process Time-Table

The statutory process and timetable will be as follows:

6 th November 2017	Issue of this consultation document to identified and other interested parties.
17 th December 2017	Closing date for views on the proposal to be received by the Department for Education and Children.
	<p>Within 13 weeks of 17th December 2017 a Consultation Report will be taken to the Executive Board and published on Carmarthenshire County Council’s website. Decision to proceed to publish statutory notice. OR alternatively proposal ends.</p> <p>If the decision is made to proceed then a statutory notice will be published. The notice will outline details of the proposal and be published on the Council’s web site and be displayed near the entrance of the school and schools which are subject to the proposals. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to parents, guardians and staff members. Following publication there will be a 28 day period during which time formal written objections will be invited.</p>

	The statutory notice will give details on how you may record your objections to the proposal.
April 2018	End of formal 28 day notice period for objections. County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications, in doing so the County Council will take into account any statutory objections received.
July 2018	Deadline to notify parents of intention to implement proposal. Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

Appendix A – Community Impact Assessment

Catchment Area Analysis – January PLASC 2017 Data

Each school has an area that it serves, referred to as the catchment area. Each school is expected to accommodate pupils from within its catchment area and schools must have regard for this ongoing demand.

Most parents send their child to their local school but parents have a right to state a preference for other schools.

Pupils attending the school from inside / outside the catchment

Based on January PLASC 2017 data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Gorslas Primary School catchment area indicated that of the 122 pupils on roll, 78 lived within the catchment area, whilst the remaining 44 were from outside the catchment area.

Pupils living in the catchment area attending other schools.

Based on January PLASC 2017 data, 140 pupils lived within the Gorslas Primary School catchment area attended other schools as follows.

Taking into consideration the 78 pupils living within the catchment area attending Gorslas Primary School, and the 140 pupils living within the catchment area but attending other schools, a total of 218 pupils are living within the catchment area of Gorslas Primary School.

Other facilities the school accommodates e.g youth club / play group

The school accommodates Gorslas Community Council meetings as and when required.

Other facilities or services the school provides e.g. after school clubs / community library

The school currently hold a breakfast club for pupils during the weekdays between 8-8.30am.

The pupils also benefit from several after school clubs, which are held on various nights of the week at the school. A local organisation, Menter Cwm Gwendraeth hold a “Clwb Joio” on Monday nights between 3.30-5pm. The “Clwb Joio” provides pupils with an hour and a half of specific activities, which expands the opportunities available for pupils between the ages of 4-11 to socialise through the medium of Welsh outside of school hours. School staff also hold a sports club on Tuesdays and an “Urdd” club on Wednesdays. On Thursdays, school staff hold an afterschool club, where the activities vary from week to week. In this club, pupils benefit from developing skills such as gardening, cooking, science and IT.

Community Impact

If approved, the proposal will allow increased opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Gorslas area, in line with national and local policies. The space for an external nursery provider will allow early years' pupils with access to nursery provision within a school environment which will strengthen relationships and links between the external provider and the school and will ensure a smooth transition between facilities.

As a result of the scheme itself, the new school building will significantly benefit the community of Gorslas through the use of facilities such as the car park, the sports pitch, MUGA and the main hall which could be used for a number of activities.

Appendix B - Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Carmarthenshire County Council's vision is to provide a service, which will ensure access to high quality learning opportunities for all children, young people and adults, this enabling the achievement of their full potential within the context of the unique bilingual nature of the county.

This proposal supports the Council's vision and aims for Welsh medium education as set out in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014 – 2017. The proposal will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Gorslas area and will ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.

Language Category

Gorslas Primary School are categorised as a Welsh medium primary school. As noted in the Admission to School – Information to Parents booklet this means that in the Foundation Phase, pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh and that in KS2, at least 70% of teaching is through the medium of Welsh. Welsh is the language of communication with pupils and the language of the day to day business of the school.

Standards

In Foundation Phase, pupils are assessed in different areas of learning. Based on 2016 data, 83.3% of pupils achieved at least Outcome 5 in "Language, literacy and communication skills in Welsh, whilst 33.3% of pupils achieved at least Outcome 6. In Key Stage 2, pupils are assessed in each of the core subjects. Based on 2016 data, 70.6% of pupils achieved at least Level 4 in Welsh first language.

After school activities which provide additional opportunities to use the Welsh language

The pupils benefit from several after school clubs, which are held on various nights of the week at the school. A local organisation, Menter Cwm Gwendraeth hold a "Clwb Joio" on Monday nights between 3.30-5pm. The "Clwb Joio" provides pupils with an hour and a half of specific activities, which expands the opportunities available for pupils between the ages of 4-11 to socialise through the medium of Welsh outside of school hours. School staff also hold an "Urdd" club on Wednesdays.

Appendix C - Equalities Impact Assessment

Carmarthenshire County Council Assessing Impact

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together and replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies and strengthens the law, removes inconsistencies and makes it easier for people to understand and comply with it. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the 'general duty'), replacing the separate duties on race, disability and gender equality. This came into force on 5 April 2011.

What is the general duty?

The aim of the general duty is to ensure that public authorities and those carrying out a public function consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in their day-to-day activities. The duty ensures that equality considerations are built into the design of policies and the delivery of services and that they are kept under review. This will achieve better outcomes for all.

The duties are legal obligations. Failure to meet the duties may result in authorities being exposed to legal challenge.

Under equality legislation, public authorities have legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regard to race, disability and gender, including gender reassignment, as well as to promote good race relations. The Equality Act 2010 introduces a new public sector duty which extends this coverage to age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief. The law requires that this duty to pay 'due regard' be demonstrated in the decision making process. It is also important to note that public authorities subject to the equality duties are also likely to be subject to the obligations under the Human Rights Act and it is therefore wise also to consider the potential impact that decisions could have on human rights as part of the same process.

Carmarthenshire's approach to Equality Impact

In order to ensure that the council is considering the potential equality impact of its proposed policies and practices, and in order to evidence that we have done so, every proposal will be required to be supported by the attached Equality Impact Assessment. Where this assessment identifies a significant impact then more detail may be required.

Reporting on assessments

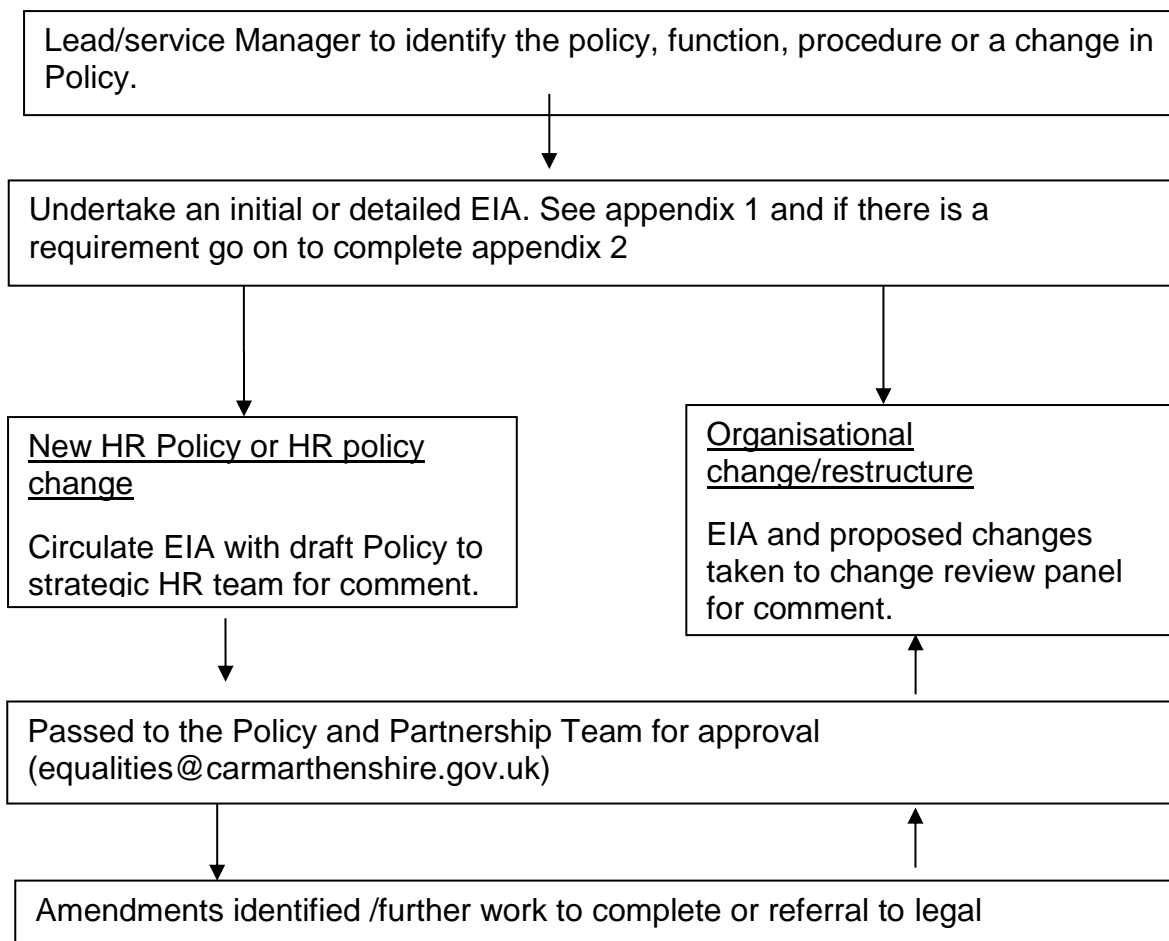
Where it is clear from the assessment that the likely impact on the authority's ability to meet the general duty is substantial, then it must publish a report.

Initial and Detailed Equality Impact Assessments

The initial EIA (appendix 1) is a simple and quick method of assessing the effect of a policy, function, procedure, decision including financial cuts on one or more of the protected characteristics.

The Service Manager responsible for the relevant new or revised policies, functions, procedures and financial decisions must undertake, at least, an initial EIA and where relevant a detailed Equality Impact Assessment (appendix 2); EIA must be attached as background paper with reports to Executive and Scrutiny .

Equality impact assessment – Process to follow where HR implications have been identified



Initial Equalities Impact Assessment Template

Appendix 1

Department: Education & Children	Completed by (lead): Sara Griffiths	Date of initial assessment: June 2017 Revision Dates: TBC
Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision)	The scheme is to provide a new school building with 21 st Century facilities for Gorslas Primary School. As part of this scheme, the proposal is to to increase the capacity of the school from 110 to 210.	
Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice or decision?	School Re-organisation Proposal – Modernising Education Programme	
What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Schools Programme • Modernising Education Programme • School Organisation Code 2013 • PLASC Data 2016/2017 		

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the proposed function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.	The aim of the scheme is to provide the pupils and staff of Gorslas Primary School with a new school building and facilities which are suitable for teaching and learning in the 21 st Century. The increase in capacity will benefit the school by addressing the capacity issues experienced in recent years and will also ensure that the school can accommodate future demand. Providing space to accommodate an external nursery will also strengthen the relationship between nursery providers and the school and will help to ensure a smooth transition between facilities.		
The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to:-	2. What is the level of impact on each group/ protected characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty? Please indicate	3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?	4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what mitigating factors have you considered?

<p>(1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;</p> <p>(2) advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and</p> <p>(3) foster good relations between different groups</p> <p>(see guidance notes)</p>		<p>high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.</p>	<p>Risks</p>	<p>Positive effects</p>	
<p>Protected characteristics</p> <p>Page 47</p>	<p>Age</p>	<p>L</p>		<p>The proposal will provide nursery age pupils with access to nursery provision within a school building.</p>	
	<p>Disability</p>	<p>L</p>		<p>The new school building will be fully DDA compliant ensuring full accessibility for all.</p>	
	<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Race</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Religion/Belief</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		

Sex	N	Neutral		
Welsh language	L		The increase in capacity will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Gorslas area in line with national and local policies.	
Any other area	L	The increase in capacity of the school may have an effect on schools surrounding the Gorslas catchment area.		

5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?

YES NO

The Project Officer has liaised with the Headteacher, Staff and Parents of Gorslas Primary School with regards to the proposal. Local members have also been fully informed of the scheme. Consultation has been undertaken with the Community Council and local residents regarding the location of the new school building.

6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any? Ensure that all key stakeholders are fully informed throughout the statutory process.

7. Procurement

Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any procurement implications to the activity, proposal, service. N/A

Please take the findings of this assessment into your procurement plan. Contact the corporate procurement unit for further advice.

8. Human resources

Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any Human resource implications to the activity, proposal or service? As there will be an increase in capacity, additional staffing may be required. However, this will be addressed as the scheme progresses and Human Resources will be fully consulted.

9. Based on the information in sections 2 and 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment? (recommended if one or more H under section 2)

YES

NO

Approved by:

Andi Morgan

Date: August 2017

Head of Service

Appendix D – Area Profile Gorslas Ward

Policy Research and Information Section, Carmarthenshire County Council, May 2017

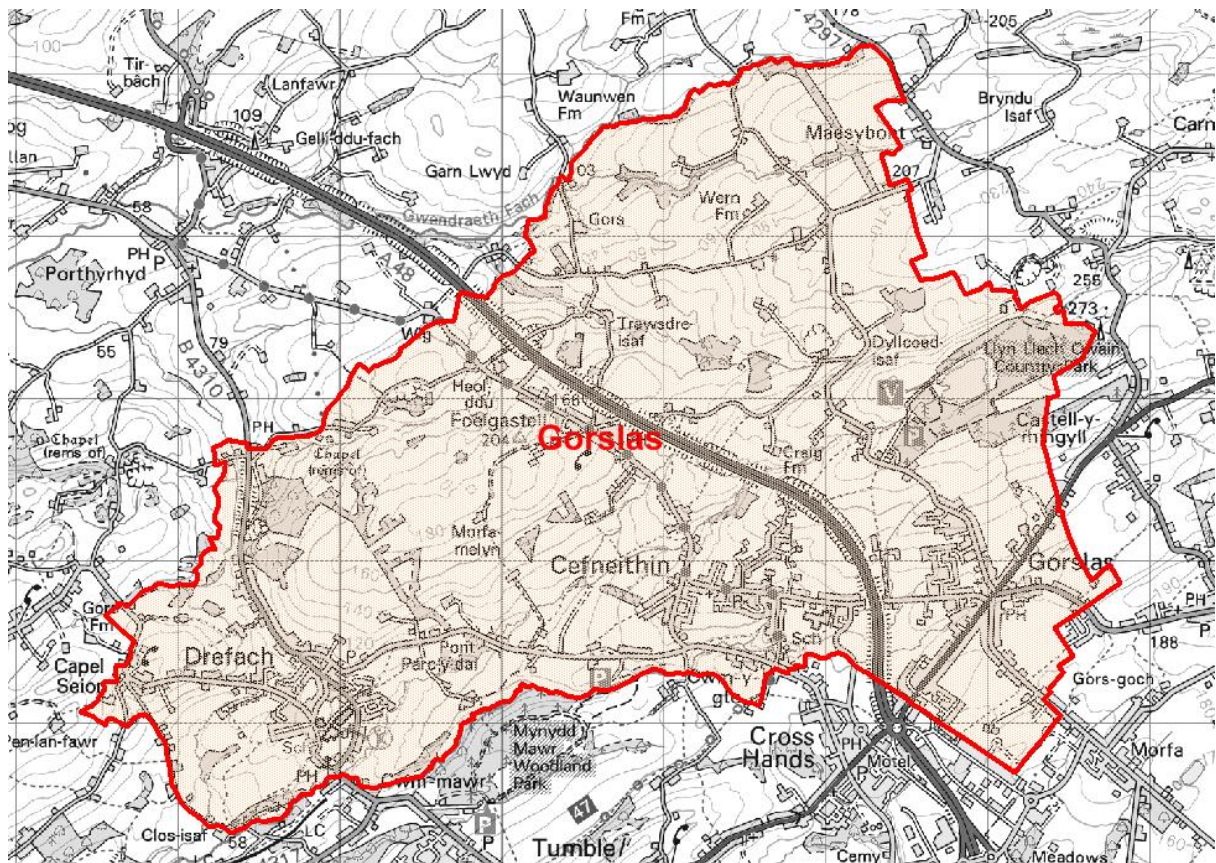
Councillors (Electoral Vote 2017, Turnout = 47.28%): Darren Price and Aled Owen (Plaid Cymru).

Electorate (December 2016): 3,586

Population: 4,301 (2015 Mid Year Population Estimates, ONS)

Welsh Assembly and UK Parliamentary Constituency: Carmarthenshire East & Dinefwr

Council owned Facilities: Cefneithin C.P. School, Drefach C.P. School, Gorslas C.P. School, Ysgol Gyfun Maes Y Gwendraeth Cefneithin, Ysgol Maes Y Gwendraeth Drefach, Llyn Llech Owain Country Park, Gorslas Park Toilets.



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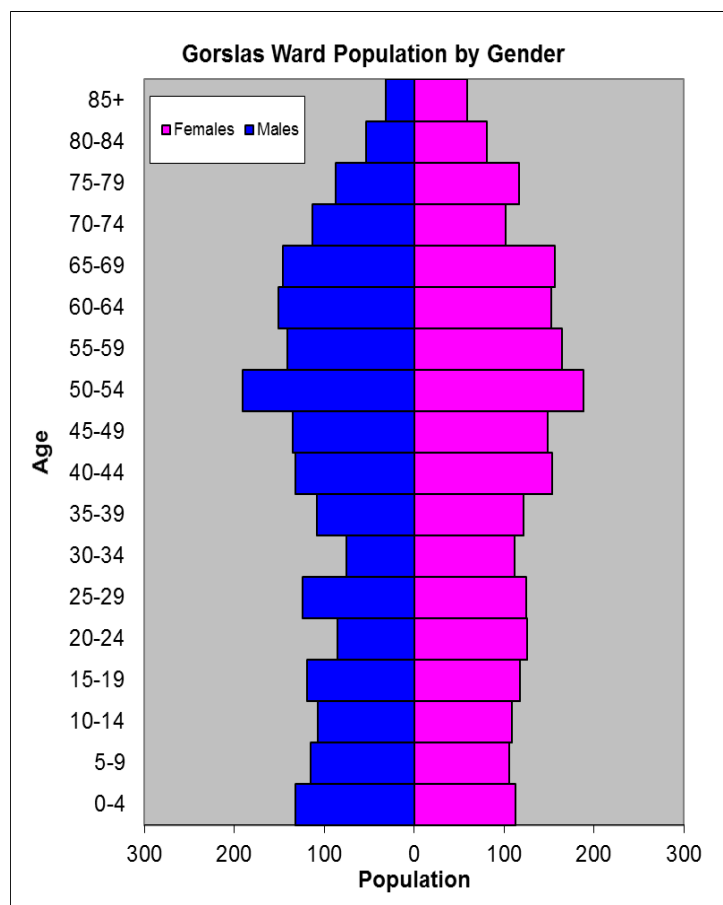
Location: Approximately 20km from Carmarthen Town

- ⇒ Regeneration Designations: Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 eligible ward
- ⇒ Area: 16.51km²
- ⇒ Population Density: 261 people per km²
- ⇒ Population Change: 2001-2015: +584 (+15.7%)
- ⇒ Major Employers: Carmarthenshire County Council (schools and leisure)

POPULATION STATISTICS 2015 Mid Year Population Estimates

Age Structure	Gorslas Population	Gorslas %	Carmarthenshire %
Aged: 0-4	245	5.7	5.4
5-14	437	10.2	11.2
15-24	448	10.4	11.2
25-44	952	22.1	21.7
45-64	1273	29.6	27.8
65-74	518	12.0	12.7
75+	428	10.0	10.0
Total	4,301	100	100

Source: aggregated lower Super Output Area (LSOA) Small Area Population Estimates, 2015, Office for National Statistics (ONS)



- ⇒ 9th highest ward population in Carmarthenshire, and 20th highest population density.
- ⇒ Highest proportion of people aged over 45.
- ⇒ Slightly higher proportion of people with limiting long term illness
- ⇒ Over 20% higher proportion of Welsh Speakers than the Carmarthenshire average.

2011 Census Data

Population: Key Facts	Gorslas	Gorslas %	Carmarthenshire
People: born in Wales	3211	79.0	76.0
born outside UK	87	2.2	4.1
in non-white ethnic groups	39	0.9	1.9
with limiting long-term illness	1082	26.7	25.4
with no qualifications (aged 16-74)	853	25.1	26.8
with higher level qualifications (aged 16-74)	878	25.8	23.9
able to speak Welsh	2523	64.1	43.9

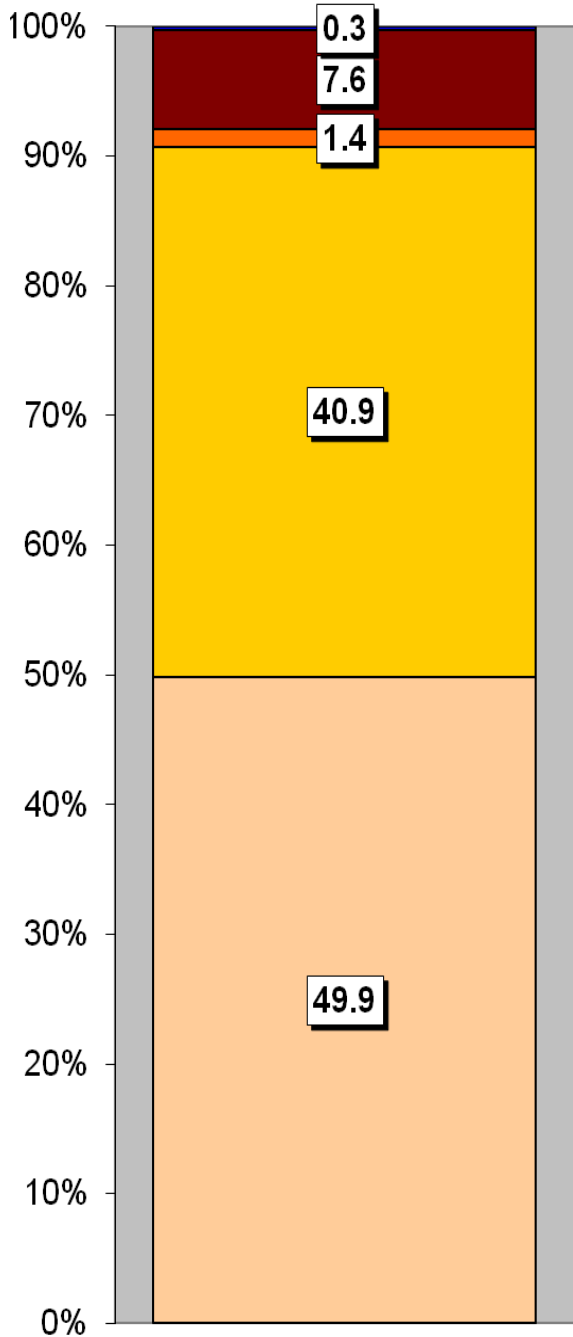
Household Composition	Gorslas	Gorslas %	Carmarthenshire
Total Households/ (Average Household Size)	1735	(2.3)	(2.3)
Household Type: one person: pensioner	285	16.4	14.8
one person: other	212	12.2	15.4
one family: all pensioners	181	10.4	9.8
one family: married couple	658	38.0	34.1
one family: cohabiting couple	138	7.9	8.7
one family: lone parent	169	9.7	11.3
one family: other	92	5.4	5.9

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

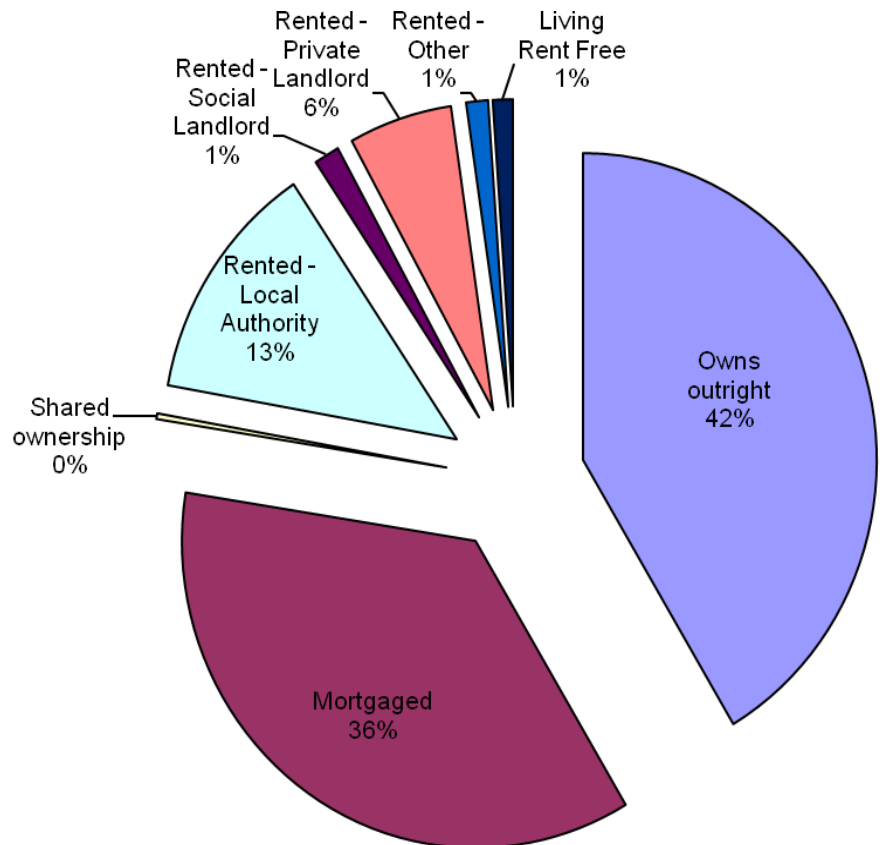
HOUSING

The area's housing consists largely of detached and semi-detached accommodation, which combined is over 90% of the accommodation. The smallest proportion of housing is the caravan or other mobile temporary accommodation. The ward consists of 222 local authority owned properties and 24 Housing Association properties.

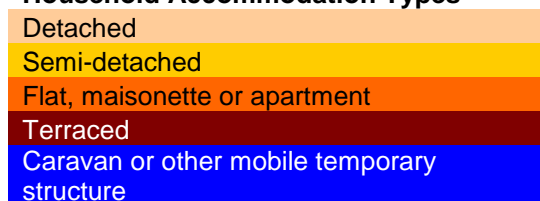
Household Accommodation Types



Household Tenure	%
Owns outright	41.5
Mortgaged	36.1
Shared ownership	0.3
Rented - Local Authority	12.8
Rented - Social Landlord	1.4
Rented - Private Landlord	5.7
Rented - Other	1.2
Living Rent Free	1.1



Household Accommodation Types



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

- ⇒ The estimated median household income for Gorslas, based on CACI's 2016 'PayCheck' data, is £27,288 which is the 11th highest (of 58 wards) in Carmarthenshire and 12.7% above the Carmarthenshire median of £23,825.
- ⇒ The social profile information indicates a higher than average level of people being in higher and lower managerial and professional administrative occupations (Levels 1-2).

Social Profile	Gorslas	%	Carmarthenshire %
<i>All people aged 16-74 in households</i>	2997	100	100
1: Higher Managerial & Professional Admin. Occupations	464	15.5	13.8
2: Lower Managerial & Professional Admin. Occupations	673	22.5	19.9
3: Intermediate Occupations	397	13.2	11.6
4: Small Employers & Own Account Workers	296	9.9	12.6
5: Lower Supervisory & Technical Occupations	231	7.7	7.6
6: Semi-routine Occupations	448	14.9	16.7
7: Routine Occupations	405	13.5	13.0
8: Never Worked & Long Term Unemployed	117	3.9	4.9

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Benefit Claimants	Gorslas	Rate %	Carmarthenshire Working Population %
Unemployment Benefit (JSA): March 2017	18	0.7	1.4
Incapacity Benefits (ESA/IB/SDA) August 2016	230	8.8	8.9
Income Support: August 2016	25	1.0	1.8
Disability Living Allowance: August 2016	270	10.3	9.6
Pension Credit: August 2016 (Population 65+)	175	18.5	17.1
State Pension Claimants: August 2016	1,010	-	-

Source: Jobcentre Plus administrative system Dept. for Work & Pensions

Economic Status (people aged 16-74)	Gorslas	Gorslas %	Carmarthenshire %
Economically Active	1943	64.8	64.9
Employees: Part-time	399	13.3	13.9
Employees: Full-time	1132	37.8	33.7
Self-employed	256	8.5	11.0
Unemployed	86	2.9	3.7
Full-time Student	70	2.3	2.5
Economically Inactive	1054	35.2	35.1
Retired	585	19.5	18.1
Student	135	4.5	4.5
Looking after home/family	86	2.9	3.8
Permanently sick/disabled	192	6.4	6.8
Other	56	1.9	1.9

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD)

WIMD 2014 based on fine-grained geography of lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The WIMD 2014 is compiled from eight domains, Income, Employment, Health, Education, Housing, Access to Services, Physical Environment and Community Safety and is published at Lower Super Output Area of which there are 112 in Carmarthenshire.

Under WIMD, where Rank 1 is the most deprived, **Gorslas 1** ranks 96 out of 112 LSOAs in Carmarthenshire and is ranked 1352 in Wales from 1909 LSOAs. **Gorslas 2** ranks 90 most deprived area in Carmarthenshire and is ranked 1277 in Wales.

The highest level of deprivation attributed to **Gorslas 1** is the Education Domain, being ranked 67th in Carmarthenshire and 1121 in Wales for this domain. In **Gorslas 2** the Physical Environment domain is also the most prominent ranking 35th in Carmarthenshire and 586 in Wales.

Gorslas 1 – Drefach Gorslas 2 – Maes yr Yrfa School

LSOA	Overall Index		Income		Employment		Health		Education		Access to Services		Community Safety		Physical Environment		Housing	
	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales
Gorslas 1	1352	96	1139	72	1236	85	1067	76	1121	67	810	71	1702	90	1110	68	1453	88
Gorslas 2	1277	90	1215	80	931	56	1302	89	1059	61	900	76	1853	103	586	35	1459	89

Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (updated August 2016), Welsh Assembly Government.

Note: LSOAs ranked 1-112 (Carmarthenshire), 1-1909 (Wales).

CRIME

Gorslas	Offence Group												Annual Total				
	Arson & Criminal Damage	Burglary – Business & Community	Burglary – Residential	Drug Offences	Miscellaneous Crime Against Society	Possession of Weapons	Public Order Offences	Robbery	Sexual Offences	Theft	Vehicle Offences	Violence Against the Person					
Fiscal Year (1st April to 31st March)																	
2016/2017	19	5	3	18	2	2	3	0	2	20	5	31	110				

Source: Dyfed Powys Police, Headquarters, Llangunnor.

Appendix E – Response Pro-Forma

Please provide us with your comments on the proposal regarding future provision for primary pupils residing in the Gorslas catchment area.

Your comments:

Do you have any other issues that you wish to bring to our attention?

Please tick box if you wish to be notified of the publication of a consultation report and your language of preference.

Welsh Version

English Version

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Position /
Category of
Respondent
(E.g. parent) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

E-mail _____

Date _____

Please note that unless you indicate otherwise your comments will be open to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.

Please detach this form and return to: Mr Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services, Building 2, St David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB or E-mail to DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk by no later than **17th December 2017**.

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DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to increase the capacity of

Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210

Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to achieve their full educational potential

January 2018

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services



EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani
www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

YOUR COUNCIL doitonline
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Modernisation Services Section

Simon Davies, Modernisation Services Manager

Content

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2.	Summary of observations received and Local Authority related responses	6
3.	Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal	9
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1. Executive Summary

The Consultation Period

On the 6th November 2017 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change primary school provision within the community of Gorslas. The County Council's proposal is to:

- increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 from 1st September 2019 when occupation at the new building is proposed.

The consultation period commenced on the 6th November 2017 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 17th December 2017 with a total of 5 observations received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

It must be noted that of the 5 observations received, 4 were received prior to the end of the consultation period whilst 1 observation was received following the end of the consultation period. However, all responses received have been included for the purposes of this report.

Observations Received

The proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 is the formal statutory procedure that must be undertaken and completed to legally increase the number of Welsh medium places available at Gorslas Primary School and must be undertaken regardless of the method of implementation. As part of the wider scheme to provide an increased number of places, it is the Local Authority's intention to provide a new, replacement school building which will also provide space to accommodate an external nursery provider.

Whilst the consultation document focused primarily on the formal proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210, observations were also received with regards to other elements of the wider scheme. For completeness, these observations have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

- Safeguarding of Jobs;
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan;
- Capacity;
- Loss of Green Space; and
- School Nursing Service.

Carmarthenshire County Council acknowledges that there are concerns in relation to the wider scheme, in particular to the location of the proposed new school building and the implications that accommodating an external nursery may cause. These issues are being addressed separately to this proposal.

Observations were received from the following:

- NASUWT
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Gorslas Community Council
- Children's Public Health – Hywel Dda University Health Board

One anonymous observation was also received.

A complete summary of all of the observations received to the consultation document together with the response of the County Council's professional officers can be found in section 2 on the next page.

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Spring Term 2018.

2. Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response
1.	<p><u>Safeguarding of Jobs</u></p> <p>It is expected that consideration is be given to safeguard the jobs of staff.</p>	<p>The Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. However, it is expected that should this proposal be implemented there is potential for further job opportunities.</p>
2.	<p><u>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>The scheme shows positive ambition in developing Welsh medium education within the county and falls in line with the strategic plan.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council welcomes the comments in recognition of the development of Welsh medium education within the county. During the last few years the demand for Welsh medium education within the Gorslas catchment area has been steadily increasing and Carmarthenshire County Council recognises the need for an increased capacity in order to support the current and future demand for Welsh medium education.</p>
3.	<p><u>Capacity</u></p> <p>Observations were received enquiring as to how the figure of 210 was calculated as the proposed capacity and whether this was restricted to the Gorslas catchment only. Enquiries were also made regarding whether the loss of pupils from the Cwmgwili area to other closer schools had been taken into</p>	<p>A range of elements were analysed when considering the increase in capacity for Gorslas Primary School namely: annual PLASC data; pupil yield expected from dwellings and pupil projections – these were based on the Gorslas catchment area. Consideration was also given to the fact that a mobile classroom was installed in September 2015 and that a further one was required for the 2017/2018 academic year along with a conservative estimate for a new school building factor.</p>

	<p>account and whether there is any potential revision to the current catchment area.</p>	<p>When analysing the annual PLASC data, information is provided on how many pupils attend each school from within the catchment area, outside of the catchment area and how many pupils live within specific catchment areas but attend other schools. January 2017 PLASC data indicated that 218 pupils live within the catchment area of Gorslas (78 attending Gorslas Primary School and 140 attending other schools). Whilst it is accepted that not all pupils living within the catchment area attend/or will attend Gorslas Primary School in the future, consideration must be given to pupils living within the catchment area.</p> <p>As part of the proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School, it is proposed that there will be no change to the current school catchment area.</p>
4.	<p><u>Loss of Green Space</u></p> <p>Whilst there is support for the proposals, there are concerns regarding the loss of green space as a result of the new school building development at Gorslas Park. The area is regularly used by children for a variety of outdoor activities and is situated away from traffic. Although part of the school grounds could be openly available to the public, the increased traffic density and the construction involved would alter the character of the area. Therefore, consideration should be given to converting the current school site into a publicly accessible green space to serve as an alternative to the current park.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that there are concerns with regards to the loss of green space as a result of the intention to build the new school building on land at the site of Gorslas Park. However, it must be noted that whilst the school building will be built on part of the land, the intention is to provide a multi-use games area and sports pitch which will be available for community use along with the use of the school hall, outside of school hours. It is intended that the use of these facilities and the expansion of opportunities that will be available to the community as a result of these facilities will help strengthen the community relationships that already exist in the area.</p>

		<p>Whilst it is accepted that the increased traffic density and construction involved could alter the character of the area, it is hoped that the additional facilities available for community use afforded through the scheme would provide further advantages and opportunities to the wider community.</p> <p>With regards to the current school site no longer being used then the County Council Policy, approved on the 12th April 2006, in relation to buildings not being required for educational purposes will apply. In essence this allows the community to make a case to the council for the retention of the building as a community resource. If there is no viable community interest the premises will be offered to the market.</p>
5.	<p><u>School Nursing Service</u></p> <p>The only impact this will have on the School Nursing service is possibly some increase in caseload numbers for the School Nurses who are assigned to the school in question. Caseload numbers for School Nurses are regularly monitored by the Senior Nurse/Quality Assurance Manager for School Nursing and are managed through workforce planning.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that the increase in capacity may have an effect on caseload numbers for the School Nurses who are assigned to the school, however agree that any effect can be monitored and managed by workforce planning and communication between organisations.</p>

3. Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn's response to the proposal to extend Ysgol Gorslas, Carmarthenshire

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales have prepared this report.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body that is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortium, which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

This is a consultation proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The consultation to increase the pupil capacity of Ysgol Gorslas from 110 to 210 is to be conducted between 6th November 2017 and 17th December 2017.

Summary/Conclusion

The proposal identifies clearly the local authority's reasons for increasing the capacity of Ysgol Gorslas and responds to the increasing demand for Welsh-medium education in the village of Gorslas and the surrounding area. It takes into consideration the increase in the number of pupils who apply to attend the school. The consultation identifies the community schools in the area that this proposal may affect. The authority identifies clearly that there are more children at Ysgol Gorslas than there are places available, and this has been the case for a number of years. However, it appears that there are a number of surplus places in the Welsh community primary schools in the catchment area. Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain provision and standards for pupils in the Gorslas area.

Description and benefits

The consultation provides a clear rationale for the expected advantages and disadvantages for Ysgol Gorslas.

The proposal outlines clearly the plans to construct a new building on land that is around 0.1 miles from the school's current site. The local authority claims that the current building has deteriorated and is in poor condition, and that there is not enough land on the school's site to add to the two mobile buildings that are already on the school grounds.

It appears that the Council has discussed a variety of relevant models as part of its strategic objectives in its modernising education programme. It takes into consideration the negative effect that another mobile building on the school grounds will have on the school's ability to provide foundation phase education in full. It appears that the proposal to build a new school ensures more space to improve learning environments for children. The proposal gives reasonable consideration to the parking problems that already exist. By building a new school on a different site, it appears that the arrangements will reduce the possible disruption for pupils, teachers and parents, and will allow the school to continue with the curriculum on the current site during the construction period.

The proposer lists the schools that may be affected by the proposal and identifies that approximately 140 pupils who live the Gorslas catchment area currently attend other schools. There is not enough information in the proposal about the possible effect on those schools.

The proposal is unlikely to have an undue effect on the current travel arrangements, except for the possibility that more pupils may attend the school.

The proposal appears to have given reasonable consideration to the effect on the local community. Estyn is of the opinion that this consultation provides more opportunities for the community to use the facilities for a number of activities, which would strengthen the community element that already exists. It appears that the new building will improve the learning environment for all of the school's pupils, and improve access for pupils with additional learning needs.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The local authority has provided an appropriate analysis of the school's current performance. It identifies that the school is in group 1 for standards and in the yellow category, which shows that Ysgol Gorslas is an effective school that is already doing well and knows which areas need to be improved. The authority has included the findings of the most recent Estyn inspection in the proposal.

The consultation does not include the proposal's effect on the quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership and management clearly enough, other than to identify that the proposal would 'provide all pupils currently educated at Gorslas School with access to an enhanced school environment. This will facilitate further improvement upon the existing good standards, provision and leadership'.

The proposal has not considered robustly enough the effect on provision in other schools in the catchment area. It appears that the proposal will not have an effect on provision for learners with additional learning needs nor have a negative effect on the Church in Wales's provision.

3.1 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

Effect on other schools

The authority identifies clearly that there are more children at Ysgol Gorslas than there are places available, and this has been the case for a number of years. However, it appears that there are a number of surplus places in the Welsh community primary schools in the catchment area.

Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that whilst Gorslas Primary School is currently oversubscribed, there are some surplus places in neighbouring catchment schools. There is a clear increasing demand for Welsh medium education within the Gorslas area and whilst 140 pupils living within the Gorslas area currently attend other schools, the school is still over capacity. Whilst it is accepted that not all pupils living within the catchment area attend/or will attend Gorslas Primary School, consideration must be given to all pupils within the catchment area and the current school capacity proves insufficient in being able to accommodate this.

Pupil places within all of the county's schools are monitored and surplus and oversubscription issues are reviewed on a regular basis. Where required, appropriate and strategic action is implemented as and when necessary.

The proposer lists the schools that may be affected by the proposal and identifies that approximately 140 pupils who live in the Gorslas catchment area currently attend other schools. There is not enough information in the proposal about the possible effect on those schools.

The proposal under consultation refers to the need to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 places due to the increasing demand for Welsh medium education places. Whilst Carmarthenshire County Council has considered the neighbouring catchment schools that may be affected by the proposal, the proposal does not and nor is it Carmarthenshire County Council's intention to directly affect these schools through this reorganisation.

Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that as a result of this proposal some neighbouring schools may be indirectly affected. It is accepted that pupils who live within the Gorslas catchment area that currently attend other schools may want to attend the new Gorslas Primary School. As is the case with all community primary schools within the county, admission to the school will be controlled and managed through the admissions process should this situation occur. Whilst Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that some neighbouring schools may be indirectly affected as a result of this proposal, it is very difficult to estimate the result and impact that this may have. Nevertheless, Carmarthenshire County Council will monitor the effect

of the proposal on neighbouring schools and will consider whether appropriate action is required as and when necessary.

The proposal has not considered robustly enough the effect on provision in other schools in the catchment area.

As mentioned previously, whilst Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that the proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School may have an indirect effect on neighbouring catchment schools, the proposal does not nor is it Carmarthenshire County Council's intention to directly affect provision in other schools as part of this reorganisation. However, Carmarthenshire County Council will monitor the effects of the proposal on neighbouring schools and should the proposal have any detrimental effects on provision, then appropriate action will be considered.

Effect on quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership and management

The consultation does not include the proposal's effect on the quality of outcomes, provision, and leadership and management clearly enough, other than to identify that the proposal would 'provide all pupils currently educated at Gorslas School with access to an enhanced school environment. This will facilitate further improvement upon the existing good standards, provision and leadership'.

It is expected that the proposal to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School through the provision of a new school building will positively affect the outcomes, provision, and leadership and management at the school.

The provision of a greater capacity will firstly enable all pupils and staff to be situated in one building, rather than having to move and operate between the main school building and additional cabins. This will provide a secure, safer and more manageable environment for pupils as well as staff and will enable across school teaching, learning and events to take place more efficiently and effectively.

The provision of greater space, both indoors and outdoors will allow for curriculum expansion and will provide opportunities for a broader and more varied learning environment for all pupils, in particular the Foundation Phase, which in turn is expected to have a positive effect on the outcomes and development of all pupils. The provision of a multi-use games area and sports pitch will provide exciting opportunities for a varied physical education curriculum and will allow all learning and sporting events to take place at one location. Currently, the school sports take place at Gorslas Park due to limited facilities at the current school site and therefore the provision of these facilities will help the management of school events. The provision of the large school hall, provides further opportunities for school events to take place

ensuring that the whole school can work together at the same time efficiently. The hall also provides opportunities for the physical education curriculum etc. to still be fulfilled in times of bad weather when events cannot take place outside.

The accessibility of facilities will ensure that the community has use of the school hall, multi-use games area and sports pitch, demonstrating how the school and community can work together to strengthen relationships and maximise potential opportunities for all. The increased capacity and intended new building will provide the community with facilities suitable for teaching and learning in the 21st century in which provision and outcomes can be enhanced.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

The proposal identifies clearly the local authority's reasons for increasing the capacity of Ysgol Gorslas and responds to the increasing demand for Welsh-medium education in the village of Gorslas and the surrounding area.

Estyn is of the opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain provision and standards for pupils in the Gorslas area.

The consultation provides a clear rationale for the expected advantages and disadvantages for Ysgol Gorslas.

Estyn is of the opinion that this consultation provides more opportunities for the community to use the facilities for a number of activities, which would strengthen the community element that already exists.

It appears that the new building will improve the learning environment for all of the school's pupils, and improve access for pupils with additional learning needs.

4. Consultation with the Pupils

School: Gorslas Primary School

Date: 11th December 2017

Consultation undertaken by: Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Challenge Adviser

Interviewed: School Council

Summary

The School Council were interviewed regarding the proposal to increase the capacity of school and the intention to provide the school with a new, replacement school building. Informative discussions were had and were based on the questions below:

- Have you seen plans for the new school building?
- Are you happy to move to a new building and why?
- What do you think will be advantageous in being in a new building?
- Will it be easier for you to learn in a new building?
- What about Foundation Phase pupils? What effect will moving have on the younger pupils?

School Council Feedback

The pupils had the opportunity to look and browse through the plans of the new school and the word “exciting” was often used in describing the new building.

Without exception, all of the pupils were looking forward to having a large, safe and spacious school yard with plenty of space to play a variety of sports including football, rugby and hockey at the same time. Pupils were also looking forward to having a less dangerous yard, especially with the bad weather in the winter.

Pupils noted that the hall was important in ensuring a place to play football and hockey when the weather was poor and to hold concerts and services as a whole school.

Pupils were also looking forward to having space to move around the school. The importance of broad corridors and wide doors was mentioned to save pushing and to feel safer when walking around. The importance of no cabins was also mentioned so that all the pupils were in the same building.

They liked the fact that there would be enough room to hang coats and so they would be less likely to lose or dirty them as they walk on the floor.

The location in the village was important to them because it is said that it will mean more families can walk to school and therefore less cars will be needed. There will also be a car park and so the site will be a much safer site.

The lift was mentioned as an important factor in being able to accommodate and help disabled children and children who have been treated to reach the upper floor without walking the stairs.

In terms of clubs the pupils mentioned that there will be a lot more space for after-school clubs as well as a breakfast club and so it will help facilitate arrangements for parents. The garden was also mentioned and therefore there would be opportunities to grow vegetables and plants and sell them to raise money for the school. The fact that there would be a library in the new school was very important to them in order to save reading in the corridor.

It was mentioned that the carnival could be held in the new school and not in the cold tent because there will be enough room in the school for the community to join the pupils. The carnival is the highlight of the year for the pupils.

The area for Foundation Phase pupils will be safe and will enable them to receive more opportunities especially when learning in the outside area.

The pupils were unanimous in agreeing that a brand new, larger building will offer additional, quality opportunities towards their education.

The only negative comments were about feeling sad when leaving the old building and moving to a new building and year 5 and 6 pupils were sad in losing the opportunity to be educated at the new school because of their age.

CYNGOR SIR CAERFYRDDIN

Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin, SA31 1JP

Hysbysir trwy hyn yn unol ag Adran 42 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 (y Ddeddf) a'r Côd Trefniadaeth Ysgolion fod Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin (y Cyngor) ar ôl ymgynghori â'r cyfryw bersonau ag sy'n ofynnol, yn cynnig cynyddu nifer y lleoedd yn Ysgol Gynradd Gorslas, Gorslas, Llanelli, SA14 6RS, o 110 i 210. Caiff yr ysgol ei chynnal gan Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin. Y bwriad yw rhoi'r cynnig ar waith ar 1 Medi 2019 pan argymhellir symud i mewn i'r adeilad newydd.

Cynhaliodd y Cyngor gyfnod ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynigion hyn. Mae adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad sy'n cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan ymgynghorion, ymatebion y cynigwyr a barn Estyn ar gael ar www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

Nifer y disgyblion yn yr ysgol ar hyn o bryd yw 122, ac mae gan yr ysgol 110 o leoedd ar gyfer disgyblion a'r nifer o leoedd arfaethedig unwaith y caiff y cynnig ei weithredu fydd 210. Y nifer derbyn ar gyfer disgyblion 4/5 oed yn yr ysgol yn ystod y flwyddyn ysgol gyntaf pan gaiff y cynnig hwn ei weithredu fydd 30.

Ni fydd dalgyrch yr ysgol yn newid.

Cyn pen 28 diwrnod ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn, hynny yw erbyn 1 Ebrill 2018, gall unrhyw berson wrthwynebu'r cynnig hwn. Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Mr Gareth Morgans, Y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant, Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin, Adeilad 2, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job, Caerfyrddin, SA31 3HB neu gellir anfon neges e-bost at aaprma@sirgar.gov.uk

Llofnod: Gareth Morgans
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant
Ar ran Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

Dyddiad dig: 5 Mawrth 2018

NODYN ESBONIADOL

(Nid yw'r Nodyn Esboniadol hwn yn rhan o'r Hysbysiad – yn hytrach fe'i cynigir er mwyn eglurder)

1. Bwriad yr Awdurdod yw cynyddu nifer y lleoedd yn Ysgol Gynradd Gorslas o 110 i 210, gyda lle ychwanegol ar gyfer darpariaeth feithrin â 30 o leoedd (allanol).

CARMARTHENSHERE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) and the School Organisation Code that Carmarthenshire County Council (the Council) having consulted such persons as required, propose to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School, Gorslas, Llanelli, SA14 6RS from 110 to 210. The school is maintained by Carmarthenshire County Council. It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1 September 2019 when occupation at the new school building is proposed.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish these proposals. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

The current number of pupils at the school is 122, the pupil capacity of the school is 110 and the proposed capacity once the proposal is implemented will be 210. The admission number (AN) for pupils aged 4/5 at the school in the first school year in which the proposal has been implemented will be 30.

There will be no change to the school's catchment area.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of this proposal, that is to say by 1 April 2018, any person may object to this proposal. Objections should be sent to Mr Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, Building 2, St David's Park, Job's Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB or e-mail to DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Signed: Gareth Morgans
Director of Education and Children's Services
For Carmarthenshire County Council

Dated: 5 March 2018

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Explanatory Note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of clarification)

1. It is the Authority's intention to increase the capacity of Gorslas Primary School from 110 to 210 with additional space for a 30 place (external) nursery.

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14TH MAY 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

**Proposal to provide nursery provision at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn
by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11**

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice, the ECS Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Reasons:

- To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.
- To formulate views for submission to Executive Board / County Council for consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board/County Council for decision: YES

Executive Board – 23 May 2018; County Council – 13 June 2018

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans</p> <p>Report Author: Simon Davies</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Director of Education & Children's Services</p> <p>Modernisation Services Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 246522 EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14 May 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Proposal to provide nursery provision at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11

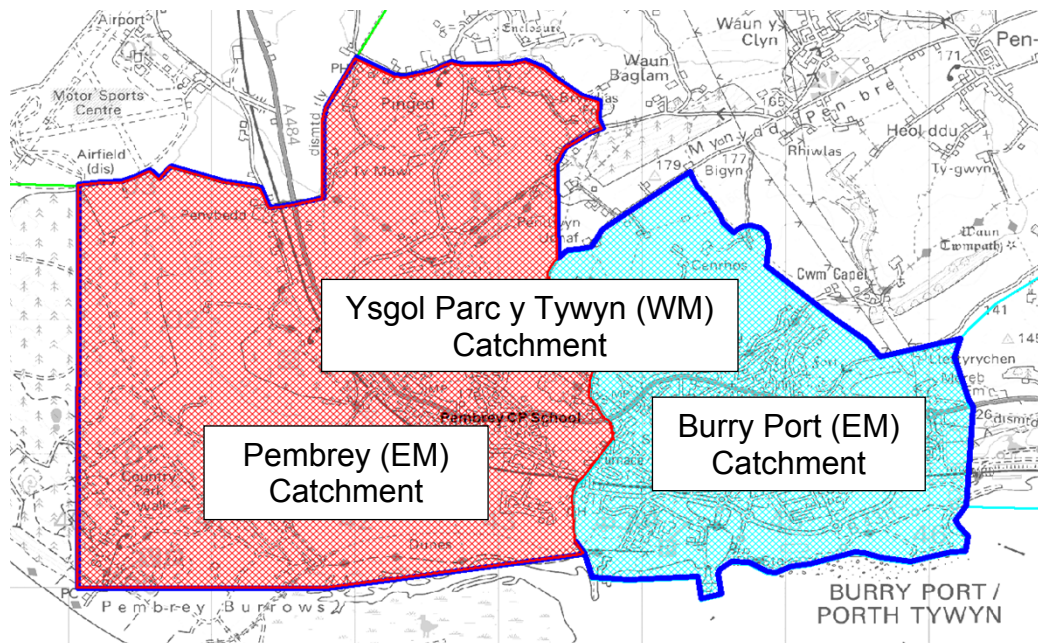
The Proposal

- 1) To standardise the **local authority part time nursery provision** in the areas of Burry Port and Pembrey:

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is a Welsh Medium school with an age range of 4-11.

Outlined in blue below is the catchment area for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.

The school shares the same catchment as the combined Burry Port Community School and Ysgol Pembrey catchment.



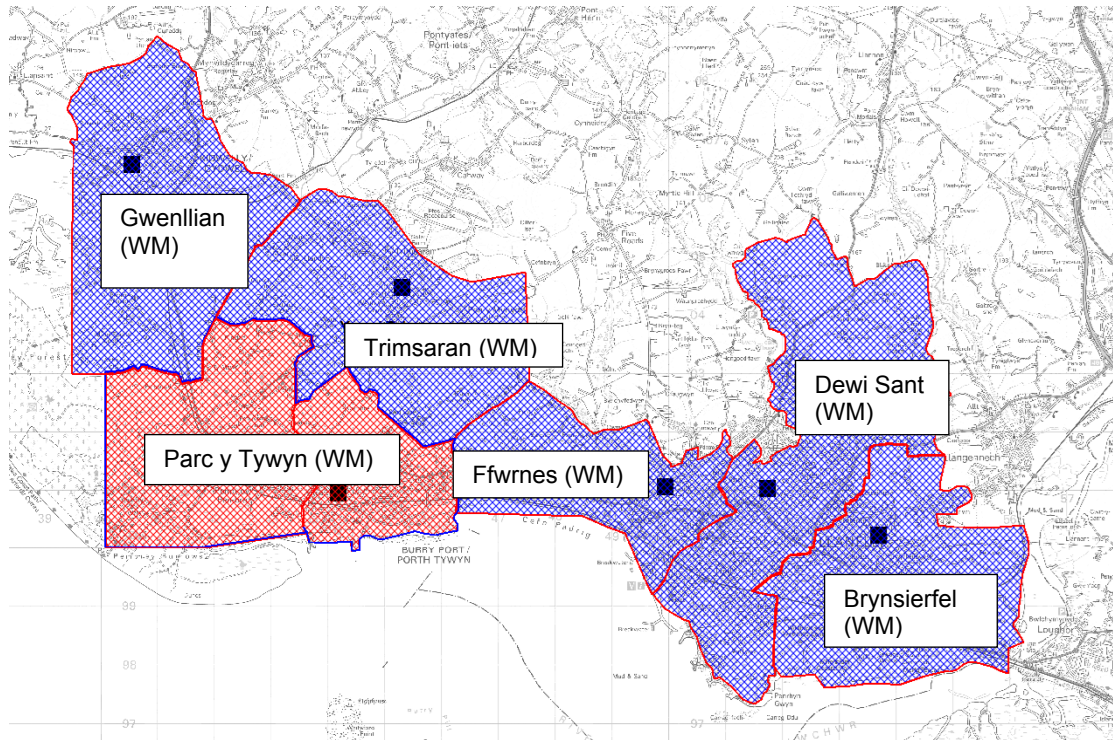
WM – Welsh Medium

EM – English Medium

Burry Port Community School and Ysgol Pembrey are categorised as English Medium language schools. The age range at the schools is 3-11. Nursery provision is being provided at both schools.

This proposal seeks to standardise the nursery education for the area by ensuring that the same level of provision is provided at both the Welsh and English medium schools in the areas of Burry Port and Pembrey.

- 1) To standardise the local authority **part time Welsh Medium nursery provision** in the area:



3-11 Welsh Medium primary schools **with** a nursery



4-11 Welsh Medium primary school **without** a nursery

As can be seen above, Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is surrounded by Welsh Medium schools that provide local authority nursery provision.

This proposal seeks to standardise the nursery provision in Welsh Medium schools by ensuring that the same level of provision is provided at all **Welsh medium schools** in the area, including Burry Port and Pembrey.

The Process

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 6th November 2017 to 17th December 2017. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report and were presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive Board for consideration and determination on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice.

On the 26th February 2018, approval was granted by the Executive Board for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice (attached) was published on 5th March 2018. The notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council which ended on the 1st April 2018. No objections were received in response to the notice therefore there is no objection report.

The full suite of documents (attached) which consists of: Consultation Document, Consultation Report and the Statutory Notice will be presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee, Executive Board and ultimately will be presented to the County Council for their determination.

This provides the ECS Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the County Council whether or not to implement the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Should the County Council agree to implement the proposal, Ysgol Parc y Tywyn will be able to provide nursery provision in the school's new building from 1 September 2018.

The new building is to be occupied by 9 July 2018, when the existing primary aged pupils will transfer over from the old building.

Recommendation

Being satisfied that there are no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal has been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contains all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, and that no objections were received in response to the Statutory Notice, that the ECS Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

**YES: - Consultation Document
Consultation Report
Statutory Notice**

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: **G. Morgans** Director of Education & Children's Services
S. Davies Modernisation Services Manager

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017, Corporate Strategy and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme

2. Legal

Appropriate consultation will need to be initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures

3. Finance

To provide part time nursery places in a school setting will have revenue funding implications for the authority in terms of appointing additional teaching and support staff for the nursery. The Revenue implications will be catered from within the existing Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.

This proposal will have a detrimental effect on employment for local private providers as provision is currently being provided for 3 year olds by local nurseries and childminders.

4. ICT

None

5. Risk Management Issues

The disparity between Welsh and English part time nursery provision being provided by the Authority within the catchment of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.

6. Physical Assets

None

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **G. Morgans** **Director of Education & Children’s Services**
 S. Davies **Modernisation Services Manager**

- 1. Scrutiny Committee** – The Scrutiny Committee were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.
- 2. Local Member(s)** – Local members in the Wards of Pembrey (Cllr. Shirley Matthews and Cllr. Hugh Shepardson) and Burry Port (Cllr. John James and Cllr. Amanda Fox) were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period. All members have advised that they are fully supportive of this proposal.
- 3. Community / Town Council** – The Pembrey & Burry Port Town Council were formally notified of the Statutory notice period.
- 4. Relevant Partners** – All relevant partners were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.
- 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Staff side representatives and other organisations were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Stage 2 Approval – Permission to Notice	http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s18977/Summary.pdf
Stage 1 Approval – Permission to Consult	http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s16464/SUMMARY.pdf
Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en
MEP Biennial Review	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk Executive Board 20 th June 2016
21 st Century Schools Website	www.21stcenturyschools.org

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Proposal to change the age range of **Ysgol Parc y Tywyn**
from 4–11 to 3–11

*Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children
are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported
to achieve their full educational potential*

6 November 2017

Gareth Morgans
Director of Education & Children's Services

School Modernisation Section

Simon Davies, Modernisation Services Manager

If you require this information in large print, Braille or on audiotape please contact the Department for Education & Children

Email: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Telephone: 01267 246475

As part of its statutory obligation to keep the number and type of school places under review, the County Council has adopted a wide-ranging programme designed to improve school buildings and enhance opportunities for learning. The strategy reflects the vision and policies established by the County Council which embraces the requirement to deliver services, to clear standards – covering both cost and quality – by the most economic and effective means. In our drive to continually improve on the services made available to all learners, we must maximise the finite resources available to the Council, and continue to work in partnership with all those who have a contribution to make to the process of learning and the well-being of both children and their families. Schools of the future will need to serve as a focus for a wide range of services dedicated to serving the needs of the community through a joined up approach.

Carmarthenshire is blessed with many very able teachers but the continuing changes to the curriculum places a heavy demand on their skills to meet the wide ranging demands of all children. Although the processes of learning, and skills of teaching, are extremely important, deep subject knowledge on the part of the teacher is essential if learners with their various gifts in different areas are to discover and develop their talents to the full.

Schools designed to meet current demands are expected to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through high quality and inspirational teaching. In the planning of new provision it will be important to ensure that our schools are properly equipped to enhance opportunities for social inclusion, sustainable development, equal opportunities and bilingualism. In practical terms we need to ensure that provision reflects the changing patterns of population, with schools based in the right location with accommodation and facilities fit to serve the needs of all learners in the twenty first century.

Consultation will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties. The information set out in this document is intended to clarify the proposals for your school and support the consultation process.



Gareth Morgans
Director of Education & Children's Services

Glossary of Abbreviations

ALN	Additional Learning Needs
AN	Admission number
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CP	Community Primary
DS	Dual Stream
EM	English medium
Estyn	Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
LA	Local Authority
MCSW	Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales
MEP	Modernising Education Programme
NOR	Number on Roll
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Census Data
PT	Part time
WESP	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
WG	Welsh Government
WM	Welsh medium

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1. Introduction

Carmarthenshire County Council has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in the area and whether or not it is making the best use of the resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

As part of this process the Council has published its vision on how it sees the future for all of the primary schools in the County and this includes consulting on the future shape of education in Ysgol Parc y Tywyn. The proposals for change included in this document are in line with that long-term objective.

This document seeks to stimulate the process of consultation by explaining the Authority's preferred option for the future provision of primary education for the pupils of **Ysgol Parc y Tywyn**. The document offers an opportunity for consultees to put forward any comments, observations or alternative proposals they wish to be considered.

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines established by the Welsh Government and will involve identified interested parties.

The main purpose of this document is to provide information and to gather the views of identified interested parties. You may wish to make use of the attached response Pro-forma included in **Appendix E** of this document or by E-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk for any response.

1.1 The Consultation Process

The consultation process will be outlined in detail in **section 6** of this consultation document. The consultation on this proposal will follow guidelines as established by the Welsh Government.

1.2 Who else will be consulted?

This document has been sent to the following interested parties:

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Ysgol Parc y Tywyn	Governors and Parents Ysgol Parc y Tywyn
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership Child Care / Early Years Communities First Partnership	Community Councillors Pembrey & Burry Port Town Council
Local County Councillors	Welsh Language Commissioner
Assembly Member (AM) Regional Assembly Members	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)

National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Association Of Teachers & Lecturers (ATL)
Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)	The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT) / Voice the Union
National Association Of Head Teachers (NAHT)	GMB Union
UNISON	*Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire
UNITE the Union	LA Special Educational Needs section
Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities	ERW – Education through Regional Working
Public Services Board	Regional Transport Consortium
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Welsh Ministers
Estyn	Diocesan Director of Education
Flying Start	Families First Carmarthenshire
Additional Learning Needs Partners	Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin and any current local nursery or childminder

*Consultation document sent to Headteachers and Chair of Governors of - **Primary Schools** - Burry Port Community Primary School, Ysgol Pembrey, Ysgol Trimsaran, Ysgol Y Castell and Ysgol Gwenllian, and **Secondary Schools** - Ysgol Glan-y-Môr and Ysgol Y Strade.

1.3 Consultation with Pupils

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn to participate in the consultation process during a session which will be conducted at the school with the challenge adviser.

1.4 Consultation Period

There will be a period from **6 November 2017** to **17 December 2017** when you can express your views.

You can express your views by writing a letter or alternatively completing the attached response form in **Appendix E** which should be received by the Department for Education and Children's Services, Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB, or by E-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk no later than noon on **17 December 2017**.

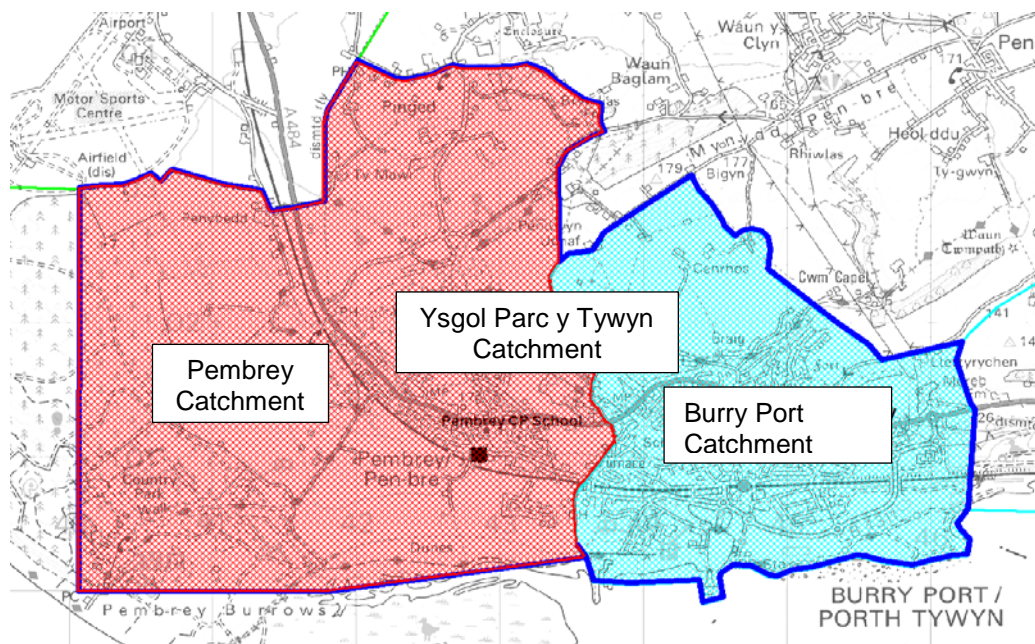
2. Background

Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to providing each child with the best possible start in life and meeting the aspirations of Welsh Government as set out in their strategic documents e.g. *Building a Brighter Future: The Early Years and Childcare Plan*, *Qualified for life: An education improvement plan*.

The provision of high quality early years education is key to realising this ambition.

Currently the age range of this school is 4-11.

Outlined in blue below is the catchment area for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn. The school shares the same catchment as the combined catchments of Burry Port Community School and Ysgol Pembrey.



The association between the catchments of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, Pembrey and Burry Port primary schools can be seen in the above map, with Pembrey catchment to the West site of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn and Burry Port catchment to the East side of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn catchment area.

Burry Port Community School and Ysgol Pembrey are both categorised as English Medium language schools. The age range at the schools is 3 -11, therefore nursery provision is provided at both schools.

This proposal seeks to standardise the nursery education for the area by ensuring that the same level of provision is provided for both the **Welsh and English medium schools**.

Current position within Carmarthenshire

Designated early years provision is offered in **36 schools** across the County Council.

Ysgol	Age Range
Betws	3-11 years
Bigyn	3-11 years
Bro Brynach	3-11 years
Bryn	3-11 years
Bryn Teg	3-11 years
Brynaman	3-11 years
Brynsierfel	3-11 years
Burry Port	3-11 years
Bynea	3-11 years
Cross Hands	3-11 years
Dafen	3-11 years
Dewi Sant	3-11 years
Gymraeg Ffwrnes	3-11 years
Griffith Jones	3-11 years
Gwenllian	3-11 years
Halfway	3-11 years
Johnstown	3-11 years
Llangain	3-11 years
Llangynnwr	3-11 years
Maes y Morfa	3-11 years
Model	3-11 years
Myrddin	3-11 years
Nantgaredig	3-11 years
Pembrey	3-11 years
Pen Rhos	3-11 years
Pen-y-Gaer	3-11 years
Pwll	3-11 years
Richmond Park	3-11 years
St Mary's , Llanelli	3-11 years
St Mary's	3-11 years
Carmarthen	
Stebonheath	3-11 years
Teilo Sant	3-11 years
Trimsaran	3-11 years
Ysgol y Bedol	3-11 years
Y Castell	3-11 years
Y Dderwen	3-11 years

Ysgol Feithrin Rhydaman provides for Bro Banw and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydaman.

- There are **65 schools** in Carmarthenshire that do not have designated early years provision.
- Early Years Foundation Phase Learning Provision in Carmarthenshire is being offered in **47 non-maintained settings**.

This document sets out the proposal to formally change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11 as from the beginning of the 2018/19 autumn term, to enable the incorporation of nursery provision in to the school's new building.

The County Council has a legal duty to look at the number and type of schools it has in Carmarthenshire and is required to make sure that they are located in the right place, have the right facilities for the future and have the right resources to deliver education and learning for pupils. We think that both our pupils and staff deserve nothing less.

Changes in the curriculum and the way in which children will be taught in the future also means that we also have to look at whether or not, it is possible to review the age range of its schools to meet the future needs of the pupils.

3. What are we aiming achieve?

We are seeking to standardise the nursery provision at both the Welsh and English schools in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas. This will ensure that there is seamless transition through from nursery age to primary aged pupils in the Welsh Medium sector.

Nursery provision for the community is currently provided by privately run nurseries and childminders. Although the provision is of high quality, the introduction of a Local Authority Nursery will in the authority's opinion, lead to a more integrated approach for the education of young children.

The Welsh Medium provision for children at a 3-11 Primary School will allow young children in the area to smoothly progress from nursery provision on to foundation phase.

The benefits of this transition will ensure continuity of progression whilst providing a seamless progression from nursery into primary and from primary into secondary education. It is known that children benefit educationally from the elimination of stages of transfer.

On average 75% of the pupils that arrive at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn have very little, or no Welsh at all, as it is not the language spoken at home. This proposal will immerse these pupils sooner in the Welsh language.

Pupils with Additional Learning Needs will also benefit greatly. Parents will have a specialist Additional Learning Needs Coordinator to help them access necessary services and to advise parents on how to help their children begin their formal education on a more level playing field with their cohorts.

It is important that the pupils of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn begin their educational continuum at the earliest point of provision. All pupils transfer to Ysgol Y Strade and continue their studies through the medium of Welsh. It is vital that pupils begin at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn as early as possible, to ensure that their educational journey is a success as possible and for their full potential to be reached.

Conclusion

In order to support the seamless transition of pupils through the Nursery to Primary school admission, it is considered essential that the County Council moves to extend the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11. The provision to be provided at the new replacement school building which is currently being constructed on the former Burrows Yard near Burry Port Harbour.

This proposal will address the current disparity between the Welsh and English nursery provision being offered in this area. This will also bring Ysgol Parc y Tywyn in line with all other Welsh Medium primary schools in the Llanelli area (Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes, Ysgol Gymraeg Brynsierfel and Ysgol Dewi Sant), which offer Welsh medium nursery provision.

3.1 The Proposal

“To change the age range at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11 for the beginning of the school 2018/19 academic year (1 September 2018) in the new school building which is currently being constructed on the former Burrows yard, Burry Port.

3.2 Alternative Options Considered

Option 1

Continue with the present arrangement.

This was considered prejudicial to Ysgol Parc y Tywyn as it would not offer the same level of nursery provision as the English medium primary schools it shares its catchment with and the Welsh medium primary schools it is surrounded by.

Option 2

Provide nursery provision at neighbouring schools.

Similar to option 1 it would not address the issue of pupils living within the catchment of Burry Port and Pembrey not being given the option of attending a Welsh Medium primary school nursery within catchment.

Option 3

Create a standalone Welsh Medium nursery for the catchment of Burry Port and Pembrey.

This option would not offer the benefits of seamless transition and ensure the continuity of progression from nursery into primary education.

3.3 Advantages and Disadvantages

The advantages are as follows:

Standardisation of Welsh & English Medium nursery provision for pupils living within the catchment of Burry Port and Pembrey.

Standardisation of Welsh Medium nursery provision for pupils living in the Llanelli and surrounding areas.

Seamless progression from nursery into primary school for Welsh medium pupils living in the areas Burry Port and Pembrey.

Opportunity for employment at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.

The disadvantages are as follows:

The reduction in demand for places at the privately run nurseries and childminders who currently provide provision.

Unemployment due to the lack of demand at the private run nurseries and childminders.

3.4 Risks Associated with this proposal

Risk	Counter Measure
Failure to obtain statutory approval to implement the proposal	Follow guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2013
Integration of pupils into the school	The Authority will work with the pupils to ensure smooth transition and integration into the school

3.5 Staffing

There will be staffing implications for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn in terms of appointing additional teaching and support staff for the nursery. This can be managed effectively through existing staff recruitment arrangements.

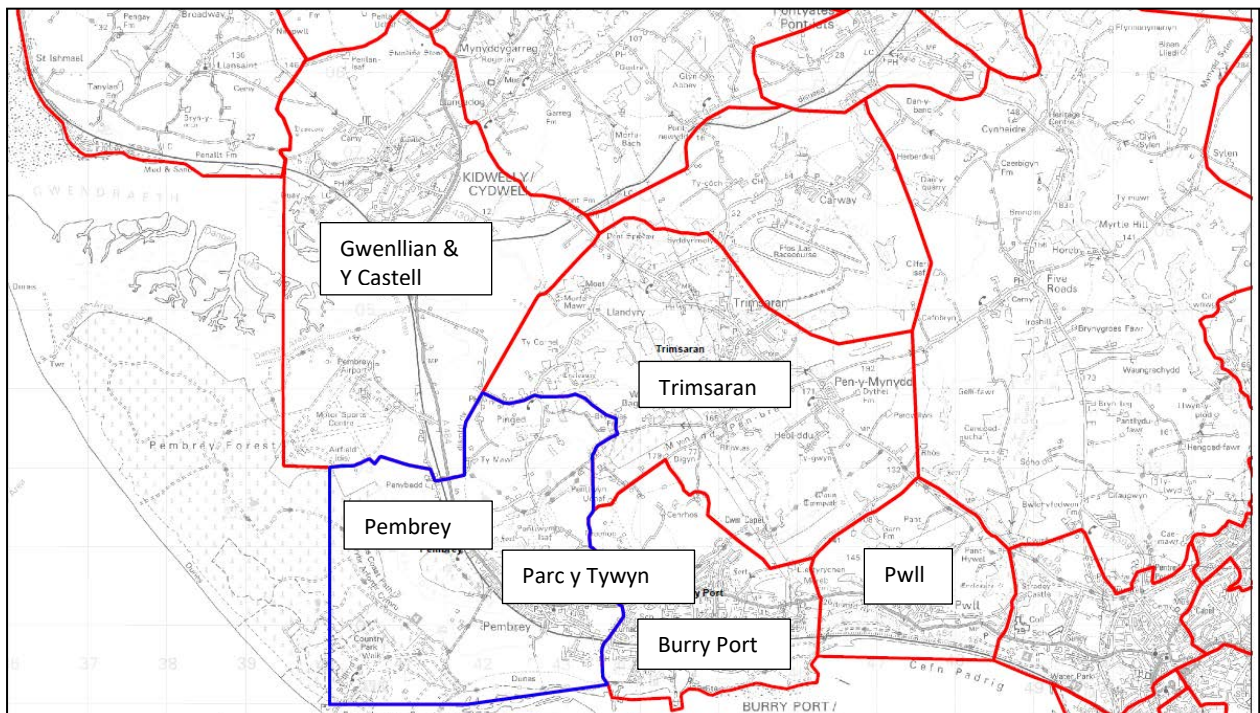
4. General Information

School / Nursery Providers which may be affected by this proposal

The catchment area of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is surrounded by the following community primary schools:

Burry Port Community Primary School, Burry Port
Ysgol Pembrey, Pembrey
Ysgol Trimsaran, Trimsaran
Ysgol Y Castell, Kidwelly
Ysgol Gwenllian, Kidwelly
Ysgol Pwll, Pwll, Llanelli
Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes, Ffwrnes, Llanelli

The following diagram shows the catchment areas for the schools



Name of School	Type of School	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity (as at Jan 2017)	Jan 2017 PLASC Number Total (FTE)	Age Range
Burry Port	Community Primary	EM	30	240	207	3 - 11
Pembrey	Community Primary	EM	30	240	235	3 - 11
Trimsaran	Community Primary	WM	30	240	172	3 - 11
Y Castell	Community Primary	EM	30	244	267	3 - 11
Gwenllian	Community Primary	WM	18	141	129	3 - 11
Pwll	Community Primary	EM	15	123	92	3 - 11
Gymraeg Ffwrnes	Community Primary	WM	60	480	398	3 - 11

4.2 Pupil Numbers in Full Time Education (FTE) (Inc. Nursery) (Neighbouring schools)

The table and graph below shows pupil numbers in full time education (PLASC 2017) for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, Ysgol Pembrey, Burry Port Community Primary School, Ysgol Trimsaran, Ysgol Y Castell and Ysgol Gymraeg Gwenllian, for January 2017 and the projected numbers for the next five years.

School	Capacity (Inc. Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE	Total Pupils FTE	Total Pupils FTE	Total Pupils FTE	Total Pupils FTE	Total Pupils FTE	Total Pupils FTE
		2017 (Inc. Nursery)	2018 (Inc. Nursery)	2019 (Inc. Nursery)	2020 (Inc. Nursery)	2021 (Inc. Nursery)	2022 (Inc. Nursery)	2023 (Inc. Nursery)
Burry Port	240	207	213	211	213	216	204	211
Pembrey	240	235	230	218	201	201	198	205
Trimsaran	240	172	176	176	181	187	184	182
Y Castell	244	267	260	255	249	251	254	254
Gwenllian	141	129	132	129	129	133	133	132
Pwll	123	92	96	99	100	103	105	103
Gymraeg Ffwrnes	480	398	410	426	432	438	431	433

The above table includes Full time Equivalent pupil data

4.3 Nursery providers - (within a 1 mile radius of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn)

This proposal will have a detrimental effect on employment for local private providers as provision is currently being provided for 3 year olds by local nurseries and childminders.

Primary Type	Provider Name
Full Day Care	Meithrinfa Hapus Dyrfa
Full Day Care	Serendipity Day Nursery
Full Day Care/ Sessional Care	Cylch Meithrin Porth Tywyn
Flying Start Burry Port	Hapus Dyrfa
Flying Start Pembrey	Serendipity
Cylch Meithrin	Burry Port Community Primary
Childminder	Mrs Christine Park
Childminder	Mrs Heather Williams

5. General School Information – Ysgol Parc y Tywyn

5.1 Pupil Projections

The following table shows the actual pupil numbers at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn at January 2017 and projected pupil numbers at the school for next five years.

School	Capacity (Inc. Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2017	Total Pupils FTE 2018	Total Pupils FTE 2019 (Inc. Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2020 (Inc. Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2021 (Inc. Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2022 (Inc. Nursery)	Total Pupils FTE 2023 (Inc. Nursery)
Parc y Tywyn	323~/315	262~	272~	308	306	296	299	304

~ The existing building does not include a nursery.

5.2 Historical Pupil Numbers

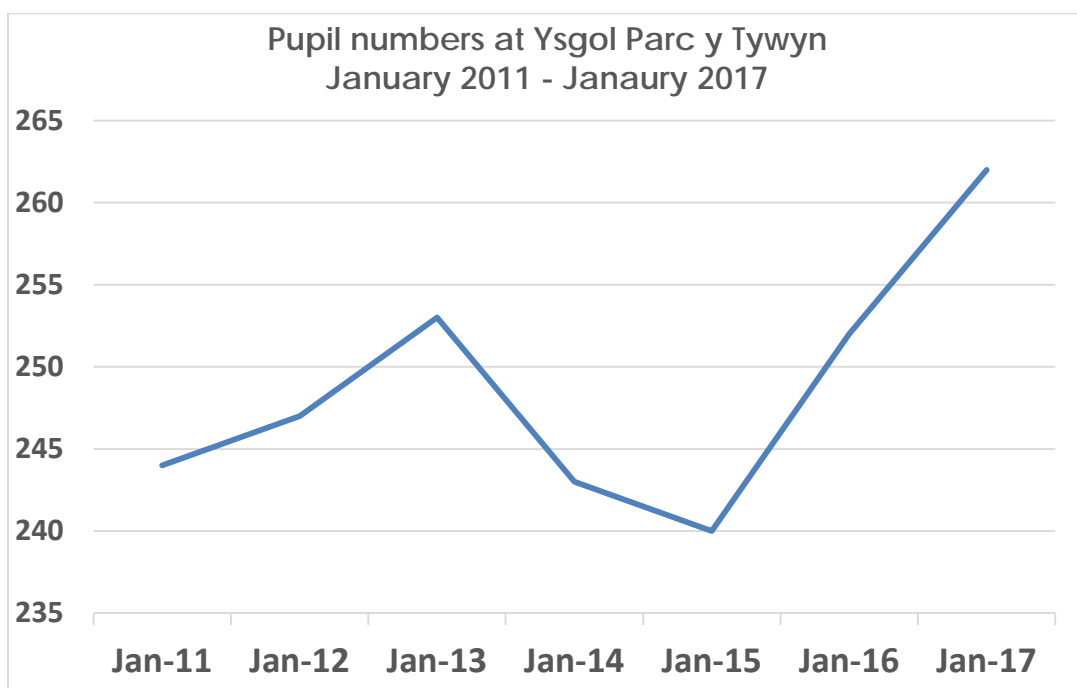
5.2.1 Current Trends

The following table and graph shows pupil numbers for January 2017 and the previous six years.

	2yrs (PT)	2yrs (FT)	3yrs (PT)	3yrs (FT)	4yrs (PT)	4yrs (FT)	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs	Total (PUP)	Total (FTE)
*Jan-17	0	0	0	18	0	44	30	31	42	35	37	25	262	262
*Jan-16	0	0	0	22	0	28	30	41	35	40	25	31	252	252
*Jan-15	0	0	0	10	0	29	41	35	41	24	31	29	240	240
*Jan-14	0	0	0	16	0	36	36	39	24	31	29	32	243	243
*Jan-13	0	0	0	22	0	38	40	27	31	31	34	30	253	253
*Jan-12	0	0	0	18	0	41	29	31	34	33	32	29	247	247
*Jan-11	0	0	0	24	0	28	32	34	34	33	30	29	244	244

*Age of pupils as at 31 August of the previous year.

It can be seen from the information above and following graph that pupil numbers have remained consistently high.



5.3 Pupil Capacity Information

The methodology used for the calculation of school capacities is as per Welsh Government guidelines. "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales" (MCSW).

	Actual Pupil Total (FTE) Jan 2017					
	Jan 2017*	Jan 2018*	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	Jan 2022
Total projected numbers	262*	272*	309	306	296	299
Capacity (Nursery + Primary)	323*	323*	360 (45 + 315)	360 (45 + 315)	360 (45 + 315)	360 (45 + 315)
Surplus	61*	51*	51	54	64	61

* The Existing building does not include a nursery.

The table above provides an analysis of the implications of accommodating nursery pupils at the school.

As can be seen, the capacity of the new Ysgol Parc y Tywyn school has been designed to ensure that there is enough capacity at the school to allow for the future increase of pupil numbers.

5.4 Quality and Standard of education

The most recent Estyn inspection for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn took place in January 2012.

Context

'Ysgol Parc y Tywyn provides Welsh-medium education for pupils. The school serves the town of Burry Port and the surrounding area. It is located on the outskirts of the town, in the middle of an estate of council houses near the local secondary school. According to the school it is an area that is developing economically with recent developments in the world of tourism and leisure. Nine per cent of pupils are entitled to free school meals, a figure that is significantly lower than the average for Wales and the education authority's average'.

'Twenty-four per cent of pupils receive support for additional educational needs, a percentage that is a little higher than the national figure. Three pupils have a statement of special educational needs. No permanent exclusions have been recorded since the last inspection'.

During each inspection, inspectors aim to answer three key questions:

Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?

Key Question 2: How good is provision?

Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?

Inspectors also provide an overall judgement on the school's current performance and on its prospects for improvement.

In these evaluations, inspectors use a four-point scale:

Judgement	What the judgement means
Excellent	Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice
Good	Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Adequate	Strengths outweigh areas for improvement
Unsatisfactory	Important areas for improvement outweigh

Summary

The School's current performance	Adequate
The Schools prospects for improvement	Adequate

Main Findings

Key Question 1.	How good are outcomes ?	Adequate
Key Question 2.	How good is provision ?	Good
Key Question 3.	How good are leadership and management ?	Adequate

The impact of this proposal would mean the integration of a nursery in Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.

The authority is of the opinion that this will improve the learning environment and experience. It would provide a more coherent foundation Phase for the young learners. This would be by the elimination of a stage of transition between nursery and reception, and the continuity of staffing and data transfer for individual pupils especially in teaching, care and support for pupils aged 3 – 11 years and provide the learning opportunities in a single through primary school that are available in other neighbouring schools in Carmarthenshire.

These factors would have a positive effect on the learning experience for the children.

5.5 School Standards

National School Categorisation System

The Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of the national School Categorisation System in September 2014. The system is not purely data-driven but also takes into account the quality of leadership and teaching and learning in our schools. The system will not take the place of Estyn reports, Estyn will continue to inspect schools and provide an external check on the national school categorisation system when inspecting.

The new system evaluates and assesses schools and places them in a support category using the following information:

- A range of performance measures provided by the Welsh Government.
- Robust self-evaluation by the school on its capacity to improve in relation to leadership and teaching and learning.
- Assessment of the school's self-evaluation by challenge advisers in the regional consortia, agreed with the County Council.

The new categorisation system will give a clear and fair picture of a school's progress. There is a three step process in generating a category for a school, firstly after the performance data and self-evaluation have been analysed a draft support category is generated for each school. This category is discussed with the school by regional consortia and then agreed with the local authority.

The table below summarises the data for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn:

National School Categorisation System – Data 2016

School	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category
Ysgol Parc y Tywyn	2	A	Green

As can be seen from the table above Ysgol Parc y Tywyn has been categorised in the Green category which is reported as being a '**highly effective school**' which is '**well run**', has a '**strong leadership**' and is '**clear about its priorities for improvement**'.

Leadership and Management

It is not anticipated that learner outcomes will be adversely affected during the change to the age range from 4-11 to 3-11. Indeed, we are wholly confident that learner outcomes will be enhanced as learners are integrated into an appropriate learning environment from an earlier age. All aspects of provision and outcomes will be monitored in line with the high expectations and processes of our regional school improvement service – ERW.

In addition, the County Council collects and collates learner outcomes on a regular and systematic basis to ensure the frequent monitoring and progression of standards across all core areas of learning. This will continue throughout the proposal of change to ensure that learner outcomes are continuously monitored and not affected as a result of the proposal. Central to this work will be the support and challenge work undertaken by ERW Challenge Advisers within the school. This activity will include a menu of scheduled visits focusing on analyses of pupil outcomes and the quality of teaching provision and learning. It is important to note that the findings of this work are always shared directly with the Governing Body. This ensures the highest levels of whole school accountability are firmly in place in support of learners' outcomes.

ERW Challenge Advisers place much emphasis on a school's ability to demonstrate high levels of 'valued added performance' based on an individual learner's benchmark starting point. This aspect will remain a key feature of the monitoring and review of the school's performance during this period.

5.6 Pupil Costs

Based on 2017/18 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,166 at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, which is lower than the county average of £3,649.

5.7 Financial Implications - Revenue

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is funded in accordance with the County Council Fair Funding policy and will receive resources on the same basis as any other school within the County Council, based on the new school's pupil numbers and facilities.

5.8 Admission Arrangements

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn. The current admission number (AN) is 40. When the new building has completed the Admission number will increase to 45.

If you have any queries in relation to admission to the school the contact details for Carmarthenshire LA are as follows:

School Admissions Unit
Carmarthenshire County Council
Department for Education and Children
Building 2, St. David's Park
Carmarthen. SA31 3HB

Tel No: 01267 246449

E-mail : admissions@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

5.9 Building Facilities

Existing

The **Building Condition Survey undertaken in August 2001** reported that Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is 'located on the edge of Porth Tywyn, built in the early 1970s comprising of a modular style block brick with low-pitched roof. Terrapin classrooms have been added to provide additional classroom facilities'.

'Access for wheelchair disabled and the partially sighted would be possible with the introduction of some small ramps to the entrance doors'.

In 2010 as part of the **National 21st Century School Programme assessment**, EC Harris carried out a survey on behalf of all schools in Wales. The survey scored each school building for

1) Condition, 2) Priority and 3) Suitability.

1) Condition – Categorized from A to D:

- A Good (No Deterioration)
- B Satisfactory (Minor Deterioration)
- C Poor (Major Deterioration)**
- D Bad (Life Expired)

2) Priority – A recommended timeline from 1 to 3 for carrying out any work:

- 1 Urgent (1 Year)
- 2 **Essential (2 Year)**
- 3 Desirable (3 to 5 Years)

3) Suitability – Categorised from A to D:

- A Good (Suitable levels for Teaching, Learning and Well Being in Schools)
- B Reasonable (but Behaviour / morale adversely and management affected)
- C **Poor (Teaching methods inhibited)**
- D Bad (Severe situation and / or Unable to teach the curriculum)

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn building was categorised as follows:

Condition	Priority	Suitability
C	2	C

New Building

When the new building is completed it is expected to be awarded a grade A in Building Condition and the highest grade in respect of Suitability. It will also be fully compliant in respect of disability access and in respect of the EPC (Energy Performance Certificate), it receive an A rating.

5.10 Transport

Transport arrangements will be made in accordance with the Council Councils home to school transport policy. The overall change in travelling time is expected to reduce for pupils living within the catchment area due to new road infrastructure that has been put in place as part of the Burry Port harbour redevelopment.

5.11 School Catchment Area

The school's site will move from Heol Elfed to just off Burrows Terrace, which is less than a mile from the existing site. There will be no change in catchment area.

5.12 Secondary School Transfers

There will be no changes to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education.

5.13 Additional Learning Needs

There will be no change to the current provision offered for pupils with additional educational learning needs at the school.

6. The Statutory Process

6.1 Consultation Period

The consultation period for this proposal starts on **6 November 2017** and ends on **17 December 2017**. During this period you can ask questions and express your views by writing a letter or completing the attached response form in **Appendix E**. Letters and response forms should be sent to:

Department for Education and Children's Services, Building 2, St. David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB, or by E-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk no later than noon on **17 December 2017**.

Consultees can submit their views in favour of or against a proposal. Responses received during the consultation period will not be treated as statutory objections. If consultees wish to object, they will need to do so in writing during the statutory objection period outlined below.

6.2 Considering Your Views

Within 13 weeks of **17 December 2017** a consultation report will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website. Hard copies of the report will also be available on request. The report will summarise the issues raised by consultees and provide Carmarthenshire County Council's response to these issues. The report will also contain Estyn's view of the proposal.

The County Council of Carmarthenshire County Council will consider the consultation report and decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

If the County Council of Carmarthenshire County Council decides to continue with the proposal Carmarthenshire County Council must publish a statutory notice.

6.3 Statutory Notice

The statutory notice will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's web site and posted on the main and all other entrances of the school. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to pupils, parents, carers and guardians, staff members and governors (the school may also distribute the notice by email).

The notice will set out the details of the proposal and invite anyone who wishes to object to do so in writing within a period of 28 days.

6.4 Determination of Proposal

The Full County Council of Carmarthenshire County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications. In doing so, the Executive Board will also take into account any statutory objections that is received.

6.5 Decision notification

Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.

6.6 The Statutory Process Time-Table

The statutory process and timetable will be as follows:-

<p>6 November 2017 (42 Days)</p>	<p>Issue of this consultation document to identified and other interested parties.</p>
<p>17 December 2017</p>	<p>Closing date for views on the proposal to be received by the Department for Education & Children.</p>
	<p>Within 13 weeks of 17 December 2017 a Consultation Report will be taken to the County Council and published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.</p> <p>Decision to proceed to publish statutory notice. OR alternatively proposal ends.</p> <p>If the decision is made to proceed then a statutory notice will be published. The notice will outline details of the proposal and be published on the Council's web site and be displayed near the entrance of the school and schools which are subject to the proposals. Copies of the notice will be made available to the school to distribute to parents, guardians and staff members.</p> <p>Following publication there will be a 28 day period during which time formal written objections will be invited.</p> <p>The statutory notice will give details on how you may record your objections to the proposal.</p>
<p>April 2018</p>	<p>End of formal 28 day notice period for objections. County Council will determine the proposal. The County Council may decide to approve, reject or approve the proposal with modifications, in doing so the County Council will take into account any statutory objections that it received.</p> <p>Deadline to notify parents of intention to implement proposal.</p>
<p>July 2018</p>	<p>Following determination of proposals all interested parties will be informed and advised of the availability of the decision which will be published electronically on Carmarthenshire County Council's website.</p>

7. Appendix A – Community Impact Assessment

Community Impact Assessment

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is located in Heol Elfed, which is situated on the outskirts of Burry Port, in the middle of an estate of council houses near the local English medium secondary school.

Burry Port is located approximately 5 miles west from the town of Llanelli.

There are currently 262 pupils between three (rising fours) and 11 years old on roll. There are ten classes in the school. The number of reception classes has increased from one to three to accommodate a rise in pupil numbers. Approximately 10.9% of pupils are entitled to free school meals.

There are currently 27 pupils with additional learning needs at the school. 2 pupils are statemented, 11 pupils are categorised as Action plus and 14 are School Action.

There are very few pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds.

The school currently provides education for pupils between 4 – 11. The new school building when completed will have provision to accommodate a nursery class which will increase the age range to 3 – 11. Pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh.

The school provides a choice of after school activities which include various clubs which cater a range of outdoor activities and clubs that develop pupil self-confidence and independence. There is good provision to ensure continuity and progression in pupils knowledge and understanding of basic skills as they move through the school.

The partnership with parents and the community is an outstanding feature of the work and activities of the school.

Catchment Area Analysis

Local / Catchment Area School

Carmarthenshire County Council recognises that there is an important relationship between a school and its community. The County Council has therefore identified a designated geographical area which the school serves and is referred to as the school's catchment area. Details of a school's catchment area is available from the school, or the County Council's website or available from the relevant Admissions Authority.

Whilst living in a school's catchment area does not guarantee admission to the school it is an important factor as it will give the application a higher priority

than those from individuals who live outside the catchment area. Residency within the defined catchment area of a school is also important as it is one of the key criteria in assessing eligibility for assistance with home to school transport.

Prior to making an application for admission to a school the County Council strongly recommends that you contact, discuss and if possible visit your local school so that you are aware of the facilities and opportunities they are able to offer.

Most parents send their child to their local school but parents have a right to state a preference for other schools.

Children attending the school from inside catchment

Based on January 2017 pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn catchment area indicated that of the 262 pupils on roll, 240 lived within the catchment area.

Children attending the school from outside catchment

Based on January 2017 pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn catchment area indicated that of the 262 pupils on roll, 22 pupils lived outside the catchment area.

Children within the catchment area attending other schools

Based on January 2017 pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn catchment area indicated that 398 pupils within the catchment attend other schools. A significant number of these pupils attend either Burry Port or Pembrey primary schools as they share the same catchment at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn Facilities / Activities

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn offers pupils a breakfast club during term time between 8am and 8:50am. The school also offers after school clubs for pupils wishing to participate in various activities between Monday and Friday until 5:20pm every school day.

After school clubs deliver various activities (depending on the time of year), to extend the pupil learning experience by enabling them to participate in a range of outdoor activities and develop self-confidence and independence. i.e. Clwb Hwyl and Junior School Clubs

Community use of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn building

The community do not currently use the building.

Church in Wales Provision

Should parents wish to send their children to a school offering the church in Wales character their nearest school would be Pentip Voluntary Aided Primary school in Llanelli subject to parental preference.

8. Appendix B – Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Carmarthenshire County Council's vision is to provide a service, which will ensure access to high quality learning opportunities for all children, young people and adults, this enabling the achievement of their full potential within the context of the unique bilingual nature of the county.

This proposal supports the Council's vision and aims for Welsh medium education as set out in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014 – 2017. The proposal will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the Burry Port area and will ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.

Language Category

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is categorised as a Welsh medium primary school. As noted in the Admission to School – Information to Parents booklet this means that in the Foundation Phase, pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh and that in KS2, at least 70% of teaching is through the medium of Welsh. Welsh is the language of communication with pupils and the language of the day to day business of the school.

Standards

In Foundation Phase, pupils are assessed in different areas of learning. Based on 2016 data, 95.12% of pupils achieved at least Outcome 5 in "Language, literacy and communication skills in Welsh, whilst 48.78% of pupils achieved at least Outcome 6. In Key Stage 2, pupils are assessed in each of the core subjects. Based on 2016 data, 93.55% of pupils achieved at least Level 4 in Welsh first language.

After school activities which provide additional opportunities to use the Welsh language

To promote the Welsh language the pupils at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn are fortunate to be able benefit from several after school clubs, which are held on various nights. These include, 'Clwb yr Urdd', 'Clwb Côr Mawr', 'Clwb Unsain' and 'Clwb Deulais'.

9. Appendix C – Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Carmarthenshire County Council Assessing Impact

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together and replaces the previous anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. It simplifies and strengthens the law, removes inconsistencies and makes it easier for people to understand and comply with it. The majority of the Act came into force on 1 October 2010.

The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the 'general duty'), replacing the separate duties on race, disability and gender equality. This came into force on 5 April 2011.

What is the general duty?

The aim of the general duty is to ensure that public authorities and those carrying out a public function consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in their day-to-day activities. The duty ensures that equality considerations are built into the design of policies and the delivery of services and that they are kept under review. This will achieve better outcomes for all.

The duties are legal obligations. Failure to meet the duties may result in authorities being exposed to legal challenge.

Under equality legislation, public authorities have legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality with regard to race, disability and gender, including gender reassignment, as well as to promote good race relations. The Equality Act 2010 introduces a new public sector duty which extends this coverage to age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief. The law requires that this duty to pay 'due regard' be demonstrated in the decision making process. It is also important to note that public authorities subject to the equality duties are also likely to be subject to the obligations under the Human Rights Act and it is therefore wise also to consider the potential impact that decisions could have on human rights as part of the same process.

Carmarthenshire's approach to Equality Impact

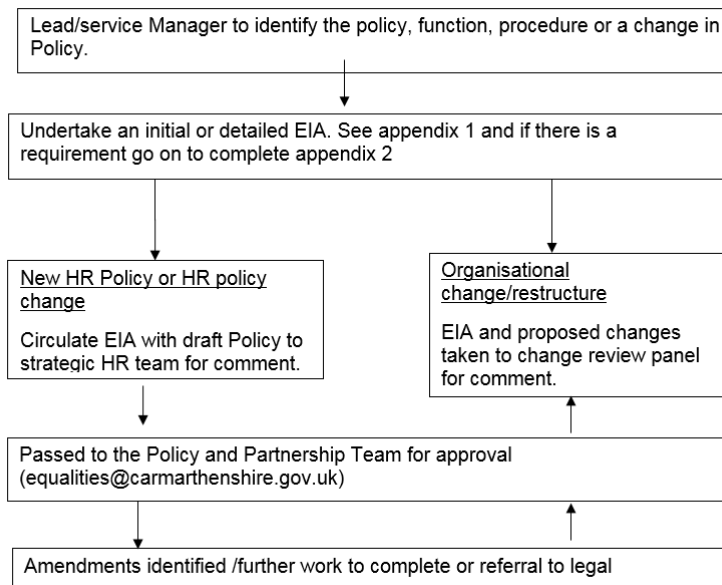
In order to ensure that the council is considering the potential equality impact of its proposed policies and practices, and in order to evidence that we have done so, every proposal will be required to be supported by the attached Impact Assessment. Where this assessment identifies a significant impact then more detail may be required.

Reporting on assessments

Where it is clear from the assessment that the likely impact on the authority's ability to meet the general duty is substantial, then it must publish a report.

Carmarthenshire County Council Assessing Impact

Equality impact assessment – Process to follow where HR implications have been identified



Initial Equalities Impact Assessment Template

Department: Education & Children	Completed by (lead): Martin Jones	Date of initial assessment: August 2017 Revision Dates: TBC
Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of <i>policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision</i>)	To legally change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11 by 2018-19 autumn term (1 September 2018)	
Is this existing or new function/policy, procedure, practice or decision?	School Re-organisation Proposal – Modernising Education Programme	
What evidence has been used to inform the assessment and policy? (please list only)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Schools Programme Modernising Education Programme School Organisation Code 2013 PLASC Data 2016/2017 		

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the proposed function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.	The aim of the scheme is to provide the pupils and staff of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn primary school with a nursery by legally increasing the age range pupils are admitted to school the current 4 – 11 to 3 -11. The authority is seeking to standardise the nursery provision at both the Welsh and English schools in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas. This will ensure that there is seamless transition through from nursery age to primary aged pupils in the Welsh Medium sector. Nursery provision is already being provided in the Burry Port & Pembrey English Medium schools		
The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to:- (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;	2. What is the level of impact on each group/ protected characteristics in terms of the three aims of the duty? Please indicate	3. Identify the risk or positive effect that could result for each of the group/protected characteristics?	4. If there is a disproportionately negative impact what mitigating factors have you considered?

<p>(2) advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and (3) foster good relations between different groups (see guidance notes)</p>		<p>high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.</p>	<p>Risks</p>	<p>Positive effects</p>	
<p>Protected characteristics</p>	<p>Age</p>	<p>L</p>		<p>The proposal will provide nursery age pupils with access to nursery provision within a school building</p>	
	<p>Disability</p>	<p>L</p>		<p>The nursery will be accommodated in a building that will be fully DDA compliant ensuring full accessibility for all</p>	
	<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Race</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Religion/Belief</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Sexual Orientation</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>Sex</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
<p>Welsh language</p>	<p>L</p>		<p>This will standardise the nursery provision at both the Welsh and</p>		

				English schools in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas	
	Any other area	L	L		

5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> The Project Officer has liaised with the Headteacher, private nursery and childminders providers in the Burry Port and Pembrey area. Local members have also been fully informed of the proposal
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6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any? *To ensure that all key stakeholders are fully informed throughout the statutory process.*

7. Procurement
 Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any procurement implications to the activity, proposal and service. *Not Applicable*
 Please take the findings of this assessment into your procurement plan. Contact the corporate procurement unit for further advice.

8. Human resources
 Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any Human resource implications to the activity, proposal or service? *As there will be an increase in age range, additional staffing will be required. This will be addressed as the scheme progresses and Human Resources will be fully consulted.*

9. Based on the information in sections 2 and 6, should this function/policy/procedure/practice or a decision proceed to Detailed Impact Assessment? (recommended if one or more H under section 2)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Approved by: Head of Service	Andi Morgan	Date: August 2017
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Thank you for completing this assessment.

For further information regarding Assessing Impact, please contact the -

Policy & Partnership Team
 Chief Executive's Department
 01267 22(4676)
equalities@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

10. Appendix D – Area Profile

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn falls within the ward of Pembrey 2.

Pembrey - (Pembrey 2 (SA160TP) LSOA Code: W10000711)

WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD)

WIMD 2014 based on fine-grained geography of lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs).

The WIMD 2014 is compiled from eight domains, Income, Employment, Health, Education, Housing, Access to Services, Physical Environment and Community Safety and is published at Lower Super Output Area of which there are 112 in Carmarthenshire.

Under WIMD, where Rank 1 is the most deprived, **Pembrey 2** ranks 14th in Carmarthenshire from 112 LSOAs and is ranked 400 in Wales from 1909 LSOAs.

The highest level of deprivation attributed to **Pembrey 2** is the Employment domain, being ranked 10th in Carmarthenshire and 292 in Wales for this domain.

Pembrey 2 – Ashburnham to Pembrey Country Park

LSOA	Overall Index		Domains: Income		Employment		Health		Education		Housing		Access to Services		Physical Environment		Community Safety	
	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales
Pembrey 2	14	400	11	412	10	292	30	535	14	413	14	435	49	459	110	1782	37	1058

Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (released November 2014), Welsh Assembly Government.

Note: LSOAs ranked 1-112 (Carmarthenshire), 1-1909 (Wales).

Area Profile for Postcode: SA16 0TP: (Pembrey 2 LSOA Code: W10000711)

Population:	2,030
Welsh Language:	People with knowledge of Welsh: 45.1% Can speak Welsh: 26.8% Can speak, Read and Write Welsh: 17.8% Can speak Welsh (Age 3-15):5.3% No skills in Welsh:54.9%
Number of Children & Young People:	17.9% (Aged 0-15) 9.9% (Aged 16-24)
Population Mitigation:	Overall population churn in area: rate per 1,000 Data no longer available
Ethnicity:	White (British): 97.0% White (Irish): 0.7% White (Other): 0.2% Mixed (White/Black Caribbean): 0.4% Asian British (Indian) 0.1% Asian British (Other Asian): 0.3% Other Ethnic Group: 0.3%
Religion:	Christian: 60.4% Buddhist: 0.0% Hindu: 0.0% Jewish: 0.0% Muslim: 0.0% Sikh: 0.1% Other Religion: 0.4% No Religion: 32.8% Religion Not Stated: 6.3%
Deprivation Ranking:	Total number of Households: 908 Total households not deprived in any dimensions: 257 No of households Deprived of between 1-4 dimensions: 651

The new site falls within the ward of Burry Port 2.

Burry Port 2 - (Burry Port 2 (SA16 0NH) LSOA Code: W01000633)

WELSH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION (WIMD)

WIMD 2014 based on fine-grained geography of lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The WIMD 2014 is compiled from eight domains, Income, Employment, Health, Education, Housing, Access to Services, Physical Environment and Community Safety and is published at Lower Super Output Area of which there are 112 in Carmarthenshire.

Under WIMD, where Rank 1 is the most deprived **Burry Port 2** ranks 18th in Carmarthenshire and 471 in Wales.

The highest level of deprivation attributed to **Burry Port 2** is the Community Safety domain, ranking 12th in Carmarthenshire and 412 in Wales.

Burry Port 1 – Burry Port Central

Burry Port 2 – Burry Port South

Burry Port 3 – Burry Port Suburbs

Burry Port 2

LSO A	Overall Index		Income		Employment		Health		Education		Housing		Access to Services		Physical Environment		Community Safety	
	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales	Rank	Wales
Burry Port 2	18	471	18	533	13	335	55	880	16	431	47	850	60	597	37	663	12	412

Source: Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 (released November 2014), Welsh Assembly Government.

Note: LSOAs ranked 1-112 (Carmarthenshire), 1-1909 (Wales).

Area Profile for postcode SA16 0NH (Burry Port 2 LSOA Code W01000633)

Population:	1,406
Welsh Language:	People with knowledge of Welsh: 46.9% Can speak Welsh: 28.9 Can speak, Read and Write Welsh: 19.3% Can speak Welsh (Age 3-15):5.5% No skills in Welsh: 53.1%
Number of Children & Young People:	15.6% (Aged 0-15) 10.5% (Aged 16-24)
Population Mitigation:	Overall population churn in area: rate per 1,000 Data no longer available
Ethnicity:	White (British): 97.2% White (Irish): 0.7% White (Gypsy or Irish Traveller): 0.1% White (Other): 1.0% Mixed (White/Black Caribbean): 0% Mixed (White & Asian): 0.1% Mixed (Other): 0.2% Asian British (Indian) 0.1% Asian British (Other Asian): 0.3% Black/African/Caribbean/Black British; Caribbean: 0.1% Other Ethnic Group: 0.1%
Religion:	Christian: 61.6% Buddhist: 0.3% Hindu: 0% Jewish: 0.1% Muslim: 0.3 % Sikh: 0.1% Other Religion: 0.8% No Religion: 28.2% Religion Not Stated: 8.6%
Deprivation Ranking:	Total number of Households: 703 Total households not deprived in any dimensions: 168 No of households Deprived of between 1-4 dimensions: 535

11. Appendix E – Response Pro-forma

Please provide us with your comments on the proposals regarding the future provision for primary pupils residing in the **Ysgol Parc y Tywyn** catchment area.

Your comments:

Do you have any other issues that you wish to bring to our attention?

Please tick one of the boxes if you wish to be notified with a copy of the consultation report. Welsh copy English copy

Signature _____

Position / _____
Category of
Respondent
(E.g. parent) _____

Address _____

Date _____

Postcode _____

Please note that unless you indicate otherwise your comments will be open to the public as part of the formal records of the consultation.

Please detach this form and return to: Department for Education and Children’s Services, Building 2, St David’s Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen. SA31 3HB or E-mail to DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk no later than 17 December 2017.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

CONSULTATION REPORT

Proposal to change the age range of **Ysgol Parc y Tywyn**

from 4-11 to **3-11**

Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to achieve their full educational potential

January 2018

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services



EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani
www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

YOUR COUNCIL doitonline
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Modernisation Services Section

Simon Davies, Modernisation Services Manager

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1. Executive Summary

The Consultation Period

On the 6th November 2017 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change Welsh Medium primary school provision within the community of Burry Port and Pembrey. The County Council's proposal is to:

- to provide nursery provision at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11

The consultation period commenced on the 6th November 2017 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 17th December 2017 with a total of 3 observations received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

It must be noted that of the 3 observations received, 2 were received before the end of the consultation period whilst 1 observation was received after the end of the consultation period. However, all responses received have been included for the purposes of this report.

Observations Received

The proposal to provide nursery provision at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11, is the formal statutory procedure that must be undertaken and completed to legally increase the age range at the school.

The themes of the comments received are as follows:

- Existing Provision / Loss of jobs
- School Nursing Service

Observations were received from the following:

The 5 respondents were as follows:

- Estyn
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Cylch Meithrin Porth Tywyn – Existing Private Provider
- Ysgol Parc y Tywyn - School Council
- Hywel Dda University Health Board – Children's Public Health

A complete summary of all of the observations received to the consultation document together with the response of the County Council's professional officers can be found in section 2 of this report.

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice.

Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Spring Term 2018.

2. Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response
1.	<p><u>Existing Provision / Loss of jobs</u></p> <p>Cylch Meithin Porth Tywyn has provided nursery provision in this area since the early 1970s. It would no longer be sustainable should a nursery provision be provided by Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.</p> <p>The proposal is for part time provision for 3 year old. Currently Cylch Meithrin provides full time provision for a number of 3 year old pupils. Is it possible for the Cylch Meithrin to be relocated to the new school to continue to provide Welsh Medium education and provide the wrap around care needed by parents. This would be beneficial if the 30 hour child offer comes into force.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that this proposal will have a detrimental effect on the current private nursery and childcare providers in the area of Burry Port and Pembrey. Focus has been given to this area in its consultation document where it clearly identifies the impact of this disadvantage.</p> <p>The authority acknowledges the excellent service being provided locally by the private providers, which is recognised by Estyn in the settings that are subject to inspection. However, the aim of the authority is to standardise its part time nursery provision in this area for its English and Welsh medium schools. This is to ensure that parents/guardians base their decision on language rather than the facilities being provided locally.</p> <p>The authority fully appreciates that this proposal will have a negative effect on demand for 3 year old provision, and as a result the number of settings could be reduced. However, the facility at the school will be for part time nursery pupils, there are</p>

		<p>opportunities for the providers to work with the school/parents/guardians to provide the wrap around care that is currently being provided.</p> <p>In addition, the Welsh Government is currently piloting an 'enhanced' childcare offer in several areas around Wales, this is expected to be rolled out in Carmarthenshire from April 2018. In order for this initiative to succeed, the authority will be reliant on utilising the expertise of private providers.</p>
2.	<p><u>Welsh in Education Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>The scheme shows positive ambition in developing Welsh medium education within the county and falls in line with its strategic plan.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council welcomes the comments in recognition of the development of Welsh medium education within the county.</p> <p>It is the authority's opinion that there will be more children in Welsh Medium education if the nursery provision being offered locally in the area comparable. This not only supports the authority to meet the targets set in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, but will support the Welsh Government vision for one million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p> <p>The views of the authority in respect of Welsh language are also fully endorsed by Estyn. Having considered this proposal Estyn state that:</p>

		<p><i>'The proposal forms part of Carmarthenshire County Council's vision and aims form Welsh medium education as set out in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017.'</i></p> <p><i>'There would appear to be no negative impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal.'</i></p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>School Nursing Service</u></p> <p>The only impact this will have on the School Nursing service is possibly some increase in caseload numbers for the School Nurses who are assigned to the schools in question. Caseload numbers for our School Nurses are regularly monitored by the Senior Nurse/Quality Assurance Manager for School Nursing and are managed through our workforce planning.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council accepts that the increase in capacity may have an effect on caseload numbers for the School Nurses who are assigned to the school, however agree that any effect can be monitored and managed by workforce planning and communication between organisations.</p>

3. Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn response to the proposal to change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11 as from the September 2018.

Summary

The proposal is part of Carmarthenshire County Council's commitment to provide each child with the best possible start in life and to meet the aspirations of Welsh Government as set out in their strategic documents for education. The proposal aims to standardise the nursery education for the Burry Port and Pembrey areas by ensuring that the same level of provision is available for both the Welsh and English medium primary schools.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to transition through from nursery age to primary aged pupils in the Welsh medium sector. The proposer also explains clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for ensuring it

makes the best use of resources and facilities to serve the needs of all learners. The proposal also notes appropriate how it supports Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017.

The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal and these link well to the stated purpose and rationale. The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the seamless progression from nursery into primary school for Welsh medium pupils living in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas; standardisation of Welsh and English medium nursery provision for pupils living in these areas, ensuring parity in the provision of Welsh medium nursery education between Ysgol Parc y Tywyn and other Welsh medium schools in the Llanelli area; and providing new employment opportunities at the new Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.

The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the reduction in demand for places at the privately run nurseries and childminders who currently provide the provision in the area.

The local authority has provided appropriate evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal. These three options include maintaining the status quo, providing Welsh medium nursery provision at the two neighbouring English medium schools or to create a standalone Welsh medium nursery for the catchment of Burry Port and Pembrey. They have demonstrated appropriately the advantages and disadvantages of each option and the reasons for their preferred option.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. The new Ysgol Parc y Tywyn building is located near a new link road which the proposer believes is likely to reduce travelling time for pupils living in the catchment area.

The proposer has shown appropriately how the proposal will affect school places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places for 2017 for schools in the area. It has also provided information of projected pupil numbers for Ysgol Parc y Tywyn over the next five years against the capacity of the new school building. The proposer notes appropriately that the school would be able to meet the current and projected demand for Welsh medium nursery provision in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas. The proposal forms part of Carmarthenshire County Council's vision and aims for Welsh medium education as set out in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017. The proposer believes that the proposal will allow greater opportunities for access to Welsh medium education within the area. The proposal aims to ensure better linguistic continuity from nursery education to the end of secondary education to allow pupils to become fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages. There would therefore appear to be no negative impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and the school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. However, the proposer has not commented on the school's outcomes when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals. The proposal has not considered the most recent Estyn inspection reports of other Welsh medium nursery settings in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas.

Ysgol Parc y Tywyn was inspected in January 2012 and the judgements for both the current performance and prospects for improvement were judged as adequate. The local authority has also evaluated the school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System. Under the system, schools will be in one of four standards groups (1 to 4), with schools in standards group 1 demonstrating very good overall performance and those in standards group 4 demonstrating the greatest need for improved performance. Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is currently in standards group 2. The proposer believes that the proposal will have a positive impact on the quality of education outcomes and provision in the school.

The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs. However, the proposal does not consider the possible impact of the proposals on pupils' wellbeing.

3.1 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

Free School Meals

The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and the school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. However, the proposer has not commented on the school's outcomes when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.

Although this information is considered when proposed changes are made to school provision, in the form of statutory school organisation proposals, it is currently not included in its consultation document. However, consideration will be given for this information to be included in future similar proposals.

Estyn Inspections

The proposal has not considered the most recent Estyn inspection reports of other Welsh medium nursery settings in the Burry Port and Pembrey areas.

The authority acknowledges the excellent service being provided by the existing Welsh medium private nurseries. The providers subject to inspection were awarded with either Excellent or Good judgements in their most recent inspections. Clearly there is not an issue with the standard of education being offered at these settings.

The comments are noted and consideration will be given for this information to be included in future similar proposals.

It should be noted that this information is always included in its consultation documents when proposed changes are made to its own settings.

Impact of pupils' wellbeing

The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs. However, the proposal does not consider the possible impact of the proposals on pupils' wellbeing.

The authority acknowledges its statutory role on the wellbeing of pupils in respect of this proposal and to promote a healthy and happy school, to aid the learning environment. The authority ensures that there are policies in place for the promotion of the wellbeing of pupils and include pupils in the decisions that affect them, through pupil participation. (A record of the pupil participation for this proposal can be seen in section 4 of this document).

These policies aim is to provide a fair and bully free environment in which pupils can learn, with a healthy food in schools also playing a key role in creating wellbeing.

It is proposed that the nursery pupils will be accommodated in a building that is accredited by Secure by Design. Secure by Design is a police initiative owned by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

- It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.
- The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to transition through from nursery age to primary aged pupils in the Welsh medium sector.
- The proposal also notes appropriate how it supports Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014 – 2017.
- The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal and these link well to the stated purpose and rationale.
- The proposer has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the impact of the reduction in demand for places at the privately run nurseries and childminders who currently provide the provision in the area.
- The local authority has provided appropriate evidence to show that it has considered other alternatives to this current proposal.
- The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements.
- The proposer has shown appropriately how the proposal will affect school places by providing pupil numbers and surplus places for 2017 for schools in the area.

- The proposal forms part of Carmarthenshire County Council's vision and aims form Welsh medium education as set out in their Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017.
- There would appear to be no negative impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal.
- The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Ysgol Parc y Tywyn.
- The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection report and the school's categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes.
- The local authority has also evaluated the school's performance in relation to the National School Categorisation System.
- The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with a disability or special educational needs.

4. Consultation with the Pupils

School: Ysgol Parc y Tywyn

Date: 10 December 2017

Consultation undertaken by: Llinos Jones – Challenge Adviser

Interviewed: School Council

The School Council were interviewed regarding the proposal to introduce a nursery at the school by increasing its age range from 4-11 to 3-11.

Informative discussions were held around the questions below:

- 1) Would you like to be part of a larger school with more children?
- 2) Do you think it's a good idea to be a 3-11 year old school?
- 3) What would be the benefits of being a 3-11 year old school?
- 4) What are you looking forward to most?
- 5) Are there any disadvantages?
- 6) Is there anything you're worried about?

School Council Feedback

Everyone was unanimous and happy that they were going to be part of a school with more children.

Pupils said that it was a good idea to switch to 3-11 year olds, because this is going to extend the Welsh-speaking population. This is going to help the language live.

Pupils agreed that there are many advantages –

- Pupils will not need to change from nursery school to primary school when they are 4 years old.
- Everyone will know each other going into the reception class rather than pupils coming from different nurseries around the town.
- Pupils get to know all the teachers from a very young age, so their lives will not have so many changes.
- This is going to mean that we have more friends, and it will be nice for three year olds to be able to talk to us as a school council and make them feel safe.

Pupils did not identify any disadvantages with the proposal.

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CYNGOR SIR CAERFYRDDIN

Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin, SA31 1JP

Hysbysir trwy hyn yn unol ag Adran 42 o Ddeddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 (y Ddeddf) a'r Côd Trefniadaeth Ysgolion fod Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin (y Cyngor) ar ôl ymgynghori â'r cyfryw bersonau ag sy'n ofynnol, yn cynnig newid ystod oedran Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, a leolir ar hyn o bryd yn Heol Elfed, Porth Tywyn, Llanelli, SA16 0AL, o 4-11 i 3-11 a darparu 45 o leoedd meithrin. Caiff yr ysgol ei chynnal gan Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin. Y bwriad yw rhoi'r cynnig ar waith ar 1 Medi 2018, pan fydd yr ysgol wedi'i adleoli'n barhaol yn 'Hen iard Burrow', Porth Tywyn, Llanelli, SA16 ONL.

Cynhaliodd y Cyngor gyfnod ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn. Mae adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad sy'n cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan ymgynghoreion, ymatebion y cynigwyr a barn Estyn ar gael ar www.sirgar.llyw.cymru

Caiff 45 o ddisgyblion eu derbyn i'r ysgol yn 4/5 oed (dosbarth derbyn). Caiff 45 o ddisgyblion eu derbyn i'r ysgol yn 3/4 oed (darpariaeth feithrin). Y nifer derbyn ar gyfer disgyblion 4/5 yn ystod y flwyddyn ysgol gyntaf pan gaiff y cynnig ei weithredu fydd 45. Capasiti'r ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion 4-11 oed ar ôl gweithredu'r cynnig fydd 315. Yn ogystal, bydd gan yr ysgol 45 o leoedd meithrin.

Ni fydd dalgyloch yr ysgol yn newid.

Cyn pen 28 diwrnod ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn, hynny yw erbyn 1 Ebrill 2018, gall unrhyw berson wrthwynebu'r cynnig hwn. Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Mr Gareth Morgans, Y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant, Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin, Adeilad 2, Parc Dewi Sant, Heol Ffynnon Job, Caerfyrddin, SA31 3HB neu gellir anfon neges e-bost at aaprma@sirgar.gov.uk

Llofnod: Mr Gareth Morgans
Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant
Ar ran Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

Dyddiedig: 5 Mawrth 2018

NODYN ESBONIADOL

(Nid yw'r Nodyn Esboniadol hwn yn rhan o'r Hysbysiad – yn hytrach fe'i cynigir er mwyn eglurder)

1. Mae Ysgol Parc y Tywyn yn Ysgol Gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg.
2. Bwriad yr Awdurdod yw newid ystod oedran Ysgol Parc y Tywyn o 4-11 i 3-11.
3. Nid yw cael lle yn y meithrin yn golygu bod gan y plentyn hawl awtomatig am le llawn-amser yn yr ysgol a bydd rhaid cyflwyno cais newydd.
4. Mae gan ddisgyblion meithrin yr hawl i gael addysg ran-amser o ddechrau'r tymor yn dilyn eu pen-blwydd yn dair oed. Y diffiniad o ran-amser yw 5 sesiwn yr wythnos yn y bore neu'r prynhawn. Bydd gan ddisgyblion meithrin yr hawl i fynychu'r ysgol yn llawn-amser ar ddechrau'r tymor cyn eu pen-blwydd yn 4 oed.
5. Mae Ysgol Parc y Tywyn ar hyn o bryd wedi'i lleoli yn Heol Elfed, Porth Tywyn, Llanelli, SA16 0AL, gyda chapasiti ar gyfer 283 o ddisgyblion cynradd a'r nifer derbyn yw 40. Mae adeilad ysgol newydd yn cael ei adeiladu ar hyn o bryd, a bydd wedi'i gwblhau mewn pryd ar gyfer rhoi'r cynnig hwn ar waith. Bydd yr ysgol newydd wedi'i leoli yn 'Hen iard Burrow', Porth Tywyn, Llanelli, SA16 ONL.
6. Bydd y newid arfaethedig yn digwydd ar 1 Medi 2018.

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) and the School Organisation Code that Carmarthenshire County Council (the Council) having consulted such persons as required, propose to change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn, currently located at Heol Elfed, Burry Port, Llanelli, SA16 0AL, from 4-11 to 3-11 and provide 45 nursery places. The school is maintained by Carmarthenshire County Council. It is proposed to implement the proposal on 1 September 2018, when the school will be permanently relocated at the 'Former Burrow's Yard', Burry Port, Llanelli SA16 ONL.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the proposer's responses and the views of Estyn is available on www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

The number of pupils to be admitted to the school age 4/5 (reception class) will be 45. The number of pupils to be admitted age 3/4 (nursery provision) will be 45. The admission number (AN) for pupils aged 4/5 in the first school year in which the proposal has been implemented will be 45. The capacity of the school for pupils aged 4-11 once the proposal is implemented will be 315. In addition the school will have 45 nursery places.

There will be no change to the school's catchment area.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of this proposal, that is to say by 1 April 2018, any person may object to this proposal. Objections should be sent to Mr Gareth Morgans, Director of Education and Children's Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, Building 2, St David's Park, Job's Well Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3HB or e-mail to DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Signed: Mr Gareth Morgans
Director of Education and Children's Services
For Carmarthenshire County Council

Dated: 5 March 2018

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Explanatory Note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of clarification)

1. Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is a Welsh Medium Primary School.
2. It is the Authority's intention to change the age range of Ysgol Parc y Tywyn from 4-11 to 3-11.
3. Admission to the nursery does not automatically entitle a child to a full-time place in the school and a new application must be made.
4. Nursery pupils are entitled to part-time education from the beginning of the term following their third birthday. Part-time is defined as 5 morning or afternoon sessions per week. Nursery pupils will be entitled to attend on a full-time basis at the start of the term preceding their 4th birthday.
5. Ysgol Parc y Tywyn is currently located at Heol Elfed, Burry Port, Llanelli, SA16 0AL, with a capacity for 283 primary pupils with an admission number of 40. A replacement new school building is currently being constructed and will be completed in time for the implementation of this proposal. The new school will be located at 'Former Burrow's Yard', Burry Port, Llanelli SA16 ONL.
6. The proposed change will take place on 1 September 2018.

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**EDUCATION & CHILDREN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14th MAY 2018**

**TASK AND FINISH REVIEW 2015/16 ACTION
PLAN MONITORING
MAY 2018**

To consider and comment on the following issues:

To note the contents of the report and key actions stemming from the findings of the Elected Members' 2015/16 Task and Finish Group – Narrowing the attainment gap: learners eligible for free school meals.

Reasons:

The Education and Children's Scrutiny Committee have requested a report pertaining to the developments stemming from the above Task and Finish Group. In addition, further developments in this area of provision are suggested for Members' consideration.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children)

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p>	<p>Designations: Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses: 01267 246 532 JARees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
<p>Name of Head of Service: J. Aeron Rees</p>		
<p>Report Author: Aeron Rees</p>		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

TASK AND FINISH REVIEW 2015/16 ACTION PLAN MONITORING

At its meeting on 24th September, 2015, the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee resolved to earmark improving the performance of those learners eligible for free school meals as one of its priorities for 2015/16.

The Committee agreed to progress this matter by establishing a task and finish group to research and review the attainment gap for e-FSM learners.

This report provides brief background regarding:

- the scope and objectives of the Group's work;
- its methodology;
- the Group's recommendations;
- actions taken following the publication of the report allied to the recommendations;
- possible future actions for further developing themes identified in the report.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED	YES
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: J. Aeron Rees Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

POLICY, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES

'Education in Wales: Our National Mission', launched in October 2017, sets out how the school system in Wales will move forward over the period until 2021 to secure the effective implementation of the new curriculum for Wales. There are four enabling objectives. Objective three is of particular relevance, namely 'Strong and inclusive schools committed to excellence, equity and wellbeing' which underlines Welsh Government's determination that the education system takes account of, and responds to, the unique challenges that present themselves to individuals (including those who've experienced a number of Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACEs). This section of the plan builds on 'Rewriting the future: Raising ambition and attainment in Welsh Schools' which delivered the Pupil Deprivation Grant, now known as the Pupil Development Grant – to break down barriers faced by learners from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The PDG has been expanded from April 2017 to improve life chances of the most deprived younger learners, aimed to improve the first thousand days of our most vulnerable children.

FINANCE

Pupil Development Grant is allocated to every school, proportional to need. The impact of spend is monitored by Challenge Advisors during core visits and its deployment is integral to decisions pertaining to the school categorisation system.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not closing attainment gaps pose a number of risks: primarily it will serve to undermine life chances of disadvantaged learners; will *potentially* propagate a divided society and *may* have implications for young people who, by virtue of unfulfilled potential, struggle in the jobs market, drift into criminality, alcohol/substance abuse etc.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Closing achievement gaps is hard work and demands favourable adult:pupil ratios (be they teachers and/or teaching assistants). Maintaining favourable ratios, let alone improving them, is proving to be a challenge in the current fiscal climate. In addition, creative and innovative use of PDG is essential in order to genuinely add value.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: J. Aeron Rees Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
TASK & FINISH REVIEW 2015/16: FINAL REPORT <i>Narrowing the Attainment Gap: Learners eligible for free school meals</i>	\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education & Skills\Learner Programmes\ECSScrutinyT&F\Task_Finish Final Report FV inc EB rec.docx
Next Steps for Equity and Inclusion in Carmarthenshire's Learning Communities	\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education & Skills\Learner Programmes\ECSScrutinyT&F\Equity proposalsynopsis.pptx
Letter to Cabinet Secretary (August 2017)	\\ntcarmcc\cfp\Education & Skills\Learner Programmes\ECSScrutinyT&F

TASK AND FINISH REVIEW 2015/16 ACTION PLAN

MONITORING: Narrowing the attainment gap: learners eligible for free school meals.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1. At its meeting on 24th September, 2015, the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee resolved to earmark improving the performance of those learners eligible for free school meals as one of its priorities for 2015/16.
The Committee agreed to progress this matter by establishing a task and finish group to research and review the attainment gap for e-FSM learners.
- 1.2. The group was chaired by Cllr. Eirwyn Williams. In terms of membership: It had a politically balanced Elected Member representation of 6 County Councillors; 2 co-opted members (Parent Governor and Roman Catholic Church Member); 5 officers, as required.
- 1.3. A total of 7 meetings were held (December 2015-November 2016).

2. Scope and Objectives of the Group's work

- 2.1. **Scope:** *'Learners eligible for free school meals, including Looked After Children, and the attainment gap in Carmarthenshire'*.
- 2.2. **Objectives:**
 - To research the attainment gap for learners eligible for free school meals in Carmarthenshire.
 - To identify trends at all key stages and key indicators.
 - To review how the Pupil Deprivation Grant is being used in our schools.
 - To identify best practice interventions in the County's schools, across ERW, the rest of Wales and the UK.
 - To raise the profile of the challenge of overcoming the attainment gap in the midst of shrinking budgets, other priorities and curriculum changes.
 - To formulate recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board.

3. Methodology

- 3.1. Qualitative and quantitative evidence was considered, which included:
 - 3.1.1. Perusal of data pertaining to the attainment gap
 - 3.1.2. A detailed literature review
 - 3.1.3. Case study evidence
 - 3.1.4. The group also received evidence from the following individuals during its review:
 - Mr. Joe Cudd – Head Teacher of Maes-y-Morfa CP School, Llanelli
 - Mrs. Rhian Evans – Head Teacher of Carwe, Gwynfryn and Ponthenri School Federation
 - Ms. Lisa Davies – Teacher at Carwe School
 - Professor David Egan – Director of Wales Centre for Equity in Education
 - Mrs. Betsan O'Connor – Managing Director of ERW
 - Mrs. Tracy Senchal – Head Teacher of Coedcae Secondary School, Llanelli

4. Report Conclusions

- The impact of poverty on attainment is a well-known and well researched phenomenon, indeed, there is a wide range of research and good practice available from across the UK to inform and assist the County's schools in targeting the problem. Carmarthenshire needs to build and enhance on this research and good practice.
- There is evidence of much good practice within Carmarthenshire itself, as testified by the narrowing gap over a number of years. However, the good practice in Carmarthenshire and across the ERW region needs to be promoted and implemented by all schools.
- Minimising the impact of poverty on education attainment and reducing the attainment gap requires long term strategies and commitment from all agencies and organisations involved. There is no quick fix solution.
- Free School Meals Service has developed effective electronic and online systems. However, ensuring that those eligible for free school meals take up that opportunity, remains a challenge
- It is essential that rural poverty is not forgotten, especially, as the Public Policy Institute for Wales states: "there is evidence that rural poverty can be masked by the relative affluence of rural areas and by a culture of self-reliance in rural communities".¹
- It is clear that good leadership in schools as well as giving e-FSM learners a high priority in a school's development plan, is essential to ensure success in dealing with this matter as well as regular tracking and monitoring of pupils.
- Successful schools find creative ways of using the Pupil Deprivation Grant effectively.
- Engagement with parents is important and successful schools share information with and support them.
- The greatest impact of some of these initiatives undertaken by schools is not necessarily an improvement in standards but often is seen in the well-being of the pupils.
- School governors have a key role in monitoring and challenging the way in which their schools spend the PDG and seek to minimise the impact of poverty on education attainment.
- The loss of the PDG would have a significant impact on schools' ability to cater for and support e-FSM pupils.

5. Report recommendations

- I. Carmarthenshire County Council continues to consider the attainment gap as a matter of priority whilst acknowledging that it requires perseverance from all interested parties over a long period of time to ensure success.
- II. The County Council develops and publishes a good practice guide for Carmarthenshire schools, outlining effective methods and solutions to reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment and reduce the attainment gap.
- III. In developing a good practice guide, the County Council utilises existing and online systems to share with schools and practitioners (e.g. HWB).
- IV. The County Council support an event to launch the good practice guide / promote the deprivation agenda be arranged in Carmarthenshire, in association with the University of Wales Trinity St. David and the European Forum for Freedom in Education (EFFE).
- V. That the County Council considers and responds to the findings and implications of ERW's rural poverty research, when it is published in 2017.
- VI. That the County Council lobbies the Welsh Government on the importance of securing and safeguarding funding for the longer term to support our most disadvantaged pupils. *
- VII. In light of on-going financial pressures, the County Council should urge and support schools to make interventions such as those funded by the PDG, as sustainable as possible for the longer term as well as integrating such initiatives into everyday teaching practice.
- VIII. County Council departments be requested to ensure the promotion of the Free School Meals Service to eligible families through front line services (e.g. Housing Benefits Service), encouraging those in receipt of or applying for other benefits, to apply for free school meals.

6. Actions taken and possible future actions

6.1. Summary

Report Recommendation	Progress to Date (May 2018)	Possible Further Action in 2018/19
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<p>Carmarthenshire County Council continues to consider the attainment gap as a matter of priority whilst acknowledging that it requires perseverance from all interested parties over a long period of time to ensure success.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PDG monitored by Challenge Advisers. This has also involved assessing individual pupil progress, reviewed in line with their own targets. - PDG plan is integral to the School Development Plan and a summary is required on school websites. - The Health and Wellbeing conference in February 2018 discussed and addressed many themes of relevance to disadvantaged learners. - A suite of training to better cater for vulnerable learners is in motion e.g. ACE and Attachment awareness - Team around the Family and Families First Working is making an important impact in various areas of delivery including schools and the Youth Support Service -The Department has continued to develop links with EFFE including supporting and attending a change management event and developing ideas with respect to pupil and parental participation - County Council Equity strategy drafted (see 6.2.2. below) - Have investigated developing ideas with Danish colleagues who were linked with our launch event - A comprehensive pilot project bid with the Nordic countries has been submitted under the ERASMUS+ scheme to the European Commission (see 6.2.3 below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -More work with parents (communication; participation; home-school contact) etc. -Consider setting up a parent-governor forum and a pupil forum - Await outcome of Erasmus+ bid and implement proposal, if successful - Further develop Equity Strategy and take through corporate process
<p>The County Council develops and publishes a good practice guide for Carmarthenshire schools, outlining effective methods and solutions to reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment and reduce the attainment gap.</p>	<p>Good practice guide drafted and briefly demonstrated at the launch conference</p>	<p>Further refinement of guide and additional population of materials required Formal and more detailed dissemination to head teachers</p>
<p>In developing a good practice guide, the County Council utilises existing and online systems to share with schools and practitioners (e.g. HWB).</p>	<p>Good practice guide is electronically based and interactive. ERW's DOLEN interactive Resource references to good use of PDG and provides relevant case study material</p>	<p>Needs to ultimately reside on an accessible on-line platform e.g. sharepoint</p>
<p>The County Council support an event to launch the good practice guide / promote the deprivation agenda be arranged in Carmarthenshire, in association with the University of Wales Trinity St. David and the European Forum for Freedom in Education (EFFE).</p>	<p>Launch Conference held on 28.6.17 (see 6.2.1 below)</p>	<p>No further action other than post conference actions (as detailed in this memo)</p>
<p>That the County Council considers and responds to the findings and implications of ERW's rural poverty research, when it is published in 2017.</p>	<p>Research paper received and recommendations considered</p>	<p>Themes addressed in the paper will assist generally in shaping further strategic thinking</p>

That the County Council lobbies the Welsh Government on the importance of securing and safeguarding funding for the longer term to support our most disadvantaged pupils.	Letters (to Welsh Government and Estyn) were sent in August 2017	No further action.
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In light of on-going financial pressures, the County Council should urge and support schools to make interventions such as those funded by the PDG, as sustainable as possible for the longer term as well as integrating such initiatives into everyday teaching practice.	- Value for money with respect to provision is promoted. This entails ensuring that provision is efficient and effective and that differentiated learning is integral to all planning	-Seminar needs to be arranged and good practice guide disseminated further. - Further research of good practice re use of PDG to also focus specifically on the early years - Scrutinise data to ascertain latest position re achievement gaps
County Council departments be requested to ensure the promotion of the Free School Meals Service to eligible families through front line services (e.g. Housing Benefits Service), encouraging those in receipt of or applying for other benefits, to apply for free school meals.	- Promoted via head teacher meetings -Rolling out of cashless system takes stigma away from free School meal purchases - Challenge Advisers routinely remind heads to promote Free School Meals	- Continue to promote Free School Meals to those deemed eligible


6.2 Further detail

6.2.1. Launch Conference

Education Conference 28th June 2017, Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli



LEARNING & TEACHING FOR A NEW ERA - an equitable and innovative future for our schools

Background: i. This conference had an international flavour and was hosted in conjunction with:

The European Forum for Freedom in Education and University of Wales Trinity Saint David;

ii. There were a number of prestigious speakers, including *Dr Bill Maxwell* (Education Scotland); *Andrew Macintyre* (OECD, Paris); *David Taylor* (Stanley Park High School, Surrey); *Mette Hauch* (Autens Future Schools, Denmark), *Anna Bolt* (Glyncollen School, Swansea) and *Huw Foster-Evans* (Welsh Government). There were also contributions from *Gareth Morgans* (ECS CCC), *Fiona Carnie* (EFFE) and *Aeron Rees* (ECS CCC)

iii. The following Carmarthenshire schools had stands to showcase work in this area of provision: Johnstown; Carwe/Gwynfryn/Ponthenri Federation; Ysgol y Bedol; Ysgol Hendy; Bryngwyn/Glanymor Federation





iv. The conference was held as a platform to launch the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish report on '**Narrowing the Attainment Gap: Learners eligible for free school meals**' (see below). Introductory comments were provided by Cllr. Glynog Davies, Executive Board Member for Education and Children, who also referred to some priorities for the incoming administration. In addition, the launch session was augmented by a rousing performance by

Carmarthenshire Senior Girls' Choir.

v. The conference afforded an opportunity to debate how we can assist Schools to realise a more equitable future for our communities and how recent reforms, instigated in Wales, are contextualised in the European and global contexts. By nurturing a culture of intelligent curriculum design, developing Professional Capital and fostering inspirational leadership which is clearly focussed on standards and pedagogy – we can realise our moral purpose of transforming learning and achievement for all, irrespective of home circumstance and upbringing, thus 'deafating destiny' by counteracting the potential influence of poverty. In supporting pupils to become 'ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world' we can aspire that our children and young people are fully prepared to play a full role in life, the world of work and contribute actively to a just and democratic society. Educational progress is deemed to be 'for the many not the few' and for 'all learners in all settings'.

Conference Outcomes

1. The speakers provided inspirational and thought-provoking insights into the conference themes from their particular perspectives:

- **Gareth Morgans** opened the conference, reminding us that early intervention is vital to promote inclusivity and equity and that we need to adopt a proactive rather than reactive mindset.
- **Huw Foster Evans** gave a comprehensive overview of how inclusivity is contextualised within the Welsh Education policy landscape and reform Process.
- **Fiona Carnie** sketched out the wider UK and European context and gave delegates early food for thought re. promoting equity in schools and the wider system.
- **David Taylor** outlined his school's transformation to Pathfinder status, stressing the primacy of relationships, redesigning the school to reflect shared values and the importance of an innovative curriculum and vibrant pedagogy.
- **Anna Bolt** drew attention to Glynollen's major focus on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and how these values were manifest in a rights based curriculum.
- **Mette Hauch** described the key elements of the Danish Schools' system and demonstrated how Hellerup School promotes project and 21st Century problem-based learning and how trust, relationships, room for error and social and emotional skills are given prominence.
- **Bill Maxwell** offered 10 lessons from Scotland about the transformation journey, which included basing reform on shared values and moral purpose, nurturing a strong guiding alliance to lead change and building professional capacity and trust.
- **Andrew Macintyre** appraised delegates of numerous policy options for greater equity and quality, contextualised the Welsh PISA results and outlined 4 strategies for attaining greater equity in Wales.
- **Aeron Rees** drew the conference to a close by reviewing the main themes of the day and encouraged delegates to concentrate on doing the little things conscientiously, which incrementally create the more coherent whole.

2. In discussion groups, delegates identified opportunities, challenges and barriers to the equity agenda, material which will be useful for managing and implementing the ongoing reform process.
3. There were five workshops: Evaluating Schools in different ways; Creating a supportive and inclusive school environment for learning; supporting the ongoing professional development of teachers; democratising school leadership and organisation and engaging with parents and communities. Detailed minutes were taken, providing a source of ideas for further action.

Conference feedback: (131 delegates attended)

Overwhelmingly, 95% of respondents offered positive responses to the event.

Soundbites:

'very interesting and inspirational'; 'interesting and useful'; 'presentation from Denmark was an eye opener'; 'excellent session'; 'discussing with others was useful'; 'seeing good practice by Carmarthenshire schools'

Conclusion: This conference permitted bringing a fresh and innovative external perspective to our deliberations as a county. The event afforded an opportunity to showcase and celebrate good work in Carmarthenshire Schools and the Local Authority on an agenda of some importance to us. Furthermore, the conference served to galvanise and deepen our links with external partners – which has spawned a number of following actions to take the agenda forward.

6.2.2. Emerging Strategy on Equity

The conference also provided food for thought as to how equity, inclusivity, wellbeing and high educational standards can go hand in hand. A draft strategy has been drawn up (see hyperlink above) and is currently being developed further. The guiding principles are that:

- Every Learner Matters
... and matters equally...
- Nurtured, supported, developed and challenged
...in rights respecting and motivating learning communities..
- And develops holistically
... as a well educated, well qualified and well rounded young person

The strategy is closely wedded to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UNESCO Education 2030 publication on Educational Equity. Across the Department for Education and Children, at least 10 work streams have been identified to take this draft strategy forward. It is anticipated that this draft strategy will be finalised shortly, and then be subject to the corporate process.

6.2.3. Bid for European Grant Support (ERASMUS+)

The emerging Equity strategy provided a springboard to pursue more partnership working with colleagues from the Nordic Countries – where notions of equity and inclusivity are better established within educational systems. Over a period of 5 months, discussions have culminated in an ERASMUS+ bid for £450,000 Euros, which was submitted to Brussels on

March 20th, 2018. Carmarthenshire has acted as strategic project lead and was responsible for drafting the bid on behalf of 18 partners, including: The University of Helsinki (Innokas Project); Autens (a Danish education consultancy); FabLab (A Danish innovation partnership); a number of Schools: 5 from Carmarthenshire, 6 from Denmark and 4 from Finland. The University of Wales Trinity St. David, the European Forum for Freedom in Education and another Carmarthenshire school are associate partners. By design, schools selected in Carmarthenshire are primarily in disadvantaged catchments.

The bid has a 21st Century learning focus, closely tied in to Wellbeing and will:

- Develop world-class learning and teaching in Computational Thinking, Design Thinking and Product design – linked in to employability (and, for Carmarthenshire, linked into the City Deal and Swansea Waterfront Developments)
 - Learning activities will involve students in coding, robotics and virtual reality applications
- Has a strong research focus on:
 - Developing new learning and pedagogical paradigms in computational thinking.
 - How disadvantaged learners are empowered through their digital learning and skills development; how their personal characteristics develop (self-efficacy, self-esteem, resilience, confidence, ambition etc.).
 - How achievement gaps are closed and inclusion promoted.

News as to the proposal's success or otherwise is expected no earlier than 10th August 2018. Should the bid prove to be unsuccessful, alternative arrangements have been sketched out to take the project objectives forward in a different manner.

6.2.4. Letter to the Cabinet Secretary

Recommendation VI and the conference outcomes resulted in a letter being sent to Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Welsh Government and Estyn (see hyperlink). It was affirming hear indirect reference to themes mentioned in our letter during The Cabinet Secretary's address during the launch of 'Education Wales – Our National Mission' in the Autumn of 2017.

7. Conclusions

The Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish group provided a strong basis for our current actions and thinking in this area of service delivery. Closing achievement gaps remains a strong focus for the Department, working closely in conjunction with our schools. New Local Authority Estyn inspection arrangements warrant close attention to the progress of all groups of learners, including the marginalised and vulnerable. This is a further incentive to pursue our stated aim of ensuring the wellbeing, equity and high achievements of all our young people, irrespective of upbringing or current or past circumstance. Strategic and operational developments will therefore be on-going, thus providing legacy to the Task and Finish Group's valuable work.

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

‘TIC Programme for Schools Update’

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To note the contents of the ‘TIC Programme Update’ presentation by officers.

Reasons:

- To enable and support members of the Scrutiny Panel to undertake their key role in monitoring progress in developments for supporting schools with innovations and strategies to enhance efficiency. Assist in determining future priorities as a result of the issues raised from discussion.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies

<p>Directorate: Education & Children</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Andi Morgan</p> <p>Report Author: Allan Carter</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Education Services</p> <p>Senior Manager TIC Schools</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>Telephone: 01267 246645 Email: andimorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

'TIC Programme for Schools Update'

The TIC Schools' Programme was established in 2017 and has been operating on a full-time basis since September 2018. The programme aims to apply the TIC principles of collaborative working and driving out unnecessary waste and comprises a number of different work streams all aiming to support the schools' sector to make financial efficiencies and meet the severe challenges being faced in their budgets. The programme reports directly to the TIC Programme Board as one element of the wider TIC agenda across a wide range of service areas in the council.

A number of work streams have been developed and relate to service delivery to schools by a range of council services via SLAs and to a range of procurement issues where collaborative or corporate arrangements might yield savings to schools who take them up.

The presentation to Panel will provide a summary of the progress to date with an indication of the potential and actual savings that could be/have been made. We hope that Panel members will benefit from the presentation in support of their scrutiny activities and ongoing interaction with schools during forthcoming School Visits.

Detailed Report Attached?

No - presentation to be given at the meeting.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Andi Morgan Head of Education Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	NONE	NONE

Legal

Any aspects of revised legal guidance and protocol will be undertaken as appropriate (SLA content etc.)

Finance

Enhanced service provision via realisation of potential budget efficiencies is central to this work.

Risk Assessment Issues

Any areas of risk will be identified and managed appropriately.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Andi Morgan Head of Education Services

1. Local Member(s) – N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE:

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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