

Document Pack



Mark James LLM, DPA, DCA
Prif Weithredwr,
Chief Executive,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

WEDNESDAY 11TH JANUARY 2017

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **COUNTY COUNCIL** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN AT 10:00AM ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2017**, FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

Mark James CBE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



PLEASE RECYCLE

Democratic Officer:	Matthew Hughes
Telephone (Direct Line):	01267 2240279
E-Mail:	mahughes@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Ref:	AD016-001



EICH CYNGOR arleinamdani
www.sirgar.llyw.cymru
YOUR COUNCIL doitonline
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS
3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 2016 17 - 22
5. PRESENTATION BY MR. CHRIS DAVIES, CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, MID & WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
6. PRESENTATION BY B.T. – SUPERFAST BROADBAND
7. TO CONSIDER A NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN JAMES

This Council approaches the Chief Constable of Dyfed-Powys Police requesting that Police Officers and PCSOs issue Fixed Penalty Notices to transgressors of the Public Spaces Protection Order as stipulated in the Order.

Without enforcement, this Order, which was introduced to give this Local Authority greater flexibility and power to tackle irresponsible acts by dog owners such as dog fouling, will have little impact in reaching its desired intention.

8. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS (NONE RECEIVED)

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 9.1 QUESTION BY MR. ROBERT WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

We have attended all the Council meetings since this consultation started. We have gathered extensive evidence and a significant amount of questions. Many questions still

remain unanswered. We are aware many of you have not attended previous meetings so we hope we will be able to explain. The School and LEA agreed that Llangennech school will become a Welsh Medium only facility in September 2016 or 2017 following a consultation period. This was agreed 18 months prior to the consultation yet the community had to read about it in the local paper. Our two County Councillors did not inform all the community council or their electorates of these intentions. Acting with closed minds they continued to go against the wishes of 95% of the village and proceed at every stage to push this through as they believe it is best for our children. A pilot of the proposal was carried out but only a small number of unnamed parents were advised and no record of these results were ever recorded in any governors meeting minutes. We have tried many times to request these findings but both the School and Carmarthenshire Council are unable to provide them. This does question whether the demand for Welsh medium in Llangennech really exists when the evidence cannot be produced. Even today is it fair to allow the two County Councillors to vote when they have made their minds up years before regardless of the wishes of their village?

9.2 QUESTION BY MR. STEVE HATTO TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

A Governor/parent meeting at the School resulted in a vote of 68 against and 2 in support of the change. This was ignored! A simple majority of 5:1 from the proforma responses following the consultation have shown a preference to keep the existing dual stream approach. This was ignored! A further survey in response to the recent notice has resulted in over 750 further individual responses against the proposal. These were ignored! An alleged 698 supported the change, yet only 33 of those come from within the village. The majority of those in support had no address, no postcode and could not be verified. Those that had addresses were based as far as Anglesey, Denbighshire and Carmarthen. Within the village, 700 have objected to the proposals, the largest appeal in Llangennech's history. Don't you think it's time for the wishes and needs of Llangennech village were respected?

9.3 QUESTION BY MS. NIKKI LLOYD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

The school standards and organisation (Wales) Act 2013, places a statutory duty on local authorities to assess the demand for Welsh medium education in their area through their WESP (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan). The Welsh Government requires these to measure the demand for Welsh-

medium education and outline their targets. Looking at the position of Llangennech schools when this process began a year ago, there were 121 children coming to the school from outside catchment area, and 96 local children leaving the village to seek education. Over the last few months a further 25+ children have now left the school to seek English medium education as a direct result of this proposal. So now 121 children come into the area and 121 leave the area! The demand for Welsh medium in Llangennech is clearly being fabricated as shown by these figures. No consideration has been given to the safety aspect of this proposal! With so many cars coming in and out of the village it is only a matter of time before an accident happens and a child is killed or injured. Has a WESP assessment been done for Llangennech to measure the demand, and if so where is the demand for ONLY Welsh medium education in Llangennech?

9.4 QUESTION BY MRS. JULIA REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

The LEA have made it clear through their responses that the proposal is for COMPULSORY Welsh medium education for children from the village irrespective of background. Any parent seeking an alternative will do so at their own expense and inconvenience. Further the LEA are prepared to pay transport costs for pupils from outside of the community to attend the proposed new school.

It is evident from a high level analysis that over 100 young people have been forced to seek English Medium education outside of their community due to the approach taken to date. In addition, since the requests for clarity and challenge has been put forward by the parents a further 20plus existing pupils have been forced to move to other schools where they can be taught in their home language at the parents expense.

We have sought assurances that alternative provision for English medium be available and of the three schools identified Bryn, Bynea and Hendy two are already oversubscribed and the other is over an hour walk from the village through the busy junction 48 of the M4 motorway. Estyn raise this as a concern as part of the consultation process an issue which the Authority has chosen to ignore. Once again where will education be provided for children who seek English medium if it is no longer available in their own village ?

9.5 QUESTION BY MRS. SALLYANN THOMAS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

Compared to other Welsh medium only provision in Llanelli there are no equivalent English medium on offer for the children of Llangennech due to the location of schools. Those that are within a reasonable travelling distance are at capacity. However, we are repeatedly told that it was never the intentions of the authority for any child to leave Llangennech. Sadly this is happening already. The figure of children already left since September is nearing 25 and that's before the proposal has been implemented. Due to these changes it is evident certain community, disability, demand and safe route assessments now need to be addressed. Do you agree that this now needs to be investigated?

9.6 QUESTION BY MR. GARY JONES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

If the Authority are adamant in bringing about this change what support is there in place for non Welsh speaking parents who may be forced to send their children to the all Welsh provision in Llangennech. How much does this support cost the Authority and/or the parents and why has it not been in place to date considering the moves taken by the school governors to exclude English speaking children from the school has been in planning over the last 5 years?

9.7 QUESTION BY MRS. KAREN HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

The Keep Dual Stream Group are local parents and grandparents who originally became concerned over the lack of awareness around these school proposals. We have spent hundreds of hours over the past year extensively researching the facts and on average have lost over 5 days annual leave per person to attend just these meetings. Of course, this is not an issue if we were being listened to. Unfortunately we are not. Despite raising concerns around children with special needs learning abilities, to environmental impacts, negative impacts on the Welsh Language itself, to social issues, at no time have these been documented or the community assessment re-evaluated. There were 7 options supposedly on the table during the start of the consultation. Only one has ever been put forward and discussed and there has been no attempt to find any common ground or discuss any other options. The main purpose of the consultation is to allow the public to be able to influence decisions that impact them. Despite proving beyond reasonable doubt that demand has been socially engineered, it is in fact coming from outside the village and an over whelming 95% are against these proposals, you continually fail to acknowledge that the

consultation findings are inaccurate and misleading even in the face of hard evidence.

We note that you have on more than one occasion stated that 'Carmarthenshire Council know what's best for your child's education' and on these grounds have set the pretext that you will overrule whatever opposition you encounter. We do not like being subjected to a dictatorship. We feel that a mockery has been made of the consultation, the law and the democratic rights of the villagers. So that we understand the precedent being set here today for this and future consultations, can you explain how you believe it has been worth consulting with the public when you were always going to dictate that you knew best and ignore any new information?

9.8 QUESTION BY MR. NIGEL HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

WALES as stated by the Language Commissioner has two recognised languages, Welsh and English which are to be treated equally. The removal of the Dual Stream will undoubtedly cause the creation of a county of isolation and seclusion.

It is probable that Carmarthenshire must be one of the few places in the world which is decreasing its use of the English language at a time when more and more countries are encouraging its usage due to business and internet demands. This is not placing Wales on an equal playing field and will impact all aspects of life from technology to Health. There are over 2 billion English speakers in the world; it is imperative that every child is 100% fluent in English, both written and orally as it will enable them to map out a career virtually wherever their dreams take them.

So can Carmarthenshire County Council please explain in detail, if they do indeed have a strategy, how they intend to attract new businesses and expertise to the County when you will only offer Welsh Medium education? This may not be suitable for everyone whereas a Dual Stream strategy is a Win –Win.

9.9 QUESTION BY MR. DARREN SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

We have for too long been a majority without a representative voice. Whether or not you agree with the school proposals, we hope you will agree that the right way to represent an electorate is the democratic way. We are disappointed that our

local councillors have rallied behind a move to change Llangennech from Dual Stream into Welsh Medium only without engaging the village and have even gone as far as using the media to criticise and spew fake news that we are nothing but a ‘vociferous minority’ . Of course with around 700 villagers opposing the changes probably the largest appeal in the history of Llangennech, this could not be further from the truth and it is disappointing that neither candidate understand their own electorate better or at worse, choose to ignore it. It is also disappointing that the plan to change Llangennech School into Welsh Medium only was never mentioned in their political manifesto or local newsletters. This lack of transparency and openness has created frustrations when real issues that are ultimately going to change the lives of our children and our community are overlooked and are dealt with in a clandestine manner!

In fact it states on Plaid Cymru’s website, that Plaid Cymru’s policy is to ensure that within the foundation phase, every child across Wales should have access to Welsh Medium. As a group, we wholeheartedly support this vision and are 100% behind this move. What shocks us is that a Plaid led Council have overseen the WESP document, targeting Llangennech School when it already meets with your policy on providing the availability of Welsh Medium education within the area. Making Welsh Medium available does not equate to the eradication of English Medium schools and we feel that your voters are being misled as to your intentions.

Please can you therefore explain why Plaid’s policy is to make Welsh medium available whereas what you are doing in reality is very different as you are removing English Medium schools, forcing Welsh by compulsion and removing freedom of choice?

9 .10 QUESTION BY MRS. VANESSA WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

Many are supportive of a dual stream approach as it gives parents the option to allow children to try the Welsh medium approach but with a degree of comfort that if their children fall behind on the educational continuum then they have the opportunity to switch to English medium without losing out on their village identity.

We are aware that parents are already using their discretion and moving children to English medium schools as they are fearful that they may not be able to support their children in their formative years due to the fact that they will not be able to understand homework and basic school issues as they do not have sufficient grasp of the Welsh language themselves.

Experts will always agree to disagree but all can sign up to the fact that mother knows best. In this case mother would like her children to be taught the basic of their education in the language of the home and to be part of a planned programme of learning Welsh as part of a wider curriculum.

Do you think it is right to take freedom of choice away from parents and their children?

9.11 QUESTION BY MRS. KAREN DEACON TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

It is thanks to this consultation, that I found the truth behind why my children were struggling so much at Llangennech School. As it was revealed that they were not in a proper dual stream class as we were lead to believe, but in fact in a Welsh Medium class and had not been taught any English for two years. It's been a very stressful few years, as parents trying to get to the bottom of this situation, constantly asking and emailing, so I really would like to express my sincere gratitude for helping me with those answers and in turn getting them all into a much more productive and happier school environment. To be clear before I carry on, our choice to remove all my children from Llangennech schools, was ultimately due to the excessive lies around the situation and inability to ever trust the school again and not because we were against them learning Welsh, I really do wish to emphasise that.

As a parent I have experienced first-hand my parental choice of education for my children being taken away from me and a Welsh Medium education forced upon our family. It was a struggle in an English-speaking home environment to help with Welsh homework and was emotionally upsetting and frustrating for my children struggling to translate Welsh to English, so we could try and help them. Thankfully, there is still English Medium schools in Carmarthenshire and I was still allowed to choose to send all four of my children to one in Llanelli, which I can't praise enough and the move has been a blessing in disguise. Although, no longer a parent of Llangennech school, with a child yet to start Primary and of course all the others going onto secondary within Carmarthenshire, it means this consultation is still very relevant to my family, as Carmarthenshire Councils plans are to eventually completely eradicate English Medium Education across the county.

Shortly after my Twins went into Year 1 in their new school, the deputy head explained to me that my Twins English is really poor. In fact, their level of English is that similar to a child from a foreign country. They went on to explain that for my Twins

this term would be mainly playing catch up, to bring them up to the level of where they should be for their age group, a whole term on catch up not new learning. However reassuringly they also confirmed that due to the academic level shown by the Twins in Welsh, it proves their poor English is not down to their mental aptitude, but lack of teaching it to them. Unfortunately, their English has gone backwards and they are now having to re-learn what they did in the Nursery setting before they attended Llangennech Welsh Medium classes. Due to a non-bilingual home, there is evidence of confusion of the languages. But we are all able to help now with basics of counting in English and the English alphabet. I'm of course delighted that they are both good with their Welsh, but so are my other children who went through a proper Dual Stream system at Llangennech Primary and their English did not suffer, because they learnt Welsh unlike the Twins has.

As a family, we travel all over the UK and while visiting their cousins in Scotland over the summer the Twins struggled joining in with things like board games and alphabet dot to dot all the kids were bought, which really upset them being excluded from such fun. I think in 2017 it would be silly to think that no-one will ever leave Wales and with the digital world supporting more and more jobs, worldwide English dominates as the online global language and I worry because as confirmed by teachers, my twins are already at the age of 6 at a disadvantage compared to other little kids their age in the UK, which essential are their future competition for Uni places and Jobs.

Moving forward my reality as a mum, is one that - one of my Twins are catching up quicker than the other in English, making me dread how I explain to one Twin why they must stay behind a year while the other twin moves up, because their teacher seriously has not ruled this out as a possibility as without the basic Core English elements nailed, they can go onto to learn anything else.

As teaching goes the facts prove that when it comes to my children I am their best teacher. I have a 100% success rate. As a parent I have taught each of them things like how to sit, walk, talk, eat solids, to use the toilet, ride a bike, swim and to smile and laugh and I have not failed, because as their mum I know my kids and how each of them needed to learn in different ways. By identifying this and teaching them in the way they needed, it allowed them to achieve their best and I did not fail them, making me an expert in knowing what ways will work best for them to learn within our family setting.

However, within a Welsh Medium Education system qualified teachers for two years did fail to teach my Twins a good level

of English. Which to be fair isn't necessarily a reflection of the teacher, because after all they all spent many years gaining qualification and experience to be an expert in the process of teaching children successfully. No this is more down to the fact they were not allowed to identify and teach the child in the way the child needed, having to focus on the Welsh Medium Method as the only option.

So my question is very simple taking your opinion, thoughts wants and desires on the matter out of the equation for a minute, I would just really love to hear only an exact list of what your personal qualifications, expertise, scientific knowledge, experience and skills are that makes you the expert and best person/ people to make the final decision that could prevent children ever learning via English Medium again in Llangennech school and ultimately all Carmarthenshire Schools and the expert that knows better than I and therefore must take away my parental choice of choosing the learning method I know my babies will learn the best in, for them to truly flourish as successful little learners?

9.12 QUESTION BY MRS. MICHAELA BEDDOWS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

Whilst we support providing all children throughout Wales with the availability of Welsh Medium, we do not believe in Welsh by compulsion and believe it will ultimately damage the survival of the Welsh language and people's passion for learning it. If this consultation has taught us anything, it is that Welsh by compulsion in fact breeds resentment and more so when people's concerns are not being acknowledged and freedom of choice is removed. Carmarthenshire Council has been presented with a year's worth of research from Llangennech community, yet has dismissed all of it, stating that they 'know best for our children's education' based on the back of the Donaldson report which allegedly supports Welsh immersion.

As far as we're aware the Donaldson report does not recommend either Welsh immersion or the elimination of English Medium schools. It highlights that Welsh education must be compulsory from age 3 to 16. This can take the form of Welsh lessons for English medium schools which again we totally support. We feel that we have been repeatedly misled on the actual findings of the Donaldson report and what it actually recommends. In fact, we would be very surprised if Professor Donaldson would produce a report which contradicts that of UNESCO. UNESCO an international organisation providing advice to over 150 countries are very clear that 'children who are taught in their home language in their early years are more likely to achieve their full potential'. Please

can you provide an explanation including the degree of professionalism being relied upon which has led to the belief that Carmarthenshire Council are better placed than the likes of UNESCO on children's education?

9 .13 QUESTION BY MR. PHILLIP WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

Early years children are disadvantaged if they are not taught in the language of the household. Research by Dr Angelina Kioko along with Helen Pinnocks UNSECO report and the PISA test results show this. In the Pisa results Finnish children start school at aged seven and are taught in the language of the household. Finland who finished fifth in the Pisa results were only a handful of marks behind first place Singapore. Finland like Wales has an indigenous language "Sami". By embracing the household language for the needs of the child and not mixing political alteria motives with education then Finland are racing ahead of Wales. Dr Kioko points out that when children start school they are put into a new environment with a new point of Authority. If you bring in a language change it will complicate the learning process. You will be advised that experts say that full immersion is the only way whilst others linked to UNESCO say that initial learning must be via the language used at home. The consultation only refers to reports that support the change. To make a decision all reports should have been provided. Only when we brought it up in the last executive board meeting two members abstained to look into this. To make a decision all evidence and reports should have been provided from the onset not just one sided ones.

Can you confidently say all the facts and reports have been presented to enable councillors to make a decision?

9 .14 QUESTION BY MR. DEAN BOLGIANI TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

I think everyone that's here with me today would agree, that we all support the Welsh language and the importance of maintaining it. As a parent I believe it is crucial that my children learn and understand a good level of Welsh, however I believe the local authority's time and resources would be better served implementing Welsh streams within English medium schools, increasing the number of dual stream schools. This would impact on a fair great number of children and support parental choice to allow their children to learn other subjects through the medium of English... Do you agree?

9 .15 QUESTION BY MRS. VICKI FREEMAN TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

Special Educational Needs: The phrase is self-explanatory in so far as children need additional support to achieve educational outcomes. As part of the response within the document the LEA have set out that those with SEN will get support through the medium of Welsh.

We are therefore looking at a scenario where an individual pupil from an English speaking home is put into an environment where not only their basic educational needs must be supported they are expected to learn a new language, Welsh. However, they may find it difficult if the home language is not Welsh speaking.

Again the LEA have been looking at these issues through rose tinted glasses and have not considered the effect on the family unit by enforcing the Welsh medium only education at the school. In addition, LEA have made it clear that they will not support travelling costs to another school which puts the SEN pupil at the outer edge of the community in Llangennech. Can you honestly say you are taking these factors into consideration in the proposal when a disability assessment has not even been carried out?

9 .16 QUESTION BY MRS. JACQUELINE SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES (EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN)

As we prepare for the final chapter here today it's worrying that there are reports still unread and many questions still not adequately answered.

We hope having listened to us you have come to the conclusion that we are not against the Welsh language at all, but a group of parents/grandparents and concerned residents who just want their freedom of choice when choosing their education path for their children. The questions and information you have heard today and to date are all evidence based.

Unfortunately, no matter what evidence we present, it is dismissed and we are only assured that Carmarthen Council believe they know what is best for our children. We believe every child is different and each child has the right to be educated in the language of their choice. We have already seen the division the proposal is causing in the village. Llangennech is a successful dual stream School who cater for all with excellent results. Children from the English stream go

on to have A* s in GCSE welsh but excel in other core subjects too. In a dual stream setting children learn at their pace in a language of their choice that suits their abilities. Llangennech is proof that this works and this is the example we should follow. By forcing the welsh language on communities it will only end up diluting it. We all agree that we should be striving to keep the Welsh language and heritage of Wales but it needs to be desired and proportional to demand. This is already proven in Llangennech with many parents willing to try the welsh stream. The dual stream has worked for the last 60 years. It doesn't need to change. Unfortunately, this proposal has misled many into believing there is no demand for an English medium at Llangennech.

This approach is putting the wellbeing of young people at risk within the community particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not be able to afford to travel to other schools at their own expense and may struggle in the Welsh stream due to lack of support at home or to language issues.

We have tried to engage with the Authority on these issues but have recently been advised within the Education scrutiny committee that this is not a case of listening to the democratic voice of the people within the village but the imposition of full immersion Welsh language teaching for all within the Llangennech community. Full immersion Welsh that doesn't even appear on Plaid Cymru's policy as it simply states to make" welsh available" which is exactly what the Llangennech dual stream setting does now.

If the proposal is allowed and in light of the over whelming 95% of people from the village who are against the proposal, then the new school cannot be truly called a community school as it will not be properly representing the community that is Llangennech. I ask the counsellors here present today if it was your ward, which it could be very soon would you go against your electorates wishes or would you have the courage of your convictions and stand up and support the community that trusted you to represent them. We therefore urge you to look into this whole process before it has a long-standing effect on the future of children and the community of Llangennech. Are you able to make the decision today with many questions still unanswered and on the strengths of beliefs and not evidence?

10. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2017/2018

23 - 34

- 11. TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**
- 11 .1 MODERNISING EDUCATION PROVISION – PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL** 35 - 316
- 11 .2 PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY** 317 - 322
- 11 .3 SCHOOL STAFF ABSENCE SCHEME** 323 - 344
- 11 .4 CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S GUIDANCE AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT ON CHARGEABLE PRE-APPLICATION AND POST CONSENT ADVICE IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PLANNING (WALES) ACT 2015) AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (PLANNING ACT 2008)** 345 - 366
- 12. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 22ND DECEMBER 2016** 367 - 388
- 13. MINUTES FOR INFORMATION (AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE)**
- 13 .1 APPEALS COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 14TH NOVEMBER 2016 (RECONVENED ON THE 6TH DECEMBER 2016)**
- 13 .2 DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER 2016**
- 13 .3 LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 1ST DECEMBER 2016**
- 13 .4 PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 8TH DECEMBER 2016**
- 13 .5 PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 20TH DECEMBER 2016**
- 13 .6 ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2016**
- 13 .7 ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC PROTECTION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 16TH DECEMBER 2016**
- 13 .8 SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 17TH NOVEMBER 2016**
- 13 .9 SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 12TH DECEMBER 2016**

**13 .10 EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD
ON THE 21ST NOVEMBER 2016**

**13 .11 POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON
THE 30TH NOVEMBER 2016**

**13 .12 COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 5TH
DECEMBER 2016**

**13 .13 JOINT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND
PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 5TH DECEMBER
2016**

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNTY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 14 December 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Morgan (Chair)

Councillors:

S.M. Allen, D.J.R. Bartlett, S.M. Caiach, C.A. Campbell, J.M. Charles, A.P. Cooper, A. Davies, D.B. Davies, G. Davies, I.W. Davies, J.A. Davies, S.L. Davies, T. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, T. Devichand, E. Dole, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, W.J.W. Evans, W.T. Evans, M. Gravell, A.D. Harries, C.P. Higgins, W.G. Hopkins, J.K. Howell, P. Hughes-Griffiths, I.J. Jackson, A. James, D.M. Jenkins, J.P. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, W.J. Lemon, A. Lenny, M.J.A. Lewis, D.J.R. Llewellyn, K. Madge, A.G. Morgan, J. Owen, P.A. Palmer, D. Price, D.W.H. Richards, B.A.L. Roberts, H.B. Shepardson, A.D.T. Speake, L.M. Stephens, E.G. Thomas, G.B. Thomas, G. Thomas, J. Thomas, M.K. Thomas, R. Thomas, S.E. Thomas, W.G. Thomas, D. Tomos, J. Tremlett, D.E. Williams, J. Williams, J.E. Williams and J.S. Williams.

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James, Chief Executive;
C. Moore, Director of Corporate Services;
J. Morgan, Director of Community Services;
G. Morgans, Interim Director of Education & Children's Services;
R. Mullen, Director of Environment;
L.R. Jones, Head of Administration and Law;
P.R. Thomas, Assistant Chief Executive (People Management & Performance);
W. Walters, Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration & Policy);
L. Quelch, Head of Planning;
J. Willis, Housing Services Manager (Advice & Options);
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer.

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen - 10.00 am - 12.45 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Bowen, D.M. Cundy, T.T. Defis, D.C. Evans, P.M. Hughes, J.D. James, A.W. Jones, H.I. Jones, P.E.M. Jones, S. Matthews and W.G. Thomas.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
J.M. Charles	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farm owner;

D.B. Davies	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Chair of Carmarthenshire Amateur Angling Association;
J.A. Davies	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farmer;
H.A.L. Evans	9.2 –Review of Access to Social Housing Policy;	Sister is Chief Executive of a Housing Association;
W.J.W. Evans	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales);	Farmer;
A. James	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Hill farmer;
M.J.A. Lewis	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Lives on farm with cattle;
D.W.H. Richards	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farming interests;
G.B. Thomas	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farmer;
D. Tomos	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farmer;
D.E. Williams	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farm owner;
J.E. Williams	5 – Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor G.B. Thomas (EU Nitrates Directive in Wales)	Farmer.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations were extended to Aled Davies, Jack Davies and Carys Jones, members of the Coleg Gelli Aur team which had won S4C's Fferm Factor competition;
- Congratulations were extended to Manon Lloyd who had won two gold medals in the World Cycling Championships in Glasgow recently;
- Congratulations were extended to former Councillor and Chairman of both Dyfed and Carmarthenshire County Councils D.T. Davies O.B.E.,MM, Dryslwyn, who had recently, in his 98th year, published a book recounting his wartime experiences;
- The Chair welcomed to the meeting pupils from Ysgol Bro Myrddin, Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth and QE High School who had been invited to present their findings regarding possible budget cuts following on from the successful Insight Carmarthenshire event held recently at QE High School, Johnstown. The Leader introduced the pupils from each school and, following their presentations, thanked them for attending.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED, subject to the deletion of the word 'Unanimously' in the resolution of minutes 8.1, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9th November, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GARETH THOMAS

(NOTE: Councillors J.M. Charles, J.A. Davies, J.K. Howell, A. James, D.W.H. Richards, D. Tomos, D.E. Williams and J.E. Williams, having earlier declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the Council Chamber during its consideration.)

Prior to considering the Motion being proposed Members received legal advice on the consultation referred to therein being undertaken by Welsh Government. It was also noted that correspondence had been received from Carmarthenshire Fishermen's Federation expressing concern that Members might not have enough information on the subject to consider and vote on the motion.

Whereupon the Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Edward Thomas:-

"In light of the recently published consultation paper on its plans for implementing the EU Nitrates Directive in Wales this Council opposes both the Whole Designation Territory Option as well as the designated approach proposed in the plans. Its implementation would force the farming community to follow an over prescriptive programme of actions which would be costly and inflexible. Its implementation would lead to significant costs to farm businesses and would have a huge impact on the rural economy leading to farm closures and loss of employment and would be

detrimental to both social and cultural well-being. This Council further agrees that the Experimental Schemes initiative available under the Environment Act should be adopted in order to trial new approaches to the deliverability of functions and the more sustainable management of natural resources. This more enlightened approach not only contributes a more efficient answer to the management of resources but is far more closely aligned to the Welsh Governments legislative aspirations for the Well Being of Future Generations.”

The Motion was duly seconded.

The proposer of the Motion was afforded the opportunity of speaking in support of the Motion and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

A number of statements were made in relation to the Motion and some members commented that, as alluded to earlier, they would be unable to vote on the basis that they considered that they were insufficiently informed on the subject.

Following a requisition by more than ten members in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 a recorded vote was taken with the votes cast being as follows:-

For the Motion (30)

Councillors S.M. Caiach, C.A. Campbell, A. Davies, D.B. Davies, G. Davies, I.W. Davies, E. Dole, H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, A.D. Harries, W.G. Hopkins, P. Hughes Griffiths, D.M. Jenkins, J.P. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, W.J. Lemon, A. Lenny, D.J.R. Llewellyn, A.G. Morgan, J. Owen, D. Price, H.B. Shepardson, A.D.T. Speake, L.M. Stephens, E.G. Thomas, G. Thomas, J. Thomas, S.E. Thomas and J.S. Williams.

Against the Motion (0)

Abstained (18)

Councillors S.M. Allen, D.J.R. Bartlett, A.P. Cooper, T. Davies, W.R.A. Davies, J.S. Edmunds, P.M. Edwards, M. Gravell, C.P. Higgins, I.J. Jackson, K. Madge, E. Morgan, P.A. Palmer, B.A.L. Roberts, M.K. Thomas, R. Thomas, J. Tremlett and J. Williams.

RESOLVED that the Motion be adopted.

6. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIAN THOMAS

The Council considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sian Thomas:-

“This Council expresses its disappointment at the faulty Welsh on the new War Memorial in Llanelli. We consider it disrespectful of those who are being remembered as well as to the language itself. As the War Memorial is on the land of the Town Hall which the County Council owns, we ask that the council create a

Policy that all written signs from now on placed on a building or on land in the ownership of the Council be fully bilingual, and verified by the Translation unit.”

The Motion was duly seconded.

The proposer of the Motion was afforded the opportunity of speaking in support of the Motion and outlined the reasons for its submission, as set out in the Motion.

A number of statements were made in relation to the Motion and, following a vote, it was

RESOLVED that the Motion be adopted.

7. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that there were no questions from members.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

9. PRESENTATION BY DWR CYMRU WELSH WATER - RAINSCAPE

With reference to minute 8 of the Council meeting held on the held on the 10th February 2016 the Chair welcomed Rebecca Jones, Alex Davies-Jones, Fergus O'Brien, Teresa O'Neill and Sean Murray from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, who had been invited to give a presentation to update Council on the RainScape project. Details were provided of schemes undertaken to date and scheduled in the Llanelli and Burry Port area. Members were also apprised of the Rainscape Community Fund whereby schools, charities and community groups within an area affected by the Rainscape project could apply for a share of £10,000.00.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, following which the Chair thanked the officers for an excellent and informative presentation.

10. EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2015/16 CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 21ST November, 2016 had considered the 2015/16 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) on the operation of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan, produced in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Local Development Plan (LDP) Regulations.

Concern was expressed over the possible ways in which the LDP could be affected by Brexit and issues arising from the Swansea Bay City Region bid e.g. transport

links, and it was requested that members be given the opportunity to debate the matter. The Leader responded that he would be happy to arrange for such a debate to take place.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“10.1.1 that the Annual Monitoring report 2015/16 – Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan be received;

10.1.2 That an annual debate be undertaken on the Annual Monitoring Report on the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan prior to its submission to the Welsh Government.”

10.2. REVIEW OF ACCESS TO SOCIAL HOUSING POLICY

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 21ST November, 2016, had considered report on the review undertaken of the Council's Access to Social Housing Policy prepared following widespread consultation with the public and the Council's partners. The Board had been advised that in preparing the report care had been taken to ensure its compliance with legislative requirements.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the following recommendations of the Executive Board be adopted:-

“10.2.1 the results of the consultation exercise be accepted:

10.2.2 the Draft Amended Access to Social Housing Policy be approved.”

11. MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT

Council was informed that the Executive Board, at its meeting held on the 21st November, 2016, had, in accordance with the 2016/17 Treasury Management Policy and Strategy (adopted by Council on the 23rd February 2016 – Minute 9 refers), approved an update on the treasury management activities from the 1st April 2016 to the 30th September 2016.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be endorsed.

12. EXECUTIVE BOARD - 21ST NOVEMBER 2016

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report of the above meeting be received.

CHAIR

DATE

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is recommended that for 2017/18 Council:

1. Formally adopts the standard all-Wales Council Tax Reduction scheme provided for in the:
 - a) Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013, and
 - b) Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.
2. Implements the annual up-rating figures (used in entitlement calculations) and other minor technical amendments, included in the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 that are due to come into force on 18th January 2017.
3. Continues to exercise its discretion with regard to the limited discretionary elements of the prescribed scheme as outlined in the Executive Summary.

Reasons:

- This report seeks formal adoption of the Council Tax Reduction scheme (which replaced Council Tax Benefit in April 2013) for 2017/18.
- Welsh Government has made regulations that retain the 2013/14 Council Tax Reduction scheme (with limited amendments) for 2014/15 and subsequent years.
- There is an obligation upon authorities to formally (re-)adopt a Council Tax Reduction scheme by 31st January each year otherwise the "Default Scheme" will apply which means Council will be unable to exercise its discretion with regard to the limited discretionary elements in the prescribed scheme.
- If the Council wishes to exercise its powers in relation to the limited areas of discretion available to it, it is required to do so as part of the formal scheme adoption process.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted:	NOT APPLICABLE
Executive Board decision required:	NOT APPLICABLE
Council Decision required:	YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. David Jenkins (Resources)

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Owen Bowen	Head of Financial Services	01267 224886 obowen@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: John Gravelle	Revenue Services Manager	01267 228740 jgravelle@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL
18th JANUARY 2017

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18

1. As part of the Welfare Reforms introduced in recent years the former Council Tax Benefit scheme (CTB) was abolished with effect from April 2013. In its place is a localised Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme which in Wales has been devolved to Welsh Government, although with significantly less funding than the cost of the former CTB scheme.
2. The standard scheme introduced by Welsh Government for 2013/14 and (with minor amendments) subsequent years, is a uniform all-Wales scheme, albeit with limited areas of local discretion available to authorities.
3. Despite being an all-Wales scheme, individual Councils are required by the Prescribed Requirements Regulations to formally adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31st January each year.
4. The limited areas of local discretion, and the policy adopted by Council in respect of those discretions, are shown below for information. There is no recommendation for change:

Discretion: to disregard part or the whole amount of War Disablement pensions and War Widows Pensions when calculating income.

Policy: The Council exercises its discretion and fully disregards War Disablement pensions, War Widows Pensions and analogous payments, when calculating income for the purposes of assessing entitlement to Council Tax Reduction.

Discretion: The ability to increase the standard extended payment period of 4 weeks given to people after they return to work, when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit.

Policy: The Council does not exercise its discretion in relation to extended payments and therefore continues to adopt the 4 week period within the standard scheme.

Discretion: The ability to backdate the application of Council Tax Support awards for working age and/or pension age, customers beyond a standard period of 3 months prior to the claim.

Policy: The Council does not exercise its discretion in relation to backdating applications and therefore continues to adopt the 3 month maximum period within the standard scheme.

5. Apart from the normal annual up-rating of certain financial figures used for assessing individual entitlement and some minor technical adjustments (Regulations in respect of which are likely to be confirmed by Welsh Government on 17th January 2017) the scheme will be materially unchanged from 2017/18.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES

3. Finance – The scheme for 2017/18 continues to have financial implications for authorities.

The former Council Tax Benefit system was fully funded by the Westminster Government however less funding was given to Welsh Government with regard to the replacement scheme.

The initial funding distributed to Councils by Welsh Government has not increased since the new scheme was introduced in 2013/14. Accordingly individual authorities must make up on-going shortfalls due to higher expenditure as a result of any additional caseload and/or higher Council Tax levels.

The Council's proposed budget provision for 2017/18 is £15.47m.

The additional cost to the Council to continue exercising its discretionary powers and disregarding War Widow and War Disablement Pensions (and other analogous payments) is estimated as £24k.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services

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

As there are no proposed changes to the scheme other than the normal annual up-rating figures over which Council has no jurisdiction, no public consultation exercise has been undertaken.

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
The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/all?title=The%20Council%20Tax%20Reduction%20Schemes%20and%20Prescribed%20Requirements%20%28Wales%29%20Regulations%202013
Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/66/contents/made
Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017	http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/Pages/Plenary.aspx?assembly=5&category=Laid%20Document [Laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 5th December 2016]

APPENDIX A

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017-18 – Detailed Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 With effect from April 2013, the Council Tax Benefit system was replaced with a localised Council Tax Reduction scheme. In Wales, the replacement scheme was devolved to Welsh Government but continues to be administered by local authorities.
- 1.2 The former Council Tax Benefit system was fully funded by the Westminster Government however less funding was given to Welsh Government with regard to the replacement scheme. For 2013/14 Welsh Government made a late decision to make up the shortfall which meant that up to 100% reduction would still be available to qualifying claimants.
- 1.3 The initial funding distributed to Councils by Welsh Government has not increased since the new scheme was introduced in 2013/14. Accordingly individual authorities must now make up any on-going shortfalls due to higher expenditure as a result of any additional caseload and/or higher Council Tax levels.

2 Council Tax Reduction scheme – 2014/15 Onwards

- 2.1 The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 are the regulations that govern the operation of Council Tax Reduction Schemes in Wales for 2014/15 and subsequent years. These were approved by Welsh Government on the 26th November 2013. Also approved were the default regulations which would apply if an authority failed to adopt the scheme.
- 2.2 The Prescribed Scheme regulations and Default Regulations are extensive and detailed, comprising almost 300 pages and are not therefore appended to this report.
- 2.3 It should also be noted that the scheme will be subject to the annual up-rating of certain figures used by authorities to assess individual customers' entitlement. These figures will be included in the forthcoming ***Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017***

These are to be debated on 17th January 2017, and if approved, will come into force by 18th January 2017.

These regulations will update the main regulations and therefore form part of the 2017/18 scheme.

- 2.4 Although the scheme will be uniform across Wales the Prescribed Requirements Regulations require the Council to adopt a Council Tax Reduction Scheme by 31st January each year, regardless of whether it applies any of the discretionary elements (see part (3) below).
- 2.5 If the Council fails to make a scheme, then the default scheme shall apply under the provisions of the Default Scheme Regulations. The default scheme is the same as the prescribed scheme except that Council can only use its discretionary powers if it adopts the Prescribed Requirements Regulations scheme.

3. Discretionary Powers

3.1. Although a national scheme has been approved by Welsh Government, within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations there continues to be limited discretion given to Councils to apply additional discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme. It should be noted however, that there are no additional monies available from Welsh Government to fund the discretionary elements.

3.2. There are three areas of discretion now available to authorities, as follows:

- a) Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions, War Widows Pensions and analogous payments, that are disregarded when calculating income of the claimant;

[Note: The Council, in common with all other authorities in Wales, has since its inception, exercised its discretion and fully disregarded War Disablement pensions, War Widows Pensions in the calculation of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

This approach has been retained by the Council for the Council Tax Reduction scheme. The estimated cost to the Authority for 2017/18 is approximately £24k.]

- b) The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a Council Tax Reduction that will cease as a result of their return to work;

[Note: The 4 week “run on” was an established feature of the former Council Tax Benefit scheme, the existing Housing Benefit scheme and is retained for the all-Wales, standard Council Tax Reduction scheme.

If the Council were to increase this period it would deviate from the established arrangements, create a serious anomaly with the on-going Housing Benefit system and increase the cost to the Council]

- c) The ability to backdate the application of Council Tax Reduction with regard to late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim;

[Note: The previous Council Tax Benefit regulations allowed maximum backdating of 6 months for working age customers, 3 months for pension age customers]

- 3.3. In relation to its discretionary powers, the Council has to date, adopted the following approach each year since Council Tax Reduction scheme was introduced:

Council:

- a) exercises its discretion and fully disregards War Disablement pensions, War Widows Pensions and analogous payments when calculating income for the purposes of assessing entitlement to Council Tax Reduction
- b) does not exercise its discretion in relation to extended payments and therefore adopts the 4 week period specified within the standard scheme,
- c) does not exercise its discretion in relation to backdating applications and therefore adopts the 3 month maximum period specified within the standard scheme

4. Adoption of Scheme

- 4.1. Under the requirements of the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 the Council is obliged to make a Council Tax Reduction scheme. Furthermore, in order to do so, the regulations require the Council to determine its approach to the discretion powers available to it.

- 4.2. It is therefore recommended that for 2017/18:

- a) **Council adopts a scheme in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 and any subsequent amendments that may be required by legislation from time to time, in particular:**

- i. **The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014**

- ii. **Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017**

and

b) Council retains its existing approach to its discretionary powers as follows:

- i. Council exercises its discretion and for the purposes of assessing entitlement to Council Tax Reduction disregards in full War Disablement Pension, War Widows & Widowers Pensions and any analogous payments as permitted under the Regulations
- ii. Council does not exercise its discretion in relation to extended payments and therefore applies the 4 week period specified within the standard scheme.
- iii. Council does not exercise its discretion in relation to backdating applications and therefore adopts the 3 month maximum period specified within the standard scheme.

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Modernising Education Programme – Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School

Executive Board Recommendations:

1. That the submissions received to the Statutory Notice and the Authority's responses thereto, as detailed in the Objection Report, be noted;
2. That 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, the objections and any responses to the notice supporting the proposal in the objection report, the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented.

Reasons:

- To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted: YES – Education & Children Scrutiny Committee (21st November 2016)

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That being satisfied that there were no other related proposals; that the statutory proposal had been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contained all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, the objections and any responses to the notice supporting the proposal in the objection report, it be recommended to the Executive Board that the proposal, as laid out in the Statutory Notice, be implemented.

Executive Board decision required: YES (22nd December 2016)
Council Decision required: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Director: Gareth Morgans	Acting Director of Education and Children's Services	01267 246450 edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Simon Davies	School Modernisation Manager	01267 246471 sidavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Modernising Education Programme – Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School

Background

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools. Following the retirement of Llangennech Infant school's head teacher at the end of the Summer term 2013 a soft federation has been in place with the head teacher of Llangennech Junior School leading both settings. On 24th September 2014, the Governing Bodies of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April 2015.

The Authority now wishes to proceed with a proposal to create a Community Primary school to replace Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The details of the proposal are outlined below and in the attached Consultation Document.

The Local Authority currently offers full time learning provision for 4-11 year olds through the medium of Welsh and English at the Federated Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. As part of the new 3-11 primary school that will include nursery provision, it is proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant school (Dual Stream (DS)) and Llangennech Junior school (Dual Stream (DS)) to a new Welsh Medium (WM) language category school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and bilingualism in the Llangennech area. It 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 Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (2014-2017).

Proposal

As a result of the small extension to the consultation period, the pre-election period and the high number of responses received during the consultation period; the dates for the proposal have changed. This was to ensure that sufficient time was allowed for people to express their views and that the school holiday period did not impede on the process.

- To discontinue Llangennech Infant school on 31st August 2017
- To discontinue Llangennech Junior school on 31st August 2017
- As from 1st September 2017, to establish a new 3-11 Welsh Medium (WM) language category Community Primary School with nursery provision (hereinafter called the 'New School') on the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The current capacity of both schools will remain unchanged but will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly should the demands arise in the future.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken between 25th January 2016 and 18th March 2016. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report and were presented to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive Board for consideration and determination on whether or not to publish a Statutory Notice.

In July 2016 approval was given by the Executive Board for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice (attached) was published on 5th September 2016. The notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period was due to end on the 2nd October 2016. However, following a request from an interested party, the Director of Education & Children's Services (RS) agreed to extend the statutory objection period by one week, until October 9th 2016. A total of 1,418 submissions were received to the Statutory Notice.

The attached Objection Report which summarises the objections and the supportive comments received and the Local Authority's responses to these submissions, has been presented to the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board.

This provides County Council with the opportunity to offer comments and determine whether or not to implement the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

Should the County Council agree to implement the proposal, Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior schools will be discontinued on the 31st August 2017 and a new 3-11, Welsh Medium, Community Primary School will be established on 1st September 2017.

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, the objections and any responses to the notice supporting the proposal in the objection report, the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – Consultation Document, Consultation Report, Statutory Notice and Objection Report

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: Gareth Morgans Acting Director of Education & Children

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 Corporate Strategy, Children and Young People’s Plan and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.

National Policy Considerations

Welsh Government Welsh-Medium Education Strategy (2010)

In 2010 the Welsh Government published its national policy for developing Welsh medium education across the nation. The following extracts from the national strategy set out the Welsh Government’s views on the importance of Welsh medium education to outcomes for learners and to the ambition to develop bilingual citizens.

“Welsh medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens.

A key focus is on supporting learners to achieve fluency in Welsh and English through Welsh medium education, from the early years onwards.

For children from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds, whose initial and main contact with Welsh is through school, this intensive Welsh medium provision is through a process of linguistic immersion.

Welsh medium education between the ages of three or four and approximately seven usually means delivering provision primarily through the medium of Welsh. At Key Stage 2 English language skills are also developed through appropriate use of the language as a subject and medium. A key consideration is the nature of the linguistic balance between Welsh and English and the intensity of Welsh required in order for learners to reach fluency in both Welsh and English over time. It is generally accepted that at least around 70% of curricular time should be through the medium of Welsh if learners are to acquire a sufficiently sound command of the language to enable them to use it across a broad range of contexts with confidence and fluency. The Welsh Assembly Government accepts this guiding principle for Welsh medium schools at primary and secondary level.

Learners in Welsh medium settings achieve comparable outcomes in both Welsh and English first language, which suggests the success of the sector in developing natural bilingualism.

The advantages that bilingualism can bring are well documented and include the promotion of cognitive skills, increasing mental agility and broadening speakers' range of cultural experiences. Research in Canada reveals that bilingualism enhances attention and cognitive control in children and older adults and in 2007 highlighted the impact of bilingualism on delaying the onset of dementia symptoms. Research findings published by the University of Edinburgh in 2009 revealed that speakers of two languages found it easier to focus on a range of tasks, blocking out potential distractions.

Welsh medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual."

The Government's Strategy sets targets for local authorities to increase the proportion of seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh.

There is a clear expectation that all local authorities incorporate the provisions and requirements of the national strategy in their own local Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, which are on a statutory footing.

Welsh Government Welsh Language Strategy 2012 to 2017- A Living Language: A Language for Living

This national policy considers the conditions that are needed to promote a greater use of the Welsh language by children and young people in all aspects of their lives and proposes a set of high level actions to secure this goal.

The Strategy declares its aim as *"to increase the provision of Welsh medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language"* with the desired outcome being *"children and young people using more Welsh"*.

It includes the following statements related to education and schools:

"Over the last thirty years we have seen a considerable increase in the number of young people able to speak Welsh (from 14.9% of 3 to 14 year olds in 1971 to 37.2% in 2001). But these figures need to be treated with caution, since it is likely that over half of these are learning Welsh as a second language. As such, for many Welsh speaking children from homes without Welsh speaking parents/carers, the school provides one of the few opportunities for them to use the language.

Providing practical opportunities for children and young people to use Welsh ... the best way of developing a feeling of value towards using the language.

Among other factorsthe perceived value of the language as a skill for work ... important elements.

We ... face challenges within the education system to ensure that children and young people continue to choose Welsh medium education when making choices at key stages of the education – between the primary and secondary sectors, and between the secondary sector and further or higher education.

While the Welsh Medium Education Strategy addresses these challenges, we believe that the success of those measures depends, to a great extent, on convincing children and young people of the value of Welsh, economically and culturally.”

Welsh Government – Increasing the Number of Communities where Welsh is the Main Language (December 2013)

In December 2013 the Welsh Government published the report of its Task and Finish Group that had been established to review the status of the Welsh language and advise on the actions required to regenerate the use of the language. The following brief statements from the report are relevant to the schools sector.

In his introduction the Group Chair declared *“we call on the education system to be progressive ... so that all young people can become fluent and confident in using Welsh and English.”*

Recommendations were made, with a particular focus upon Carmarthenshire and other targeted areas of Wales, for action to *“increase the number and percentage of pupils who are fluent in Welsh and English by the time they leave school.”*

Welsh Government – Draft Strategy for a Million Welsh Speakers by 2050

On the 1st August 2016 the First Minister and Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, speaking at the national eisteddfod, launched a draft strategy to realise the Welsh Government’s vision of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

The draft strategy identifies 6 key areas for action, one of which is education, for which the strategy declares *“we need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh-medium education and who have Welsh language skills. Early years provision is also essential, as the earlier a child comes into contact with the language, the more opportunity he or she has to become fluent”*.

It also notes: *“Because of the importance of education, ensuring there is a workforce that meets the need for Welsh-medium education and training is the starting point for creating more speakers. This means planning to support the training of teachers and learning assistants, expanding sabbatical schemes for the present workforce, and significantly increasing the number of workers in the childcare and early years sectors”*.

The draft strategy establishes an objective to:

“create a workforce with the appropriate skills to educate and provide services through the medium of Welsh” and to achieve his by:

- *“Significantly increasing the number of teachers and early years practitioners who are able to teach through the medium of Welsh;*
- *Increasing the number of Welsh medium childcare places, to start as many children as possible on the journey to having two languages”*.

and an objective to:

- *“significantly increase the number of children and young people educated through the medium of Welsh or bilingually in order to create more speakers” and to achieve this by:*
- *“Increasing capacity to provide Welsh-medium education by supporting local authorities to plan to increase provision through their Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs);*
- *Moving schools along the language continuum to increase the availability of Welsh-medium school places;*
- *Meeting increasing demand for Welsh-medium education through capital investment where appropriate;*
- *Expanding Welsh language immersion provision for latecomers, based on the latest evidence, and ensure that provision is consistent;*
- *Teaching Welsh as one language in order to create a continuum to improve progression and raise standards”.*

The draft strategy declares that *“the education system will be key in creating future Welsh speakers”, therefore “our priority over the next five years will be to increase the system’s capacity to meet the need to expand Welsh-medium education and improve the way Welsh is taught in our English-medium schools”.*

Estyn

In November 2014 Estyn published a document entitled *“Linguistic Progression and Standards in Ten Bilingual Welsh Schools”* which reported the findings of its review into the linguistic progression of pupils in Key Stage 4 and identifying and sharing good practice in relation to bilingual education.

Included amongst the findings of the review are the following conclusions:

- *“In general, pupils who follow the most additional GCSE courses through the medium of Welsh have the best ability to discuss and write in Welsh”.*
- *“Pupils have the misconception that studying subjects through the medium of Welsh can hinder their academic success. In fact, pupils who follow their GCSE course through the medium of Welsh achieve as well as, if not better than, those who follow most of their GCSE course through the medium of English”.*

Local Policy Considerations

Carmarthenshire County Council Welsh Language Development Strategy

In 2013 Carmarthenshire County Council established a cross-party group of elected members to review the status of the Welsh language in the county following the outcome of the 2011 Census of the Population, which recorded a significant decline in the proportion of the population with Welsh language skills.

The group published a comprehensive report in early 2014 and at its meeting on the 15th April 2014 the County Council formally accepted the recommendations made by the group for the development of the Welsh language in the county.

The County Council adopted a total of 73 recommendations made by the group, including 21 that are directly related to the education service, including the following:

“The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.”

All of the schools related recommendations were integrated within the Carmarthenshire Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2014 – 2017)

Section 85(1) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires the County Council to produce a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for its area, keep the Plan under review and, if necessary revise it. Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been adopted by the County Council and approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with Section 85(2) of the Act.

Section 2 of the Plan sets out a series of actions to realise the Council’s objectives for the development of the Welsh language in its schools.

For Outcome 1, to increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh, the Plan includes a specific action to *“target 3 dual stream/transitional schools to transfer to being Welsh schools by 2017”*.

There are also targets to increase the percentage of learners achieving Level 4 Plus at the end of Key Stage 2, i.e. increasing fluency, and to increase the number and percentage of learners from Welsh/bilingual primary schools transferring to Welsh/bilingual secondary schools.

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.

5. Risk Management Issues – The proposal to close Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools and open a new Llangennech Community Primary School and also change the language category from Dual Stream to Welsh Medium may impact on the demand for school places at the school and other schools in the Llanelli 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. Staffing Implications – Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council’s Redeployment Policy and Procedures.

7. Physical Assets – A new Double Mobile classroom has been installed on the current Llangennech Infant school site. This will provide the school with additional accommodation but it will not increase the capacity of the new school. The situation will be monitored and will review the situation if the pupil figures continue to rise.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Gareth Morgans** **Acting Director of Education & Children**

1. Scrutiny Committee – The Scrutiny Committee were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period. The committee were asked to consider and comment on the findings of the statutory notice period on 21st November 2016.

2. Local Member(s) – Local members were formally notified of the Statutory Notice period. Submissions were received from Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas, Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins. Submissions were also received from Cllr. Cefin Campbell and Cllr. J. S. Williams

3. Community / Town Council – The Community Council were notified of the formal Statutory Notice period. Submissions were received by the Community Council.

4. Relevant Partners – Were notified of the Statutory Notice period.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Teaching and non-teaching unions were 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
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk County Council Agenda 14 th January 2015

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
<p>MEP - Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School (Executive Board – 22nd December 2016)</p>	<p>Cymraeg http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=557&Ver=4</p> <p>English http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=557&Ver=4</p>
<p>MEP - Proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School (Education & Children Scrutiny Committee – 21st November 2016)</p>	<p>Cymraeg http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=599&Ver=4</p> <p>English http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&MId=599&Ver=4</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

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

Future Primary Education Provision for Children Residing in the Llangennech area

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Robert Sully
Director of Education & Children's Services



Safeguarding Children and
Improving Education Standards for All



School Modernisation Section

Simon Davies, School Modernisation Manager (tel. 01267 246471)

Status of Document : Publicly available

If you require this information in large print, Braille or on audiotape please contact the Department for Education & Children 01267 246474.

Version History

Version	Comments	Date
0.1	Initial draft for consideration	23/11/15
0.2	Further amendments to initial draft	14/12/15

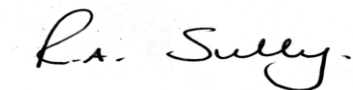
Foreword

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.



Robert A Sully
Director of Education & Children's Services

Contents

No.	Subject	Page
1.	Introduction	5
2.	Context – Present Arrangements (Status Quo)	5
3.	Evaluation of Present Arrangements	15
4.	Objectives	18
5.	Options for Change	19
6.	The Proposal	25
7.	Consultation and Statutory Process	30
8.	Appendix A – Community Impact Assessment	34
9.	Appendix B – Welsh Language Impact Assessment	36
10.	Appendix C – Equality Impact Assessment	38
11.	Appendix D – Area Profile	45
12.	Appendix E – Glossary of Abbreviations	49
13.	Appendix F – Response Pro-forma	50

1. Introduction

The Authority 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 the Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior school area. The proposals for change included in this document are in line with that long-term objective.

As reported in the MEP (Modernising Education Programme) Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15 the intention of the Authority is to review the future provision of education in the Llangennech area.

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 Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior school. The document also highlights why other options considered are not the preferred option as well as offering 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 January 2017.

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 F** on page 49 of this document for any response or by E-mail to: DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.

2. Context – Present Arrangements (Status Quo)

2.1 Background

The County Council has a legal duty to look at the number and type of schools it has in Carmarthenshire and 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. Changes in the curriculum and the way in which children will be taught in the future means that we also have to look at the existing buildings to meet the future needs of the pupils.

It is an ongoing objective of the Authority to create a Community Primary School to replace Infant and Junior schools and take advantage of an opportunity when a Headteacher of an Infant or Junior school decides to retire

or leave a post. Community primary schools are able to provide children with a continuous stream of education, thus removing the disruption that can be caused by moving schools at an early age.

Following the retirement of the Llangennech Infants school Headteacher at the end of the Summer 2013 academic year a soft federation has already taken place with the Headteacher of Llangennech Junior school currently responsible for both schools. On the 24th September 2014 the Governing bodies of both Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April 2015.

Federation is seen as an important step towards merging the two schools to become one primary school.

In Llangennech the local Authority are currently able to offer as a 4-11 primary school part time learning provision through the medium of Welsh and English. As part of the new 3 – 11 primary school that will include nursery provision, it is proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant school (Dual Stream – (DS) and Llangennech Junior school (Dual Stream – (DS) to a new Welsh Medium – (WM) language category school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and will ensure that bilingualism is increased in the Llangennech area. It 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 Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (2014-2017).

2.2 School / Schools which may be affected by this proposal

The catchment areas of Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior schools are surrounded by the following Community Primary schools:

Hendy Primary school, Carmarthenshire (DS)
Bryn Primary school, Carmarthenshire (EM)
Bynea Primary school, Carmarthenshire (EM)
Ysgol Gymraeg Brynsierfel school, Carmarthenshire
Ysgol Gynradd Llannon, Carmarthenshire (WM)
Swiss Valley Primary school, Carmarthenshire (EW)
Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, Carmarthenshire (WM)
Pentip, Church in Wales VA Primary School, Carmarthenshire

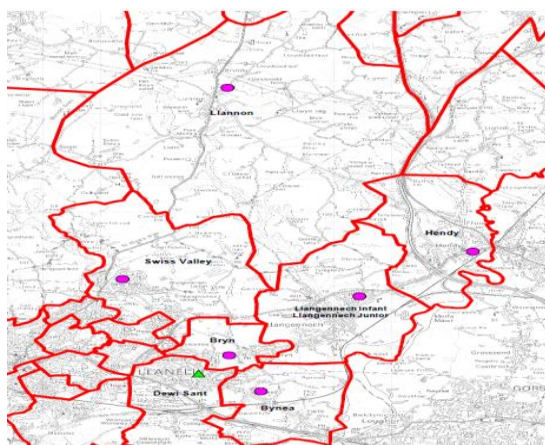
2.3 General School Information

Name of School	Type of School	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity	Jan 2015 PLASC Number FTE (inc Nursery)	Age Range
Hendy	Community Primary	DS	25	197	158.5	4 - 11
Bryn	Community Primary	EM	30	246	215	3 - 11
Bynea	Community Primary	EM	23	167	131	3 - 11
Brynsierfel	Community Primary	WM	30	240	201.5	3 - 11
Llannon	Community Primary	WM	11	91	106	4 - 11
Swiss Valley	Community Primary	EW	30	243	224	4 - 11
Dewi Sant	Community Primary	WM	60	420	455	3 - 11
Pentip	Voluntary Aided	EM	27	218	182	4 - 11

PLASC 2015 Data (Ages as at 31/08/14)

FTE – Full Time Equivalent (part time pupils counted as 0.5)

The following diagram outlines the catchment areas of schools surrounding Llangennech Junior school and Llangennech Infant school



In arriving at a preferred option for the pupils of Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools the authority considered the schools named above but discounted them for the reasons given in section 5 of this consultation document, therefore the preferred option for the Authority is to discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new primary school on the former Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior school sites. As these changes won't effect the pupils education, it has been decided to implement these changes from January 2017.

2.4 Pupil Numbers

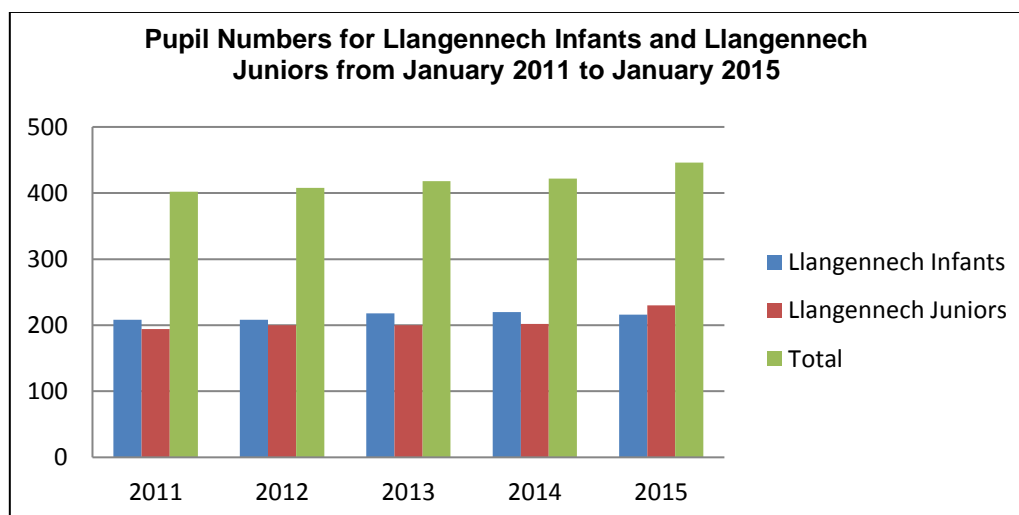
The table and graph below shows pupil numbers for Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior school for January 2015 and the previous four years.

Llangennech infant School	3yrs (PT)	3yrs	4yrs (PT)	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs	Total Head Count	Total (FTE)
Jan-15	0	38	0	54	61	63	0	0	0	0	216	216
Jan-14	0	27	0	59	61	72	1	0	0	0	220	220
Jan-13	0	33	0	59	72	54	0	0	0	0	218	218
Jan-12	0	30	0	72	51	55	0	0	0	0	208	208
Jan-11	0	47	0	54	57	50	0	0	0	0	208	208

Llangennech Junior School	3yrs (PT)	3yrs	4yrs (PT)	4yrs	5yrs	6yrs	7yrs	8yrs	9yrs	10yrs	Total Head Count	Total (FTE)
Jan-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	55	55	50	230	230
Jan-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	52	48	46	202	202
Jan-13	0	0	0	0	0	1	53	47	43	56	200	200
Jan-12	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	42	55	55	200	200
Jan-11	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	54	54	46	194	194

PLASC 2015 Data (Ages at 31/08/14)

FTE – full Time Equivalent (part time pupils counted as 0.5)



2.5 Pupil Projections

The following table shows the actual pupil total and pupil projections for Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior school for the next five years.

	Actual FTE	Projected Pupil Total (FTE)				
	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan

	2015		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Llangennech Infant	216		212	209	207	205	204
Llangennech Junior	230		243	249	253	241	235
Total	446		455	458	460	446	439

The table below provides an analysis of the implications of accommodating the Llangennech Infant and Junior pupils at the new school.

	Actual Pupil Total (FTE*) Jan 2015	Projections – Pupil Total (FTE*)				
	Jan 2015	Jan 2016	Jan 2017	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Jan 2020
Current capacity at Llangennech Infants	171	221**	221**	221**	221**	221**
Current capacity at Llangennech Junior	223	240**	240**	240**	240**	240**
Total (Combined)	394	461	461	461	461	461
Llangennech Infants	216	212	209	207	205	204
Llangennech Junior	230	243	249	253	241	235
Total projected numbers	446	455	458	460	446	439
Surplus / over capacity	+ 52	6	3	1	15	22

* **FTE – Full Time Equivalent**

** **All 4 – 11 primary schools capacities revised from September 2015**

As can be seen from the above table there isn't enough capacity at the school in 2015 to accommodate current Llangennech pupils. However, as the primary capacities were revised in September 2015, the capacity of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors were increased. As a result of the increase in capacity at both schools, projections indicate that the schools will be at or near capacity from 2016 to 2018.

Arrangements are in place to install a Double Mobile classroom on the current Llangennech Infant school site. This will provide the school with additional accommodation but it will not increase the capacity of the new school. We will monitor the situation and will review the situation if the pupil figures continue to rise.

2.6 Pupil Capacity Information

The methodology for the calculation of school capacities was changed in 2006 following the implementation of new Welsh Assembly 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 Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior primary schools are shown in the following table.

	MSCW Capacity				
	Jan-11	Jan-12	Jan-13	Jan-14	Jan-15
Capacity Llangennech Infants	171	171	171	171	171
Pupil Numbers	208	208	218	220	216
Surplus	-37	-37	-47	-49	-45
% Surplus	-22%	-22%	-27%	-29%	-26%
Capacity Llangennech Juniors					
Pupil Numbers	194	200	200	202	230
Surplus	29	23	23	21	-7
% Surplus	13%	10%	10%	9%	-3%

As can be seen in the above table, between January 2011 and January 2014 there was a significant level of surplus places in Llangennech Junior school (9-13%). Whereas Llangennech Infants school is over capacity. This trend changed in 2015 as both schools no longer have any surplus places and Llangennech Infants school continues to remain high in pupil numbers.

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 Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior schools are shown in the following table:

School	Attendance Data 2013/14	Attendance Data 2014/15 (Autumn Term)	Above / Below Target	Target 2014/15	Target 2015/16
Llangennech Infants	94.7	95.7	0.2 ↑	95.5	95.5
Llangennech Junior	95.3	96.1	0.5 ↑	95.6	95.9

2.8 Building Facilities

The following information was taken from the most recent property building survey carried out at the school in 2009:

2.8.1 Llangennech Infants Primary School

Llangennech CP Infants school is situated just off the B4297 Pontardulais Road in the village of Llangennech in Carmarthenshire, approximately 3 miles from Llanelli.

There are three buildings on site: Block One is the main school and Blocks Two and Three are temporary classroom structures. Block One is of traditional construction and was opened in 1975, with a number of small extensions and internal alterations having been carried out since, the most recent a conservatory extension which was reaching completion at the time of survey.

The building is of brick construction beneath a pitched concrete tiled roof which is in good condition. The new conservatory has a translucent sheet roof. The original timber doors, windows and fascias have been replaced with white UPVC units, and there is a recently built external covered way on the route to the main entrance.

Externally, there is a car park, playground, grassed areas, play houses, play equipment, stores and garden areas.

As part of the National 21st Century School Programme a survey of all schools in Carmarthenshire was completed on behalf of the Authority. Llangennech Infants Primary school scored the following ratings;

Condition B – Reasonable

Suitability B – Reasonable

2.8.2 Llangennech Junior Primary School

Llangennech CP Junior School is situated on a sloping site in the village of Llangennech in Carmarthenshire. It lies between the A4138 to the north and the B4297 to the south, and the school is on the eastern edge of the village, approximately 3 miles from the centre of Llanelli.

There are two blocks on site. Block One, the main school building, was built in the 1950's and is a single storey structure with a basement containing the boiler house and two storage rooms, of brick construction beneath a combination of flat and shallow pitched felted roofs. The central corridors are lower than the surrounding rooms, which has in the past led to problems with water damage. These have been overcome and many of the original flat roofs are now shallow pitched. A large number of the original single metal windows and doors have been replaced with double glazed UPVC units.

Block Two is the sports hall building and is also a single storey structure of rendered brick construction beneath felted roofs. It is understood that the sports hall was re roofed around 2000 and the classroom, boiler house and store areas

were roofed in 2009. The low level windows and doors are UPVC double glazed units, and are high level profiled glazed units to the sports hall.

There was no evidence of water damage to ceilings in Block One, and the flat and shallow pitched felted roofs are being suitably maintained and repaired as necessary.

The flat roofs of Block Two have been recovered in recent years.

Externally, there is a car park, playground, grassed areas, play houses, play equipment, stores and garden areas.

As part of the National 21st Century School Programme a survey of all schools in Carmarthenshire was completed on behalf of the Authority. Llangennech Junior Primary school scored the following ratings;

Condition C – Poor

Suitability B – Reasonable

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.

The table below summarises the data for Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior schools;

National School Categorisation System – Data 2014

School	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category
Llangennech Infants	2	A	Green
Llangennech Junior	2	A	Green

As can be seen from the table above, Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior schools have been categorised in the Green category reported as highly effective schools which are well run, have strong leadership and are clear about their priorities for improvement.

2.10 Estyn Reports

2.10.1 Llangennech Infants School

As part of a national programme of school inspection, Estyn commissions reviews of all schools. The latest was undertaken in June 2015 and consultees may access the findings either via the Estyn website at www.estyn.gov.wales or you may request a copy from the Local Authority (for which a charge in respect of photocopying may be made).

The main findings of the report

The Estyn Inspection report undertaken in June 2015 stated that Llangennech Infant school is a good school. The headteacher's firm leadership places a clear strategic direction for the school's development. He has high expectations and a purposeful vision, which are shared successfully with staff and governors. He allocates responsibilities effectively and has a key role in promoting purposeful co-operation and sharing good practice. Members of the senior management team fulfil their responsibilities effectively. Teachers are committed and enthusiastic and all staff co-operate very closely as a team. Governors have an increasing understanding of the school's strengths and of the areas that need to be developed further.

Pupil's behaviour is very good in the classroom and around the school. Nearly all pupils feel safe at the school and know that they can turn to any member of staff for advice and support. They have positive attitudes to living healthily and they understand the importance of eating a balanced diet and taking regular physical exercise. The school council is well-established, and members understand their roles clearly. They make a valuable contribution to decisions at the school.

The school creates a successful Welsh ethos and provides various opportunities to ensure that pupils develop a positive attitude towards the Welsh language. Taking part in the local Eisteddfod and Urdd Eisteddfod expands pupils' experiences successfully. Education for global citizenship is good. Pupils have a good knowledge of the wider world by learning about and supporting overseas charities.

There is an effective working relationship between all staff and pupils. This results in a positive learning environment in every class. Staff have a sound understanding of the curriculum and they question pupils effectively to confirm their knowledge and understanding and to extend their ideas.

The school has a strong relationship with parents with an open and welcoming ethos that develops effective partnerships with all the members of the school community.

The inspection judgements awarded are shown in the following table:

Key Questions	Inspection Judgement
Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?	Good – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Good – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	Good – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.

2.10.2 Llangennech Junior School

As part of a national programme of school inspection, Estyn commissions reviews of all schools. The latest was undertaken in December 2010 and consultees may access the findings either via the Estyn website at www.estyn.gov.wales or you may request a copy from the Local Authority (for which a charge in respect of photocopying may be made).

The main findings of the report

The Estyn Inspection report undertaken in December 2010 stated that Llangennech Junior school is a good school. It is very well led by a committed headteacher, who has a clear vision regarding the school's long term strategy. The senior management team and the governors identify standards thoroughly and develop strategies to deal with a range of matters. As a result, new policies have led to a significant improvement in attendance levels, as well as in pupils behaviour.

Pupils behaviour is excellent throughout the school. They are polite and affectionate and are respectful and caring towards each other. Pupils feel safe at school, and they all have a positive attitude towards eating healthily and enjoy physical activities which includes the eco council and the school council. In years 3 and 4 pupils benefit from Wake Up, Shake Up sessions outside, which improve their concentration levels and their general fitness.

Education for sustainable development and global citizenship has been developed thoroughly in work in science and geography and also in the activities in the eco council. The school's outdoor environment, including the vegetable garden and the outdoor learning areas, is developing as a valuable contribution to the pupils experiences.

The school succeeds in developing a good ethos of Welshness. There are distinctive displays in classrooms and in corridors promoting the pupils ability to develop the Welsh language and positive attitudes towards Welshness.

The school has very strong links with the local community giving pupils a sense of belonging.

There are highly effective transition arrangements for pupils who transfer from the Infants school.

The inspection judgements awarded are shown in the following table:

Key Questions	Inspection Judgement
Key Question 1: How good are the outcomes?	Good – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Key Question 2: How good is provision?	Good – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement
Key Question 3: How good are leadership and management?	Good – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement

NB: The four-point scale used to represent the main judgements in this report is as follows:

1. **Excellent** – Many strengths, including significant examples of sector-leading practice.
2. **Good** – Many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
3. **Adequate** – Strengths outweigh areas for improvement.
4. **Unsatisfactory** – Important areas for improvement outweigh strengths.

3. Evaluation of Present Arrangements

3.1 Quality and standards in education

3.1.1 Outcomes (standards and wellbeing)

The new Llangennech Community Primary school would provide pupils currently being educated at Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools with access to a school that has good standards and provision, under the excellent leadership of a strong Management Team and an effective and committed Governing Body.

There will be no impact on the ability of schools likely to be effected by the proposals at the Foundation Phase or any other Key Stage.

Estyn in June 2015 and December 2010, judged standards at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school to be good, and these standards have been maintained since the previous inspections and standards raised further in certain subjects.

Results in the 2014 national tests were as follows:

Llangennech Infants

- The Foundation Phase Indicator has been in the upper quartile and above the family average for the past three years.
- The results of national tests are in line with these teacher assessments and provide further evidence of high standards at the school e.g. in 2014 the percentage scoring 85+ in all tests was in quartile 2, and the percentage scoring 115+ in all tests was in quartile 1.

Llangennech Juniors

- There is a pattern of standards being raised in all subjects, and the core subject indicator has been benchmarked above the median and the family average for the past two years.
- The results in national tests further provide evidence of the good standards at the school as nearly all indicators for all subjects across Years 3 – 6 in 2014 were benchmarked above the median.
- The school provides a rich, varied and successful programme of extra-curricular activities and these are of a very high standard e.g. winner of Songs of Praise Choir of the Year 2015, the National Urdd Eisteddfod 2015, finalists in Côr Cymru 2015 and Dyfed Cross Country winners, Welsh Government Entrepreneur winners and County rugby and netball winners.

3.1.2 Provision - Llangennech Infants school

Llangennech Infants School is a dual-stream school that offers Welsh and English medium education in two separate streams. Bilingual education is provided in both reception classes, and then pupils transfer either to the Welsh stream or the English stream.

In June 2015, Estyn judged the quality of teaching to be good. Internal and Local Authority monitoring shows that this quality of teaching has been maintained and further improved as the school has responded to the issues identified in the school development plan. The provision for pupils who have ALN (Additional Learning Needs) is effective. Under the clear leadership of the co-ordinator, the school identifies pupils who need additional learning support at an early stage. Support staff make a very positive contribution to the development of these pupils. The school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils meet requirements and are not a cause for concern.

3.1.3 Provision - Llangennech Junior school

Llangennech Junior School is a dual-stream school that offers Welsh and English medium education. In December 2010, Estyn judged the quality of teaching to be good/excellent. Internal and Local Authority monitoring shows that this quality of teaching has been maintained and further improved as the school has responded to the issues identified in the school development plan.

With an increased team of teachers the proposal will provide improved and enhanced pastoral arrangements and targeted support for particular groups of pupils which in turn will enable the school to deliver a wider range of specific programmes to support learning. The provision for pupils with ALN will be strengthened to provide a wide range of specialism in areas where it is needed.

3.1.4 Leadership and Management - Federation

From April 2015 the Governing bodies of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools resolved to pursue a formal federation. It is very well led by a committed headteacher, who has a clear vision regarding the school's long term strategy.

This proposal will also offer greater opportunities for staff development including the opportunity to develop their skills over the whole primary age curriculum.

3.2 Need for places and the impact on accessibility of schools

The County Council has considered the sufficiency of places and the likely demand for places in the future.

3.3 Resourcing of education and other financial implications

3.3.1 Surplus Places

As can be seen from the table in section 2.6 there are no surplus places at either Llangennech Infants or Llangennech Junior schools as at January 2015. As stated in the School Organisation Code (2013) document published by Welsh Government where there is more than 10% surplus in an area, local authorities should review their provision and should make proposals for school reorganisation if it will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of provision. This is especially important where individual schools have 'significant' levels of surplus places of 25% or more (as defined in the Welsh Government Circular 21/2011).

If this proposal is implemented and to support and suitably accommodate the additional requirements of the school and the projected pupil numbers within the Llangennech area, arrangements are currently in place to install a Double Mobile classroom on the current Llangennech Infant school site. This will provide the school with additional accommodation but will not increase the current capacity of the new school. The additional accommodation will help the school manage numbers and provide them with extra space whilst they still have the current English stream pupils at the school.

3.3.2 Transport costs

If the proposal is implemented there would be no additional cost to transport pupils to the new school.

3.3.3 Capital costs / Capital Receipts

In the short term and with the installation of additional mobile classroom there will be sufficient accommodation on the Llangennech School site to accommodate the current pupils of Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. In the longer term it is planned to review the current capacity and adjust accordingly should the demands arise in the future. Llangennech is currently part of the Band C element of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme.

3.3.4 School Budgets

Llangennech Infants School

Based on 2015/16 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,668 which is £71 below the county average of £3,739.

Llangennech Junior School

Based on 2015/16 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,356 which is £383 below the county average of £3,739.

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 County Council considered a range of alternative options. In considering the options they were evaluated against key objectives and criteria to determine which option best suited the aspirations of Carmarthenshire. These changes will come into effect from January 2017.

5.1 Main Options Considered

Option 1	Status Quo – Maintain both schools in present format
Option 2	Federation
Option 3	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.

Option 4	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.
Option 5	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM at Bryn primary school.
Option 6	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS at Hendy primary school.
Option 7	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.

5.2 Advantages / Disadvantages of Each Option

Option 1 – Status Quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • No statutory procedures necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues present arrangements with lack of coherence in provision. • Would not address the current demand in the schools. • Higher cost option. • Higher Staffing costs. • Opportunities for synergies will be lost.

Option 2 – Federation	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation is seen as an important step towards merging the two schools to become one primary school. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two Schools would become one primary school. • No increased travelling times for pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 – 2017). • Doesn't align with MEP strategy to remove Infants and Junior schools. • Federations can be undone.
--	---

Option 3 (Preferred Option)

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a designated WM language category school following a period of federation with one Governing Body. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary school. • An increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area with every pupil becoming fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one headteacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated DS language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. • There will be increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 - 2017). • There will be a designated nursery provision at the school. • All pupils leaving primary school will benefit from having two languages. 	
--	--

Option 4

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a designated DS language category school following a period of federation. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary school. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one headteacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. 	
---	--

Option 5

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at Bryn primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated DS language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Increased travel times for some pupils. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Not enough capacity at Bryn CP school to accommodate the EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools.

Option 6

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS education at Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<p>nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Not enough capacity at Hendy CP school to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech.
---	--

Option 7

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Secure long term English education provision in the Bryn area. • Secure long term Welsh and English education provision in the Hendy area. • Having three schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn, Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Hendy CP school will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Bryn CP school will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased travel times for some pupils. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech.
--	---

6. The Proposal

6.1 Rationale for Change

Following the retirement of the Llangennech Infants school Headteacher at the end of the Summer 2013 academic year a soft federation has already taken place with the Headteacher of Llangennech Junior school currently responsible for both schools. On the 24th September 2014 the Governing bodies of both Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April 2015. Federation is seen as an important step towards merging the two schools to become one primary school.

In Llangennech the local Authority are currently able to offer as a 4-11 primary school part time learning provision through the medium of Welsh and English. As part of the new 3 – 11 primary school that will include nursery provision, it is proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant school (Dual Stream – (DS) and Llangennech Junior school (Dual Stream – (DS) to a new Welsh Medium – (WM) language category school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and will ensure that bilingualism is increased in the Llangennech area. It 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 Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (2014-2017).

The proposal will provide improved and enhanced pastoral arrangements and targeted support for particular groups of pupils which in turn will enable the school to deliver a wider range of specific programmes to support learning. The provision for pupils with ALN will be strengthened to provide a wide range of specialism in areas where it is needed.

This proposal will also offer greater opportunities for staff development including the opportunity to develop their skills over the whole primary age curriculum.

6.2 The Proposal

In arriving at a preferred option other options were considered as highlighted in section 5.3 of this document. It is the Authority's proposal to discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and

establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.

The following proposal has been identified as the Authority's preferred option for the future provision of primary education in the area. These changes will be implemented in January 2017.

6.3 Catchment Area

6.3.1 Primary

That as from 1st January 2017, there would be no change to the catchment areas of Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school.

6.3.2 Secondary

For pupils residing within the existing catchment area of Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school the arrangements in respect of secondary education will be Bryngwyn and Ysgol y Strade (Welsh Stream).

Most parents send their child / children to their local catchment area school, however, parents have a right to state a preference for different schools. When you choose a school which is not your designated catchment school or the nearest school to your home there are some issues you will need to consider prior to making a decision;

- If a child does not attend the catchment area school or the nearest school to the home address and this decision is based on parental preference, then the responsibility, as well as the cost, of transporting the pupil to and from school, rests entirely with the parents / carer.
- The LA and school governors will lawfully comply with any preference for a particular school which is expressed. As with all applications a preference for a particular school will need to be considered and assessed as part of the admission process to ensure that the Authority does not exceed the limit for admission of pupils to that school for the relevant year group.

6.4 Advantages and Disadvantages of the proposal

Advantages

- Access to a school that has good standards and provision under the leadership of a strong Management Team.
- A Community school offering WM education.
- Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area.

Disadvantages

- Local community resistance to the proposals.

- Loss of EM education in the Llangennech area.
- Statutory process required to implement proposal.

6.5 Risks and Counter Measures

Risk		Counter Measure
1.	Failure to obtain statutory approval to implement the proposal.	- Follow guidelines as set out in the School Organisation Code 2013.
2.	Staffing issues in relation to securing suitable alternative employment.	- The Authority has staffing policies which will be recommended for implementation in respect of school reorganisation.
3.	Integration of pupils into the new school.	- The Authority will work with the pupils requiring EM education to ensure smooth transition and integration into the new school.

6.6 Management and Organisation

In arriving at the preferred option of making a new 3-11 WM language school with nursery provision in Llangennech, the Local Authority are hopeful that pupils currently at Llangennech Infants and Junior schools would continue with their education at the new WM Llangennech Community school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017).

The proposed changes will not effect pupils who are currently in the English Stream of Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools. From September 2017, all pupils going into Year 1 will be taught through the medium of Welsh. This will result in less space being required for teaching pupils through the medium of English.

The following table highlights the impact on the management and organisation of the new Community Primary School to accommodate pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools.

January 2015 PLASC Data (FTE) (Ages at 31/08/14)						
Class	Llangennech Infants			Llangennech Juniors		
	Welsh	English	Total	Welsh	English	Total
N2	38	0	38			
Reception	54	0	54			
Year 1	48	13	61			
Year 2	46	17	63			
Year 3				51	19	70
Year 4				39	16	55
Year 5				37	18	55
Year 6				35	15	50
Total	186	30	216	162	68	230

6.7 Revenue Savings

Should this proposal be implemented there would be no potential revenue savings. This does not take into account any upcoming budget constraints on the fair funding allocation or additional transport costs.

Any future savings would be re-invested within the education service.

6.8 Pupil Costs

Llangennech Infants School

Based on 2015/16 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,668 which is £71 below the county average of £3,739.

Llangennech Junior School

Based on 2015/16 data the budget cost per pupil is £3,356 which is £383 below the county average of £3,739.

6.9 Admission Arrangements

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Llangennech Infants school. The current AN of the school is 55 (from September 2015).

The County Council is the Admissions Authority for Llangennech Junior primary school. The current AN of the school is 60 (from September 2015).

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

6.10 Transport Impact Assessment

Should the proposal be implemented there would be no transport implications for the pupils of Llangennech Infants and Junior schools.

Safe Routes to School

There were no bids submitted for Safe Routes to Schools from the Llangennech area.

6.11 Community Impact Assessment

Please refer to **Appendix A** of this consultation document for full details of a Community Impact Assessment undertaken on Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school.

6.12 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Please refer to **Appendix B** of this consultation document for full details of a Welsh Language Impact Assessment undertaken on Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school.

6.13 Equality Impact Assessment

Please refer to **Appendix C** of this consultation document for details on the Equality Impact Assessment undertaken for Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school.

6.14 Impact of proposal on staff

6.14.1 Llangennech Infants School Staff

There is currently 1 Headteacher, 2 Assistant Headteachers on secondment and 11 Teachers at the school. The Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these will be implemented. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

6.14.2 Llangennech Junior School Staff

There is currently 1 Headteacher, 2 Assistant Headteachers on secondment and 8 Teachers at the school. The Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these will be

implemented. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

7. Consultation and Statutory Process

7.1 The Consultation Process

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

7.2 Who else will be consulted?

This document has been sent to the following interested parties:

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Llangennech Infants School Llangennech Junior School	Governors and Parents / Guardians, Llangennech Infants School Llangennech Junior School
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership	Community Councillors / Llangennech Community 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)
National Association Of Head Teachers (NAHT)	GMB Union
UNISON	*Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire
Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G)	LA Special Educational Needs Division
Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities	ERW – Education through Regional Working
Local Service Board	Regional Transport Consortium
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Welsh Ministers
Estyn	Diocesan Director of Education & RC
Brightbeginings Nursery	Cylch Meithrin Llangennech

* Consultation document sent to Headteacher and Chair of Governors (Hendy CP, Bryn CP, CP, Brynsierfel CP, Bynea CP, Swiss Valley CP, Llannon CP, Dewi Sant CP and Pentip VA,) Secondary Schools (Ysgol Y Strade, Bryngwyn)..

7.3 The Consultation Period

There will be a period from 25th January 2016 to 18th March 2016 when you can express your views.

You can express your views by writing a letter or alternatively completing the attached response form in **Appendix F** which should be received by the Director of Education and Children's Services (Mr. R. A. Sully) by no later than noon on 18th March 2016, at the following address:

Mr R A Sully, 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.

7.4 Consultation with pupils

There will be an opportunity for the pupils of Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school to participate in the consultation process during a session that will be conducted with a member of the School Improvement Team. This session will take place at Llangennech Junior school with representatives of both schools present.

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

7.5 Considering Your Views

Within 13 weeks of 18th March 2016 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 of Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior School.

Executive Board 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.

7.6 Statutory Notice

The statutory notice will be published on Carmarthenshire County Council's website and posted in the named and neighbouring schools within the locality. 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.

7.7 Determination of Proposal

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.

7.8 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.

7.9 The Statutory Process Time-Table

The statutory process and timetable will be as follows:-

January 2016	Issue of this consultation document to identified and other interested parties.
March 2016	Closing date for views on the proposal to be received by the Department for Education & Children.
June 2016	<p>Within 13 weeks of 18th March 2016 a Consultation Report will be taken to the Scrutiny and Executive Board committees 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>
July 2016	<p>End of formal 28 day notice period for objections.</p> <p>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>
November 2016	<p>Deadline to notify parents of intention to implement proposal.</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>

8. Appendix A – Community Impact Assessment

Community Impact Assessment

General Information

Llangennech Infant School

Llangennech Infant school is located on a flat site at the edge of the village of Llangennech on the outskirts of Llanelli. There are three buildings on site. Block One is the main school and Blocks Two and Three are temporary classroom structures. Block One is of traditional construction and was opened in 1975, with a number of small extensions and internal alterations having been carried out since. The building is of brick construction beneath a pitched concrete tiled roof. The new conservatory has a translucent sheet roof. The original timber doors, windows and fascias have been replaced with white UPVC units, with a built external covered way on the route to the main entrance. Externally, there is a car park, playground, grassed areas, play houses, play equipment stores and garden areas.

Llangennech Junior School

Llangennech Junior school is situated on a sloping site in the village of Llangennech on the outskirts of Llanelli. There are two blocks on site. Block One, the main school building was built in the 1950's and is a single storey structure with a basement containing the boiler house and two storage rooms, of brick construction beneath a combination of flat and shallow pitched felted roofs. A large number of the original single metal windows and doors have been replaced with double glazed UPVC units. Block Two is the sports hall building and is also a single storey structure of rendered brick construction beneath flat felted roofs. It is understood that the sports hall has been re-roofed along with the classroom, boiler house and store areas. The low level windows and doors are UPVC double glazed units and there are high level profiled glazed units to the sports hall.

Llangennech Infants and Junior schools are within the ward of Llangennech where the population is 4,964. The ward, Llangennech 1 is ranked 93, Llangennech 2 is ranked 65 and Llangennech 3 is ranked 85 within Carmarthenshire for deprivation (1 being most deprived).

Other School Facilities / Activities

Llangennech Infants and Junior schools have a close relationship with parents and works well with the community. Parents and visitors from the community make a positive contribution to enriching pupils' experiences.

Extra curricular opportunities are many and varied at the schools including Maths and Sports clubs being offered at the schools. Llangennech Junior school also have a successful choir who were finalists in Côr Cymru 2015 and winners of Songs of Praise Choir of the Year 2015. They have also been Dyfed Cross Country winners, Welsh Government Entrepreneur winners and County rugby and netball winners

The community makes good use of both Llangennech Infants and Junior schools in the evenings for uses such as the local football team using the playing fields on a weekly basis, the village badminton team and rugby club use the sports hall as well as 'Theatr Denny Twp', 'Clwb Cristnogol' uses the schools for their events. The schools are also the Home for the Urdd's 'Llwyth y Llan'.

Catchment Area Analysis

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 pupils 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 2015 PLASC pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for the Llangennech Infants school catchment area indicated that of the 216 pupils on roll, 159 pupils lived within the catchment, whilst the remaining 57 were from outside the catchment area.

Based on January 2015 PLASC pupil address data, the geographical data in relation to the pupil distribution for the Llangennech Junior school catchment area indicated that of the 230 pupils on roll, 166 pupils living within the catchment, whilst the remaining 64 were from outside the catchment area.

9. Appendix B – Welsh Language Impact Assessment

9.1 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 offer the pupils of Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school the opportunity of a Welsh Medium education provision at the new Llangennech Community school.

9.2 Language Category

Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools

Under the new arrangements for categorisation of schools according to linguistic provision, Llangennech Infants and Junior schools categorises themselves in Category DS (Dual Stream) offering Welsh and English medium education.

Llangennech Community School

Under the new arrangements for categorisation of schools, the Council are proposing that the new Llangennech Community school will become a Category WM (Welsh Medium) school and will ensure that bilingualism is increased in the Llangennech area..

9.3 Standards – Welsh Language

Llangennech Infant School

As reported in section 2.10 of this consultation document Llangennech Infant School was last inspected by Estyn in June 2015.

The report noted that most pupils came from English speaking homes with only 23% of pupils coming from Welsh-speaking homes. By the end of the Foundation Phase, nearly all pupils' oral skills are sound in formal and informal situations in both schools.

It was reported that many pupils make good progress when developing second language skills in Welsh and are able to follow instructions skilfully and make effective use of basic vocabulary to respond to daily activities.

Llangennech Junior School

As reported in section 2.10 of this consultation document Llangennech Junior School was last inspected by Estyn in December 2010.

The report noted that most pupils came from English speaking homes but 54% of the pupils speak Welsh to first language standard. Out of the 8 classes at the school there are 4 classes where pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh.

It was reported that the pupils in the Welsh medium stream make very good progress in their use of Welsh from the time they start at school. Most of the pupils use the language fluently and effectively whatever the occasion, both formal and informal with the majority of the pupils using Welsh regularly with each other is a strong feature at the school.

10. Appendix C – Equality 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

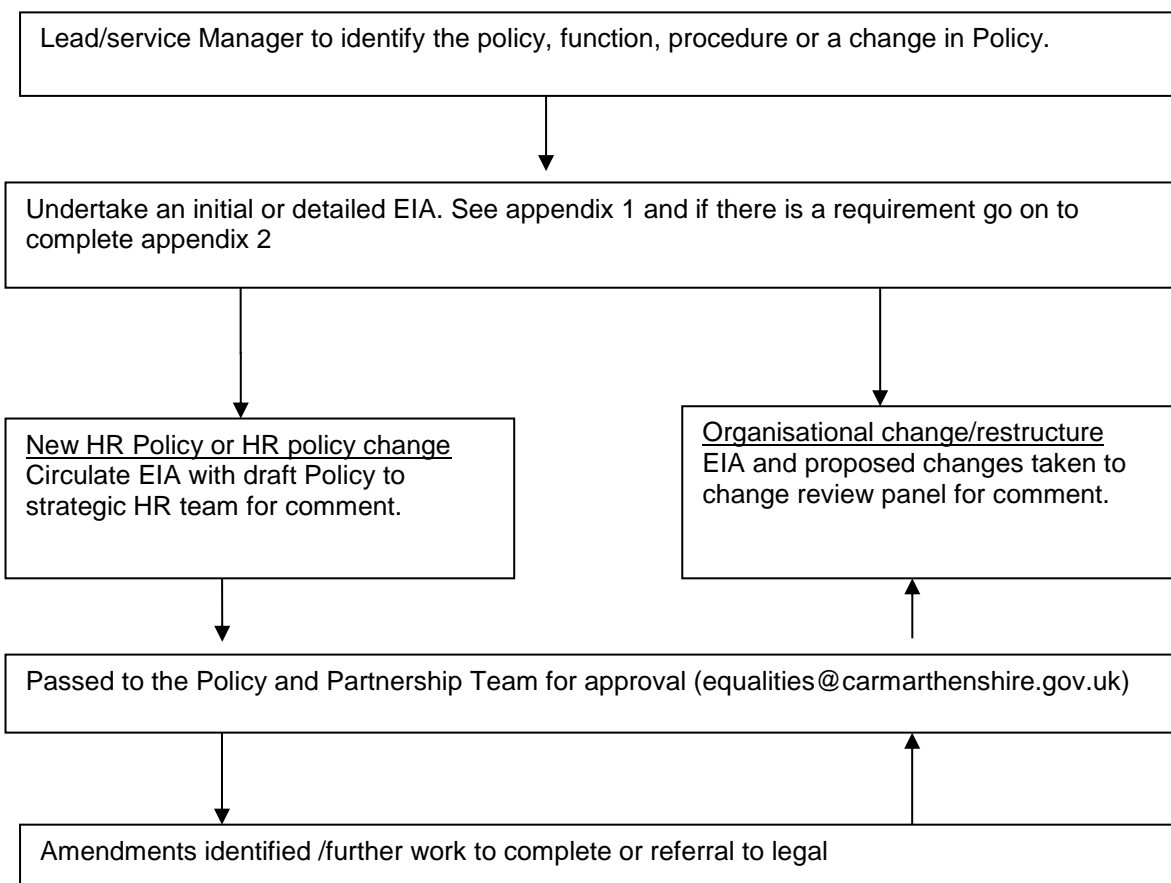
Where it is clear from the assessment that the likely impact on the authority's ability to meet the general duty is substantial, then it must publish a report.

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): Lowri Morgan	Date of initial assessment: September 2015 Revision Dates: N/A
Area to be assessed: (i.e. name of policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision)	To discontinue Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and create a new WM Community Primary School	
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 • Welsh Government Guidance – School Organisation Code 2013 • PLASC data 2015 		

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the proposed function/policy, practice, procedure or decision and who is intended to benefit.	It is the County Council's proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and create a new WM Community Primary School as agreed by the Authority.		
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 high (H) medium (M), low (L), no effect (N) for each.	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? N/A

<p>advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups (see guidance notes)</p>		Risks	Positive effects		
Protected characteristics	Age	N	Risk Neutral		
	Disability	L	Risk Neutral	In Llangennech Infants school there are currently 37% of pupils with additional learning needs at the school. In Llangennech Junior school there are currently 26% of pupils with additional learning needs at the school. There will be sufficient support available to these pupils through the medium of Welsh.	
	Gender reassignment	N	Risk Neutral		
	Race	N	Risk Neutral		
	Religion/Belief	N	Risk Neutral		
	Pregnancy and maternity	N	Risk Neutral		
	Sexual Orientation	N	Risk Neutral		
	Sex	N	Risk Neutral		
Welsh language	H	Risk Neutral	As part of the proposal the language category of the school will be creating a new		

				WM school which will support the Council's vision and aims for Welsh medium education as set out in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014 – 2017	
	Any other area	L	Risk Neutral		

5. Has there been any consultation/engagement with the appropriate protected characteristics?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informal and formal consultation will be undertaken as stated in Welsh Government guidance. We will consult informally with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors. As part of the Formal Consultation period key stakeholders will be consulted with as detailed on page 6 of this consultation document. NO <input type="checkbox"/>
---	---

6. What action(s) will you take to reduce any disproportionately negative impact, if any? Ensure that parents, staff and governors are fully informed at each stage of the consultation.
--

7. Procurement Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any procurement implications to the activity, proposal, service. Please take the findings of this assessment into your procurement plan. Contact the corporate procurement unit for further advice. N/A

8. Human resources Following collation of evidence for this assessment, are there any Human resource implications to the activity, proposal or service? The Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these will be recommended for implementation. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.
--

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"/>
---	------------------------------	--

Approved by: Chief Education Officer	Gareth Morgans	Date: November 2015
---	----------------	---------------------

Detailed Equalities Impact Assessment Template

Appendix 2

Department:	Please see initial impact assessment
Completed by (lead):	
Date of Detailed assessment:	
Area to be assessed: (<i>Policy, function, procedure, practice or a financial decision</i>)	Please see initial impact assessment
Is this existing or new function/policy/Procedure/ practice	Please see initial impact assessment

1. Describe the aims, objectives or purpose of the function/policy, practice or procedure and who is intended to benefit.	Please see initial impact assessment
2. Please list any existing documents, evidence, research which have been used to inform the Detailed equality impact assessment. (This must include relevant data used in this assessment)	
3. Has any consultation, involvement been undertaken with the protected characteristics to inform this assessment? (please provide details, who and how consulted)	

4. What is the actual/likely impact?				
5. What actions are proposed to address the impact? (<i>The actions needs to be specific, measurable and outcome based</i>)	What are we going to do	Who will be responsible	When will it be completed	How will we know we have achieved our objective
6. How will actions be monitored?				
Approved by: Head of Service			Date:	

Thank you for completing this assessment.

For further information regarding Assessing Impact, please contact the -
 Policy & Partnership Team
 Chief Executive's Department
 01267 22(4914) / (4676)
equalities@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Please send a copy of the assessment to the above e-mail address upon completion.

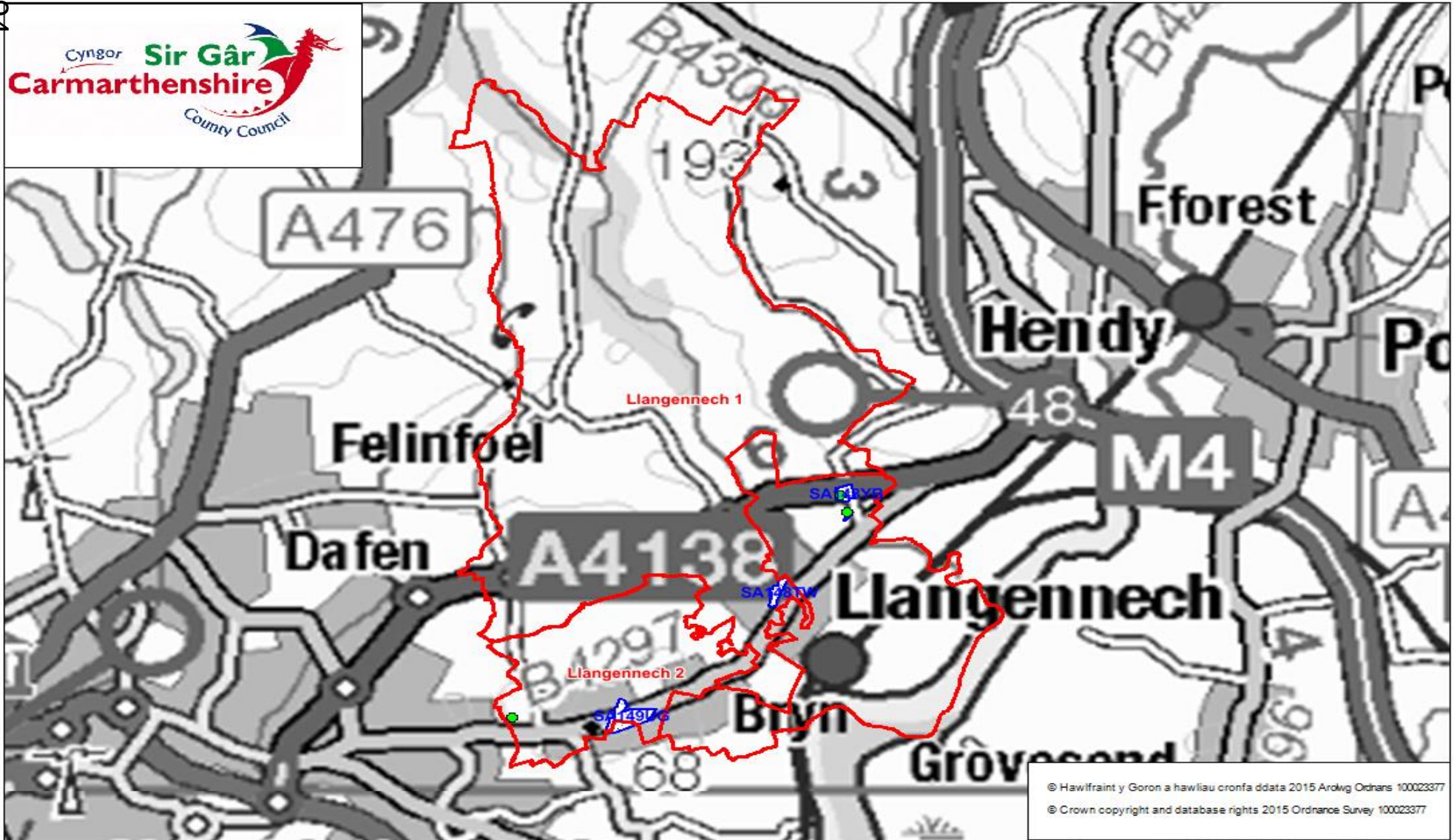
11. Appendix D – Area Profile Llangennech

Area Profile for Postcode: SA14 9UG, SA14 8TW and SA148YB(Llangennech 1,2 and 3 LSOA Codes: W01000690, W01000691 and W0100692) – Ysgol Llangennech

Population:	4,964
Welsh Language:	<p>People with knowledge of Welsh: 55.7% (2,667)</p> <p>Can speak Welsh: 39.9% (1,912)</p> <p>Can speak, Read and Write Welsh: 30% (1,438)</p> <p>Can speak Welsh (Age 3-15): 8.6% (65)</p> <p>No skills in Welsh: 44.3% (2,119)</p>
Number of Children & Young People:	<p>(Aged 0-15) 18.9% (936)</p> <p>(Aged 16-24) 9.8% (484)</p>
Population Mitigation:	Overall population churn in area: rate per 1,000 Data no longer available
Ethncity:	<p>White (British): 96.2% (4,773)</p> <p>White (Irish): 0.3% (9)</p> <p>White (Gypsy or Irish Traveller): 0.3% (13)</p> <p>White (Other): 1% (50)</p> <p>Mixed (White/Black Caribbean): 0.2% (10)</p> <p>Mixed (White Black & Black African): 0.1% (4)</p> <p>Mixed (White & Asian): 0.1% (7)</p> <p>Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups; Other Mixed: 0% (2)</p> <p>Asian British (Indian): 0.5% (27)</p> <p>Asian British (Pakistani): 0.1% (4)</p> <p>Asian British (Chinese): 0.4% (20)</p> <p>Asian British (Other Asian): 0.4% (22)</p> <p>Black/African/Caribbean/Black British; African: 0.1% (5)</p> <p>Black African/Caribbean/Black British; Caribbean: 0.1% (3)</p> <p>Black African/Caribbean/Black British; Other Black: 0% (1)</p> <p>Other Ethnic Group: 0.3% (14)</p>
Religion:	<p>Christian: 63.2% (3,135)</p> <p>Buddhist: 0.2% (9)</p>

	Hindu: 0.3% (16) Jewish: 0% (2) Muslim: 0.5% (24) Sikh: 0.3% (16) Other Religion: 0.3% (15) No Religion: 28.9% (1,437) Religion Not Stated: 6.2% (310)
Deprivation Ranking:	Total number of Households: 2,084 Total households not deprived in any dimensions: 838 No of households Deprived of between 1-4 dimensions: 1,246

POSTCODES SA14 9UG, SA14 8TW and SA14 8YB are in **Blue** text and highlighted by a **BLUE** shaded boundary, Llangennech



Junior and Infant Schools and Bryn School are in shown by the **GREEN** circle markers and the areas included in the **RED** boundary is the LSOA which the postcodes are located in.
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, **Llangennech 1** ranks 93 in Carmarthenshire from 112 LSOAs and is ranked 1315 in Wales from 1909 LSOAs. **Llangennech 2** ranks 65 in Carmarthenshire and is ranked 1025 from 1909 LSOAs in Wales, whilst **Llangennech 3** ranks 85 in Carmarthenshire and ranked 1206 in Wales from 1909 LSOAs.

The highest level of deprivation attributed to **Llangennech 1** is the Community Safety domain being ranked 67th in Carmarthenshire and 1442nd in Wales. In **Llangennech 2** the Access to Services domain is the most prominent ranking 45th in Carmarthenshire and 393rd in Wales. In **Llangennech 3** the Physical Environment domain is the most dominant ranking 22nd in Carmarthenshire and 395th in Wales.

Llangennech 1 - Troserch

Llangennech 2 - Bryn

Llangennech 3 – Llangennech Park

LSOA	Overall Index		Domains: Income		Employment		Health		Education		Housing		Access to Services		Physical Environment		Community Safety	
Llangennech 1	93	1315	80	1241	75	1115	68	990	74	1192	70	1255	68	694	87	1396	67	1442
Llangennech 2	65	1025	52	965	47	858	73	1024	56	1001	60	1068	45	393	111	1854	79	1609
Llangennech 3	85	1206	72	1134	77	1140	47	793	63	1090	108	1704	88	1123	22	395	63	1393

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

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

12. Appendix E – Glossary of Abbreviations

ALN	Additional Learning Needs
AN	Admission number
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
PLASC	Pupil Level Annual School Census Data
PT	Part time
VA	Voluntary Aided
WESP	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
WG	Welsh Government
WM	Welsh medium

13. Appendix F – Response Pro-forma

Please provide us with your comments on the proposals regarding future provision for primary pupils residing in the Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior school 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.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Position /

Category of

Respondent

(E.g. parent) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

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. R. A. Sully, Director – Department for Education and Children, Building 2, St David's Park, Jobs Well Road, Carmarthen. SA31 3HB or E-mail to

DECMEP@carmarthenshire.gov.uk no later than 18th March 2016.

This page is intentionally left blank

CONSULTATION REPORT

Future Primary Education Provision for Children Residing in the Llangennech area

Appendix A

List of Respondents to the Consultation Document

Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools
Observation Received List

Number	Name	Position/Category of Respondent
1	Karen Hughes	Parent
1.1	Nigel Hughes	Parent
1.2	Anna Edwards	Parent
1.3	Rachel King	Parent
1.4	Sallyann Thomas	Parent
1.5	Rebecca Davies	Parent
1.6	Jacqueline Seward	Parent
1.7	V. A. Willock	Grandparent
1.8	Robert Willock	Guardian
1.9	Michelle Gramann	Parent
1.10	Lucy Edwards	Parent
1.11	Nicola Charles	Parent
1.12	Julia Rees	Parent
1.13	Catrin Richards	Parent
1.14	Darren Seward	Community Member
1.15	Charlotte Charles	Parent
1.16	K. E. Thomas	Parent
1.17	C. Y. Thomas	Grandparent
1.18	Julia Rees	Parent
1.19	Lynda Morgan	Past Parent
1.20	Emma Webborn	Parent
1.21	Carys Williams	Community Member
1.22	Sarah Martin	Parent
1.23	Huw Thomas	Grandparent
1.24	Glen Graydon	Parent
1.25	Mr & Mrs Harvey	Parent
1.26	Lynne Graves	Teaching Assistant
1.27	Crystal Bolt	Teaching Assistant
1.28	Sally-Ann Sheen	Parent
1.29	Sue Broad	Parent
1.30	Robert and Vanessa Willock	
1.31	Samantha Thomas	Past Parent
1.32	Terry Lewis	Grandparent
1.33	Sheena Lewis	Grandparent
1.34	Robert Willock	
1.35	J Brodrick	Grandmother
1.36	Cllr. Theresa Bowen	
1.37	Angela Edwards	Teaching Assistant
1.38	R Hopkins	Past Parent
1.39	M Hopkins	Past Parent
1.40	Tracy Siddell	Teaching Assistant/School Governor
1.41	David and Arlene Thomas	Grandparents

1.42	T Hooper	Parent
1.43	Dr Marian Slader	Llangennech School Governor/ Community Councillor/ Past village GP
1.44	Richard Colman	Prospective Parent
1.45	Tammy Bryan	Past Parent
1.46	Kevin Sourbutts	Community Member
1.47	M M T Fuge	Grandmother
1.48	Jean Ring	Grandparent
1.49	H T Hughes	
1.50	Sam Oakley	Parent
1.51	Paula Williams	Parent
1.52	Phillip Lumley	Prospective Grandparent
1.53	Dave Jones	Past Parent
1.54	Kerry Matthews	Parent
1.55	Louise Perkins	Parent
1.56	Fiona Ring	Prospective Parent
1.57	Arron Ring	
1.58	Lynne Peet	
1.59	Barbara Brereton	Great Grandmother
1.60	Jonathan Lomas	Parent
1.61	Donna Williams	Past Parent
1.62	Anonymous	
1.63	Dave Williams	Past Parent
1.64	Karen Deacon	Parent
1.65	Orla Williams	Past Parent
1.66	Lauren Gill	Prospective Parent
1.67	Rebecca Grice	Prospective Parent
1.68	Donald Melrose	Parent
1.69	V Allen	Community Member
1.70	Delyth Humphreys	Community Member
1.71	S Hill	Community Member
1.72	Christopher Evans	Parent
1.73	M Beddows	Parent
1.74	Joshua Murphy	Pupil
1.75	Louise Davies	Parent
1.76	Richard Davies	Parent
1.77	Nicholas Sullivan	Parent
1.78	Supranee Sullivan	Parent
1.79	Zoe Evans	Past Pupil
1.80	Phillip Willock	Parent
1.81	D Prigmore	Grandparent
1.82	M Prigmore	Grandparent
1.83	Christian Evans	Parent
1.84	J Hancock	Grandparent
1.85	T Evans	Grandparent
1.86	Lindsey Evans	Parent
1.87	Denise Williams	Aunt

1.88	Nathan Lewis	Parent
1.89	Byron Williams	Grandparent
1.90	Paul Parry	Parent
1.91	Karen Green	Parent
1.92	Stephen Hughes	Student
1.93	Gaynor Hughes	Community Member
1.94	Nicola Lloyd	Parent
1.95	Lyndsey Andrews	Parent
1.96	Della Maides	
1.97	B Thomas	Community Member
1.98	M Beaton	Past Parent
1.99	S Kormylo	
1.100	Rita Maides	Grandparent
1.101	Stephanie Hughes	Past Parent
1.102	Alisha Maides	Past Pupil
1.103	Tammie-Jo Jones	
1.104	Julie Cahill	Grandparent
1.105	Michael Cahill	Grandparent
1.106	Leanne Edwards	Parent
1.107	Geraint Williams	
1.108	Jayme Lloyd	Past Parent
1.109	Elizabeth Chick	Grandparent
1.110	Philippa Davies	Parent
1.111	Mark Davies	Parent
1.112	Laura Davies	Potential Parent
1.113	Dafydd John	Past Pupil
1.114	D Thomas	Parent
1.115	Jordan Thomas	Past Pupil
1.116	Taylor Thomas	Pupil
1.117	Geraint Thomas	Parent
1.118	Ian MacDonald	Parent
1.119	Eddie Jones	Community Member
1.120	Linda Jones	Community Member
1.121	D Thomas	
1.122	Alex and Rachel James	Parents
1.123	C S Thomas	Past Pupil
1.124	Jacqueline Williams	Grandparent
1.125	Kimberley Williams	Parent
1.126	Gary Jones	Community Councillor
1.127	Sian Edwards-Schildt	Parent
1.128	Ellis Edwards	Grandparent
1.129	Rob Willock	Guardian
1.130	Stefan Ryszewski	Conservative Candidate
1.131	Danielle Carter	Prospective Parent
1.132	Luke Bolt	
1.133	A Colton	Grandmother
1.134	Peter Colton	Grandfather
1.135	David Colton	Past Pupil

1.136	C J Fletcher	
1.137	G Daniel	
1.138	Patricia Seward	Grandparent
1.139	Lindsey Evans	
1.140	Irene Edwards	Grandparent
1.141	K M Seward	Pupil
1.142	C L Thomas	Pupil
1.143	R Willock	Guardian
1.144	R Willock	Guardian
1.145	Jeanette Davies	Grandparent
1.146	A Williams	Parent
1.147	Stephen Davies	Community Member
1.148	Michael Schildt	Parent
1.149	Alyson White	Parent
1.150	Garry Tuckett	Grandparent
1.151	Kim Thomas	Parent
1.152	Karen Deacon	Parent
1.153	Christopher Slader	
1.154	Gary Jones	Llangennech Community Councillor
1.155	Petition by members of the community.	Members of Llangennech Community
2	Mr Steven Mears	Governing Body Bryngwyn/Glan-Y-Môr
3	S. Griffiths	Community Member
3.1	Anonymous	
3.2	Annona Thomas	Grandmother
3.3	Angharad Gealy	Teacher
3.4	Ian Williams	Community Member
3.5	Sian Lloyd	
3.6	Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	County Councillor / Governor
3.7	C. A. Reynolds	Parent
3.8	Meilyr Bowen Hughes	Community Member
3.9	Anonymous	
3.10	Nerys Estelle Burton	Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli
3.11	Dr. Rhian Eleri Jones	Community Member
3.12	Keith Abbott	Community Member
3.13	Davinia Lewis	Parent
3.14	Heather Lewis	Headteacher, Ysgol Y Strade
3.15	Nicholas Daniels	Community Member
3.16	Colin Gwyn Jenkins	Community Member
3.17	P. Richards	Community Member
3.18	Glendon Davies	Past Parent and Governor
3.19	Anonymous	
3.20	Anonymous	
3.21	Anonymous	
3.22	Anonymous	
3.23	Anonymous	
3.24	Anonymous	

3.25	Anonymous	
3.26	Anonymous	
3.27	Anonymous	
3.28	Anonymous	
3.29	Anonymous	
3.30	Anonymous	
3.31	Anonymous	
3.32	Louise Parry	Assistant Head, Llangennech Infants
3.33	Anonymous	
3.34	Anonymous	
3.35	Anonymous	
3.36	Anonymous	
3.37	Anonymous	
3.38	Anonymous	
3.39	Anonymous	
3.40	Anonymous	
3.41	Desmond Jones	Community Member
3.42	W. D. Griffiths	Community Member
3.43	Patricia Jones	Grandmother
3.44	Veronica Davies	Past Teacher
3.45	Einir Smith	Community Member
3.46	Rita Jones	Community Member
3.47	Elen Mai Jones	Community Member
3.48	David Gerald Jones	Community Member
3.49	Mair Jones	Community Member
3.50	Alun Jones	Community Member
3.51	Arnold James	Past Pupil
3.52	Ann Evans	Grandparent
3.53	Tim Davies	Parent and Chair of Governors
3.54	Jennifer Clarke	Former Headteacher Llangennech Infants
3.55	Heledd Wyn Clarke	Community Member
3.56	Rhianedd Rhys	Aunt
3.57	Aimee Hopkin	Parent
3.58	Gary Anderson	Pennaeth Ffederasiwn Ysgolion Llangennech
3.59	Ffred Ffransis	
3.60	Anonymous	
3.61	Eireen Nelson	Past Pupil
3.62	Roger Fewster	Governor
3.63	Lynwen Williams	Parent
3.64	William Glyn Williams	Past Pupil
3.65	Craig Jones	Community Member
3.66	Lynn Davies	
3.67	Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas	Past Parent/Governor Llangennech Infants School/County Councillor
3.68	Miriam Thomas	Parent
3.69	Peter Dutton	Vice Chairman – Ysgol y Strade

3.70	Linda Sidgwick	Past Parent
3.71	Michael Rees	Grandfather
3.72	Alun Stephens	Governor Llangennech Junior School
3.73	S E Williams	Community Member
3.74	Lis Fidler	
3.75	Anonymous	
3.76	Wyn Davies	
3.77	Anne Loughran	Past Mentor – Cardiff University
3.78	Martin Davies	
3.79	Eiry Wyn Miles	
3.80	Anonymous	
3.81	Anonymous	
3.82	Anonymous	
3.83	Anonymous	
3.84	Alun Jones	
3.85	Owain Davies	Past Pupil
3.86	Jill Davies	Past Parent
3.87	Anonymous	
3.88	Clwb Gwawr y Sosban – Helen Mainwaring	
3.89	Anonymous	
3.90	Y Lle, Llanelli	
3.91	T. Gordon Lewis	Vice Chairman of Llangennech Schools Federation Governing Body and Vice Chairman of Llangennech Community Council
3.92	Manon Williams	Parent
3.93	Dylan Evans	Pennaeth Ysgol y Dderwen
3.94	Elaine Edwards	
3.95	Arwyn Thomas	
3.96	Hedd Tudur	
3.97	Gethin James	
3.98	Heledd Mathias	
3.99	Euros Evans	Former School Inspector
3.100	Martyn David Williams	Parent
3.101	Eleri Soanes	
3.102	Rhydwyn Ifan	Past Pupil
4	Linda Thomas	Past Parent
4.1	Bethan McDermot	Supply Teacher
5	Michelle David	Owner Bright Beginnings Preschool
6	Nia Griffith	Member of Parliament
7	UNISON	Union
7.1	UCAC	Union

Appendix B

Executive Summary of Observations Received

Executive Summary of Observations Received

The County Council's proposal to change primary school provision in the community of Llangennech has generated a considerable response from interested parties, with a total of 267 submissions received in response to the formal consultation.

The consultation period commenced on the 25th January 2016 and was due to close on the 11th March 2016 but in response to requests from some interested parties the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the period for responses by one week until the 18th March 2016. All consultees were formally notified of the extension of the consultation period.

The County Council's proposal is constituted of three elements as follows:

- to close the current Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior School and create a new community primary school on the site and in the premises of the current schools;
- to extend the age range of the school from 4 to 11 years to 3 to 11 years, introducing new part-time education for three year olds; and
- to create the new school as a Welsh medium school in place of the present dual stream arrangement in both existing schools.

Very little comment has been made within the consultation responses to the element of the proposal that proposes creating a new primary school in place of the two current schools. Both schools have been operating under a formal federation since April 2015, with a single governing body and a shared head teacher and this progressive move appears to be acknowledged as a success and that the formal amalgamation of provision within a single primary school is a natural step forward.

Broadly speaking there is support for the introduction of part-time nursery provision within the school, but some respondents have expressed concern over the impact that this may have on existing independent sector childcare and nursery providers in the community who have hitherto been commissioned to provide part-time nursery education. These respondents are concerned that the removal of funding for part-time nursery education could undermine the financial viability of the settings for the future.

The element of the proposal that has generated the greatest response is the intention to change the medium of instruction for all pupils to Welsh in place of the current dual stream arrangement which has provision in either the Welsh or English language operating side by side. Opposing opinions have been submitted by respondents with some strongly opposed to the proposal whilst others are in favour of it. Those opposing the change have presented a number of reasons why they consider that it is not desirable whereas those in support of the change generally consider that it would be a natural progression for the school given the changes that have been taking place in the balance of language provision over recent years and that it will be advantageous for all children.

All of the submissions received to the consultation document within the (extended) consultation period are noted in Appendix C, together with the response of the County Council's professional officers. The following table presents an executive summary of the

main points raised in opposition to, or in support of the proposal, along with the response of officers to each one.

	Observation	Local Authority Response
1.	<p>In opposition</p> <p>The dual stream system works very well as it is and therefore there is no need to change a system that already works.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”</p> <p>In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</p>
2.	<p>The removal of choice from the community. The community will no longer have an option to attend an English stream.</p>	<p>The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.” The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.</p>
3.	<p>The proposal is inconsistent with community make-up.</p>	<p>It is noted that many members of the community do not speak the Welsh language and that many pupils come from non-Welsh homes; therefore it is important to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to 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.”</p>
4.	<p>Children who would</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils</p>

	<p>prefer an English medium education or who struggle with the Welsh language will be forced to move to another school.</p>	<p>remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Some children may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The ability of non-Welsh speaking parents to support their children with their school work and homework.</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils and currently visit the school twice a week.</p> <p>Pupils and parents are currently supported by the school through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open door policy where teachers can translate the work for parents and provide an explanation of what is required at that time e.g. either before or after school • Parents can contact the school via telephone or e-mail. • Homework is provided bilingually when needed. • Welsh lessons are provided to parents at specific periods throughout the year. • In the Foundation Phase, special books are regularly sent home to parents in the home language which enables the parents to see what the pupils achieve in school. • A homework club is held for an hour after school once a week to provide support for pupils who require help with their homework. • Sports, choir and IPad club are held bilingually. • Urdd club – many children from the English stream currently attend.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual school website. • Bilingual staff members in both streams. • Bilingual school assemblies and singing sessions. Pupils learn a mixture of Welsh and English songs. • Bilingual school productions. • “Athrawon Bro” provide support help develop the Welsh skills of pupils. • “Athrawon Bro” hold a language centre for a full week during the summer term for groups of year 5 pupils. These are pupils who currently perform at level 3 but who can attain level 4 with professional input. • Older pupils have strong Welsh skills which enables them to explain the homework to their parents. • “Athrawon Bro” provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh skills. • The Welsh language is heard daily by English stream pupils. <p>The school are also intending to hold an evening for parents of all classes at the beginning of September detailing the themes of work for the year and the contents of the work.</p> <p>Parents could also access support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking the child to explain the homework – the pupil could translate the homework for non-Welsh speaking members of the family. • Using online translation tools. • Asking a Welsh speaking friend/family member/neighbour for help.
6.	Children with SEN/ALN may not be able to cope	All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed

	with the Welsh language.	support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The school states that through the years; children with various additional learning needs have attended the school through both streams successfully.
7.	The standard of the pupils' English development will decline through receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.	It is important to note that English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards at the school.
8.	Welsh medium education may disadvantage children entering further or higher education.	There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's " Why are we promoting a Bilingual education? " document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
9.	Transport difficulties and costs for families who opt for their children to attend other schools (especially for parents without private transport).	The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that " the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility. " This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.
10.	Capacity at other schools.	Should parents decide to place their children in an alternative school; parents should note that pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – " Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to

		<i>the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.</i>
11.	Standards of education at other schools.	Parents should consider the educational standards of any alternative schools should they decide that their child needs to attend an alternative school.
12.	The impact of introducing a nursery class in the school on existing independent providers.	The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that <i>“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”</i> Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.
	In Support	
1.	The proposal supports the aim of Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education.	The Local Authority welcomes the observations that understand that the proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.”</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”</i>
2.	The change will promote bilingualism in the Llangennech area.	The Local Authority notes the support. It is noted that many people in the area do not speak the language and that many pupils attending the school come from non-Welsh background. The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a

		Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2." The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.
3.	The change will be a natural step for the school.	The data presented in the consultation document shows the difference in pupil numbers attending the Welsh stream in comparison to the English stream. This data proves that there is a demand for Welsh medium education.
4.	There are many advantages to being bilingual.	The Local Authority welcomes the responses which realise that being bilingual has many advantages. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's " Why are we promoting a Bilingual education? " document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
5.	3 year old pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.	The local authority has a responsibility to " increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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. " The Local Authority will be able to ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector by providing a formal education to 3 year olds.
6.	All pupils in Wales have a right to a Welsh medium education.	The Local Authority has a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believes that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of

		KS2. ” The best way to create confident, bilingual individuals is through immersing pupils in the Welsh language.
--	--	--

It is to be noted that a number of representations have been made to the County Council after the closure of the formal consultation period, with exchange of correspondence and conversations continuing for several weeks thereafter. Submissions made after the end of the (extended) consultation period have not been included in this Report in order to maintain consistency in the treatment of respondents and to ensure compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code. Should the proposal proceed to the next stage of the statutory process all interested parties will have another formal opportunity to present their views prior to the County Council taking a final decision.

Appendix C

**Summary of observations received following publication of the Consultation Document and
Local Authority related responses**

OBSERVATION	RESPONSE
<p>Disagree with changes</p> <p>1. The consultee is concerned that the proposal does not cater for the community's needs. Federation would be a suitable option for the community regardless of language category. The school has been dual stream for years and worked well, catering for the whole community. This proposal does not cater for the socially diverse community of Llangennech. The consultee is also concerned that there is only one other dual stream school in the local area.</p> <p>1.1 The consultee is concerned that English speakers are no longer welcome at the school. The consultee supports the Welsh language and culture and feels that Llangennech School already provides a good understanding. The community is socially diverse and this proposal will destroy the community spirit of the area.</p> <p>1.2 The consultee is concerned that pupils who will struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than change to the English stream. There are also concerns that families may then have children in two different schools if they no longer have the option of an English stream. This causes travel implications for families especially families with no</p>	<p>Disagree with changes</p> <p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages."</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."</i></p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide</p>

means of private transportation. The community should continue to have a choice of either stream. The consultee feels that this proposal will split the community. The consultee also opposes the need for nursery provision as there is already nursery provision in the area. The nursery is open from 9am-1pm and the consultee is concerned that the school will not provide care for the same length of time.

sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.3 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than move to the English stream. If families decide to place their children in other schools in order to receive English medium education, they may have children in two different schools. There are concerns on the travel implications if this happens. The school should be kept dual stream.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be

1.4 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will need to move school rather than change to the English stream. The community needs a bilingual school. Some parents who have younger children may have to place them in other schools if pupils require English medium education – therefore having children in different schools. This causes difficulties for parents without private transport and there are concerns that pupils will not receive the same standard of education as they would at Llangennech School. This is discrimination against English speakers when the community have been happy to have a school which provides education through both mediums.

implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This

1.5 The consultee opposes changing the language category to Welsh medium. Pupils with learning difficulties or pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will not be able to move to the English stream and will need to move to a different school, outside of their catchment area. Every pupil should have the right to attend their local school and to receive their education through the medium of Welsh or English. The consultee also opposes the need for nursery provision. Nursery provision is already available in the community and this proposal would be detrimental to this organisation, its staff and to children who attend the nursery. Should these organisations close, the community council would lose vital revenue from these businesses.

is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."*** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.6 The consultee feels that that choice should not be taken away from the community when the school has been dual stream for over 60 years. Pupils who require English medium education would have to attend schools outside their local area meaning that they could no longer walk to school and circles of friends will be split. The community is a very close community and this will mean that members will now not be able to attend the same activities. The school cannot be called a community school when it does not cater for English speaking children.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.7 The consultee is opposed to changing the language category to English medium as this takes the right of choice away from the pupil. This choice will be taken away from English speaking children. The consultee feels that this is racism against English speaking children. This will split the community in two and the consultee is concerned that English speaking families have not been consulted and how families who require

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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***

English medium education will be able to travel to the proposed English medium schools if they have no means of private transport.

1.8 The consultee is concerned with the feasibility of pupils attending other schools if they require English medium education. Perhaps the education department could liaise with housing to relocate families near to their chosen school. This is racism against English speaking families. A large number of community members do not speak Welsh and this proposal does not cater for these people. The school should remain dual stream.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future

1.9 The consultee is concerned with the consultation process and how the community has been consulted. The consultee states that there will be implications for travel time between schools for parents with children in separate schools whilst Llangennech School is in walking distance. There will also be implications on parents with children in two schools when it comes to different activities should they coincide. Also, pupils who require English medium education may not receive the same standard of education as they would in Llangennech School. Younger pupils should receive the same opportunities as their older siblings.

1.10 The consultee is concerned that non-Welsh parents will be unable to help their children with their schoolwork and therefore the pupil's education will suffer. There are also concerns for pupils who will struggle with the Welsh language – what provision is available? The consultee is concerned whether there is capacity at other schools should pupils require English medium education and what transport will be available. Also, will Llangennech School be accepting pupils from other areas if they require Welsh medium education and

prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary

will English be taught to as high of a standard as Welsh?
Community spirit will be lost as not all pupils will be attending the village school.

where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However,

The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. English is a statutory curriculum subject and will be taught to the highest of standards. Pupils will be admitted to Llangennech School and the English medium schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.11 The consultee feels that the school works well as it is. The consultee is concerned about what options are available if pupils struggle with the Welsh language. Transitions to starting school can be stressful enough without having to move school if they are not happy with learning through the medium of Welsh.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new

1.12 The consultee is concerned that the community will no longer have a choice. At the moment parents can choose a stream based on the needs of their children. This proposal means that younger children will not get the same opportunities as their older siblings of attending an English medium stream. This causes problems for families who wish for their children to receive English medium education as they will have to take their children to two schools. Some pupils with learning difficulties have no option but to receive an English medium education – these pupils will need to move school. Parents who are non-Welsh speakers will not be able to help pupils with their homework which could be detrimental to the pupil's education. This is discrimination against many members of the community. It would be better to increase the number of Welsh lessons for pupils in the English stream.

pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each

1.13 The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language; especially pupils with parents who are non-Welsh speakers will have to move to an English medium school rather than move to the English stream. This would mean separating children from their friends and leaving their local community. This could be detrimental to a child's education. Pupils should be treated equally and should be able to be educated in the language of their choice.

1.14 The consultee is concerned that this will cause a divide in a diverse community where solidarity should be encouraged. Every pupil should have the right to be educated in the

individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The school will provide sufficient support to parents who are non-Welsh speakers.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of

language of their choice and receive a good quality education.

1.15 The consultee feels that this will cause a divide in the community and is unfair to pupils who wish to be educated through the medium of English. Children who will choose to attend English medium schools will be unfamiliar with other children in their local area and this will cause social exclusion. This will cause problems for families who already have pupils at Llangennech schools but have younger children requiring English medium education.

1.16 The consultee is concerned that pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English will not be able to be educated in their local area and therefore will not be fully

Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of

part of the community. This proposal will cause a divide in the village and deprive some children of socialising in their own community. The proposed schools are also not of the same standard as Llangennech School.

- 1.17 The consultee opposes to changing the language category to Welsh medium as they do not feel that the proposed English medium schools are satisfactory alternatives. Both schools are not easily accessible for parents who do not drive and neither are of the same educational standard as Llangennech School. The consultee is concerned that pupils who live in the same area will not be able to attend the same school – not all pupils will be able to adapt to the Welsh language.

Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free***

1.18 The consultee has concerns that some families may not be able to have all of their children attending the same school if the English stream is no longer provided. Pupils with learning difficulties can often only grasp a single language – that being English, this will mean that these pupils will have to move to a different school. The school cannot be called a community school if it does not cater for the whole community. There are concerns for families who do not have means of private transport and families whose first language is neither Welsh nor English.

transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The school will provide sufficient support for pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The school will also provide sufficient support to parents.

1.19 The consultee is concerned that the wellbeing of families will be affected if pupils cannot attend their local school. Pupils who require English medium education but have no means of private transport will be greatly affected. The community should continue to have a choice of both Welsh and English streams as the Welsh language should not be forced onto people. Many members of the community are English speaking and they should not be isolated. Pupils in the English stream have much more exposure to the Welsh language than what they would by attending an English medium stream. This promotes bilingualism and could help pupils feed the bilingual classes that are available in Bryngwyn School. Choice is available when choosing secondary schools so there is no need to take it away now. There are also concerns that changing the age range to 3-11 will have a detrimental effect on the nurseries in the village. Also, if Bryn and Hendy catchment areas are not extended to include Llangennech, are pupils guaranteed to be offered a place at these schools? The consultee is also concerned that pupils will not receive the same standard of education at Bryn and Hendy schools as they would in Llangennech.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."*** Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours***

1.20 The consultee is concerned that pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English will need to move schools. Parent who do not speak Welsh will not be able to help their children with school work and moving schools could be detrimental to a pupil's wellbeing. It is fair to all residents to have a choice of both English and Welsh streams.

per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.” Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be provided to parents. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

1.21 The consultee is concerned that if pupils choose to attend

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the

English medium schools, travelling times for families will be increased. Also, if the proposal is implemented, pupils will lose the opportunity to choose their local school and will be separated from their friends and possibly siblings.

1.22 The consultee feels that the school should be kept dual stream. Pupils who attend the English stream are able to receive their education through the medium of English but are also able to leave school as Welsh speakers. This proposal will cause a split in the community. Pupils should have a right to attend their local school but this proposal will cause many pupils to leave their community. The consultee is also concerned that there is no capacity at the proposed English medium schools to cater for pupils from Llangennech. If pupils wish to attend the English medium school, this causes travel implications for families, especially for families who will have children in two different schools. The local authority should be looking at why so many pupils are attending from outside of catchment and whether this is due to lack of Welsh medium education provision in those areas. The consultee is concerned that if pupils choose to attend the proposed English medium schools due to parental preference, then the cost of transportation is the parent's responsibility, yet the choice has been taken away from parents.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school

1.23 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their local school. The school has worked well as dual stream for many years. English speaking children should not have to receive their education outside of their local area. Pupils attending the English stream are able learn and use the Welsh language whereas they would not get this opportunity if they attended an English medium school. Some parents will not have a choice but to send their pupils to the Welsh medium Llangennech irrespective of whether they speak the Welsh language. The pupil's education could suffer due to not being able to be supported at home. Those children would not have the additional support at home, which is nearly as important as being taught in school. The consultee is concerned that some County Councillors who are also on the Community Council have extreme views on this proposal. The current situation works very well and the consultee does not feel that the data used for reception years does not really reflect the Welsh/English split.

and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils

1.24 The consultee is concerned that those wishing to attend the proposed English medium schools are not guaranteed to be accepted. Dual stream schools provide good community cohesion and meet the demand of the whole community. Other means should be used to promote the Welsh language other than restricting English medium education. Parents have a right to choose the education which is best for their children.

will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. County Councillors have a right to voice their own opinions.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Pupils will be admitted to Bryn and Hendy schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."*** The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual***

1.25 The consultee expresses that some parents choose for their children to attend Llangennech School in order for them to have an opportunity to learn the Welsh language although that they do not speak the language themselves. Dual stream schools are able to support the needs of these families. There is no need to change the school.

1.26 The consultee is concerned about their job security at Llangennech Infants School as they are not bilingual and are currently working in the English stream.

stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with opportunities to develop their Welsh skills in the school environment. The Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh skills. In addition, the Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

1.27 The consultee feels that children should be given opportunities to learn values, traditions and beliefs about themselves and others. Learning in diverse environments allows for all to feel valued. The consultee is concerned about their job security as they do not speak the Welsh language and they are currently working in the English stream.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with opportunities to develop their Welsh skills in the school environment. The Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh skills. In addition, the Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.

1.28 The consultee feels that the school should cater for both Welsh and English speaking families.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.29 The consultee feels that as this is the only school in the village, it is unacceptable for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English to have to attend schools in neighbouring areas. This will destroy the community spirit.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the

1.30 The consultee states that some years back a Welsh only clause was introduced into the reception class which was then extended to year 1. If parents wish for their children to be educated at Llangennech School they must agree to this. Every pupil has a right to practice their own cultures and the government has a responsibility to protect these rights. This proposal means that this right is being taken away from the pupils.

1.31 The consultee feels that pupils are able to have a full school life at Llangennech School. Although that some pupils attend the English stream, they are still able to attend many school activities including competing in the Eisteddfod. It has also been noted by secondary school teachers that pupils who have attended the English stream in Llangennech had a very high standard of Welsh. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams as this provides a good foundation for pupils in the English stream who would like to learn the Welsh language.

medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.32 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. The school works well as it is and there is no need to change it. This is discrimination against English speaking pupils and causes segregation between pupils who will have been used to socialising with each other. The consultee is also concerned that both proposed English medium schools are not easily accessible and will cause congestion around peak times.

1.33 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. The school is working well and therefore there is no need to change it and option 4 should be the preferred option. Dual stream schools help pupils in the English stream school to grasp the Welsh language – this would not happen if pupils attended an English medium school. Dual stream also enables parents to choose the appropriate language medium for their children, depending on their needs. The proposal may lead to families having children attending different schools. Many members of the community are English speaking and therefore this proposal does not cater for these people's needs.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with

1.34 The consultee would like to put the following option forward for consideration. The consultee feels that the status quo in regards to the language category should be maintained but with modifications. The English stream would receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and would mimic the amount English lessons that the Welsh stream receive. This would ensure that pupils from both streams would be able to speak, read and write bilingually. This would also ensure an increase of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. By following this proposal, pupils from both streams would be able to change stream if needed.

This proposal has been considered in detail in **Appendix F**.

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** This proposal would mean that there would be an increase in the provision of Welsh second language; however this percentage of Welsh lessons would not be successful in creating bilingual individuals who are fluent and confident in both English and Welsh languages. This proposal won't deliver Carmarthenshire's targets of improving the provision of Welsh (first language) medium education. It is more important for non-Welsh pupils to be immersed in the Welsh language and this can be done successfully through a Welsh medium school.

Please see **Appendix F** for further analysis of this proposal.

1.35 The consultee is concerned how non-Welsh families can be included in a pupil's learning if they attend a Welsh medium school. These pupils may have to attend English medium schools outside of the local area and therefore divide the community. These pupils would then learn no Welsh at all whereas by attending a dual stream school they are able to pick up the language.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.36 The consultee expresses the concerns of several parents regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the

Some pupils who have learning difficulties will not be able to learn easily through the medium of Welsh. With this proposal there will be no option available for these pupils to move to the English stream. There are also concerns with new homes being built, neighbouring schools will be at their capacity. There will be a strain on teachers if pupils from Llangennech will also move to these schools. The local authority should consider not allowing pupils from other catchment areas attending other schools.

village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. Pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

1.37 The consultee feels that some pupils in year 6 will still transfer to English medium secondary schools if the language category of the school changes to Welsh medium. Also, if pupils are to receive their education through the medium of Welsh up until the age of 7, their English skills will suffer. Pupils should not have to move out of their village to receive their education. There is no need to change the school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils.

1.38 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school as it has worked well as a dual stream school for a number of years. The school has an excellent reputation and the pupils are happy with the system. The community should continue to have a choice.

1.39 The consultee is supportive of the Welsh language but feels that the school should remain dual stream. Many people have placed their children in the school purely as it is a dual stream school and this choice should not be taken away from the community. Pupils from both streams interact well with each other and the school has an excellent reputation. It would not be possible for some parents to move their children to the proposed English medium school and they should not need to

This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the

do this. There is no need to change a system that already works well.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.40 The consultee states that as an employee at the school and a school governor they were firstly supportive of the proposal. However, the consultee states that they are now opposed to the idea. At the moment, staff who do not speak Welsh are able to practice their Welsh skills – this would not be able to happen at an English medium school. The school caters for all members of the community and creates a strong bond between children of different languages. Pupils should not have to travel outside of their local area to receive English medium education – this will cause segregation between pupils of different languages. This also causes problems for families without means of private transport and the local authority have a responsibility to cater for all families. This proposal will surely divide the community and the best way to promote the Welsh language would be to increase the amount of Welsh lessons per week, whilst keeping choice for the

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all

community.

1.41 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. Preference has been given to the Welsh language over the last few years – both languages should be treated equally. The majority of the families that have moved into the area are English speaking and these parents should be given a choice for their children.

1.42 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. Many parents do not speak the Welsh language and will be unable to help their children with their schoolwork. The Welsh language can only be used in Wales and cannot be

parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***“ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium***

used in 95% of universities. The consultee is concerned that the proposed English schools do not have enough capacity to accept pupils from Llangennech who desire an English medium education. There would also be travel implications for families wishing to attend these schools.

education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s ***“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing. Pupils are admitted to schools following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”*** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental***

1.43 The consultee supports the promotion of the Welsh language but feels that this proposal will be counterproductive. There is no need to force the Welsh language onto people. Llangennech School is working well and most parents are supportive of a bilingual education. This proposal does not cater for the many English speaking members of the community and these members should not have to move out of their local area to seek English medium education. There are other ways of promoting the Welsh language other than changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams. The consultee has accepted that providing education for 3 year olds will standardise education for this year group – however this proposal will have a detrimental effect on other nursery providers in the area.

1.44 The consultee is concerned that pupil's choices will be reduced and that pupils will be forced to learn through the medium of Welsh or move school.

responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s

1.45 The consultee is concerned that pupils with learning difficulties/disabilities or pupils that find the Welsh language difficult will not be able to move into the English stream and will have to move to another school.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

1.46 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will alienate non Welsh speaking children and parents by forcing them to seek English medium schools outside of the community.

1.47 The consultee expresses concerns regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. The consultee is concerned that pupils wanting English medium education will have to attend other schools and some parents might have several siblings in different schools which will cause difficulties for parents.

1.48 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will mean that the family may have to take one of their children (who will start after proposal is implemented) to an English medium school outside of the village if they wish for the child to have a mainly English medium education. The consultee expresses concern that the pupil will not receive the high standard of education that Llangennech School would provide.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Parents should also consider any other issues which may arise.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. However, should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

1.49 The consultee is concerned with how the consultation process has been conducted and the lack of awareness by the local community. The consultee feels that there are a number of inaccuracies within the proposal and appears to be centred on the opinion of a minority. The proposal has caused discontent in the local area. The consultee also feels that the proposal lacks an evidence based approach and fails to meet 21st Century School programme to have the “right school in the right place.”

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The School Organisation Code 2013 states that **“from time to time proposers will have conducted an ‘informal’ consultation with particular stakeholders.”** However, this is not a legal requirement. The data presented in the consultation document shows the difference in the number of pupils attending both streams, with the majority of pupils attending through the Welsh stream. This shows that there is demand for a Welsh medium school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

1.50 The consultee expresses concern that the change in language category would be detrimental to the community in Llangennech as parents who wish for their children to be educated in English will have to choose a school outside of the village. The consultee is also concerned that multiculturalism within the school will be reduced and that it will cause more difficulties for parents who are non- Welsh speakers when helping their children with their homework.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that

1.51 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will affect those pupils who will choose to move to an English medium school by limiting the amount of Welsh that these pupils will learn. By attending a dual stream school, non-Welsh pupils are able to learn more Welsh than what they would be able to at an English medium school. Pupils who also struggle with the Welsh language would also have to move school rather than moving into the English stream.

all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the

1.52 The consultee is concerned with the how the consultation process has been conducted and the lack of effort made by the school, LA and community council to engage with parents and prospective parents. The consultee believes that the school have been trying to move to a Welsh medium language category for a number of years. If pupils were to choose to attend an English medium school this would mean having young children of 4/5 walking a great distance to school or if they were to qualify for transport, being bussed to another school. This proposal would seriously affect English speaking members in the community and will split the community from an early age. Brynsierfel and Ffwrnes provide Welsh medium education where those desiring Welsh medium education can attend.

support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. The School Organisation Code 2013 states that **“from time to time proposers will have conducted an ‘informal’ consultation with particular stakeholders.”** However, this is not a legal requirement. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.53 The consultee expresses concern that changing the language category will force many parents to send their children to an English medium school – which will incur financial implications and the sense of detachment from the village. The consultee is also concerned that parents who do not speak Welsh may feel pressured to send their child to the school.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Sufficient support will be available to parents who do not speak Welsh.

1.54 The consultee expresses concern that changing the language category will force parents who do not wish for their children to have a Welsh medium education to move them to an English medium school. The consultee is concerned that this would affect current traffic situations and also some parents would have to walk their children to school along busy roads. The consultee also expresses concern that pupils who would attend the English stream at a dual stream school but choose to attend an English medium school will be at a disadvantage as they will not be able to pick up the Welsh language as they would in a dual stream school. The consultee states that pupils from both streams currently mix through different school activities and this would not continue if the school became Welsh medium.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the**

1.55 The consultee is concerned that pupils who find learning through the medium of Welsh difficult will not have the option of moving to the English stream and will have to move to an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about travelling implications for those parents wanting to place their children in an English medium school. The consultee states that pupils in the English stream are able to learn the Welsh language by attending a dual stream school whereas this would not be possible by attending an English medium school.

provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who**

1.56 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category will force parents to move their children to an English medium school, outside of the village and therefore causing a divide within the village. This will result in the pupils learning no Welsh at all whereas by attending a dual stream school they are able to pick up the language. The consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language or who have learning difficulties will not be fully supported and will also, have to move to an English medium school, where they may not receive education of the same standard. The consultee expresses concern for traffic implications by changing the language category as parents who want their children to attend English medium schools will have to travel outside of the village whilst some pupils out of catchment may travel to Llangennech for Welsh medium education.

do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be

1.57 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category of the school. The consultee is concerned that the proposal will force families to either choose a fully Welsh medium education or move to an English medium school which will then limit the pupils from learning Welsh. This will then mean additional transport costs for parents who decide to move their children to an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about how the change will affect pupils with additional learning needs and disabilities and what support will be available to pupils.

available to all parents and pupils. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each

1.58 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. It is the consultee's opinion that this will divide the community and lead to a breakdown in the community spirit of the village. It is also unfair to ask parents who wish for their children to be educated through the medium of English to move to school outside of the village. Dual stream schools enable children who learn through the medium of English to teach enough Welsh to get by.

1.59 The consultee is concerned that the children's education will suffer if the English language is treated as a second language. English is the language of the business world and therefore pupils will be at a disadvantage later on in life.

individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's ***"Why are we promoting a Bilingual***

1.60 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will disadvantage pupils later on in life when they enter further education through the English language.

1.61 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. Choice will be taken from the community and the consultee is concerned that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will not be able to change stream and will have to move to a different school. The consultee also feels that this change will cause a divide in the community.

education?” document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught to the highest of standards. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s **“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the

1.62 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium would cause segregation in the community and would limit pupils who are taught in different language mediums from interacting with each other. Pupils who want an English medium education will have to attend schools outside of their community and will have to provide their own transport. The consultee feels that learning through the Welsh language will disadvantage pupils later on in life and that pupils forced to learn through the Welsh medium will not achieve their full potential. The consultee is also concerned that the proposed changes will mean job losses for school staff and for staff members in other organisations in the community.

1.63 The consultee expresses concern regarding changing the language category to Welsh medium. This would cause a divide in the community and mean that children wanting English medium education would have to leave their community and attend another school. The consultee feels that Llangennech School is unique because families can have children attending different streams depending on their needs

medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's **"Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?"** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in

and by changing the language category this choice will be taken away.

1.64 The consultee is concerned with changing the language category of the school. The consultee is concerned that parents who already have children attending the school through the English stream and will have children starting after January 2017 may have to move pupils to another English medium school. This means that families will have children in two different which could cause difficulties and may result in having to move all children outside of the community. The consultee is also concerned that the change will alienate non-Welsh parents who have no choice but to send their children to a Welsh medium school and will also alienate pupils who are not able to practice the language at home.

Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** Sufficient support will be provided to parents who are non-Welsh speaking.

1.65 The consultee expresses concern with regard to changing the language category to Welsh medium. Pupils should be able to attend their local school and not be forced out of the village if they want an English medium education. This change would cause a divide in the community rather than promoting inclusion. The consultee is also concerned that choice is being taken away from families and pupils who may struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school as the English stream will no longer be available.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.66 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause difficulties for families whose children require education through different mediums. This would cause even more difficulties for families without means of private transport. The consultee also states that pupils receiving education through the English medium have a very good understanding of the Welsh language whereas this would be limited by attending an English medium school. The consultee also has concerns regarding changing the age

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all

range to 3-11 as offering 2 hours a day of childcare is not suitable for working parents compared with other organisations in the village.

parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.67 The consultee is concerned that changing that language category will divide the community if pupils have to travel outside of the community to receive English medium education. Pupils should be able to attend the school in their own community and be a part of that community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

1.68 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will force some people to seek

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the

English medium education outside of the village. The consultee is concerned that pupils who choose to move to English medium schools will not be exposed at all to the Welsh language, whereas by attending the English stream at Llangennech School they are able to pick up the language. The change would also cause a divide in the community and would segregate pupils attending different schools.

1.69 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will prevent pupils who have moved to the area from attending the village school. The consultee is also concerned that not all pupils will be able to achieve their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh.

1.70 The consultee feels that the families will suffer if they are unable to take their children to the village school and this will also include additional travelling costs.

village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***"ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community."*** There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire's ***"Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?"*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free***

1.71 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium would cause a divide in the community and would detrimental rather than beneficial. The consultee is also concerned about the 'knock on' effects on the community centre, playgroups and nurseries and the effects on employees of these establishments.

transport is a parental responsibility." This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday."** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision.

1.72 The consultee is concerned that changing the language

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the

category to Welsh medium will cause a divide in the community, by forcing children seeking English medium education out of the village. Pupils will no longer socialise both in and out of school.

1.73 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will be detrimental to the language. At the moment English stream pupils are able to learn more Welsh than they would be able to by attending an English medium school. The consultee is also concerned about travel implications to English medium schools.

school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”*** This is something that all

<p>1.74 The consultee feels that pupils seeking English medium education should not have to attend schools outside of their village.</p>	<p>parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>1.75 The consultee feels that the only option for pupils seeking English medium education would be to attend a school outside of their village.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>1.76 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their village school and not have to commute in order to receive an English medium education.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>1.77 The consultee feels that the parents should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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</i></p>

1.78 The consultee feels that choice is being taken away from the community and that the community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

1.79 The consultee feels that pupils attending the English stream have a very good understanding of the Welsh language and that there is no need for change.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.80 The consultee is concerned that the proposal is not based on the needs of all children. As many pupils are from outside catchment the consultee is concerned how this will increase the use of the Welsh language in community of Llangennech.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.81 The consultee feels that pupils should be able to attend their village school and should not have to attend schools outside of the village if they wish to receive an English medium education.

1.82 The consultee feels that the community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.83 The consultee is concerned about the financial and physical strain on families wishing to receive an English medium education. They also feel that bonds will be broken between pupils attending the same nurseries who will then attend different schools.

1.84 The consultee feels that there is no need for change. There is also concern for families who do not speak Welsh who will not be able to help their children with school work and also that choice is taken away from the community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all

1.85 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community as some families have children attending both streams and this will not be an option in the future.

future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.86 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school as it has an excellent reputation as a bilingual school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity**

1.87 The consultee feels that parents should have a choice of sending their children to either stream.

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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.88 The consultee is concerned with the number of pupils attending the school from outside the catchment area and feels that the village school should be for pupils within catchment.

1.89 The consultee feels that parents should have a choice of both streams as everyone has a chance to learn the Welsh language. There would be travel implications on those wishing to receive an English medium education.

Pupils are admitted to the school following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – ***“Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English

1.90 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from families especially from English speaking families who wish for their children to learn some of the Welsh language but without having an impact on their education. It is also felt that this would cause a divide in the community.

will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.91 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire

from families, especially when the current situation has worked well for so long. This will cause a divide in the community.

1.92 The consultee is concerned that choice is taken away from families. There will be implications for families wishing to seek English medium education and this will mean that pupils will not have the opportunity to learn the Welsh language whereas in a dual stream school they would pick up the language.

County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that

1.93 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the current situation as it is working very well. The community should have a choice of both Welsh and English streams.

“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in**

1.94 The consultee feels that the proposal has split the community and that parents should have a choice of both streams. There are concern for pupils with additional learning needs who may struggle with learning through the medium of Welsh. These pupils would have to move to an English medium school rather than changing stream. The change would also mean that pupils seeking English medium education would not be able to learn any Welsh at all. The consultee also has concerns regarding the consultation process.

Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning

<p>1.95 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will remove choice from the community. It is unfair that younger pupils will not have the same choice as their older siblings have had.</p>	<p>need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction. The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines.</p> <p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”</p>
<p>1.96 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause segregation within the village. There is no need to change the school.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current</p>

1.97 The consultee feels that the choice should be kept for families. There are concerns for people who move to the area will chose for their children to attend schools outside of the village.

pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 states that the Authority will work with other services to ***"ensure that non-Welsh speaking pupils who have just moved into the County are suitably supported in order that they can integrate naturally in their local school and community."***

1.98 The consultee feels that the Welsh skills of pupils attending the English stream are enhanced by attending a dual stream school. There is no need to change the school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.99 The consultee feels that there is no need to change the school and that the community should have a choice of both streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority

1.100 The consultee feels that pupils shouldn't be forced to speak Welsh and that the school should remain as it is.

have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.101 The consultee has concerns that changing the language category to Welsh medium will divide the community. Pupils wishing to receive English medium education will have to attend schools outside of the village and this will include travel implications for families.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity***

1.102 The consultee feels that the school is successful as it is and there is no need to change it.

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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that *“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”* The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of *ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”* It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that *“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”* This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to *“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key*

1.103 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as dual stream.

stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to **“ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector”** and are able to achieve this by providing nursery provision at the school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s

1.104 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is unfair to families who do not speak the language.

aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. “Athrawon Bro” who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There will also be sufficient support for parents who do not speak the Welsh

1.105 The consultee feels that pupils are entitled to receive their education in their local area. Both English and Welsh speakers should be incorporated in order to develop the Welsh skills of non-Welsh speakers.

language.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.106 The consultee is concerned that if pupils wish to receive their education through the medium of English, they will have to attend schools outside of their local area and will be separated from their friends already at the school. There are also concerns for the travel implications if pupils chose to

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the

<p>attend an English medium school.</p>	<p>medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that “the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.” This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.</p>
<p>1.107 The consultee is supportive of a bilingual education but does not support a monolingual Welsh education system.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.” English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught at the school to the highest of standards.</p>
<p>1.108 The consultee feels that the community have a right to the choice of which language their children should receive their education in. This proposal could also have an effect on the</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a</p>

local community.

1.109 The consultee feels that the school should remain bilingual. The pupils attending the English stream have a good understanding of the Welsh language and culture.

responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in***

1.110 The consultee is concerned that pupils wanting an English medium education will have to attend schools outside of the village. The school works well as a dual stream and other schools should be made dual stream in order to promote the Welsh language.

1.111 The consultee feels that pupils in the English stream are exposed to the Welsh language – this will not happen if pupils choose to attend English medium schools and therefore these pupils will not learn any Welsh. The school should be kept dual stream.

Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for***

1.112 The consultee feels that the school should be kept dual stream. This proposal would segregate non-Welsh speakers who won't be able to attend their local school. Pupils shouldn't be forced to speak Welsh.

them to become Welsh medium schools." It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."**

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of **ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."**

<p>1.113 The consultee feels that the school should remain as dual stream as many people in the area are not fluent Welsh speakers. Pupils should also be able to attend a school in their local area.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>1.114 The consultee is concerned that the pupils who wish to receive their education through the medium of English and move to the proposed schools will not receive the same standard of education as they would in Llangennech School as they do not have the same rating as Llangennech School.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. Should parents consider moving their children to other schools due to parental preference, then they should consider the educational standards of the schools when doing so.</p>
<p>1.115 The consultee feels that the school should remain as it is as the presence of the English stream is beneficial to pupils with additional learning needs.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “increase the provision of Welsh medium</p>

1.116 The consultee is concerned that friends will leave Llangennech School in order to obtain English medium education and feels that the school should remain as dual stream.

education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their needs and the agreed support is provided. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh. In the majority of cases an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages as there is much flexibility built into the delivery of the curriculum to enable pupils to succeed. It is our experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in all of our schools irrespective of the language of instruction.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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**

1.117 The consultee feels that the school should remain as a dual stream school and is concerned that if the school changes to Welsh medium then not all pupils' needs will be met.

English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.118 The consultee supports the progression of education

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire

through the medium of Welsh but feels that a dual stream school can be used flexibly with the changing demand for English or Welsh education. Pupils at a young age should be able to start school with their friends.

County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.119 The consultee agrees that the Welsh language is an integral part of the Welsh education system but does not agree to changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium as not all pupils in the area speak Welsh.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

1.120 The consultee does not feel that there is need to change the school as it is working well as it is. The Welsh language is

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the

important but there is no need to change the school to be completely Welsh medium.

Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.121 The consultee opposes the changing of the language category to Welsh medium as the school is already working well as dual stream. There are a number of people living in the area who do not speak the Welsh language and would have to attend schools outside of their local area.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the

1.122 The consultee feels that the community should have a choice of both English and Welsh streams as the current situation has worked well for many years. The consultee is concerned that pupils will be at a disadvantage if their parents are not able to help them with their school work because they are unable to speak the Welsh language. Pupils have a right to be educated in their first language and in their local area.

school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. There will also be sufficient support for parents who do not speak the Welsh language.

1.123 The consultee feels that all children have a right to be educated in their first language, whether it be Welsh or English. It is felt that this proposal will divide the community and parents should not be punished for deciding which education is best for their children.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.124 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as dual stream as the majority of the village are English speakers. This proposal will cause a divide in the community.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority

1.125 The consultee feels that choice is being taken away from the community. The pupils would not have a choice of changing to the English stream if they struggle to learn through the medium of Welsh. There would also be travel implications if pupils choose to change school to receive an English medium education and also pupils may find it difficult to settle in to a new school.

have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive

1.126 The consultee does not agree with changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium. There are concerns regarding how pupils will be educated if they choose to move to Bryn or Hendy Primary Schools as these are already at capacity. The consultee also has concerns as to how the consultation process has been managed.

their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."** Pupils are admitted to the school following the guidelines as stated in the Admission to School Information for Parents booklet – **"Parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school. Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted."**

1.127 The consultee feels that the community should have the choice of attending an English or Welsh stream. This proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English. The majority of the community are English speaking and the local school should cater for all pupils.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

1.128 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream. This proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English and the school already provides an excellent education as it is.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The Local Authority

1.129 The consultee is concerned that less privileged families will suffer as they will either have to accept a Welsh medium education or face the financial implications of traveling to English medium schools outside their local area. Pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will have to move school rather than move stream.

have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.130 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream and that the Welsh language should not be forced on people. The community should have the choice of whether to

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a

attend an English or Welsh stream. The consultee also feels that there has been a lack of consultation regarding the proposal.

1.131 The consultee feels that the school should remain dual stream as it works as it is. The pupils should have the right to be educated in their local school through their first language. Pupils who are from non-Welsh backgrounds will suffer as parents will not be able to provide support and there will be travel implications for those who wish to attend an English medium school.

responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh

1.132 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school.

medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."***

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be provided to parents who do not speak the Welsh language. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity***

1.133 The consultee feels that the school should remain as dual stream as it has worked well for a number of years. Pupils should continue to have a choice of an English or Welsh education. There is no need to change something that works.

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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

1.134 The consultee feels that individuals should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of English or Welsh. There are a number of non-Welsh speakers living in the area and this proposal would not cater for their needs.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity***

1.135 The consultee feels that this proposal would cause a split in the community. The school should remain as dual stream as it has worked well for many years.

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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.136 The consultee feels that this proposal will divide the community. This will alienate English speakers who wish to receive their education through the medium of English who will have to attend English medium schools outside of their local area.

1.137 The consultee feels that the school is working well as it is; providing both Welsh and English medium education and therefore there is no need to change it. It is difficult for parents who do not speak Welsh to help their children with their school work and this may cause pupils' education to suffer.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. Sufficient support will also be available to parents who do not speak the language.

<p>1.138 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will cause English speakers to lose their local school.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.</p>
<p>1.139 The consultee feels that the community should continue to have a choice of whether to attend an English or Welsh stream. The school has worked excellently as a dual stream and therefore there is no need to change it.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."</i> The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of <i>ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."</i></p>
<p>1.140 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school. This enables Welsh speaking pupils to develop their English skills and enables English speaking pupils to develop their Welsh skills. This proposal is unfair towards pupils attending the English stream.</p>	<p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary</i></p>

1.141 The consultee feels that the school should remain as a dual stream school.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

1.142 The consultee believes that the community should have a choice of both streams.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary**

1.143 The consultee believes that this political ideology will blight the community.

1.144 The consultee feels that there is no need for change as Carmarthenshire has got the highest turnover of Welsh medium schools in Wales. No thought has been given to the pupils.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary**

1.145 The consultee is concerned how this proposal will affect pupils' education. Some members of the community do not drive and there are concerns regarding how they will be able to transport pupils to two schools if they have other children wishing to receive English medium education.

1.146 The consultee is concerned that pupils will lose the option of changing to the English stream if they struggle with the Welsh language, they will have to move to an English medium school. The current situation works and therefore there is no need to change it.

sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”**

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.”** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they

1.147 The consultee is concerned that this proposal does not cater for the whole community. A dual stream school caters for both Welsh and English speaking members of the community.

currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.148 The consultee is concerned that choice is being taken away from the community. This causes transport issues for families requiring English medium education and will increase class sizes in other schools. This proposal will divide the community causing segregation and isolation.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that ***"the arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility."*** This is something that all parents/guardians should consider if they decide that their child needs to attend another school.

1.149 The consultee feels that the school should be kept as a dual stream school.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."***

1.150 The consultee is concerned that changing the language category to Welsh medium will affect pupils' education if they struggle with the Welsh language. This is not fair to the pupils.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will provide sufficient support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive their education through the medium of Welsh and sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to schools around the county will also be supporting the school and its pupils. Please refer to the Executive Summary where it is noted in detail the support which is currently/will be available to all parents and pupils.

1.151 The consultee is concerned that this proposal will push English speaking pupils out of their own community.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

1.152 The consultee would like to ask the Local Authority whether there is any information available to explain the benefits of educating a child through the medium of their second language. Also, is there any evidence to prove that teaching a child through their second language is successful? The consultee states that Wales is a diverse community and that the local authority should be aiming to educate the whole community successfully. The best way for pupil's to learn

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the

Welsh and become bilingual would be for pupil's to attend a dual stream school or at an English medium school where Welsh is taught as a second language.

provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** There are many advantages to being bilingual as confirmed by national and international research and articulated in Carmarthenshire’s ***“Why are we promoting a Bilingual education?”*** document. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. Some new studies also suggest that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing. Carmarthenshire Welsh medium schools already successfully educate pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds.

1.153 The consultee believes that all members of the community should have been notified of the consultation process. This is a significant change for the village and the consultee feels that every person in the village is a stakeholder, not just parents, teachers, and school governors. The consultee is concerned that the Community Council were not notified.

The consultation on this proposal followed guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013). Page 30 of the consultation document states clearly which interested parties were notified of the consultation. Llangennech Community Council were made aware of the proposal.

1.154 The consultee feels that parents were given very little information about the process. The consultee also disagrees with the Community Council’s decision to not discuss the proposal and feels that the School/County Council should

The consultation on this proposal followed guidelines established by the Welsh Government as stated in the School Organisation Code (2013). It is the decision of the Community Council whether or not to discuss the proposal. The School Organisation Code (2013) states

have held a meeting with community members. The consultee is also concerned with the methods of submitting responses to the consultation document.

1.155 A petition was signed by members of the community of Llangennech. The community is concerned that English speaking pupils will be pushed out of their own community to attend English medium schools. The community should continue to have a choice of both streams and all pupils should have the right to attend their local school. 505 people signed the petition.

that from time to time proposers will have conducted 'informal' consultations with particular stakeholders – however this is not a legal requirement. Consultees were able to submit their responses either by e-mail or by post to the Director of Education and Children's Services.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”*** The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Impact on the Secondary School

2. The consultee supports the drive to increase the use of the Welsh language and Bryngwyn School is successful in this with the introduction of bilingual provision. However, the consultee is concerned that 10% of current pupils at Bryngwyn School have originated from Llangennech School. Any change in pupil numbers in feeder schools such as Llangennech would have an effect on the population base of Bryngwyn School and would therefore have an effect on the funding that the school receives. The school wonders whether a catchment review could be undertaken in order to minimise the effect on secondary schools as re categorization of feeder schools tends to have an effect on secondary schools. The school is also concerned that they were not informed of the change by the school or the local authority but instead found out through the local newspaper. The school works well with its family of schools and are happy with the existing structure where pupils have a choice at both primary and secondary level. The school supports the development of Welsh language provision but not where it would have a negative impact on secondary schools.

Support the Proposal

3. The consultee supports the change as this supports Carmarthenshire's goal of increasing the Welsh medium provision and to ensure that all pupils become completely

Impact on Secondary School

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."*** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that ***"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."*** It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. It is also important to note, that the proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become fully Welsh medium. The local authority will monitor how this change will affect the local secondary school. The consultation process has been carried out following the guidelines as stated in the School Organisation Code 2013 and all stakeholders were notified of the consultation following these guidelines. Bryngwyn School were notified of the link to the consultation document via e-mail on 25th January 2016.

Support the Proposal

The Local Authority (LA) welcomes the large number of positive responses to the proposal to discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-

<p>bilingual. The number of pupils attending the English stream has declined over recent years and this is a golden opportunity for the area of Llangennech.</p> <p>3.1 The consultee supports the change to Welsh medium and believes that all children should be educated through the medium of Welsh. This will ensure that all children will become bilingual and able to communicate through Welsh. This gives every child a fair chance to become fluent in the Welsh language.</p> <p>3.2 The consultee feels that the future of the Welsh language depends on Welsh medium education.</p> <p>3.3 The consultee feels that this proposal ensures that all pupils will leave primary school as bilingual and skilled in speaking, reading and writing through the medium of Welsh. It is the local authority's duty to provide pupils with the best opportunities that will benefit them in later life.</p> <p>3.4 The consultee feels that it is imperative for immediate action to save the Welsh language. The consultee supports the proposal.</p> <p>3.5 The consultee feels that Welsh medium education will ensure continuity from nursery through to secondary school and will increase bilingualism in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>3.6 The consultee supports the change as it will comply with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The governing body and staff of the schools are supportive of the proposal and the decline in pupils attending the English stream show the need for a Welsh medium school. This is a natural change for the school and there are English medium schools available for pupils wishing to receive English medium</p>	<p>11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body. The responses are very encouraging.</p> <p>Many of the responses focus on the changing of the language category to Welsh medium and how this will promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in the area.</p> <p>In addition, many responses focus on the decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream and how changing the language category to Welsh medium will be a natural step for the school.</p> <p>The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to <i>"increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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."</i> In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that <i>"the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools."</i></p> <p>The Authority has also conducted a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, Community Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
--	--

education. This proposal will ensure that all pupils leave school bilingual.

3.7 The consultee supports the proposal as being bilingual is an essential skill and will help preserve the Welsh language. The consultee is sure that support will be given to parents who are non-Welsh speaking.

3.8 The consultee supports the proposal as there is a significant increase in the pupils attending the Welsh stream and therefore this will be a natural step for the school.

3.9 The consultee supports the proposal as it will secure the future of the Welsh language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

3.10 The consultee supports that proposal as receiving a Welsh medium education will ensure that all pupils become bilingual in both Welsh and English. This is an important step in increasing the use of Welsh language in the Llangennech area and will nurture pupils who are only able to communicate through English. Assistance will need to be provided for parents who are not able to speak the language so that they are able to support their children with their education.

3.11 The consultee states that they are surprised that there isn't a Welsh medium school already in Llangennech. This proposal will ensure that all pupils will become bilingual. Welsh medium education provides many opportunities for pupils and will open doors for them throughout their lives. The authority has a responsible to provide pupils with the best education and a Welsh medium education will be best for the pupils.

3.12 The consultee supports the proposal as it will promote

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

bilingualism and the Welsh language in the area. Being able to communicate through the medium of Welsh is an invaluable skill which provides many opportunities through life. The Welsh language is important to the successful future of the nation. The consultee is delighted to see the increase of Welsh medium education in the area.

3.13 The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education will provide the best education possible. A Welsh medium education provides many opportunities for pupils.

3.14 The consultee supports the proposal as the data shows that the number of pupils attending the Welsh streams has increased over recent years. This is a natural change for the school. The proposal will promote bilingualism in the area and answers Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

3.15 The consultee supports the proposal as it is becoming more and more important to be bilingual. Bilingualism is extremely important in Europe and we should be promoting this. The consultee feels that community members may be poorly informed about a bilingual education and what this entails and that the benefits of a bilingual education should be discussed. The area has always had a choice of dual stream school but the local authority must look at the demand for Welsh medium education. The consultee is also concerned with the negative responses of some consultees and the media.

3.16 The consultee supports the proposal as it responds to Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the vision of the Welsh Government. The decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream show the demand for Welsh medium education. This proposal will also promote bilingualism as well as providing many opportunities and educational

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

benefits.

3.17 The consultee feels that a bilingual education provides many advantages. Receiving Welsh medium education at primary school will assist in the preservation of the language which is facing massive pressures.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.18 The consultee feels that there is evidence to show that learning Welsh as a second language is not successful in creating bilingual individuals. Establishing a Welsh medium primary school will ensure that all pupils are bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This is a natural change for the school and the staff and governing bodies of both schools are supportive.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.19 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.20 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.21 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.22 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>3.23 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.24 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.25 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.26 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.27 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.28 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.29 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>3.30 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.31 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.32 The consultee feels that receiving a Welsh medium education provides pupils with many opportunities in the future including finding work. All children should have the opportunity to learn another language to help them with their future opportunities.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.33 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.34 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.35 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.36 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

3.37 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.38 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.39 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.40 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.41 The consultee agrees with changing the language category of Llangennech School to Welsh medium.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.42 The consultee supports the proposal. The demand for Welsh medium education in the area is high and the majority of the pupils at the schools attend through the Welsh stream. The change would be a natural step for the school. There will be room for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. The Council will need to address the limited spaces available at the school which includes other primary schools in Llanelli.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.43 The consultee supports the proposal as the data shows that the majority of pupils at the schools attend through the Welsh

Observation noted. Please see response above.

stream. The consultee feels that as we are in Wales, pupils should learn through the medium of Welsh. If pupils attended schools in other countries, they would have no choice but to learn their language.

3.44 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.45 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.46 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.47 The consultee feels that there is need for a Welsh medium school in the village.

3.48 The consultee feels that Llangennech is the perfect place to have a Welsh medium school.

3.49 The consultee agrees with the proposal to establish a new Welsh medium school.

3.50 The consultee supports the proposal to change the language category of the school to Welsh medium.

3.51 The consultee agrees with the proposal to change the language category to Welsh medium.

3.52 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

3.53 The consultee supports the proposal. Some parents have to transport their children to ensure that they receive Welsh medium education. There are benefits Welsh medium education over dual stream.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.54 The consultee states that the growth in demand for Welsh medium education has been enormous. This change will be a natural step for the school. Establishing a nursery in the school is very beneficial to ensure that the foundations for Welsh education is completely sound and is actioned and presented under the leadership of the school. These changes will create bilingual individuals and promote the Welsh language in the area.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.55 The consultee feels that, changing the language category to Welsh Medium would be beneficial to the local community and to the future of the Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.56 The consultee feels that the decline in pupil numbers attending the English stream show the need for a Welsh medium school. There has been a decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the village and this proposal will help to increase this. At the moment pupils desiring a full Welsh medium education have to travel to other schools and this proposal will help relieve this burden on other schools. It is important that parents are aware of the advantages of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities that are available in Carmarthenshire. It is only through a Welsh medium education that pupils can become completely bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.57 The consultee supports changing the language category to Welsh medium. The consultee does not speak Welsh but feels strongly that children should have the opportunity to learn through the Welsh language.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.58 The consultee feels that the next natural step for Llangennech Schools Federation is stepping towards joining the two schools to create on new school under one governing body. The proposal will ensure that every pupil develops to be fluent

Observation noted. Please see response above.

speakers, readers and writers in both Welsh and English. The proposal will ensure that Llangennech School moves along with Welsh language continuum and offers bilingualism to every pupil and not just pupils in the Welsh stream. Including a nursery provides pupils of the catchment equal opportunities to attend a three year old nursery classroom within the village of Llangennech. This proposal will enable pupils to think, play and work in English and Welsh which will open countless doors for them throughout their lives.

3.59 The consultee is happy that the Council are using this opportunity to change the language category to Welsh medium. Only Welsh medium education creates bilingual individuals.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.60 The consultee supports the proposal. The merger, adding a nursery provision and changing the language category to Welsh medium will secure the future of the language and will ensure that all pupils are raised as bilingual.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.61 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.62 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.63 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.64 The consultee agrees with the proposal.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.65 The consultee agrees with the developments at Llangennech.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

3.66 The consultee is supportive of the proposal. The Welsh language shouldn't be a barrier to non-Welsh speakers it should be seen as an advantage. Pupils are able to they learn a new language in a completely natural way by listening and practicing every day. This also encourages non Welsh parents to learn a

Observation noted. Please see response above.

little bit of the language. There should be no reason to move pupils to an English medium school. The Council should make every effort to reason with consultees who do not support the proposal in order to try and gain their support.

3.67 The consultee is fully supportive of the proposal. The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education enriches the learning experience for pupils and opens many doors throughout their careers. The demand for Welsh medium education has increased significantly over the last few years whilst the demand for English medium education has declined. It is important for all schools to follow the language continuum and offer more opportunities to their pupils to learn through the medium of Welsh.

3.68 The consultee feels that this change will be an excellent change for the community. The local area needs more Welsh medium schools and it would be a shame to miss this opportunity.

3.69 The consultee feels that this would be a natural and necessary change for Llangennech School. Llangennech is a traditional Welsh village and this needs to be protected along with developing the future of Welsh medium education. There is a choice available for pupils wishing to receive their education through the medium of English.

3.70 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium would promote bilingualism in the village of Llangennech and the surrounding areas. This is an excellent opportunity for all pupils residing in Llangennech to receive a bilingual education and to develop these necessary skills.

3.71 The consultee feels that a bilingual education can only be beneficial to a pupil, with cognitive, social and linguistic

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

advantages. The consultee feels that dual stream schools only dilute the Welsh language skills of pupils whereas a full Welsh medium education can provide opportunities for pupils to reach their full potential.

3.72 The consultee believes that a bilingual education is of great benefit to a pupil. A bilingual education improves a pupil's ability to learn a third language and increases job prospects within Wales. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that the school goes from strength to strength, but stakeholders need a clear understanding of the meaning bilingual –English will still be taught at the school.

3.73 The consultee believes that the area needs a Welsh medium school. This will ensure that pupils residing in the area will be completely bilingual.

3.74 The consultee feels that there are a number of advantages for being bilingual including educational, professional and social advantages. It is also easier for children to learn different languages at an earlier age rather than later on in life. Every pupil in Wales have a right to Welsh medium education and this is the only way to create confident, bilingual adults.

3.75 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will increase Welsh medium education provision in the area and promote bilingualism. Being bilingual greatly enriches a pupil's life by providing them with opportunities for varied cultural experiences. The standard of English taught in the Welsh stream is of a high standard and therefore pupils are not at a disadvantage later on in life.

3.76 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.77 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all pupils in the Llangennech area can take advantage of a Welsh medium education and become completely bilingual. The school is already effective in promoting the Welsh language to pupils from non-Welsh background who attend through the Welsh stream. The consultee feels that the pupil's standard of English will not be affected by attending the Welsh stream.

3.78 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.79 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.80 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is a natural step whilst considering the history of the village and the statistics of pupils attending the Welsh and English streams.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>3.81 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote bilingualism and the Welsh language locally. There are more opportunities available to people who are bilingual and English medium education cannot produce Welsh speakers.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.82 The consultee feels that all pupils in Wales should have the opportunity to be bilingual and changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote this. Being able to speak Welsh is a great advantage and it is important and people are able to speak the language of their country.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.83 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium is the only way to promote bilingualism. The change would be a natural step for Llangennech School as the statistics show that much more pupils attend the Welsh stream than the English stream. Parents who do not wish for their child to receive a Welsh medium education will have the choice to send their child to an English medium school. Being bilingual is a skill that pupils will benefit from throughout their lives.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.84 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will give pupils more opportunities to use the language outside of the classroom. It is important that pupils are fluent and confident in the Welsh language in order to be completely bilingual country.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.85 The consultee feels that a Welsh medium education provides invaluable skills that are of benefit to every pupil. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will promote the language in the local area and will allow the whole school to engage in many more opportunities that are offered through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.86 The consultee is fully supportive of the proposal to change</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

<p>the language category to Welsh medium.</p> <p>3.87 The consultee is supportive of changing the language category to Welsh medium. There are only three Welsh medium schools on the area compared to around 15 English medium schools. Being educated through the medium of Welsh ensures that all pupils leave school as bilingual and this is an advantage to every individual educationally and socially. It is important that the council promote bilingualism and the Welsh language in order to ensure the future of the language.</p> <p>3.88 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. Receiving education through the medium of Welsh is the best way to promote bilingualism. This will also ensure the development of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. There are many advantages to being bilingual including developing processing skills and having a greater understanding of different topics.</p> <p>3.89 The consultee is fully supportive of changing the language category to Welsh medium. The statistics show that many more pupils attend the Welsh stream compared to the English stream and many of those pupils attending the Welsh stream come from non-Welsh homes which shows that they have faith in Welsh medium education.</p> <p>3.90 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. This will ensure the protection of the Welsh language and the development of Welsh language education. The number of Welsh speakers in the Llangennech area has deteriorated over recent years and changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that this increases.</p> <p>3.91 The consultee supports the changing of the language</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p> <p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
--	--

category to Welsh medium and believes that every pupil should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. However, the consultee feels that the consultation period should have been conducted in a more open and transparent manner.

3.92 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. This will be of benefit to the pupils and the school and will promote bilingualism in the area. Receiving a Welsh medium education will ensure that pupils are fluent and confident in using the Welsh language. At the moment, parents who want a full Welsh medium education have to take their children out of the village.

3.93 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.94 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.95 The consultee supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium.

3.96 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

<p>ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	
<p>3.97 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.98 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.99 The consultee feels that changing the language category to Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.100 The consultee fully supports the changing of the language category to Welsh medium. The change will be a natural change for the school and is essential in maintaining Welsh as a community language.</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>
<p>3.101 The consultee feels that changing the language category to</p>	<p>Observation noted. Please see response above.</p>

Welsh medium will ensure that all children in the catchment will receive a Welsh medium education of a standard that will ensure that all pupils are bilingual as offering Welsh as a second language does not develop these skills effectively. Also, by changing the age range to 3-11, pupils will have access to a formal education from an earlier age.

3.102 The consultee fully supports changing the language category to Welsh medium. The only way to ensure the future of the Welsh language is to develop Welsh medium education. There is no reason why pupils leaving primary school should not be able to speak, read and write in Welsh. A bilingual education is of benefit to a pupil not a disadvantage.

Undecided

4.0 The consultee feels that the school are very supportive towards pupils attending the Welsh stream who do not have a Welsh background and believe that that receiving a bilingual education is advantageous. The consultee is supportive of a Welsh medium education if there is need in the village as long as it does not disadvantage anyone with regards to travelling to other schools.

4.1 The consultee feels that the school has naturally increased in size and has turned into a Welsh school. However, there are many English speaking pupils at the school and it is important for them to receive a bilingual or and English education if that is their wish.

Observation noted. Please see response above.

Undecided

The difference in pupil numbers attending the Welsh and English streams shows that there is a demand for Welsh medium education. It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017's aim of ***ensuring "that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write***

Impact on other organizations

5.0 The consultee is concerned for the future of their business and staff should the proposal be implemented. The consultee is also concerned about how this proposal will affect the community library and community center should it be implemented. The consultee is concerned that this proposal will divide the community, and force some children to attend other schools outside the village which contradicts the Foundation Phase framework which is based on inclusion, diversity and a sense of belonging.

Member of Parliament Response

6.0 The consultee feels that every child in Wales should have the opportunity to access school education through the medium of Welsh. Pupils in Llangennech currently have that opportunity through attending the Welsh stream. It would be counter-productive to the aim of increasing the number of pupils who can use the

Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.” It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Impact on other organizations

The Admission to School Information for Parents booklet states that **“all 3 year olds are entitled to 10 hours per week free placement at a registered setting from the beginning of the term following their third birthday.”** Part time is defined as either 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions or a mixture of 5 morning/afternoon sessions. There will still be a need for nursery provision for all children under the age of 3 years old and for 3 year olds outside of the hours that the school provides nursery provision. It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so.

Member of Parliament Response

Although pupils in Llangennech currently have access to education through the medium of Welsh, these proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the**

Welsh language if pupils chose to attend English medium schools because of this change.

provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”** It is the Local Authority’s intention that all current pupils remain at the school and that future prospective pupils will continue to attend the village school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that the proposal will not affect current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. It is also important to note that it will take 7 years for the proposal to be fully implemented and for the school to be completely Welsh medium.

Union Response

7.0 UNISON advises that its members believe that dual stream provision should continue. The members are not opposed to creating a new school of age range 3-11 or federation but feel that dual stream provision should be maintained if the consultation is to consider the culture and views of parents and school support staff.

Union Response

Observation noted. The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to **“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.”** In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

7.1 UCAC are supportive of the proposal as they believe that the proposal coincides with the objectives of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and with the Welsh Government's vision of developing Welsh medium education from the early years. UCAC are aware of the opposition towards the proposal and are fully committed to ensure the wellbeing of staff. UCAC will work with the local authority for the sake of the teaching staff they represent and the wider educational community within Llangennech.

The observation and support was noted.

Appendix D

ESTYN RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Estyn's response to the proposal to end the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establish a new Welsh-medium school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years in Llangennech, with one Governing Body

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

The proposal is by Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to end the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establish a new Welsh-medium school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years in Llangennech, with one Governing Body.

The changes would be implemented in January 2017.

Summary/Conclusion

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Ysgol Llangennech close.

Description and benefits

The proposer has provided a detailed and clear rationale for the proposal to merge the two schools. It has given a good outline of the reasons for ending the provision at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech and Ysgol Iau Llangennech and establishing a new school for pupils aged between 3 and 11 years.

It notes that the authority has a duty to consider and act in line with the recommendations of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, namely to ensure an increase in Welsh-medium education provision. As a result, the option that is favoured by the proposer means ending the English-medium stream at the school. However, the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending the English-medium stream on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through the medium of that language.

It notes that there will not be any transport implications for pupils at Ysgol Babanod Llangennech nor for Ysgol Iau Llangennech and that there will be no change in the catchment area of either school. It states clearly that if a child attends a school in the catchment area or the school nearest to the home address and this decision is based on parental choice, the responsibility is on the parents /carer to transport the pupil to and from the school and to pay the cost of that transport.

The proposer outlines clearly that both governing bodies have already federated formally, and that that is an important step towards merging the two schools and to create one primary school.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer gives thorough consideration to the effect of the proposals on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership at the school.

It makes valid reference to the outcomes of Estyn's most recent inspection reports on both schools and their categories and support bands.

It makes the reasonable assertion that there would be benefits in terms of sharing resources effectively, developing staff's skills for the whole primary age curriculum and locating all pupils on one site under the leadership of one headteacher.

It notes that the proposal would ensure specific nursery provision at the school. It has conducted an assessment of the effect of the change on equality and claims that the proposal should not have an adverse effect on any specific groups. It asserts reasonably that Welsh-medium provision for pupils who have special needs will be strengthened to provide a wide range of expertise in different areas.

The proposer has given appropriate consideration to possible disruption for current pupils. The proposer has given suitable consideration to the effect of the proposal on staff and the implications for them as a result of implementing this proposal.

The Local Government Response to Estyn

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal to merge the two schools is likely to maintain the current educational standards. However, the proposal does not provide sufficient detail about the alternative options and arrangements available to those pupils who may choose to follow their education through the medium of English should the English stream at Ysgol Llangennech close.

It is the Authority's intention that all pupils remain at Llangennech School and that future pupils will continue to attend the school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. However, should pupils decide to follow their education through the medium of English they will be able to apply for a place at Hendy Primary school which provides a dual stream education or Bryn Primary School which provides English medium education.

It notes that the authority has a duty to consider and act in line with the recommendations of Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, namely to ensure an increase in Welsh-medium education provision. As a result, the option that is favoured by the proposer means ending the English-medium stream at the school. However, the proposer does not give sufficient consideration to the effect of ending the English-medium stream on the pupils who may wish to follow their education through the medium of that language.

It is the Authority's intention that all pupils remain at Llangennech School and that future pupils will continue to attend the school and receive their education through the medium of Welsh. It is important to note that this change will not affect current pupils at the school and they will continue to receive their education through the medium of English. However, should pupils decide to follow their education through the medium of English they will be able to apply for provision at Hendy Primary school which provides a dual stream education or Bryn Primary School which provides English medium education.

Appendix E

Consultation with the Pupils

Consultation undertaken on the 4th March 2016

By

Mrs Llinos Jones

Challenge Adviser

ERW

Carmarthenshire County Council

Listening to 'Learner Voice'

School – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors Schools

Date: - 4th March 2016

Session undertaken by Llinos Jones

Interviewed School Council / Pupils

1. What do you know about the proposed changes?

Comments

- Two schools becoming one with the same name.
- Maybe the school will change to become a Welsh school.

2. What are you most looking forward to?

Comments

- Getting to know new teachers.
- One school instead of two schools.
- Developing new activities.
- Using more of the top school. Perhaps doing a show together.

3. Are you worried about anything?

Comments

- If the school is big, some pupils might be nasty.

4. How would you feel if three year old children started in the school?

Comments

- It's a good thing. Pupils can see their siblings coming to the school.
- The children would learn Welsh from an earlier age.
- Pupils would make friends from an earlier age.
- It's a good thing. More teachers and staff might be needed.

Negatives:

- Difficult for staff because there will be more pupils.
- Perhaps some nurseries in the village will have to close because of the lack of children.

5. Would you like a new school uniform and badge for the new school?

Comments

- No. Everyone is happy with the uniform and it should be kept the same.

6. Would you like to be a part of a big school?

Comments

- Happy to be a part of a big school.
- Happy, there will be more classrooms and more children.
- Happy with the school building.

7. What would be your opinion be if the new pupils in the school had to have a Welsh medium education?

Comments

- Happy because they would be able to speak two languages.

- Not good because pupils that find Welsh hard would have to go to another school.
- Happy, because the pupils would be bilingual.
- The Welsh pupils would be able to help the English pupils.

8. How do you feel if the two schools became one?

Comments

- Everything would be ok because Mr Anderson will still be the head teacher.
- Infant pupils will be able to do more activities with the older pupils.

Appendix F

Revised Options for Change

5. Revised Options for Change

In developing a preferred option the County Council considered a range of alternative options. Each option was evaluated against key objectives and criteria to determine which option best suited the aspirations of Carmarthenshire.

5.1 Main Options Considered

Option 1	Status Quo – Maintain both schools in present format
Option 2	Federation
Option 3	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.
Option 4	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.
Option 5	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM at Bryn primary school.
Option 6	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS at Hendy primary school.
Option 7	Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.
Option 8	Status Quo (language category) – with modifications English stream pupils to receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and mimic the amount of English lessons in the Welsh stream. The school would remain Dual Stream with a Welsh Medium Stream and an English with significant Welsh stream.
Option 9	Gradually increase the percentage of Welsh medium provision until the school becomes a fully Welsh medium school.

Note:

Options 8 and 9 are additional to the options presented and evaluated in the County Council's published Consultation Document.

Option 8 was presented as an alternative option during the consultation period by a group of people including some parents of children in the English stream at the schools and members of the local community opposing the County Council’s preferred option as identified in the published Consultation Document. Council officers agreed to receive and evaluate this option alongside the options identified by the County Council.

Option 9 is a variation of Option 8 that could facilitate change over a longer period of time.

5.2 Advantages / Disadvantages of Each Option

Option 1 – Status Quo	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change for stakeholders. • No statutory procedures necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues present arrangements with lack of coherence in provision. • Would not address the current demand in the schools. • Higher cost option. • Higher Staffing costs. • Opportunities for synergies will be lost. • Clearly expressed Council policies for school organisation and Welsh medium education development could not be met.

Option 2 – Federation	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federation has been an important step towards merging the two schools to become one primary school. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would benefit from integrated governance and leadership. • No increased travelling times for pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. This would be contrary to established policies for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher, with opportunities to develop effective distributed leadership across the both schools. • Consistent, integrated governance across the new school. 	<p>linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 – 2017). • Doesn't align with MEP strategy to remove Infants and Junior schools. • Federations can be undone.
--	--

Option 3 (Preferred Option)

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech with one Governing Body.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a designated WM language category school in line with established County Council policies. • Improved resource efficiency. • Two schools would become one primary school. • An increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area with every pupil becoming fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some stakeholders, especially some parents, will be dissatisfied by the removal of choice of language stream from the local school.

<p>Headteacher, with opportunities to develop effective distributed leadership across the new school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014 - 2017). • There will be a designated nursery provision at the school. • All pupils leaving primary school will benefit from having two languages with expanded choice and opportunity in their future lives and education. 	
---	--

Option 4 Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 DS language school in Llangennech.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a designated DS language category school following a period of federation. • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary school. • No increased travelling times for pupils. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the area. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met.

Option 5

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at Bryn primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English. • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated DS language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Increased travel times for some pupils whose parents exercise parental choice. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport. • Not enough capacity at Bryn CP School to accommodate the EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools.

Option 6

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring DS education at Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Having two schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Not enough capacity at Hendy CP School to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils whose parents exercise parental choice. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport.

Option 7

Discontinue provision at Llangennech Infants school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new 3-11 WM language school in Llangennech and provide for pupils requiring EM education at either Bryn Primary school or Hendy primary school.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pupils would have the opportunity to be educated through the medium of Welsh and English (DS). • Secure long term Welsh education provision in the Llangennech area. • Secure long term English education provision in the Bryn area. • Secure long term Welsh and English education provision in the Hendy area. • Having three schools in close proximity to another will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition in the Bryn, Hendy and Llangennech areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no increase in the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire that ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Key County Council policy objectives for the development of Welsh medium education and bilingual citizens will not be met. • Hendy CP School will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Bryn CP School will not have the capacity to accommodate all EM pupils from Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Hendy CP school being 1.07 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Increased travel times for some pupils. Bryn CP school being 2.04 miles away (5 mins) from Llangennech. • Parents who exercise parental choice and place their children in alternative schools will not benefit from free transport.

Option 8 – as put forward by some members of the community:

This option was presented by a group of Llangennech schools stakeholders, including some parents of pupils in the English stream and some members of the local community, as an alternative option during the consultation period. The following is a verbatim reproduction of the option presented to officers:

“After a meeting with County Councillor G Thomas and Community Councillor Dr Marian Slader on Wednesday, 24th February what was proposed and accepted as a fair and just alternative to all the other proposals is that the status quo is to be upheld with some additions, i.e. the English stream would have a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons per week and mimic the amount of English lessons that the Welsh stream have. If this is the case these two streams should be a mirror image of each other in year 11. Both streams should be able to speak, read and write bilingually. This would be a wonderful opportunity and innovation to Llangennech School. There would be an increase in Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and continuity of Welsh medium provision. No child will be displaced, any child having difficulties with either language can be helped in situ. Brighter children could be fast tracked to higher levels whilst others could be nurtured along at a slower pace. There needs to be a bit of engineering to be done, putting into place the frame of work to assist parents, for example, help lines or homework lines. Monitoring for both streams, the possibilities are boundless. No more need for Welsh only schools, dual stream and 30% is the way forward.”

Option 8 – as interpreted by the Local Authority

Option 8 – Status Quo (Language Category) with modifications	
<p>English stream pupils to receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week and mimic the amount of English lessons in the Welsh stream.</p> <p>The school would remain Dual Stream with a Welsh Medium Stream and an English with significant Welsh stream.</p>	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary. • No increased travelling time for pupils. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Pupils could not develop sufficiently strong Welsh language skills through a curriculum time

	<p>commitment of 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for statutory procedures.
--	---

Further analysis of Option 8

This option would mean that the language category of the school would remain as dual stream. However; the proposed percentage of Welsh being taught in the English stream would mean that the English stream would be officially categorized as an English with significant Welsh stream. This results in a dual stream school with a Welsh stream and an English with significant Welsh stream which differs to the classification of dual stream with a Welsh stream and an English stream as stated in “**Defining Schools as according to Welsh medium provision**” produced by the Welsh Government. This option would require statutory procedures to change the classification of dual stream for the school and a new consultation process will need to be started.

Although the stream would be known as an English with significant Welsh stream with an increase in Welsh (second language) medium provision, the option would still be biased towards an English medium education. This is not consistent with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan’s aim of increasing the provision of Welsh (first language) medium education.

The proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to “**increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.**” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that “**the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.**” With this option, it is recommended that pupils in the English stream receive a minimum of 30% Welsh lessons a week, however these lessons would be Welsh second language as it is not possible to deliver Welsh first language through such limited curriculum time. It is not believed that this percentage of Welsh second language lessons would be successful in ensuring “**that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages**” as is Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan’s aim. WESP recommends that “**at least 70% of teaching and learning must be in the medium of Welsh in each year during KS2**” in order for pupils to be able completely bilingual by the end of KS2 and therefore receiving 30% Welsh lessons would not be sufficient. It is therefore unlikely that a pupil receiving 30% of Welsh (second language) lessons at primary school would be able to successfully undertake a GCSE exam in Welsh first language at secondary school level.

By promoting a bilingual education Carmarthenshire County Council are supporting the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales to become a “*Bilingual plus 1*” nation and are Supporting Triple Literacy: Language learning in Key Stages 2 and 3. The Welsh Government’s document Supporting Triple Literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and 3

document states that: ***“As a bilingual nation, we start from a positive position because we provide education through the medium of English and Welsh. Both languages are embedded in our education and training system. Our young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and world languages. Conversely, the study of a foreign language can support learners’ literacy in English and Welsh.”*** Bilingualism provides children with early separation of two languages and an understanding of how language works. This makes it easier for pupils to then learn a third language. However, this option would not create individuals who are confidently bilingual in both English and Welsh languages, therefore depriving them of vital skills which make learning a third language easier. Bilingualism has positive effects on children’s linguistic and educational development as well as having social advantages. It is also believed that bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.

The consultee states that “pupils with learning difficulties with either language can be helped in situ and that brighter children could be fast tracked to higher levels whilst others could be nurtured along at a slower pace.” However; all teachers are expected to differentiate all pieces of work based on the needs of the pupil at all times. It is also important to note that should option 4 be implemented there would be no change to current pupils at the school and pupils receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so whilst in the school. All pupils with additional learning needs have a specific educational learning plan based on the needs of the individual and tailored support is provided for these individuals. This support will continue to be provided for each individual currently attending the school through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support through the medium of Welsh. Only on rare occasions will a child’s needs require a change of school due to language. In the vast majority of cases specific support ensures that every child is able to succeed in the home school, irrespective of language. The school will also provide sufficient support for parents who do not speak the language and will adjust the amount of support provided to pupils and parents as required. It is also worth noting that Carmarthenshire Welsh medium schools are already successfully educating pupils from non – Welsh backgrounds. It must not be forgotten that English is a statutory curriculum subject and will continue to be taught at the school to the highest of standards.

Carmarthenshire County Council have a target to increase the amount of Welsh (first language) medium provision available in Carmarthenshire. This option would not align with this target. The best way to ensure that all individuals become fluent in both Welsh and English languages is by immersing them in the Welsh language, this can be successfully done in a Welsh medium school. Option 4 provides children with opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities through the medium Welsh enabling the pupils to develop their Welsh skills outside of the classroom.

Option 9 – as discussed during conversations with consultees.

Option 9 – Gradually increase the percentage of Welsh medium provision until the school becomes a fully Welsh medium school.	
Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to share resources. • Two schools would become one primary. • No increased travelling time for pupils. • All pupils would be located on one site under the leadership of one Headteacher. • Having one school which will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that help to make up a community. • Allows additional time for existing staff to develop their language skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No designated WM language category school – Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools would remain DS language category until much later on. • Delay in meeting WESP (2014-2017) objectives of increasing Welsh medium education by changing dual stream schools to Welsh medium schools. • Not every pupil will become fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the WESP (2014-2017). • Very complex for teachers to adjust proportion every year. • Changes from second language curriculum to first language curriculum. • Need for several statutory procedures.

Further analysis of Option 9

This proposal suggests that the provision of Welsh medium education could be increased year by year until the school finally becomes a Welsh medium school. The data presented in the consultation document shows that the number of pupils attending through the English stream is much less than for those attending through the Welsh stream, showing that there is a demand for Welsh medium education. This data suggest that this change will be natural change for the school however; this option of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would delay this change. The Council’s proposals have been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy (WMES). The local authority has a responsibility to ***“increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.” In order to be able to increase the provision of Welsh medium education it has been recommended that **“the County Council work closely with the staff and Governing Bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh medium schools.”**

This option would also be difficult for teachers to operate. Increasing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would mean adjusting the curriculum that the teachers follow every year. It is also important to note that pupils who attend through the English stream follow a Welsh second language curriculum whereas the pupils attending through the Welsh stream follow a Welsh first language curriculum. The curriculum that the teachers are required to follow depends on the percentage of Welsh lessons provided and this would mean that the curriculum for pupils attending the English stream would change from Welsh second language to Welsh first language at some point during the transition. It is important to note that this would be a significant change for the pupils as it would not be possible to deliver a Welsh first language curriculum with a low percentage of Welsh lessons.

Changing the provision of Welsh medium education yearly would mean that several statutory procedures would need to be taken as changing the percentage of Welsh medium provision yearly would mean changing the language category of the English stream several times. Once the provision of Welsh medium education reaches 20%, the language category of the English stream would need to be changed to English with significant Welsh. However, once the provision of Welsh medium education reaches over 50% the language category of the English with significant Welsh stream would need to be changed to Transitional. It is only when the provision of Welsh medium education reaches 70% can the stream be changed to Welsh medium. These language categories are as defined in the Welsh Government’s **“Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision”** document.

The Local Authority have a responsibility to provide all pupils with the best education possible and the Local Authority believe that providing a Welsh medium education is best for all pupils. This aligns with Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017’s aim of **ensuring “that every pupil who receives education in Welsh/bilingual medium schools can speak, read and write Welsh fluently by the end of KS2.”** A Welsh medium education provides pupils with opportunities to be immersed in the Welsh language through engaging in extra-curricular activities outside the classroom. WESP recommends that **“at least 70% of teaching and learning must be in the medium of Welsh in each year during KS2”** in order for pupils to be able completely bilingual by the end of KS2.

This option as it stands would not ensure that **“every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages”** as not all pupils will have received the appropriate amount of Welsh lessons during their primary school lifetime. Ensuring that all pupils become fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages is stated as an aim in Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and therefore this is not a viable option.

It is important to note that there will be no changes for pupils currently attending the school and all pupils currently receiving their education through the medium of English will continue to do so. The school will also provide sufficient support to both pupils and parents who are non-Welsh speakers and this support will be adjusted as required.

Appendix G

Why are we promoting a bilingual education?

We live in a world of great linguistic diversity. More than half of the world's population **grows up with more than one language.**

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

One brain...Two languages...many advantages.

‘The person who knows only one language does not truly know that language’

Goethe



Why are we promoting a bilingual education?

To achieve Carmarthenshire County Council's aspirations as set out in 'The Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire Report'

One of the most important principles in the report is that every pupil should have the opportunity to be fully bilingual by the time they leave school, so that they can use and develop their language skills in the community and in the workplace. Promoting the economic and community advantages of bilingualism to parents and pupils is central to this...

To achieve Carmarthenshire County Council's aspirations as set out in 'Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategy'.

Achieving the key aim as agreed by full Council-

- *Increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and 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.*
- *Ensure that Welsh medium or bilingual education is an educational experience available to every child and that it should be within a reasonable travelling distance from children's homes. This refers to children of pre-school age and above.*

To support the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy 2012–17

Our vision is to see the Welsh language thriving in Wales. To achieve that, the strategy aims to see an increase in the number of people who both speak and use the language. Our six aims are:

- *to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families*

- to increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language
- to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community
- to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace
- to improve Welsh language services to citizens
- to strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology.

A living language: a language for living Welsh Language Strategy 2012–17

To support the Welsh Government’s ambition as set out in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy

To have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

Welsh-medium Education Strategy, April 2010

To support the Welsh Government’s ambition for Wales to become a ‘Bilingual plus 1’ nation AND Supporting triple literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

‘As a bilingual nation, we start from a positive position because we provide education through the medium of English and Welsh. Both languages are embedded in our education and training system. Our young people therefore have a head start by developing language and literacy skills that they can readily apply to other European and world languages. Conversely, the study of a foreign language can support learners’ literacy in English and Welsh.’

Supporting triple literacy: Language learning in Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

National and international research- bilingualism is much more than two languages

Research shows that children who speak more than one language have advantages over their monolingual playmates – in communication, cognition and social interaction. These include-

- The child’s brain is not ‘*naturally monolingual*’; it can deal with two (or even more) languages. Children can acquire any language without any ‘effort’, just like learning to walk
- Early separation of the two languages
- Similar stages and milestones in bilingual and monolingual language development
- Spontaneous understanding of how language works ⇔ in all languages
- Competence and creativity in language mixing
- Bilingualism helps children’s learning because they can think about their ideas in both languages. Having two words for objects, ideas and processes helps understanding

- Smaller vocabulary in each language but wider vocabulary across languages
- Better metalinguistic abilities (*relation between language and other cultural factors in a society*)
- Transfer of aspects of reading skills from one language to the other
- Children acquiring two or more languages from birth are able to differentiate the grammatical systems of their languages from very early on and without apparent effort.
- Earlier awareness of other people's perspective
- Social advantages- access to two cultures, more tolerance towards and interest in other cultures, easier to travel, find a job
- Better control of attention and ability to handle conflicting information
- One aspect of research shows that bilingual children 'notice' better how language works and outperform monolingual children in tasks linked to language awareness.
- Studies show that a bilingual child is better able to cope with tasks that involve attention, memory and concentration. The mental gymnastics needed to constantly manage two or more linguistic systems increases cognitive flexibility and makes learning easier.
- Bilingual children have an extra 'gear' that can give them an advantage in some situations.
- Children will use words that they know rather than not say anything at all. For instance, if a child knows the word for 'ice cream' in one language and not the other he/she will use the word in the language he/she knows rather than not ask for ice cream at all. The child is not confused; he/she is simply making use of all the language he/she has.
- Some new studies suggest bilingualism may offer some protection against the decline of cognitive abilities in old age, both in normal and pathological ageing.
- **Bilingualism has positive effects on children's linguistic and educational development.** When children continue to develop their abilities in two or more languages throughout their primary school years, they gain a deeper understanding of language and how to use it effectively. They have more practice in processing language, especially when they develop literacy in both, and they are able to compare and contrast the ways in which their two languages organize reality.
- Research suggests that bilingual children may also develop more flexibility in their thinking as a result of processing information through two different languages.

No studies/research reports bilingualism as being a disadvantage

Based primarily on the work of Bangor University, University of Edinburgh (Antonella Sorace) and Jim Cummins (University of Toronto Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)

Websites/Further information

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/bilingualism/>

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/bilingualism-is-good-for-learning>

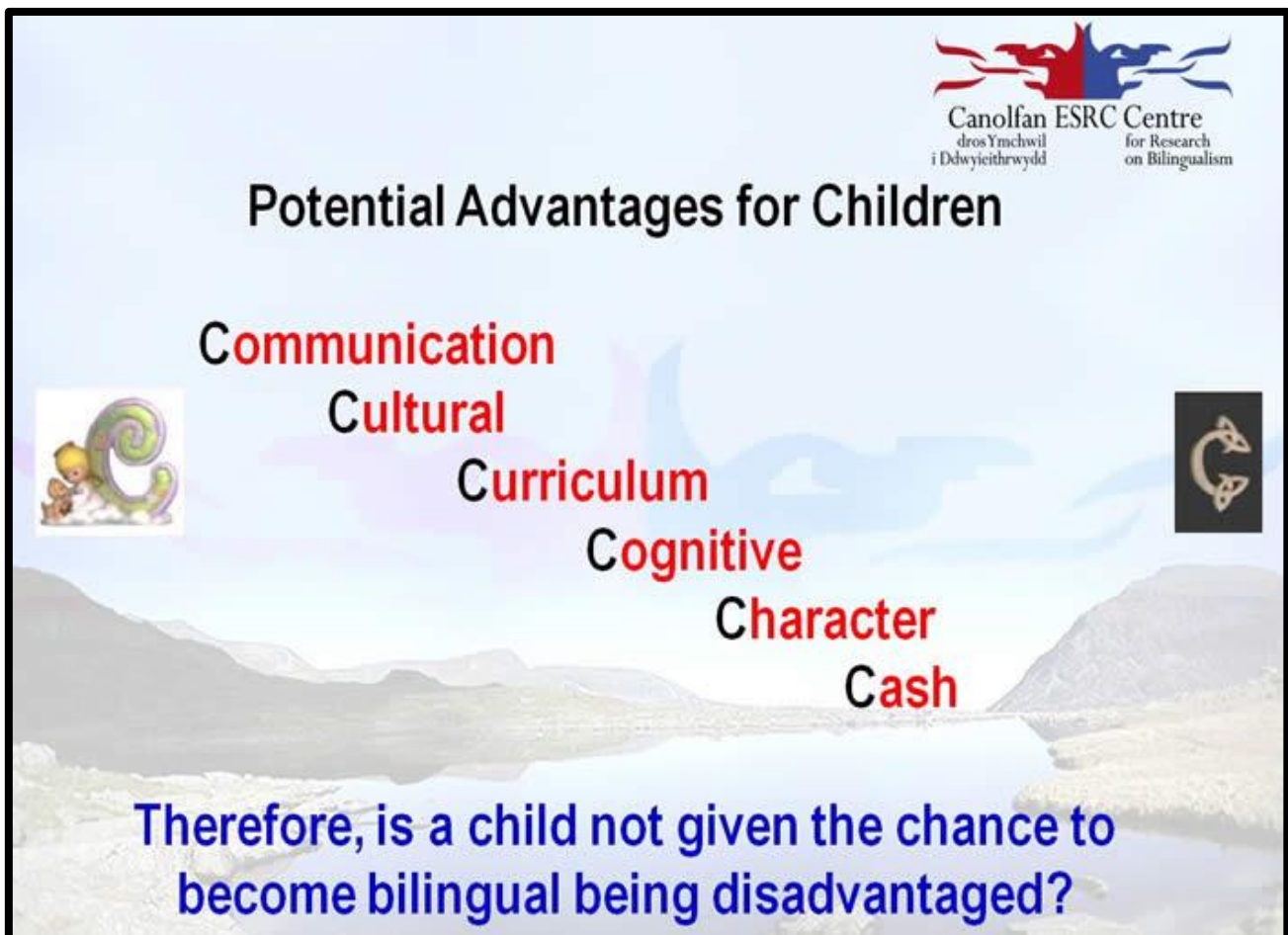
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_advantages_of_bilingualism


<https://www.britishcouncil.org/voices-magazine/does-being-bilingual-make-you-smarter>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-35170392>

<http://theconversation.com/speaking-in-tongues-the-many-benefits-of-bilingualism-49842>



<http://www.spring.org.uk/2013/09/10-superb-psychological-advantages-of-learning-another-language.php>




Canolfan ESRC Centre
dros Ymchwil
i Ddwyieithrydd
for Research
on Bilingualism

Potential Advantages for Children

Communication
Cultural
Curriculum
Cognitive
Character
Cash



Therefore, is a child not given the chance to become bilingual being disadvantaged?

This page is intentionally left blank

CYNGOR SIR CAERFYRDDIN

Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin SA31 1JP

Hysbysir trwy hyn yn unol ag Adran 43 ac Adran 41 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 y canlynol:

1. Cau Ysgol Babanod Llangennech, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (a gynhelir gan y Cyngor ar hyn o bryd) ar 31 Awst 2017;
2. Cau Ysgol lau Llangennech, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (a gynhelir gan y cyngor ar hyn o bryd) ar 31 Awst 2017;
3. Sefydlu ysgol Cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd (yr "Ysgol Newydd") a fydd yn cael ei chynnal gan Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin ar safleoedd ac yn adeiladau presennol Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech ar gyfer bechgyn a merched rhwng 3 ac 11 oed o 1 Medi 2017.

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

O 1 Medi 2017 ymlaen, yn amodol ar ddewisiadau a fynegai gan rieni, bwriedir i'r disgyblion hynny sydd ar gofrestr Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech a'r rhai a fyddai, oni bai am y cynnig hwn, wedi disgwyl mynychu'r ysgolion hynny – gael eu haddysg yn yr "Ysgol Newydd". Dalgylchoedd presennol Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech fydd dalgylch yr "Ysgol Newydd".

Ni fwriedir i'r trefniadau derbyn i'r "Ysgol Newydd" ddarparu ar gyfer dewis disgyblion ar sail dawn na gallu (bandio disgyblion).

Bydd yr ysgol newydd arfaethedig yn ysgol gynradd gymunedol.

Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin fydd yr Awdurdod Derbyn ar gyfer yr "Ysgol Newydd".

Y nifer derbyn ar gyfer disgyblion 4/5 oed yn yr ysgol newydd yn ystod y flwyddyn ysgol gyntaf y bydd y cynigion hyn yn cael eu gweithredu fydd 60. Capasiti'r ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion 3-11 oed ar ôl gweithredu'r cynnig fydd 461. Bydd 60 o leoedd meithrin.

Categori iaith yr ysgol newydd arfaethedig, fel y'i diffiniwyd yn nogfen wybodaeth rhif: 023/2007 Llywodraeth Cymru, "Diffinio ysgolion yn ôl eu darpariaeth Gymraeg", fydd Cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Darperir cludiant i'r "Ysgol Newydd" yn unol â pholisi Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin ynghylch cludiant o'r cartref i'r ysgol.

Bydd y trefniadau ar gyfer trosglwyddo i Ysgolion Uwchradd yn parhau heb eu newid.

Cyn pen 28 diwrnod ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r cynigion hyn, hynny yw erbyn 2 Hydref 2016, gall unrhyw berson wrthwynebu'r cynigion hyn. Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Mr Robert Sully, 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

Llofnodwyd: Mr Robert Sully
Y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant
Ar ran Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

Dyddiedig: 5 Medi 2016

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 ad-drefnu addysg gynradd yn ardal Llangennech a chreu un ysgol gynradd gymunedol newydd, i gymryd lle Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech. Bydd yr ysgol newydd ar safleoedd ac yn adeiladau presennol Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech.

2. Bwriad yr Awdurdod yw cynnwys darpariaeth feithrin yn yr ysgol newydd a darparu addysg i ddisgyblion rhwng 3 ac 11 oed.

Nid yw cael lle yn y meithrin yn golygu bod gan y plentyn hawl awtomatig i le llawn-amser yn yr ysgol a bydd rhaid cyflwyno cais newydd.

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.

3. Y categori iaith ar gyfer Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech yw Dwy Ffrwd. Bwriad yr Awdurdod yw sefydlu'r ysgol newydd yn ysgol categori iaith Cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Mae dogfen wybodaeth Llywodraeth Cymru "Diffinio Ysgolion yn ôl y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg" yn nodi disgrifiadau a chategoriâu o ysgolion yn ôl faint o Gymraeg a ddefnyddir wrth addysgu a dysgu. Mae'r ddogfen ar gael ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru yn y cyfeiriad canlynol:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/defining-schools-welsh-medium/?lang=cym>

4. Mae'r polisi cyfredol ynghylch cludiant o'r cartref i'r ysgol yn cadarnhau y bydd yr Awdurdod yn darparu cymorth cludiant yn achos disgyblion sy'n bodloni pob un o'r meini prawf canlynol:-

- (a) yn byw yn Sir Gaerfyrddin;
- (b) maent wedi cyrraedd oed ysgol gorfodol;
- (c) maent yn mynychu'r ysgol agosaf neu'r ysgol a ddynodwyd gan yr Awdurdod Lleol; ac
- (d) maent yn byw ymhellach na'r pellter cerdded statudol o'r ysgol. Diffinir y pellter cerdded statudol fel 2 filltir ar gyfer ysgolion cynradd.

Cyfrifoldeb rhieni yw trefnu a thalu am gludo disgyblion i'r ysgol os nad ydynt yn gymwys i gael cludiant am ddim.

5. Bydd Ysgol Babanod Llangennech ac Ysgol lau Llangennech yn cau ar 31 Awst 2017.

Bydd yr ysgol gynradd gymunedol Cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd sy'n darparu ar gyfer bechgyn a merched rhwng 3 ac 11 oed yn cael ei sefydlu o 1 Medi 2017.

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 43 and Section 41 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 the following:

1. To discontinue Llangennech Infants School, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (currently maintained by the Council) on 31 August 2017;
2. To discontinue Llangennech Junior School, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (currently maintained by the Council) on 31 August 2017;
3. To establish a new Welsh Medium (WM) school (the "New School") to be maintained by Carmarthenshire County Council at the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools for boys and girls aged 3-11 from 1 September 2017.

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

From 1 September 2017, subject to any expression of parental preference, it is proposed that those pupils registered at Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior school and who, but for this proposal, would have expected to attend those schools will be educated at the "New School". The existing catchment areas of Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior School will become the catchment area of the "New School".

It is not intended that admission arrangements to the "New School" will make any provision for selection of pupils by aptitude or by ability (pupil banding).

The proposed new school will be a community primary school.

Carmarthenshire County Council will be the admission authority for the "New School".

The admission number (AN) for pupils aged 4/5 at the new school in the first school year in which the proposals have been implemented will be 60. The capacity of the school for pupils aged 3-11 once the proposal is implemented will be 461. There will be 60 nursery places.

The language category of the proposed new school, as defined by "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision", Welsh Government Information document No: 023/2007 will be Welsh Medium.

Transport to the "New School" will be provided in accordance with Carmarthenshire County Council's home to school transport policy.

Transfer to Secondary School will remain as per current arrangements.

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by 2 October 2016, any person may object to these proposals. Objections should be sent to Mr Robert Sully, 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 Robert Sully
Director of Education and Children's Services
For Carmarthenshire County Council

Dated: 5 September 2016

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 re-organise primary education in the Llangennech area and create one new community primary school, to replace the existing Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The new school is to be located on the current sites and buildings of the existing Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools.

2. It is the Authority's intention to include nursery provision at the new school and to provide education to pupils between the ages of 3-11.

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.

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.

3. The language category of both the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools is categorised as Dual Stream. It is the Authority's intention to establish the new school as a Welsh Medium (category WM) language category school.

The Welsh Government information document "Defining schools according to Welsh medium" sets out descriptions and categories of schools according to the amount of Welsh used in teaching and learning. The document is available on the Welsh Government website at the following address:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/defining-schools-welsh-medium/?lang=en>

4. Current home to school transport policy confirms that assistance with transport will be provided by the Authority for pupils who meet each of the following criteria:-

- (a) are residents of Carmarthenshire;
- (b) are of compulsory school age;
- (c) attend the nearest or the school designated by the Local Authority; and
- (d) who reside over the statutory walking distance from the school. The statutory walking distance is defined as 2 miles for primary schools.

The arrangement and cost of transport to school for pupils who do not qualify for free transport is a parental responsibility.

5. The discontinuation of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools will take place on 31 August 2017.

The new Welsh Medium, community primary school which caters for boys and girls between the ages of 3-11 years old will be established from 1 September 2017.

This page is intentionally left blank

OBJECTION REPORT

Future Primary Education Provision for Children Residing in the Llangennech area

Executive Summary

The Consultation Process

Carmarthenshire County Council has published proposals to change primary school provision within the community of Llangennech. The County Council's proposal is constituted of three elements as follows:

- To discontinue Llangennech Infants School, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (currently maintained by the Council) on 31 August 2017;
- To discontinue Llangennech Junior School, Llangennech, Llanelli, SA14 8YB (currently maintained by the Council) on 31 August 2017;
- To establish a new Welsh Medium (WM) school (the "New School") to be maintained by Carmarthenshire County Council at the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools for boys and girls aged 3-11 from 1 September 2017.

The consultation period for this proposal commenced on the 25th January 2016 and was due to close on the 11th March 2016 but in response to requests from some interested parties, the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the period for responses by one week until the 18th March 2016. A total of **267** submissions were received in response to the formal consultation.

Following the closure of the consultation period, a Consultation Report was prepared summarising the observations received and the Local Authority's responses to these observations. The report was presented to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee and then to the Executive Board for a decision on whether or not to publish a statutory notice. On the 26th July 2016 the Executive Board resolved to proceed to publish a statutory notice.

Publication of the Statutory Notice

Following the Executive Board's approval, Carmarthenshire County Council published the proposal by way of a statutory notice on September 5th 2016 for 28 days until October 2nd 2016. The published proposal constituted of the three elements as noted above.

The publication of the proposal by statutory notice has generated an extensive response from interested parties, both in support and objection to the proposal. **1,230** responses were received to the statutory notice by 2nd October 2016. Following a request from an interested party, the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the statutory objection period by one week, until October 9th 2016.

It is important to note that another **188** responses were received within the week following the 2nd October 2016. Therefore, including these responses, the total number of responses received in response to the statutory notice is **1,418**.

From the **1,418** responses received; **698** were in support of the proposal whilst **720** were in objection to the proposal.

Please see **Appendix A** for a further breakdown of the objections received.

Please see **Appendix B** for a further breakdown of the supportive comments received.

The Responses Received

The responses received to the statutory notice have been of a similar content to those received during the consultation period. Again, very little comment has been made within these responses in relation to the element of the proposal which proposes to establish new primary school to replace the current infant and junior schools. As stated in the consultation report, both schools have been operating under a formal federation since April 2015, with a single governing body and a shared head teacher. The responses received to this element of the proposal acknowledge that the federation has been a success and the formal amalgamation of provision within a single primary school is a natural and positive step forward for the schools.

Comments have been received in relation to the element of the proposal which proposes to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 and provide part-time nursery provision within the school. Again, broadly speaking there is support for the introduction of part-time nursery provision with acknowledgement that this will provide the children of Llangennech with the opportunity to receive a formal education from an earlier age. However, some respondents are concerned over the impact that this change may have on existing independent sector childcare and nursery providers in the community. In addition, some respondents have concerns whether there is enough capacity at the school to cater for 60 nursery pupils.

However, as previously, the element of the proposal which has generated the greatest response is the proposal to change the language category of the school to Welsh medium in place of the current dual stream arrangement. The current system allows provision in either Welsh or English language operating side by side, however changing the language category to Welsh medium would mean that all pupils starting at the school following the date of implementation would be educated through the medium of Welsh only. A large number of responses have been received from both respondents who are strongly opposed to changing the language category and respondents who strongly support the proposal. Those supporting the proposal have considered that this will be a natural change for the schools considering the changes that have been taking place in the balance of language provision over recent years and that this change provides all children with the opportunity to become bilingual

and benefit from the advantages of being bilingual. Those opposing the proposal have presented a number of reasons why they consider that this change would not be desirable and beneficial for the community of Llangennech.

The Objection Report

Following the large number of responses received to the statutory notice, this Objection Report summarises the submissions received in support and in objection to the proposal and the Local Authority's responses to these submissions. The report also notes the number of times each point was raised within the submissions received.

For the purpose of this report, all **1,418** submissions have been considered.

Appendix A

Summary of Statutory Objections received following publication of the Statutory Notice and Local Authority related responses

The Objections Received

As stated in the Executive Summary, a total number of 720 objections were received in response to the statutory notice.

These were compiled of:

18 e-mails; and

702 letters formed on a standard objection letter template. (Some of these letters included additional attachments)

However:

1 objection was withdrawn in writing;

6 letters were unclear whether or not they were objecting.

The following table summarises the points raised within the objections received and the Local Authority's responses to these points. The table also shows the number of responses raising each point:

<u>Point Number</u>	<u>Point Raised</u>	<u>Local Authority Response</u>	<u>Number of responses raising the point</u>	<u>% of responses raising the point</u>
1.	<p><u>Removal of Choice</u></p> <p>The removal of the option of choice from the community. Currently pupils have the option to attend the school via either the Welsh stream or the English stream – should this proposal be implemented pupils will no longer have the option to attend the English stream. The removal of the English stream removes the option of choice compared to other areas in Llanelli which have the option of Welsh medium or English medium education within easy reach. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through and this decision should not be made by the Local Authority/County Councillors. This removal of choice is against the rights of the parents and pupils.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have,</p>	283	40%

		<p>therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh. • More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school. • More students have higher language skills in Welsh. <p>It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools. • Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017. <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

		<p>languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move forward to secondary school. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people.</p> <p>The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.</p> <p>Furthermore, standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority is advised that the proposals in this matter do not in any way contravene European or domestic law regarding human rights.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Dual Stream is Successful</u></p> <p>The dual stream system has been in place for a number of years and works extremely well as it is. As it stands, pupils from both streams are exposed to both Welsh and English languages. There is no need</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that both Llangennech Infants School and Llangennech Junior Schools are performing very well and are very successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the schools to secure continually improving</p>	228	32%

	<p>to change a system that is already working and the school should remain dual stream. Should there be a need to increase Welsh Medium provision in the Llangennech area, then the school remain dual stream but increase the percentage of the provision of Welsh medium education.</p> <p>As the school is currently working well with a dual stream arrangement and providing excellent education through both Welsh and English languages, it should be considered changing other English medium schools to dual stream schools. This will increase the provision of Welsh medium education in other areas but won't affect pupils' education.</p>	<p>outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh. • More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school. 		
--	---	--	--	--

- More students have higher language skills in Welsh.

It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:

- The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.
- Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.

It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium school, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.

The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The schools in Llangennech have been identified as having the potential to move quickly to become Welsh medium due to the progressive increase in numbers in the Welsh stream over recent years, as evidenced by the data.

		Furthermore, standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.		
3.	<p><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></p> <p>The proposal will and is already causing a divide within the community. It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates English speaking families and families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils will be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against English speaking families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important</p>	124	17%

		component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.		
4.	<u>No reason</u> Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.		100	14%
5.	<u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u> It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their local area. In addition, pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will also have to transfer to another school outside of the local area instead of transferring to the English stream. Pupils have a right to access English medium education within their local area.	It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school. Again, sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils, principally through the medium of Welsh.	85	12%

		<p>Please see point 9 which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see point 12 which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>The Community</u></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and goes against the wishes of the majority of community. It cannot be called a community school if it does not cater for the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the village to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education provision. This will result in the decrease in value of properties and the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that many children attending the school come from non-Welsh backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities changes over time and that social</p>	<p>76</p>	<p>11%</p>

mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.

It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school.

It is hard to estimate the effect that changing the language category to Welsh medium will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that migrants will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school

		<p>and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p>		
7.	<p><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and may disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential and attain the best grades possible by learning through the medium of Welsh. Consequently, this may disadvantage pupils when applying for places in further or higher education. In addition, some pupils may also find it difficult to adjust to learning in the medium of English at universities having previously</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Department, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p>	65	9%

	<p>received their education through the medium of Welsh – consequently affecting their higher education. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils’ understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>The evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language stream, however, do not achieve equally high standards in the Welsh language as they follow a Welsh second language programme. The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
--	---	---	--	--

	<p><u>Transport and Travel</u></p> <p>No transport will be provided for pupils whose parents opt for them to attend other English medium schools. It is unfair to expect parents to pay and provide transport for pupils to be able to attend other English medium schools. This will place extra financial difficulties on families and will be extremely difficult for families who do not have access to their own private transport. Yet, transport will be provided / costs will be met for pupils outside catchment wishing to attend the new school.</p> <p>Removing the English medium stream removes the children's access to safe routes to school and the ability to walk to an English medium school. There are no safe walking routes to other English medium schools and no risk assessment has been undertaken. This may be the only opportunity for some children to take part in healthy exercise.</p> <p>There will be an increase in traffic and congestion in the area due to families transporting their children to other English medium schools outside the area and families transporting their children into the area to attend the new Welsh medium school.</p>	<p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p> <p>Pupils will continue to have access to safe routes to Llangennech school as the Local Authority are not proposing alternative schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including pupils' ability to walk to school and the access to safe routes to schools.</p> <p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their village school. However, due to parental preference some parents may choose for their children to attend other schools outside of the catchment area whilst families outside of the catchment area may choose for their children to attend Llangennech School. This is already the case for the catchment area of Llangennech and although it is difficult to estimate,</p>	62	8.7%
--	--	--	----	------

		it is not expected that this proposal should have a drastic effect on the traffic and congestion within the local area.		
9.	<p><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>It is believed that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school become Welsh medium. Little or no support has been provided thus far and parents are reluctant to believe promises.</p>	<p>The school and its staff are fully committed to providing the necessary support to all pupils and parents.</p> <p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, future pupils will receive their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of school. Sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils principally through the medium of Welsh. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families. Pupils and parents are currently supported and will continue to be supported by the school through the following:</p>	60	8%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open door policy where teachers can translate the work for parents and provide an explanation of what is required at that time e.g. either before or after school;• Parents can contact the school via telephone or e-mail;• Homework is provided bilingually when needed;• Welsh lessons are provided to parents at specific periods throughout the year;• In the Foundation Phase, special books are regularly sent home to parents in the home language which enables the parents to see what the pupils achieve in school;• A homework club is held for an hour after school once a week to provide support for pupils who require help with their homework;• Sports, choir and IPad club are held bilingually;• Urdd club – many children from the English stream currently attend;• Bilingual school website;		
--	--	---	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bilingual staff members in both streams;• Bilingual school assemblies and singing sessions. Pupils learn a mixture of Welsh and English songs;• Bilingual school productions;• “Athrawon Bro” provide support to help develop the Welsh skills of pupils;• “Athrawon Bro” hold a language centre for a full week during the summer term for groups of year 5 pupils. These are pupils who currently perform at level 3 but who can attain level 4 with professional input.• Older pupils have strong Welsh skills which enables them to explain the homework to their parents;• “Athrawon Bro” provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh skills;• The Welsh language is heard daily by English stream pupils. <p>The school are also intending to hold an evening for parents of all classes at the beginning of the</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

		<p>year detailing the themes of work for the year and the contents of the work.</p> <p>Parents could also access support by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking the child to explain the homework – the pupil could translate the homework for non-Welsh speaking members of the family; • Using online translation tools. • Asking a Welsh speaking friend/family member/neighbour for help. <p>Several organisations have also offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language. It is also important to note that many pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds attend through the Welsh stream and are progressing well and achieving good standards.</p>		
10.	<p><u>Forcing the Welsh language</u></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh</p>	<p>The proposal of the Department for Education and Children is that future provision for all pupils in the new Llangennech Primary Schools should be through a Welsh medium designation, as happens successfully already in many schools across Carmarthenshire. The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children</p>	45	6%

	<p>speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Changing the language category to Welsh medium will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes</p>		
--	---	--	--	--

		<p>that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p> <p>The evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language stream, however, do not achieve equally high standards in the Welsh language as the follow a Welsh second language programme. The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language. Standards across both schools have been consistently good, demonstrating that the children are succeeding well in all subjects and are able to thrive through a Welsh medium education.</p>		
11.	<p><u>Issues with other schools</u></p> <p>No alternative English medium schools are provided as part of the proposal.</p> <p>There is no capacity at other English medium schools, should parents want to send their children to other schools. With the potential closure of Llanedi School, this will put pressure on Hendy School resulting in even more capacity issues.</p>	<p>It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and the Department believes that a Welsh medium primary school in Llangennech will continue to offer high standards of education to children. It is the department's desire that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals, will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they</p>	34	5%

<p>Page 289</p>	<p>Llangennech Schools are currently rated as 'green' schools. Other English medium schools are not of the same standard.</p> <p>There are surplus places at other Welsh medium schools within the Llanelli area where pupils could attend if they desire Welsh medium education.</p> <p>There is only one Welsh medium secondary school in Llanelli.</p>	<p>currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Therefore, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools. The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions criteria, which favour children attending their local or "designated" school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy. It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.</p> <p>The County Council will continue to monitor demand for places at Hendy School, in particular with regard to new housing developments being built in the locality in the foreseeable future and with regards to the review of Llanedi school and will respond as appropriate. The Council's Modernising Education Programme includes provision for investment at Hendy school in the medium term to expand and modernise the school's premises and facilities and it should be</p>		
-----------------	---	---	--	--

		<p>possible to align this investment with a need to increase capacity, should that need arise.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the Llangennech Schools are performing well and that standards are high and are categorised as 'green'. However, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the standards at the alternative schools.</p> <p>It is true that there are currently some surplus places at Ysgol y Ffwrnes and Ysgol Brynsierfel. The new Ysgol y Ffwrnes was built to ensure adequate capacity to meet projections in the Llanelli area where demand for Welsh medium primary education has been increasing over recent years. It was fully recognised that the new Ysgol y Ffwrnes would have surplus places at the point of opening but these would be taken up over a period of a few years. Having regard to applications for school places for September 2016, the department expects that there will be 400 children attending Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes in the 2016/2017 academic year, compared to a school capacity of 480, with the early year classes at the school full or almost full, indicating that the school will be full in a few years' time. At Ysgol Brynsierfel a total of 209 pupils are expected to be registered at the school in September, compared to a capacity of 243.</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

The Welsh Government expects local authorities to endeavour to manage surplus school places within a tolerance of 10% overall across all schools, accepting that figures at individual schools will vary as a consequence of a number of factors. The School Organisation Code notes that “some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils”. The Welsh Government regards a single school as having excess surplus places if it has more than 25% of its places empty. Neither Ysgol y Ffwrnes nor Ysgol Brynsierfel fall into this category. Therefore, in order to cope with fluctuations and the rising demand for Welsh medium education within the Llanelli area, there is a need to provide another Welsh medium school.

Ysgol y Strade is a category 2A bilingual, secondary school located within the Llanelli area. The school teaches at least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) through the medium of Welsh only. One or two subjects are taught to some pupils in English or both languages. The day to day language of the schools is determined by its linguistic context, however both languages are used to communicate with pupils and for the school’s administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages. Ysgol y Strade has the capacity to accommodate pupils from all of its feeder schools and provides pupils with choice to

		continue their secondary education through the medium of mainly Welsh should they desire.		
	<p><u>SEN / ALN</u></p> <p>Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible. In the vast majority of cases this is achieved, with all children benefitting.</p> <p>Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.</p> <p>In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local</p>	31	4%

school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable.

All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents. Arrangements are made for the child to attend an appropriate school where their needs can be met. It may be the case that on

		<p>a small number of occasions the needs of an individual child cannot be met at the local school as, notwithstanding the Council's commitment to inclusive education, it is simply not practicable to meet all needs at every school. In the last five years the Educational and Child Psychology Service has been involved in only one or two cases each year where a move of school has been advised. To place this into context, Carmarthenshire's school system serves around 27,000 pupils in total and so the frequency of pupil movement for additional learning needs is very low indeed.</p> <p>It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.</p> <p>For the Llangennech proposal the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive this support mainly through the medium of Welsh, with appropriate adjustments being made to meet pupils' individual additional needs.</p>		
--	--	---	--	--

<p>13.</p>	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p>It is not believed that the consultation process has been conducted fairly and there has been a lack of transparency and openness during this process. There have been talks of a ‘package deal’ with reference to the proposal and the installation of a double mobile. Since the mobile has already been installed, it would seem that the proposal has already been agreed.</p> <p>Respondents do not feel that their views have been considered as part of this process. It is also felt that significant stakeholders were not appropriately informed of the consultation period, including Bryngwyn School. Other stakeholders, who may be affected by the proposal have not responded to the consultation. A significant number of stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the proposal including Unison, Bryngwyn School and Nia Griffith MP. In addition, whilst objectors have been forthcoming in sharing their names and relationship to the school, some supporters have withheld this information.</p> <p>In addition, there have been a number of inaccuracies within the consultation document including stating that there are no pupils attending the English stream within the reception years. It has come to light within recent months that the reception classes have been immersed in the Welsh language over recent years and have not been receiving English medium</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The Department for Education and Children has been in discussion with the governing bodies of both schools for a few years regarding the current proposal and correspondence has been exchanged between parties. The Department has shared correspondence on this issue with objectors, demonstrating openness and transparency.</p> <p>School governing bodies have statutory responsibility for their schools and discussions between the local authority and schools on proposals for change always commence with a conversation with the governing bodies. Discussions and consultations with other stakeholders take place at appropriate stages in the process in line with the statutory expectations.</p> <p>The correspondence exchanged between the Director of Education and Children’s Services and the governing bodies was intended to establish an agreement between these parties on the principles of the proposal and how it could be implemented, whilst also addressing other separate factors, such as how restricted space in the infants school could be addressed and how planning gain funding available for the area could be usefully applied.</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>3.5%</p>
------------	--	--	-----------	-------------

	<p>education. It seems that parents/stakeholders have been given false/no information regarding this with varying responses. However, Llangennech Infant School is categorised as a Dual Stream School.</p>	<p>The Director's letter on the 29th January 2015 to the Chair of Governing Body of Llangennech Infants Schools, copied to the Chair of the Governing Body of Llangennech Junior School, makes it clear that it will be necessary for the County Council to undertake a statutory process to constitute a new primary school in place of the current two separate schools, to extend the age range of the school and to establish the new school as a Welsh medium school and highlights the timing challenges for completing the statutory process.</p> <p>The letter also refers to a commitments to provide an additional double mobile classroom to assist with space pressures at the infants school (which has now been completed) and agrees to release planning gain money for investment in the schools, through agreement with the Department.</p> <p>The fact that the new modular building has already been installed at the school clearly establishes that this element is not connected to the statutory proposal. Reference to a "package for the development of primary sector provision" in the Director's letter can, therefore, be clearly identified as seeking an agreement in principle.</p> <p>The WESP sets out the broad strategy for language developments within the education service. Where progress required change at individual schools in terms of the proportion of the</p>		
--	---	---	--	--

curriculum delivered through either language, a statutory process will be required, involving a consultation on each specific proposal. This is what is happening at Llangennech currently.

In line with the statutory expectations, a formal consultation period was held between January 25th 2016 and the 11th March 2016. The consultation period allowed all stakeholders to submit their observations with the regards to the proposal. Following approval from the Director of Education and Children's Services, the consultation period was extended by a week, until 18th March 2016. All submissions received were presented in the form of a Consultation Report to the Executive Board for consideration along with the Local Authority's responses to these submissions. Similar to the consultation period, the Director of Education and Children's Services agreed to extend the statutory objection period by one week, until October 9th 2016, following a request from an interested party. Throughout this process, the Department has accommodated all requests from interested parties in order to make the process fully inclusive to all stakeholders.

No final decision has yet been made on this proposal. Following the publication of the Statutory Notice on September 5th 2016, members of the full County Council will consider all of the submissions received to the Statutory Notice, both in objection and in support along with the Local Authority's

		<p>responses to these submissions before making a final decision.</p> <p>Key stakeholders, including Bryngwyn School were informed of the consultation period via e-mail at the beginning of the consultation period in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. Whilst the Local Authority inform all key stakeholders of any consultation period, it is the individual stakeholders' decision whether or not to submit an observation in relation to proposals and they not obligated to respond. All stakeholders, have a right to express their views, irrespective of their individual status and all of these views will be considered when making a decision. Should the stakeholder wish, these views can be submitted anonymously.</p> <p>As stated previously, no final decision has yet been made on the proposal and the decision on whether or not to implement the proposal must, by virtue of the law, be made on the grounds of the best interest of learners. It is, therefore, the educational merits that must be the determining factor in decision making, rather than the number of responses received in favour of or against the proposal.</p> <p>The present arrangements in the school are that all pupils in the reception classes are taught principally through the medium of Welsh, with English used as a facilitator according to the needs</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

of individual children. These arrangements have been introduced through discussions between the school and parents. A Council officer was party to the discussions at the request of the school.

Parents of pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 classes presently have the option to place their children in either the Welsh stream or the English stream. Should the proposal be implemented, all pupils currently attending the school, prior to implementation will continue to have a choice of streams in Years 1 and 2.

The Department of Education and Children's Services are not aware of any alleged false information being given to parents/stakeholders regarding the language provision in the reception years.

All of the data and figures used within the development of the proposal are factual.

The 2007 Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision document sets out definitions and categories of schools in Wales according to the language which is used as the medium of instruction and the normal business of the school. The definitions have no basis in legislation but they have been devised to provide better information for parents and for government on the extent to which pupils are learning through the medium of Welsh.

		The definitions do not attempt to specify exactly what an individual pupil may receive in a school.		
309	<p><u>Council Policies and Saving Money</u></p> <p>Many respondents do not feel that following County Council and Government policies such as WESP 2014-2017 is a good enough reason to approve and implement the changing of the language category. It is also believed that this proposal is proposed in order to save money and that Welsh Medium schools receive more funding than other schools.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in Llangennech as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>Every local authority in Wales, including Carmarthenshire County Council has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government. Carmarthenshire County Council's WESP 2014-2017 has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p>	15	2%

- To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh.
- More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school.
- More students have higher language skills in Welsh.

It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:

- The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of Carmarthenshire's dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.
- Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017.

Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.

Generally speaking it is more expensive to operate a dual stream school than a monolingual school so should the proposal succeed it will deliver greater financial efficiency over time, however this proposal has not been proposed in order to save

		money. Welsh medium schools do not receive more funding than any other schools.		
102	<p><u>Separation of Siblings</u></p> <p>The proposal may separate siblings who may not be able to attend the same school due to the removal of the English stream. Within some families, due to different needs some pupils attend through the Welsh stream whilst others attend through the English stream. This works well in a dual stream school such as Llangennech and allows all children within the same family to attend the same school. This may not be possible if the school becomes Welsh medium. This may then results in transport implications for families having to transport pupils to two different schools.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is not proposing alternative schools to Llangennech school for local children.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at Llangennech school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements until they leave for secondary school. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving their education principally through the medium of Welsh, with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school. Again, sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils, principally through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Please see point 9 which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p>	10	1.4%

		<p>Please see point 12 which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p> <p>Should parents elect to place siblings in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the separation of siblings and any transport implications. If parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p>		
16.	<p><u>Inside and Outside Catchment pupils</u></p> <p>Many pupils from within the catchment area of the Llangennech schools are attending other English medium schools outside of their catchment area – potentially due to being declined a place at the English medium streams at Llangennech school. However, many pupils have been accepted into the Llangennech schools from outside of the catchment area. These pupils are mainly attending through the Welsh streams and therefore boost the number of pupils attending through the Welsh streams.</p>	<p>The Llangennech schools are able to accommodate all children living within the catchment area. These children receive preference to children living outside the catchment area under the established admissions policies.</p> <p>No children from within the Llangennech schools catchment area have been denied a place at Llangennech schools by the County Council as the statutory Admissions Authority.</p> <p>The published Admissions Numbers for the Llangennech schools apply to the school as a whole and do not consider language choice. Children can only be admitted to the schools by the local authority as the statutory admissions body. Schools do not have the right to admit pupils themselves or decline places. The County Council has not refused a place at the normal admission</p>	8	1.1%

		<p>round to any child residing within the catchment area, irrespective of language preference.</p> <p>The movement of pupils between school catchment areas is a common circumstance across the country in both urban and rural areas. As stated before, children living within catchment areas receive preference to attend their catchment schools before children living outside the catchment area. However, parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school and they do this for a number of reasons, e.g. access to extended family for working parents, ease of transporting children, proximity of the home to schools, reputation, faith character, etc.</p> <p>Subject to the limit on the number of pupils who can be admitted into the school not being exceeded and the correct procedures being followed, then admission will be granted. This is the case for pupils living outside of the catchment area attending the Llangennech schools and for the pupils living within the catchment area of Llangennech attending other school.</p> <p>Aggregated together, the total number of pupils attending both schools in January 2016 is 446, with 336, or 75%, living in the catchment area and 110 children, or 25%, living outside the catchment area.</p>		
--	--	--	--	--

		<p>In January 2016 there were 96 children living within the catchment area of the Llangennech schools attending other schools. Of these, 16 children attended Welsh medium schools, 7 attended dual stream schools and 73 attended English medium schools, with a significant number of 39 children, over half those leaving the catchment area, attending Bryn school. 3 of the children attended faith based schools.</p> <p>It is relevant to note that due to the configuration of the catchment area of the Llangennech schools, a significant number of children living in the south of the catchment area reside closer to other schools than they do to the Llangennech schools. Prominent among these is Bryn School, which in January 2016 was receiving 39 pupils from the Llangennech catchment area who live in or close to Penllwyngwyn Road, Hendre Park, Harddfán, Bryn Uchaf and Pendderi Road and live much closer to this school.</p>		
17.	<p><u>Nursery Provision</u></p> <p>Some respondents have raised concerns whether there is need for the school to provide nursery provision as there are already nursery providers within the community, providing excellent education and care. In addition, these nurseries are also able to provide care for longer hours in comparison to what the school will be able to offer. Providing nursery provision within the school may have a detrimental</p>	<p>Whilst the provision of nursery education across Carmarthenshire is delivered through a “mixed economy” model of schools, independent sector organisations and private companies, it is the view of the County Council that nursery education is more effectively delivered in a school setting wherever practicable under the professional guidance of qualified teachers and under the leadership of a professional head teacher. Locating nursery provision on a school site in generally</p>	5	0.7%

effect on the independent nursery providers within the community. Some respondents are concerned if the school has capacity to incorporate 60 nursery places, as the school is already at capacity.

considered to be preferable as it facilitates a child's entry to full time education more effectively. It is generally the model favoured by Carmarthenshire schools.

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. The Local Authority acknowledges that there will be a need for childcare outside of the hours that the school provide provision.

There are presently 4 registered childcare providers in Llangennech, 2 of which are commissioned to provide part-time nursery education and 1 of which is able to deliver through the medium of Welsh. The County Council acknowledges that there will be implications for these two providers should the proposal proceed as the funding they presently receive for providing part-time nursery education will cease.

With regards to capacity at the school, a new double mobile classroom has already been installed at the infant school in order to assist with space pressures. The Local Authority will continue to monitor and assess the capacity situation and should there be a need, appropriate action will be taken.

<p>18.</p>	<p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>Changing the language category of the school to Welsh medium will restrict opportunities to staff who do not speak the Welsh language and will restrict employment opportunities for anyone who does not speak the Welsh language. In addition, are there are enough Welsh speaking staff employed at the school for this change to be effective? There are also concerns regarding the Head teacher's commitment to the school.</p>	<p>There are bilingual staff members currently working in both streams at the schools. Rather than restrict opportunities for staff who do not speak the Welsh language, this proposal will help staff to improve their Welsh language skills. "Athrawon Bro" will provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh language skills and the Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh language skills. It is also important to note that the proposal will take 7 years to be fully implemented and for the school to become a completely Welsh medium school. This allows time for the school and staff to amend their current arrangements in order to provide staff with the opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills within the school environment and to prepare the school as a whole to become Welsh medium.</p> <p>The Authority has staffing policies and procedures in respect of school reorganisation and these can be recommended for implementation if needed. The Authority will support school staff in securing suitable alternative employment if at all possible through redeployment processes.</p> <p>The Head teacher along with staff members are fully committed to the school and to the development of the school.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>0.7%</p>
------------	---	---	----------	-------------

Appendix B

**Summary of Supportive Comments received following publication of the
Statutory Notice and Local Authority related responses**

The Supportive Comments Received

As stated in the Executive Summary, a total number of **698** supportive comments were received in response to the statutory notice.

These were compiled of:

119 e-mails; and

579 letters. (These letters were compiled of individual letters and standard template support letters.)

However:

1 letter was unclear whether or not they were supportive of the proposals.

The following table summarises the points raised within the supportive comments received and the Local Authority's responses to these points. The table also shows the number responses raising each point:

<u>Point Number</u>	<u>Point Raised</u>	<u>Local Authority Response</u>	<u>Number of responses raising the point</u>	<u>% of responses raising the point</u>
1.	<p><u>Bilingualism</u></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community of Llangennech and the surrounding areas.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Many of the advantages of being bilingual include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration; - ease of flexibility between languages; - social and economical advantages; - helps with the ability to learn a third language - enhanced career prospects and personal development; - broadens individuals' cultural experiences. 	<p>It is the belief of the Department, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Department acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	617	89%

	All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit with the many advantages of being bilingual			
2.	<p><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh language</u></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the area of Llangennech and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Following the decline in the number of Welsh speakers as shown by the 2011 census, this proposal will help preserve the future of the Welsh language</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	544	78%
3.	<p><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></p> <p>The proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in Llangennech as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of</p>	405	58%

	<p>secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages</p>	<p>Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy requires action on 73 points, 21 of which apply to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The Plan seeks to achieve the following specific outcomes relevant to the Llangennech proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the number of 7 year old learners who are educated through the medium of Welsh. • More learners continue to improve their language skills as they move from primary to secondary school. • More students have higher language skills in Welsh. <p>It also sets out to achieve the specified outcomes and aims by means of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council works closely with the staff and governing bodies of 		
--	--	---	--	--

		<p>Carmarthenshire’s dual stream schools in order for them to become Welsh schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target three dual stream schools to transfer to being Welsh medium by 2017. <p>This proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
4.	<p><u>Pupils will have access to formal education at an earlier age</u></p> <p>Changing the age range of the school to 3-11 provides the children of Llangennech with access to a formal education from an earlier age, as is already available in other schools across the County. This will prepare young children to adapt to school life and benefit from the advantages of a school setting.</p>	<p>Whilst the provision of nursery education across Carmarthenshire is delivered through a “mixed economy” model of schools, independent sector organisations and private companies, it is the view of the County Council that nursery education is more effectively delivered in a school setting wherever practicable under the professional guidance of qualified teachers and under the leadership of a professional head teacher. Locating nursery provision on a school site is generally considered to be preferable as it facilitates a child’s entry to full time education more effectively. It is generally the model favoured by Carmarthenshire schools. This proposal does provide the pupils of Llangennech with this opportunity, as is already available to many pupils across the County.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	187	27%

	<p><u>Immersion</u></p> <p>It is clear that learning Welsh as a second language is ineffective in creating bilingual individuals. The best way to create bilingual young people who are confident in reading, writing and speaking in both Welsh and English languages is through immersion. The Welsh Government have also cited that the best way in creating bilingual individuals is through immersion in the less common language.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges the international evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirming that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	134	19%
6.	<p><u>The change will be a natural progression for the school</u></p> <p>Following the formal federation of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior Schools along with the increase in demand for Welsh medium education, the change will be a natural progression for the school. The number of pupils attending the English stream have been declining over recent years whilst the number of pupils attending the Welsh stream have been increasing. There is a clear increase in demand for Welsh medium education provision in the area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the formal federation of both schools is successful and that the next natural step is to establish the schools as one new primary school. It would also seem appropriate due to the decline in the number of pupils attending the English stream and the increase in number of pupils attending the Welsh stream to establish the school as a Welsh medium primary school due to the increase in demand for Welsh medium education provision.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	132	19%
7.	<p><u>Standards and Support</u></p> <p>Pupils in the Welsh stream are performing well and are achieving good standards in all subjects including both Welsh and English languages. Parents should</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the evidence of recent years at the Llangennech schools is that children in the Welsh language stream achieve good standards in both the English and Welsh languages. Children in the English language</p>	37	5%

	<p>not be worried about their child's education should their children attend through the Welsh stream. In addition many non-Welsh parents are extremely supportive of Welsh medium education and have already placed their children in the Welsh stream and are happy with their children's progress.</p>	<p>stream, however, do not achieve equally high standards in the Welsh language as the follow a Welsh second language programme. The evidence also confirms that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
8.	<p><u>No reason</u></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		18	3%
9.	<p><u>Supportive Staff</u></p> <p>The school have a responsible Headteacher and staff members who are committed to the school. All staff members should be commended for their dedication and passion to providing all pupils with the best education possible.</p>	<p>The Local Authority applauds all staff members for their dedication and their commitment to the school and all its pupils. This is evidenced in the high standards achieved consistently by pupils across the schools.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	9	1.3%

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Public Service Board Scrutiny

Executive Board Recommendation:

- That the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee be designated as the Authority's Scrutiny Committee for the purposes of scrutinising the work of the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board and that this function be reflected in Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Reasons:

- To designate a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the work of Public Service Board.
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Authority to designate a Scrutiny Committee to be responsible for Scrutinising decisions made by the Public Service Board.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted: NOT APPLICABLE
Executive Board decision required: YES (22nd December 2016)
Council Decision required: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Pam Palmer (Communities)

<p>Directorate: Chief Executive's</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones</p> <p>Report Author: Gaynor Morgan</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Administration & Law</p> <p>Democratic Services Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 224010 lrjones@sirgar.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 224026 gmorgan@sirgar.gov.uk</p>
---	--	--

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Public Service Board Scrutiny

Public services boards have replaced the former Local Service Boards, and are specifically required to:

- a) Undertake a well-being assessment for the area
- b) Set local well-being objectives as part of a well-being plan
- c) Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires a designated overview and scrutiny committee of a local authority to have a key role in assuring democratic accountability of the Public Services Board via its prescribed role as outlined in the Act namely:-

35. Overview and scrutiny committee of local authority

(1) Executive arrangements by a local authority under Part 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (c. 22) must ensure that its overview and scrutiny committee has power –

- (a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the public services board for the local authority area in the exercise of its functions;
- (b) to review or scrutinise the board's governance arrangements;
- (c) to make reports or recommendations to the board with respect to the board's functions or governance arrangements;
- (d) to consider such matters relating to the board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and to report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly;
- (e) to carry out such other functions in relation to the board as are imposed on it by this Act.

(2) An overview and scrutiny committee must send a copy of any report or recommendation made under subsection (1)(c) to –

- (a) the Welsh Ministers;
- (b) the Commissioner;
- (c) the Auditor General for Wales.

- (3) An overview and scrutiny committee may, for the purpose of exercising a power mentioned in subsection (1), require one or more of the persons who may attend a meeting of the public services board (see paragraph 7 of Schedule 3), or anyone designated by such a person, to attend a meeting of the committee and provide it with explanations of such matters as it may specify.
- (4) Where a local authority has more than one overview and scrutiny committee, the references in this Part to its overview and scrutiny committee are to the committee that the local authority designates for the purposes of this section.

The designated scrutiny committee is specifically expected to:-

- Formally receive the Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan from the Public Services Board
- Act as a statutory consultee for the Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan
- Review the Wellbeing Plan if directed to by the Welsh Minister (who has the power of referral but not approval)

Chapter 6 of the Welsh Government Shared Purpose: Shared Future: Statutory Guidance 3 states that:-

“174. In order to assure democratic accountability there is a requirement for a designated local government scrutiny committee of the relevant local authority to scrutinise the work of the public services board. It will be for each local authority to determine its own scrutiny arrangements for the public services board of which it is a member. For example, existing legislative powers can be used to put in place joint arrangements, such as ‘co-opting’ persons who are not members of the authority to sit on the committee, and where appropriate to appoint joint committees across more than one local authority area.

175. While it will continue to be entirely legitimate for a subject scrutiny committee (such as a children and young people’s scrutiny committee) to scrutinise the public services board’s work in relation to a specific issue, it is important that one committee takes an overview of the overall effectiveness of the board. This is the reason one committee must be designated to undertake this work.”

The Welsh Government has commissioned Public Governance Wales to produce Ministerial Guidance for Local Government Scrutiny Committees and this is awaited.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
----------------------------------	-----------

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: **Linda Rees Jones** **Head of Administration & Law**

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

2. Legal

The Authority is under a statutory duty to designate a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the work of the Public Service Board.

Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires amendment to include functions in respect of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and specifically designation of a Scrutiny Committee with responsibility to scrutinise the work of the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A (*The Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee was the Committee which had an overview of the Local Service Board*)

2. Local Member(s) – N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners – N/A

5. 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
Article 6 Carmarthenshire Council Constitution	http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1160415/Article-6.pdf
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/pdfs/anaw_20150002_en.pdf
SPSF 3: Collective role (Public Services Boards)	http://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/161111-spsf-3-collective-role-en.pdf
Public Service Board Scrutiny (Executive Board – 22nd December 2016)	<p>Cymraeg http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=557&Ver=4</p> <p>English http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=557&Ver=4</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Schools Staff Absence Scheme

Executive Board recommendation:

- That the establishment of a Schools Staff Absence Scheme be endorsed.

Reasons:

- To ensure value for money by pooling contributions into a central absence scheme for the benefit of Schools and the Authority rather than paying external insurance premiums enabling any net surplus to be shared by participating schools.
- To support proactive and positive attendance management within schools to aid the reduction of absence and use of supply cover.

Relevant scrutiny committee consulted: NOT APPLICABLE
Executive Board decision required: YES (22nd December 2016)
Council Decision required: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:
 Cllr. Mair Stephens (Human Resources, Efficiencies & Collaboration)

<p>Directorate: Chief Executive's</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Paul R. Thomas</p> <p>Report Author: Ann Clarke</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)</p> <p>Policy Manager</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 226123 prthomas@sirgar.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 246167 alclarke@sirgar.gov.uk</p>
--	--	--

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Schools Staff Absence Scheme

Background and Introduction

Most schools currently source their own insurance policies through a range of providers to cover the replacement costs of teaching, learning support and other staff absent from school. The cover provided by these insurance policies varies greatly, as do the costs and the benefits.

105 schools are currently covered by insurance policies with premiums costing in excess of £1m for primary and secondary schools. Income received from claims in recent years is approx £850k.

In order to ensure value for money, the People Management and Finance Divisions have undertaken a review of the external insurance provision. This has been done in collaboration with the Department of Education & Children and in consultation with schools within the County to develop this Schools Staff Absence Scheme. Our research has shown that a Schools Staff Absence Scheme can provide financial and operational benefit to schools and the local authority where similar schemes have been introduced.

This scheme has been designed to operate on the principles of partnership with the purpose of raising funds from its membership (collectively called its members), which can then be used to provide common shared benefits to all members of the scheme.

Current insurance premiums and absence patterns within Carmarthenshire schools have been considered in developing the scheme to assure CMT that a well administered and structured Schools Staff Absence Scheme can operate successfully and within the contributions. This is subject to sufficient membership by schools. Based on current levels, a surplus net of expenditure and administration costs will be achieved for the benefit of the members of the scheme instead of them paying insurance premiums to external providers at a net loss when compared to the reimbursements received.

In the event that the level of claims from scheme members exceeds the available funds, Carmarthenshire County Council will carry forward the deficit and off set against future year gains. It is therefore in both the schools and the Authority's interest to manage attendance positively and proactively in line with the Authority's Model policies to benefit from reduced premiums in future years. Based on the data available and a commitment from all interested parties to adhere to guidance and policies the risk of a deficit is deemed to be low.

The scheme launch will be supported by a structured communication plan with relevant stakeholders within schools once formally adopted by Executive Board from November 2016 in collaboration with the Finance Division and Department of Education & Children.

Financial implications

Based on analysis over the last 3 years, there is a net cost to the schools overall in purchasing premiums from external providers in excess of £100k on an annual basis. On an individual school level, the majority have not benefitted financially. It must be noted that due to the obvious ad hoc nature of staff absence, there will be fluctuations in trends. For this reason the scheme will be reviewed on an annual basis but with the clear ambition that the longevity of the scheme is critical to the success of it.

It is planned that up to 2 administrative officers time will be funded from the scheme. In the first year this will include previous financial year set up costs to be reimbursed to the HR reserve.

It is anticipated that with a combination of HR support and improved management of absence and administrative processes by schools, a net surplus will be achieved which will be accumulated into an earmarked reserve to fund future years cost variations.

People Management Implications

The reliance on insurance to cover the cost of supply cover is counter-productive to proactive attendance management and the application of CCC Model Attendance policies. There is a disincentive to commence formal attendance processes as once an employee returns to work from long term sick, the insurance may not cover subsequent absence if the reason for absence is related to the initial period of absence.

From communication with schools it is clear that maternity cover is currently a significant reason for purchasing absence insurance. Whilst the majority of the maternity cost is reimbursed to the schools, the level of supply cover required to be purchased for maternity absence impacts on schools budgets. This has been analysed and it is considered appropriate for a contribution to be made for maternity absence. This will be further scrutinised to ensure that the scheme is of maximum benefit to the schools whilst being efficient.

The HR Support Team will:

- Provide advice and guidance to schools on the Schools Staff Absence Scheme;
- Provide advice and guidance to schools on relevant attendance policies;
- Administer the claims process in conjunction with finance colleagues.

An additional resource of **2 FTE** (Subject to Job Evaluation) will be required to support the administration of a centralised scheme funded from the annual contributions made by schools who are members of the scheme.

This resource will provide advice on attendance management policies, determine eligibility of claims, administer claims, update ResourceLink, liaise with the Occupational Health Centre/Attendance team, confirm or decline claims with reasons, handle claim queries and liaise with finance for the transfer of funds.

Duration of the Scheme

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme will operate initially for a period of two years commencing on 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2019 and will operate as a non-profit making partnership fund for the benefit of participating members. It will be reviewed annually to ensure ongoing financial viability into subsequent financial years.

Joining the Scheme

Schools can join the Schools Staff Absence Scheme on the first day following the expiry of an existing insurance policy or can join the scheme on an agreed date where no current insurance is in place.

During the first year of the Schools Staff Absence Scheme a school's contribution will be determined by reference to any existing insurance policy and their current premium. A comparative with similar sized/structured schools will be used for schools that do not have a current insurance policy.

Member contribution

Each school that wishes to become a member of the scheme will pay an annual contribution into the Schools Staff Absence Scheme. If the scheme is viable to continue into future financial years the annual premium will be reviewed to include analysis of the level of claims made against the fund in the preceding financial year.

The annual contribution made by each school will be pooled into the Schools Staff Absence Scheme to contribute towards the replacement cost of supply cover for schools who are members, following receipt of a claim and submission of appropriate supporting evidence.

Scheme Cover

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme will provide a set contribution towards the replacement cost of absence cover for teaching and learning support staff (i.e. those requiring registration with the Education Workforce Council), employed locally by a school as defined within **Appendix A and B** and administer quotations and manage the claims process on behalf of schools.

The School's Staff Absence Scheme will not cover:

- Absence where a school does not comply with the Authority's Model School Sickness/Attendance Policies and/or the advice provided by the HR Team and the Occupational Health Centre;
- Exemptions within a schools existing insurance policy prior to joining the School's Staff Absence Scheme (subject to review after the first year).

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
----------------------------------	------------

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: Paul R. Thomas Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)

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

- 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities** – The recommendations support the Council's Strategic Aims 'Building a Better Council' and 'Making Better Use of Resources'
- 2. Legal** – Legal have been consulted in the development of the Schools Staff Absence Scheme. S111 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the statutory power to the Authority to undertake any action which facilitates or is conducive to any of its statutory functions. As the provision of education services is one such function, it is entitled to ensure that schools have cost effective cover to facilitate the provision under our powers.
- 3. Finance** – An additional resource of 2 FTE Grade D (subject to JE) will be required to support the administration of a centralised Schools Staff Absence fund. These will be funded from the annual contributions made by schools who are members of the scheme. It is envisaged that one officer will be required from December 2016 to enable the scheme to be 'live' from April 2017.

The costs will be funded from the scheme contributions received in 2017/18. This will therefore require funding from a contribution from a reserve fund in 2016/17 to be reimbursed to the reserve in 2017/18.

Anticipated financial position in a typical year:

Current annual spend on premiums	£1m
Annual income from claims	£850k
Estimated Cost of staff (2 FTE grade D)	£50k
Anticipated saving	<u>£100k</u>

The affordability of the scheme will be determined by the take up from schools, This will be managed from November to December 2016 to ensure that the scheme will only commence with sufficient membership. It is essential that the majority of schools support this initiative to ensure the scheme is sustainable.

Earmarked reserve to be set up to carry forward year end balances for future use to off-set cost variations in future years.

4. ICT – It is proposed to utilise ICT solutions to develop an online e-claim forms to reduce administration in the process subject to the ability of schools to interface with the corporate web platform.

5. Risk Management Issues – Risk management has been consulted in the development of the Schools Staff Absence Scheme. There will be no financial implications centrally as the surplus or shortfall will be met by the fund members.

6. Staffing Implications – The HR Support Team will provide advice and guidance to schools on the Schools Staff Absence Scheme, relevant attendance policies and administer the claims process in conjunction with finance. An additional resource of 2FTE (subject to JE) will be required to support the administration of a centralisation schools attendance fund self-funded from the annual contributions made by schools who are members of the scheme. This resource will provide advice on attendance management policies, determine eligibility of claims, administer claims, update ResourceLink, liaise with the Occupational Health Centre/Attendance team, confirm or declining claims with reasons, handle disputes.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Paul R. Thomas Assistant Chief Executive (People Management)

1. Scrutiny Committee – N/A

2. Local Member(s) – N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners – N/A

5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Schools have been consulted to gauge interest and provide feedback on current insurance scheme cover to develop the schools attendance fund.

**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
Schools Staff Absence Scheme (Executive Board – 22nd December 2016)	<p>Cymraeg http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&Mid=557&Ver=4</p> <p>English http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&Mid=557&Ver=4</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

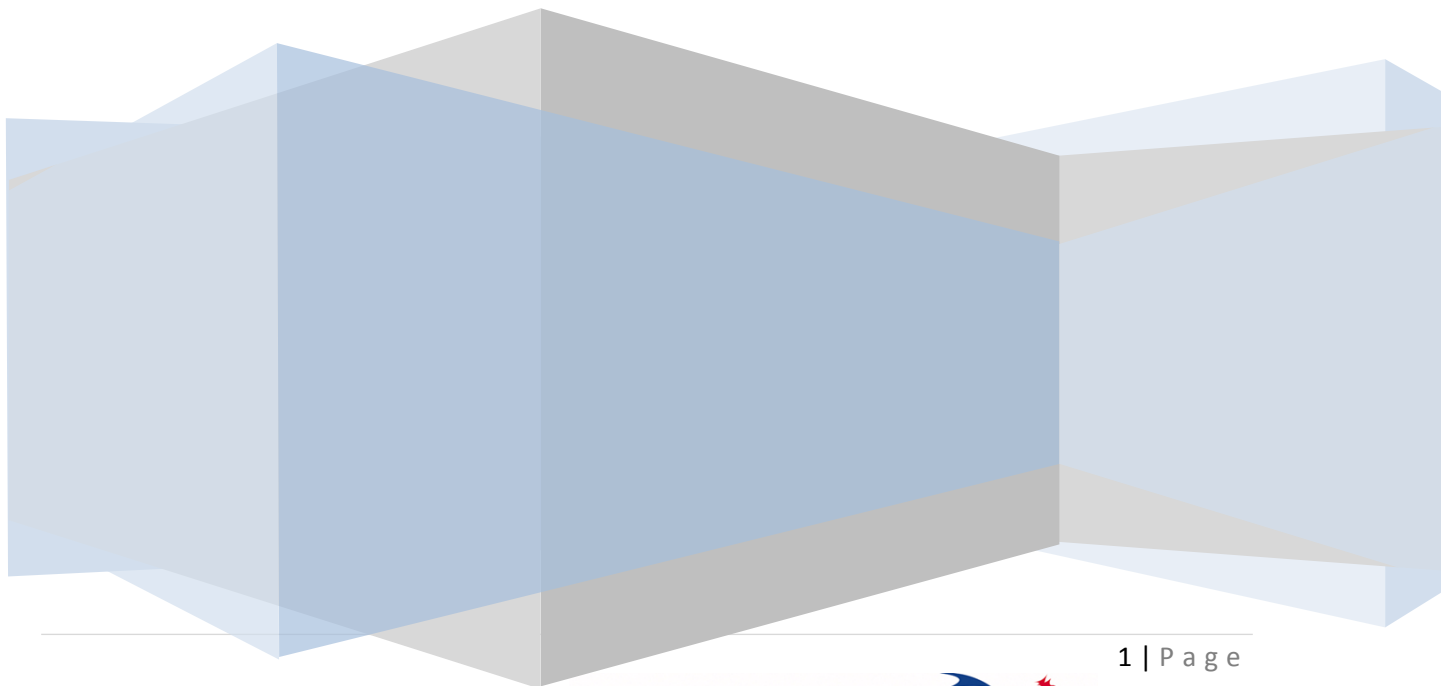
Carmarthenshire County Council



SCHOOLS' STAFF ABSENCE SCHEME

1 April 2017 – 31st March 2019

15 November 2016



1 | Page

CONTENT	PAGE
Background information	3
Scope	3
Duration of scheme	4
Joining the scheme	4
Scheme cover	5
Level of cover	5
What Carmarthenshire County Council can expect?	6
What Schools can expect?	6
Administration fee	7
Feedback	7
Contacts	7
Appendix A Summary of Cover	8
Appendix B Level of Cover and Daily Rate	11
Appendix C Support Services for Staff	13

Background Information

Many schools currently source their own insurance policies through a range of providers to cover the replacement costs of teaching and learning support staff absent from school. The cover provided by these insurance policies varies greatly, as do the costs and the benefits.

105 schools are currently covered by insurance policies with premiums costing in excess of £1m for primary and secondary schools.

In order to ensure value for money, the People Management and Finance Divisions have undertaken a review of the external insurance provision. This has been done in collaboration with the Department of Education & Children and in consultation with schools within the County to develop this Schools Staff Absence Scheme. Our research has shown that a Schools Staff Absence Scheme provides financial and operational benefit to schools and the local authority where similar schemes have been introduced.

This scheme has been designed to operate on the principles of partnership with the purpose of raising funds from its membership (collectively called its *members*), which can then be used to provide common shared benefits to all members of the scheme.

Current insurance premiums and absence patterns within Carmarthenshire schools have been considered in developing the scheme. This has enabled the Authority to be assured that a well administered and managed Schools Staff Absence Scheme can operate successfully. This will enable any surplus contributions made by members, net of claims and administration costs, to be saved for the benefit of members of the scheme instead of paying insurance premiums annually to external providers.

The scheme will require initial commitment from schools for a minimum of 2 years. The balance between premiums received and claims paid will accumulate in an earmarked reserve to fund any future year variations in costs.

Scope

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme administered by Carmarthenshire County Council will provide Carmarthenshire schools scheme members with defined financial contribution towards the replacement costs of teaching and learning support staff, i.e. those employees requiring registration with the Education Workforce Council, as a result of specific types of absences from work. All Carmarthenshire schools will be eligible to join, although for administrative purposes Primary schools will be targeted in the first year.

Duration of the Scheme

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme will operate initially for two financial years from 1st April 2017 until 31st March 2019 and will operate as a non-profit making scheme for the benefit of participating members. Schools wishing to become members are advised that initial membership will be for the full two year period with the exception of schools whose current insurance policy expires part way through the first year of the scheme (See Joining the Scheme). The scheme will be reviewed at the end of the first financial year to ensure ongoing financial viability

It is anticipated that the scheme will continue beyond 31st March 2019 but this will depend on future membership levels and continued financial viability.

If the scheme ceases to operate at any point any surplus net of claim expenditure and administrative costs will be refunded proportionately to members in the scheme when it ceases based on the premium for the last financial year.

Joining the Scheme

Schools can join the Schools Staff Absence Scheme on the first day following the expiry of an existing insurance policy or can join the fund on a mutually agreed date where no current insurance is in place.

During the initial two years of the Schools Staff Absence Scheme a member's contribution will be determined by reference to the annual premium and type of insurance policy purchased by the member for the financial year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 less 5%, or on application for schools that do not have an insurance policy in place.

The majority of schools have existing cover commencing from day 1, day 3 or day 5 of the absence. The scheme reflects these requirements.

In the few circumstances where a school's current insurance policy commences from Day 2, Day, 4 or Day 6 the following options are available to schools:

Current cover	Fund Cover Option 1	Fund Cover Option 2
Day 2	Move to Day 3 cover with 5% discount off premium	Move to Day 1 cover with 5% increase to current premium
Day 4	Move to Day 5 cover with 5% discount off premium	Move to Day 3 cover with 5% increase to current premium
Day 6	Not applicable	Move to Day 5 cover

Where a member's insurance policy expires part way through the first financial year of the Schools Staff Absence Scheme, e.g. 30th June 2017, the member's premium

will be calculated by reference to the 2016-17 premium pro rata to the remaining period of the first financial year of the scheme, i.e. 1st July 2017 to 31st March 2018. For year 2 and going forward all schemes will have an annual commencement date in April.

Where a new member has no previous insurance policy on which to base the member contribution, this will be calculated by reference to the average premium for schools of a similar size based on pupil and/or staffing numbers, as appropriate.

The annual contribution made by members will be pooled into the Schools Staff Absence Scheme to contribute towards the replacement cost of supply cover for schools who are members, following receipt of a claim and submission of appropriate supporting evidence.

It will be beneficial for members to pro-actively manage attendance in a timely manner in line with the Authority's Model school policies to support a reduction in the level of absence and subsequent level of claims from the scheme.

School Staff Attendance Scheme Cover

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme will provide:

- A set contribution towards the replacement cost of absence cover for teaching and learning support staff (pro rata part time), i.e. those requiring registration with the Education Workforce Council, employed locally by a school as defined within **Appendix A and B**;
- Administration of quotations and management of the claims process on behalf of schools;
- Access to a range of support services for staff to support regular attendance.
- Cover for Administrative and other non teaching support staff within the school where it is part of their existing policy.

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme will **not** cover:

- Absence where a school does not comply with the Authority's Model School Attendance Policies and/or the advice provided by the Authority's Human Resources (HR) Team and Occupational Health Centre (OHC), as appropriate;

Levels of School Staff Absence Scheme Cover

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme provides three levels of cover for the absence elements listed within **Appendix A**:

- Gold cover - Day 1
- Silver Cover - Day 3
- Bronze Cover - Day 5

The first 2 years' premium is based on your current cover as explained in 'Joining the Scheme'.

Exclusions from the Schools Staff Attendance Scheme as listed within **Appendix A**.

The option to change the level of cover purchased will be available in future years. The objective of the scheme is to maximise efficiency for schools and therefore the simplicity of the scheme is paramount.

Carmarthenshire County can expect:

- Each school to seek professional advice from the Authority's HR Team and OHC as may be required in order to proactively manage employee attendance;
- Each Governing Body will consider the adoption of the Authority's Model School's Sickness Absence / Attendance Policies and other associated guidance, as appropriate;
- Each school will manage absence in line with the Authority's Model School's Sickness Absence/Attendance policies and/or the advice provided by the Authority's HR Team and OHC;
- Each School will submit an Attendance Return to Payroll by the 4th of each month to enable the employee's absence record to be updated. Nil returns are required to ensure the employee receives normal salary. It is a requirement of the Scheme that reasons for absence are stated on absence returns to Payroll (and not just "sickness"). The Resourcelink HR/Payroll 'My View' self service function being rolled out to schools will enable timely accurate returns without the need for paperwork;
- In addition to the sickness absence return, each school will submit a separate claim form for each period of employee absence that a claim is being made for.

Schools can expect:

- Professional HR and OHC advice in line with the standards detailed within the Schools SLA to support positive attendance in line with the Authority's Model School Sickness/Attendance policies;
- Efficient administration of claims once received by the Schools Staff Absence Scheme Team;

- Resolution of queries relating to the attendance of individual employees in conjunction with the school to support a reduction in absence levels and reliance on supply cover;
- To be allowed 30 days after the end of the month in which absence occurs for the claim to be notified to the scheme administrators. (However, sickness must reported before the 4th of each month to payroll as detailed above);
- The end of year procedure will be circulated in advance to ensure end of year deadlines are met in accordance with the closure of accounts.

Administration fee

It is anticipated from the level of interest from schools wishing to join the Schools Staff Absence Scheme that up to two FTE administrative staff will be required to deal with the queries, claim quotations, administration and liaison with HR and finance teams. The aim is to establish smart processes to minimise administration costs and these will be reviewed regularly. The administrative costs are covered by member contributions including any pre-scheme launch administration.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us.

The Authority aims to provide a professional service and your customer feedback is valuable. Please do not hesitate to contact the Schools Staff Absence Scheme Team if:

- You wish to make a suggestion to improve the service;
- You wish to compliment the service you have been receiving;
- You are not satisfied with the service you are receiving.

Contact details

New contact details for the School Staff Absence Team will be circulated once confirmed.

In the interim, please contact:

Scheme/HR related queries - Ann Clarke on 01267 246167

Email: ALClarke@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Heidi Font on 01267 246060

Email: HFont@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Premium costs queries -

LMS Team on 01267 246710/246709/246711

Email: lms@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Appendix A

Schools Staff Absence Scheme

Summary of Cover

April 2017 to March 2019

This is a guide to the cover afforded to schools by the Schools Staff Absence Scheme: Providing the Authority's Model School's Sickness Absence /Attendance policies and/or the advice provided by the Authority's HR Team and Occupational Health Centre is followed.

Sickness Absence: This includes sickness absence as a result of:

- **Stress, Mental Health and Fatigue:** Including work and home related stress, anxiety, depression and chronic fatigue, where it is evident that professional support is in place either from occupational health services and/or registered professional service e.g. community mental health services, counselling via the GP.
- **Medical Suspensions:** Covered where Authority's HR & Occupational Health advice has been followed prior to making the decision to suspend, up to a maximum period of two calendar weeks (pro rata part time) or the suspension review date, whichever is the soonest, beyond which it would be discretionary on the part of the Authority.
- **Pregnancy Related Illness:** Covered with the exception of illness during the four weeks prior to the expected date of confinement as stated on the MAT B1 as this triggers maternity leave.
- **Phased Returns to Work:** Covered provided it is agreed in line with the Model School Sickness Absence Policy up to a maximum of 4 calendar weeks (pro rata part time)
- **Absences arising from accidents, injury or assault at work:**
 - **Teachers:** In line with STPCD, Teachers are paid full pay for a period up to 6 months from the day of the incident regardless of their continuous service (for absence as a result of injuries sustained whilst undertaking occupational duties).
 - **For all other staff:** In line with NJC Pay and Conditions of Service absence arising out of or in the course of employment is treated separately to other periods of absence for purposes of calculating entitlement under the sick pay scheme.
 - For both category of staff occupational absence is covered at the fund's agreed daily rate provided all incidents are recorded on the Authority's Corporate Accident/Incident system, a referral made to the Authority's Occupational Health Centre and an accident investigation undertaken.

Chronic and recurrent conditions: Covered provided the Authority's Model School's Sickness Absence /Attendance policies and/or the advice provided by the Authority's HR Team and Occupational Health Centre is followed.

Compassionate Leave:

- a) **Bereavement leave:** Granted at the discretion of the Head Teacher up to 5 days (family member) or up to a maximum of 10 days (immediate family only) (pro rata part time) in line with the Authority's School's Model Time Off policy.
- b) **Critical Injury/Critical Illness:** Granted at the discretion of the Head Teacher for critical illness/injury of a family member up to 5 days in line with the advice contained within Authority's Model Time Off policy.

Time Off for Trade Union Duties: 1 day per term per recognised Trade Union Representative in line with advice contained within the Authority's School's Model Time Off Policy

Maternity/Adoption & Surrogacy Leave: It is evident from research into existing insurance policies that maternity cover is widely purchased and will therefore be covered by the scheme as a set lump sum as set out in **Appendix B for the first 2 years of the scheme.** Depending on the length of maternity leave and the grade of the substantive post holder, schools may not be in a negative financial position once maternity pay and supply cover costs are paid so this cover is sometimes surplus to requirements. However, as it is unknown at the start of maternity leave the length of time an employee may take it has been agreed to include maternity cover for the first years of the scheme on a trial basis. For future years maternity cover will be reviewed and may be based on an analysis of actual maternity claims against the scheme compared to staffing budget available to members.

This is a guide to what is not covered by the Authority's Schools Staff Absence Scheme:

- Any period of absence that occurred prior to the school joining the scheme (this should be claimed via previous insurance policy, where applicable). Continuing absence from the commencement date with the scheme will be covered, provided the Authority's School Model Sickness Absence/Attendance policies and/or Authority's HR/OH advice is followed from the date of joining the scheme;
- Any absence from the date of joining the scheme that is not being managed in line with the Authority's School Model Sickness Absence/Attendance policies and/or where the Authority's HR and OH advice is not being followed;
- Pregnancy related illness is excluded beginning the 4th week before the expected date of confinement as stated on the MAT B1 certificate as the employee starts maternity leave in this situation;

- Period of notice paid in lieu;
- Cover for staff centrally employed by the Authority, e.g. Catering & Cleaning Service;
- Cover for the absence of temporary/supply staff employed to cover the absence of a substantive member of staff;
- Cover for the absence of a Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team unless the post holder undertakes timetabled teaching requiring supply cover during the period of absence or where supply cover is required for a teacher that is acting up into the leadership role;
- The cost of any rehabilitation scheme agreed by a school e.g. extended phased return to work, which falls outside the scope of the Authority's School Model Sickness Absence/Attendance policies;
- Any other exemptions with a member's existing insurance policy prior to joining the Schools Attendance Fund (subject to review after the first year);
- Uncertified and/or unauthorised absence;
- Absence claims as a result of school closure;
- Jury service (Please refer to the Authority's School's Model Time Off policy)
- Absence for planned cosmetic surgery (not recommended by a medical practitioner (Please refer to the Authority's School's Sickness Absence policy).
- Absence due to industrial action.
- All other absences not specified within the fund specification.

Appendix B

Schools Staff Absence Scheme

Level of Cover

April 2017 to March 2019

Level of cover:

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme offers 3 levels of cover in line with the majority of current insurance policies:

- **Gold Cover – Cover commences from the 1st day of absence**
- **Silver cover – Cover commences from the 3rd day of absence**
- **Bronze cover – Cover commences from the 5th day of absence**

Daily Rate Payable (except Maternity/Adoption & Surrogacy leave):

Teachers

£120 FT (pro rata part time*)

Learning Support Staff (Teaching Assistants/Higher Level Teaching Assistants)

£50 FT (pro rata part time*)

Other Support Staff (Where included in existing insurance premium)

£50 FT (pro rata part time*)

When the absent employee moves to half pay, half of the supply cover rate will be reimbursed by the Scheme. When the absent member of staff moves to a no-pay situation members can no longer claim from the Scheme.

**For part time employees, eligible absence under this scheme will be paid pro rata in accordance with the employees contracted working pattern.*

For example:

If a teacher who works Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday is absent on a Monday, £120 will be the payment.

If a teacher works mornings 5 days a week and is off for a day with eligible absence, £60 will be the payment.

Maternity/Adoption & Surrogacy Leave

Teachers

£3,000 lump sum FT (pro rata part time) for the maternity, no daily amount can be claimed

Learning Support Staff (Teaching Assistants/Higher Level Teaching Assistants)

£1,500 lump sum FT (pro rata part time) for the maternity, no daily amount can be claimed

Other Support Staff (Where included in existing insurance premium)

£1,500 lump sum FT (pro rata part time) for the maternity, no daily amount can be claimed

Appendix C

Schools Staff Absence Scheme

Support Services for Staff

April 2017 to March 2019

NHS Stress Control Training – Free 6 week course

- Learn to face your fears
- Learn ways to help you sleep
- Learn how to manage your mood
- Learn how to relax
- Learn how to control panic
- Learn how to reduce your stress

To register for a course call: 07816 064644/3, alternatively email: Stress.Control-Registrations@wales.nhs.uk

Support Agencies

- **NHS Direct:** Search for various emotional support services in your local area (0845 46 47)
- **Education Support Partnership:** Specific support for everyone working in education (08000 562 561)
- **CALL:** Community Advice and Listening line (0800 132 737)
- **MIND:** Mental health support charity (029 2039 5123)
- **Mental health crisis teams:** For information on assessments and how to access services and support:
 - Carmarthen: 01267 236017
 - Dinefwr: 01269 595473
 - Llanelli: 01554 772768
- **Live Life Fear Free:** Domestic abuse and sexual violence support 0808 8010 800 and/or refer to CCC Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Policy

Should you find that this information is not enough and you're concerned about a member of staff's symptoms of stress or low mood, then please advise the individual to contact his/her GP or refer to the stress management programme at the Occupational Health Centre.

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Carmarthenshire County Council's Guidance and Service Level Agreement on chargeable pre-application and post consent advice in relation to Developments of National Significance (Planning (Wales) Act 2015) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) (Planning Act 2008)

Executive Board recommendations:

1. That the Council's duties and general procedures when providing the advice service to developers of NSIP and DNS projects be agreed.
2. That the amendments to the existing guidance relating to NSIPs, and the inclusion of provisions to deal with DNS' be agreed.
3. That the details relating to charges, invoicing and payment procedures be agreed.
4. That the details relating to developer confidentiality be agreed.

Reasons:

- To seek approval for the Local Planning Authority to introduce charges for pre-application advice given to developers preparing DNS applications for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and to update existing guidance/fees relating to NSIPs. Charging will also apply to post-consent advice and discharging of responsibilities in relation to consent planning conditions, and monitoring.
- The Local Government Act 2003 gives Local Planning Authorities powers to recover the costs of pre-application advice in recognition of the time officers have to spend assessing and researching information in order to provide answers to prospective developers or agents. The use of a charging regime for pre-application advice is supported at a national level and is established practice with the majority of local planning authorities.

- The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 requires all local planning authorities (LPAs) in Wales to provide a statutory pre-application service. A set level of fees has been introduced for development categories to ensure consistency across Wales. Notwithstanding this LPAs retain flexibility and control on the type of pre-application service they provide and the fees associated with each development type, so long as they are in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 (S.93 refers).
- This service will be a discretionary pre-application advice service which will include extra services not detailed or required by the statutory pre-application advice service relating to DNS. It will include meetings, post consent advice on the discharge of conditions, and more detailed assessment of technical documents, such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, Cultural Heritage Assessments and Traffic Impact Assessments.
- The LPA is not the consenting body for NSIP or DNS applications; this is the relevant Secretary of State and Welsh Government respectively who issues a decision following an assessment and recommendation issued by the Planning Inspectorate (Pins). The fee for processing an NSIP and DNS application is given to Pins, although a significant amount of pre-submission work is undertaken by the Local Authority in the form of advice to developers. Furthermore, the Council has a duty to discharge 'Requirements' (NSIPs) and Planning Conditions (DNS) of consented developments whilst also enforcing and monitoring schemes at the post-consent stage. The charging service is necessary to recover some of the costs of providing advice in relation to these projects.
- To approve and implement charges which are both reasonable to the service user and contribute to the resourcing of Council services.
- To approve and implement the general procedures and duties of the advice service which are equitable to users of the service.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted: YES – Community Scrutiny Committee (5th December 2016)

The Community Scrutiny Committee resolved to note the Carmarthenshire County Council Guidance and Service Level Agreement on Chargeable Pre-application and Post-consent Advice in Relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) (Planning Act 2008) and Developments of National Significance (DNS) (Planning (Wales) Act 2015).

Executive Board decision required: YES (22nd December 2016)
Council Decision required: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:
Cllr. Mair Stephens (Human Resources, Efficiencies & Collaboration)

Directorate: Environment	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Llinos Quelch	Head of Planning	01267 228918 lquelch@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Richard Jones	Development Management Officer	01267 228892 rejones@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th JANUARY 2017

Carmarthenshire County Council's Guidance and Service Level Agreement on chargeable pre-application and post consent advice in relation to developments of National Significance (Planning (Wales) Act 2015) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) (Planning Act 2008)

The accompanying report sets out general guidance, schedule of fees and the level of service developers of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and Developments of National Significance (DNS) can expect to receive from the Council for non-statutory advice required in relation to their projects.

NSIPs and DNSs are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales such as proposals for power plants, large renewable energy projects, new airports and airport extensions, major road projects etc. NSIPs are defined in the Planning Act 2008, whilst a DNS definition is contained within the Planning (Wales) Act 2015. NSIP and DNS applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (Pins), for assessment and recommendation. Recommendations on NSIP applications are sent to the relevant Secretary of State for decision, whilst the Welsh Ministers determine DNS applications.

The Council has an existing chargeable pre-application advice service for NSIP projects which was approved in 2013. The attached document updates this guidance to include DNS projects and a revised set of procedures and scale of fees. The principle of charging for the advice the LPA gives to developers is considered legally acceptable under the terms The Local Government Act 2003, for Local Authorities to recover the costs for providing discretionary services. The service is also discretionary and is separate to the services the authority provides under the Developments Of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 and Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Services) (Wales) Regulations 2016.

The accompanying documents provide further details of the terms and conditions of the advice service as they relates to NSIP / DNS projects in addition to a schedule of fees.

Approval of this guidance and charging regime will introduce an efficient, structured and professional service that will reduce uncertainty and be highly cost effective for developers wishing to formally submit NSIPs and DNS. It will also enable the discharging of post consent matters to be done more efficiently, whilst ensuring that the costs on the Council's resources are reasonably met.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
----------------------------------	------------

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: **Llinos Quelch** **Head of Planning**

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

2. Legal

- Under the terms of the Local Government Act 2003, Local Authorities have the power to charge for discretionary services. The terms set out in the attached report are considered to comply with this legislation.
- The decision to approve the details of the pre-application charging service will also require Executive Board approval.

3. Finance

- There is a potential to increase income from the charges associated with the advice service. In addition to professional advice, charges will also be incurred upon developers, for Council's legal input, travel and administrative and management handling of advice requests.
- The Council's Legal Department will be requested to provide advice where relevant and necessary.
- Depending on the type of advice required by the developer, other Council Departments may be requested to input where relevant / necessary.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **Llinos Quelch** **Head of Planning**

1. Scrutiny Committee – Community Scrutiny Committee agreement was given without modifications on 5th December 2016.

2. Local Member(s) – No local members consulted.

3. Community / Town Council – No Community or Town Councils consulted.

4. Relevant Partners – N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – The Council's Legal Services Division have raised no objection to the guidance.

**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
The Local Government Act 2003	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/26/contents
The Planning Act 2008	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents
The Planning (Wales) Act 2015	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4/contents
The Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/56/contents/made

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
<p>CCC's Guidance and Service Level Agreement on chargeable pre-application and post consent advice in relation to developments of National Significance (Planning (Wales) Act 2015) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) (Planning Act 2008) – Executive Board (22nd December 2016)</p>	<p>Cymraeg http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=557&Ver=4</p> <p>English http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&MId=557&Ver=4</p>
<p>CCC's Guidance and Service Level Agreement on chargeable pre-application and post consent advice in relation to developments of National Significance (Planning (Wales) Act 2015) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) (Planning Act 2008) – Community Scrutiny Committee (5th December 2016)</p>	<p>Cymraeg http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=186&MId=653&Ver=4</p> <p>English http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=186&MId=653&Ver=4</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

Report of the Director of Environment

COUNTY COUNCIL

18th January 2017

Approval is sought for Carmarthenshire County Council's guidance and service level agreement on chargeable pre-application and post consent advice in relation to Developments of National Significance (Planning (Wales) Act 2015) and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) (Planning Act 2008).

Head of Service & Designation. Llinos Quelch, Head of Planning	Directorate Environment	Telephone No. 01267 228918
Author & Designation Richard Jones, Development Management Officer	Directorate Environment	Telephone No 01267 228892 (ext 2892)

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

To seek approval for the Local Planning Authority to introduce charges for pre-application advice given to developers preparing DNS applications for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and to update existing guidance/fees relating to NSIPs. Charging will also apply to post-consent advice and discharging of responsibilities in relation to consent planning conditions, and monitoring.

2. KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED

- To agree the Council's duties and general procedures when providing the advice service to developers of NSIP and DNS projects.
- To agree amendments to the existing guidance relating to NSIPs, and include provisions to deal with DNS.
- To agree details of charges, invoicing and payment procedures.
- Details relating to developer confidentiality.

3. REASON(S)

- The Local Government Act 2003 gives Local Planning Authorities powers to recover the costs of pre-application advice in recognition of the time officers have to spend assessing and researching information in order to provide answers to prospective developers or agents. The use of a charging regime for pre-application advice is supported at a national level and is established practice with the majority of local planning authorities.
- The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 requires all local planning authorities (LPAs) in Wales to provide a statutory pre-application service. A set level of fees has been introduced for development categories to ensure consistency across Wales. Notwithstanding this LPAs retain flexibility and control on the type of pre-application service they provide and the fees associated with each development type, so long as they are in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 (S.93 refers).
- This service will be a discretionary pre-application advice service which will include extra services not detailed or required by the statutory pre-application advice service relating to DNS. It will include meetings, post consent advice on the discharge of conditions, and more detailed assessment of technical documents, such as Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, Cultural Heritage Assessments and Traffic Impact Assessments.
- The LPA is not the consenting body for NSIP or DNS applications; this is the relevant Secretary of State and Welsh Government respectively who issues a decision following an assessment and recommendation issued by the Planning Inspectorate (Pins). The fee for processing an NSIP and DNS application is given to Pins, although a significant amount of pre-submission work is undertaken by the Local Authority in the form of advice to developers. Furthermore, the Council has a duty to discharge 'Requirements' (NSIPs) and Planning Conditions (DNS) of consented developments whilst also enforcing and monitoring schemes at the post-consent stage. The charging service is necessary to recover some of the costs of providing advice in relation to these projects.
- To approve and implement charges which are both reasonable to the service user and contribute to the resourcing of Council services.
- To approve and implement the general procedures and duties of the advice service which are equitable to users of the service.

4. BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION OF ISSUES

Appendix 2 sets out the general guidance, schedule of fees and the level of service developers of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and Developments of National Significance (DNS) can expect to receive from the Council for non-statutory advice required in relation to their projects.

NSIPs and DNSs are major infrastructure developments in England and Wales such as proposals for power plants, large renewable energy projects, new airports and airport extensions, major road projects etc. NSIPs are defined in the Planning Act 2008, whilst a

DNS definition is contained within the Planning (Wales) Act 2015. NSIP and DNS applications are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (Pins), for assessment and recommendation. Recommendations on NSIP applications are sent to the relevant Secretary of State for decision, whilst the Welsh Ministers determine DNS applications.

This process relating to each consenting regime is 'top loaded' and the emphasis is on the developer presenting a comprehensive case for assessment at the submission stage and this requires a significant amount of pre-application work through the undertaking of surveys, reports and a number of consultations rounds with the public. The Local Authority is integral to the pre-application stage of the process and as the lead consultee will have a number of statutory and non-statutory duties to carry out when advising the developer.

Officers of the Local Planning Authority (LPA) have spent a considerable amount of time advising on NSIP developments since 2012, namely the Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm and the Brechfa Forest connection Project. The LPA has started engaging with a developer in relation to the submission of a DNS for a wind farm therefore a formal service level agreement and charging regime needs to be established beforehand in relation to pre-application advice the Authority gives.

The Council has an existing chargeable pre-application advice service for NSIP projects which was approved in 2013. The attached document updates this guidance to include DNS projects and a revised set of procedures and scale of fees. The principle of charging for the advice the LPA gives to developers is considered legally acceptable under the terms of the Local Government Act 2003, for Local Authorities to recover the costs for providing discretionary services. Advice on DNS projects is also discretionary and is separate to the services the authority provides under the Developments of National Significance (Fees) (Wales) Regulations 2016 and Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Services) (Wales) Regulations 2016.

The accompanying documents provide further details of the terms and conditions of the advice service as they relate to NSIP / DNS projects in addition to a schedule of fees.

The guidance attached (Appendix 2) sets out the level of advice developers can expect and within what timescale. The advice given under the terms of the guidance will relate to information requested prior to the formal submission of NSIPs / DNS and also advice required from the Local Authority once a decision has been issued by the Secretary of State / Welsh Ministers. Clarification on the disclosure of public and commercially sensitive information is also provided along with a schedule of fees and the associated payment procedures.

Approval of this guidance and charging regime will introduce an efficient, structured and professional service that will reduce uncertainty and be highly cost effective for developers wishing to formally submit NSIPs and DNS. It will also enable the discharging of post consent matters to be done more efficiently, whilst ensuring that the costs on the Council's resources are reasonably met.

5. OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE, AND THEIR PROS AND CONS

An alternative option available to the developer of a DNS project is to obtain the Council's advice through the statutory pre-application services outlined in Developments of National Significance (Fees) (Wales) Regulations 2016 and Town and Country Planning (Pre-Application Services) (Wales) Regulations 2016.

This service and the associated fixed fee the Council would receive may not meet the expectations of the developer as the statutory pre-application advice service limits the local authority and developer to providing/receiving a standard level of information as outlined by the legislation. Under a discretionary advice service which the Council's proposes, there would be the opportunity for prospective developers to have more focused and detailed discussions through site meetings and the assessment of specific technical reports by officers.

A further advantage of the discretionary service is the opportunity for the Council to provide more thorough advice and guidance on the potential impacts of a development it could potentially host. Therefore it is important that the Council has in place an appropriate framework and service level agreement in which developers can request advice which falls outside that required by the statutory pre-application services.

6. IMPLICATIONS:

2. LEGAL

- Under the terms of the Local Government Act 2003, Local Authorities have the power to charge for discretionary services. The terms set out in the attached report are considered to comply with this legislation.
- The decision to approve the details of the pre-application charging service will also require Executive Board approval.

3. FINANCE

- There is a potential to recover costs associated with the advice service. In addition to professional advice, charges will also be incurred upon developers, for Council's legal input, travel and administrative and management handling of advice requests.
- The Council's Legal Department will be requested to provide advice where relevant and necessary.
- Depending on the type of advice required by the developer, other Council Departments may be requested to input where relevant / necessary.

7. FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

1. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE & DATE – Community Scrutiny Committee of 5th December 2016. Scrutiny committee agreed the report without any modifications.

2. LOCAL MEMBER (S) TO BE NAMED AND COMMENTS INCLUDED, IF ANY
N/A

3. COMMUNITY TOWN COUNCIL (S) - N/A

4. RELEVANT PARTNERS – N/A

5. STAFF SIDE REPRESENTATIVES

The Council's Legal Services division have raised no objection to the guidance

6. OTHER ORGANISATIONS - None

8. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Where available for public inspection
The Local Government Act 2003		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/26/contents
The Planning Act 2008		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents
The Planning (Wales) Act 2015		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4/contents
The Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016		http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/56/contents/made

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1: Scale of Fees in relation to: Carmarthenshire County Council Development Management Guidance and Service Level Agreement on Chargeable Pre-application and Post-consent Advice in Relation to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) (Planning Act 2008) and Developments of National Significance (DNS) (Planning (Wales) Act 2015) – applicable from **XXXXXXX TBC 2016**

Development Category	Action	CCC Officer	Charge (per hour) (inc. VAT)
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by Planning Act 2008 / Development of National Significance as defined by Planning (Wales) Act 2015	The provision of pre-application advice for new sites or further development at existing sites - including discussions with applicants/agents; research; site inspections; preparation of detailed reports.	Administration Assistant Searches Officer Conservation Officer Development Management Officer Senior Development Management Officer Development Management Manager Head of Planning Project Support Officer Conservation Project Officer Planning Ecologist Landscape Officer Aboriculture Officer Biodiversity Officer Common Land Officer Rural Conservation Manager	Charges are based on an hourly rate and are reviewed annually. For 2016 hourly rates please contact the Planning Services Division *N.B. Advice from other Council service areas and services required from outside of the Council to inform the advice given may incur a fee. Service users are advised to check with the Council's project case officer before making a request.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by Planning Act 2008 / Development of National Significance as defined by Planning (Wales) Act 2015	Pre-Submission advice in relation to the formal discharge of Planning Requirements which relate to a Development Consent Order (DCO) in respect of NSIP and the discharge of planning conditions in respect of DNS decisions issued by Welsh Ministers.	Administration Assistant Searches Officer Conservation Officer Development Management Officer Senior Development Management Officer Development Management Manager Head of Planning Project Support Officer	Charges are based on an hourly rate and are reviewed annually. For 2016 hourly rates please contact the Planning Services Division *N.B. Advice from other Council services areas and services required from outside of the Council to inform the advice given may incur a fee. Service users are advised to check with the Council's project case officer before making

		<p>Conservation Project Officer</p> <p>Planning Ecologist</p> <p>Landscape Officer</p> <p>Aborigiculture Officer</p> <p>Biodiversity Officer</p> <p>Common Land Officer</p> <p>Rural Conservation Manager</p>	request.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by Planning Act 2008 / / Development of National Significance as defined by Planning (Wales) Act 2015	Legal fees	CCC Legal Services Officers	To be agreed on a case by case basis

<p>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by Planning Act 2008 / Development of National Significance as defined by Planning (Wales) Act 2015</p>	<p>Travel Expenses</p>	<p>£0.45 per mile</p>
<p>Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) as defined by Planning Act 2008 / Development of National Significance as defined by Planning (Wales) Act 2015</p>	<p>Any pre-application work not covered by any of the above categories.</p>	<p>£25 per hour (officers); £33 per hour (Rural Conservation Manager); £65 per hour (Head of Planning)</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT ON CHARGEABLE PRE-APPLICATION AND POST CONSENT ADVICE IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) (PLANNING (WALES) ACT 2015) AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (NSIP) (PLANNING ACT 2008)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This guidance forms the basis of a service level agreement between the Council and developers wishing to submit applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and Developments of National Significance (DNS). The guidance sets out the arrangements for the Council to provide pre-application and advice to the Developer on all planning matters. The advice service will also apply to information and observations sought by the Developer in respect of the formal discharge of planning conditions and requirements associated with approval notices issues by the relevant Secretary of State and Welsh Ministers, in addition to consent monitoring. The service does not relate to advice which is statutorily required under the terms of the Planning Act 2008 or the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and is a discretionary charging service offered by the Council.

2.0 The Duties

Pre-application Advice

2.1 The Developer will liaise with the Council over requests for pre-application advice relating to schemes seeking a Development Consent Order for an NSIP under the terms of the Planning Act 2008 and formal decision from Welsh Ministers relating to DNS applications. The pre-application advice service will also apply to information and observations the Council provides prior to the formal discharge of planning conditions relating to any subsequent consent the Secretary of State and Welsh Ministers issue. The responsibility for determining the appropriate level of advice required will remain with the Developer.

2.2 The Developer will provide an initial brief for the Council on the level of pre-application advice required, through a meeting at the Council's offices, or alternatively by correspondence, video-conference or teleconference, supplemented by a briefing note, reports or any other information deemed necessary.

2.3 A target date(s) for a response to the Developer's brief shall be agreed in writing between the Council and Developer within 1 week following the date of submission of initial brief, confirming the service to be provided by the Council and an estimated fee for the work. Depending on the nature and level of work

Appendix 2

- required, the Council will coordinate an individual or multi-disciplinary team to provide the pre-application advice.
- 2.4 The Council shall be expected to maintain contact with a nominated member of the Developer's project team where further information/clarification is needed on any matter.
- 2.5 The Council shall be expected to submit a formal written response to the Developer to meet the agreed target date, unless a later date has been agreed with the Developer.
- 2.6 The Council's Officers shall be expected to:
- Visit the site and surrounding land at least once, and expect the Developer to provide the necessary permissions for Council officers to enter onto land relating to the proposed development site. A summary of the site visit will be provided in the Council's formal response highlighting any characteristics and/or issues of importance.
 - Appraise planning policy and how it relates to the proposed development and other material planning considerations.
 - Highlight concerns and negotiate amendments to the submitted scheme if necessary to make it acceptable in planning terms.
 - Carry out thorough research of planning issues relating to the proposed development and respond to questions and matters which require clarification by the developer.
 - Keep files notes of all telephone calls, site visits and meetings relevant to the processing of the pre-application advice request.
 - Where relevant the Council's response will be supplemented with photos, maps, drawings and other illustrative material it deems necessary.

3.0 GENERAL

- 3.1 The Council's Officers shall exercise reasonable professional expertise, care and diligence in the performance of the obligations under this Agreement.
- 3.2 The Council shall not assign or transfer any obligation under this Agreement without the prior written agreement of the Developer.
- 3.3 The Council's pre-application advice will be given in good faith and will be based on information that is supplied by the Developer or held by the Council. Although every effort will be made to ensure the accuracy of response, it should be understood that neither the Council nor any of its Officers should be held legally responsible for any advice given. Furthermore, it should not be construed that this advice will be considered binding in the event of a subsequent planning application.

4.0 CHARGES, INVOICING AND PAYMENT

- 4.1 The scale of fees payable to the Council for undertaking the work is set out in Appendix 1 to this Agreement, and shall be subject to annual review to take account of inflation and NJC salary increases for local government staff. The Council will give the Developer written notice of the revised scale of fees to be introduced.

Appendix 2

- 4.2 Invoicing should be undertaken quarterly, and cover the work undertaken.
- 4.3 Normal payment terms are 30 days from invoice, and payment will normally be expected to be made by BACS.
- 4.4 A 5% administration and management fee will be added to the cost of the Council's pre-application advice service.
- 4.5 Where necessary the LPA will involve the Council's Legal Department before responding to the Developer's pre-application advice request and legal fees will be charged accordingly. Details of the Council's legal fees are included in Appendix 1.

5.0 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 5.1 Subject to Clause 5.2 and 5.3 below, each Party shall keep confidential all Commercially Sensitive Information disclosed to it. Each Party shall procure that its employees shall not make any disclosure to any person of any Commercially Sensitive Information. "Commercially Sensitive Information" means all information designated as such by either party in writing and all other information which relates to the proceedings, planning applications, business, affairs, products, trade secrets, developments, know-how, personnel, customers and suppliers of either party and information which may reasonably be regarded as the confidential information of the disclosing party
- 5.2 The Developer acknowledges the commitment of the Council to open government and public access to information. Accordingly, the Parties agree that: where the Council is managing a request for disclosure of recorded information and whether any exemption applies under the Freedom of Information Acts then it will consult with the Developer in relation to any request for disclosure of recorded information to which this Clause applies and in accordance with the guidance referred to in the Code of Practice on the Discharge of Public Authorities' Obligations issued under section 45 of the FOIA. The Developer shall co-operate with the Council making the request and respond within 5 Working Days to any request by it for assistance in determining how to respond to a request for disclosure; and
- 5.3 The Parties shall each nominate a representative for considering and agreeing matters relating to this Clause 5.1
- 5.4 Clause 5 shall not apply to:
 - 5.4.1 Any disclosure of information to each of the Parties' professional advisors;
 - 5.4.2 Any disclosure of information which is required to ensure the compliance with the FOIA as set out in Clause 5.2.
 - 5.4.3 Any disclosure required by any law or any information not subject to an obligation of confidentiality

6.0 AGREEMENT

It is hereby agreed and declared that:

- 6.1 This Agreement shall commence on **XXXXXXX** and shall be for a minimum period of one year, unless terminated by either party giving not less than 1 month notice in writing.
- 6.2 In the event of any breach of this Agreement by the Council the Developer will be entitled to terminate the Agreement forthwith.
- 6.3 If any dispute or difference arises between the parties in connection with this Agreement it shall be referred to an independent Chartered Town Planner ('the planner') appointed jointly by the parties, or in the absence of agreement to a Chartered Town Planner appointed by the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
- 6.4 The appointed person under paragraph 6.3 above shall be entitled to seek and rely upon such other professional advice and assistance as he/she shall in his/her absolute discretion deem desirable, and the decision of the appointed person shall in the absence of manifest error be final and binding on the parties.
- 6.5 The fees payable to the person appointed under paragraph 6.3 above shall be borne and paid by the Developer and the Council in such shares and manner as the appointed person determines, and failing his/her determination in equal shares.

Signatures

On behalf of the Developer:

On behalf of the Council: Carmarthenshire County Council

Llinos Quelch:

EXECUTIVE BOARD THURSDAY, 22ND DECEMBER, 2016

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole [Chair]

Councillors:

H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, D.M. Jenkins, G.O. Jones, T.J. Jones, P.A. Palmer, L.M. Stephens and J. Tremlett

Present as Observers:

Councillors D.J.R. Bartlett, C.A. Campbell, D.M. Cundy, T. Devichand, J.S. Edmunds, W.G. Hopkins, I.J. Jackson, G. Thomas and J.E. Williams.

The following officers were in attendance:

Mr M. James	-	Chief Executive
Mr C. Moore	-	Director of Corporate Services
Mr J. Morgan	-	Director of Community Services
Ms R. Mullen	-	Director of Environment
Mr G. Morgans	-	Acting Director of Education & Children
Mr P. Thomas	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Ms W. Walters	-	Assistant Chief Executive
Ms L. Rees Jones	-	Head of Administration & Law
Mr J. Fearn	-	Head of Property
Mr S. Davies	-	School Modernisation Manager
Mrs D. Williams	-	Assistant Media & Marketing Manager
Miss S. Griffiths	-	Graduate Trainee Project Officer (MEP)
Mrs M. Evans Thomas	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Gravell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

Councillor	Minute Number	Nature of Interest
H.A.L. Evans	10 – Prevention, Early Intervention and Promoting Independent Living	Her mother receives care services.

3. MINUTES - 21ST NOVEMBER, 2016

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 21st November, 2016 be signed as a correct record.

4. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BY MEMBERS

The Chair advised that no questions on notice had been submitted by members. However, he had received notification from Councillors D.M. Cundy and J.S. Edmunds that they would like to ask questions in relation to agenda item 6 and these would be addressed under the appropriate item later in the meeting

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5.1. QUESTION BY MR ROBERT WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“In our first meeting with you last year, you stated that 30% Welsh lessons were too much for the English Children. As an educationalist how have you come to the conclusion that fully immersing children in their weaker language will be more beneficial to the child than learning welsh second language?”

Response by Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The final decision will be based on educational merits and the best interests of learners.”

Mr Willock asked the following supplementary question:-

“I would like to point out to you that the Unesco Save the Children report Language and Education - The Missing Link 2016 states the exact opposite of the full immersion process. The home language, which in Llangennech 70% of the homes are English speaking, is known as the mother tongue. And if the most important language is usurped by a second language it is detrimental to the child’s long term education. We are here today to give our children the best education. If you have not read this report could you please suspend this Board until you have opened your minds and can have a balanced view.”

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

“Yes, it has been brought to my attention during the last few weeks. International evidence cited by the Welsh Government confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the most common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.”

5.2. QUESTION BY MS NIKKI LLOYD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

The Chair advised that Ms Lloyd was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that he ask the question on her behalf.

“A pilot was carried out by the School to look into Welsh immersion in the reception classes. We have requested the results from this pilot from the School and the County Council under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, we are still waiting for these results. At the time of the pilot only parents who attended the meeting at the School were made aware about it and no follow up letters were issued. The evidence found from this pilot should have been collated and presented with the proposal. The only time we were told about the pilot was when we were provided with the information through an FOI and it has never been made public. The evidence and results have not been presented with the proposal and it is unknown whether there is an actual demand for Change. According to the School Organisation Code the demand for additional provision of any type in an area should be assessed and evidenced. When looking at the current position within the Llangennech Schools there are currently 121 children from outside of catchment coming into Llangennech School and at the same time 111 Children leave the village to seek education (20 of these pupils have left in recent months as a result of this proposal and uncertainty). These factors have clearly been overlooked. Why has there not been an adequate assessment for demand carried out?”

Response by Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children:-

“The consultation document and the consultation process have been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code. Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires Local Authorities to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan setting out how they will carry out their education functions with a view to improving the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh and improving the standards of Welsh medium education and the teaching of Welsh. Section 86 of the Act provides that the Welsh Ministers may require a Local Authority, in accordance with regulations, to carry out an assessment of the demand among parents in its area for Welsh medium education for their children. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013 set out how a Local Authority should go about conducting a Welsh medium education assessment, should this be required by the Welsh Ministers. To date, the Welsh Ministers have not required Carmarthenshire County Council to undertake a Welsh medium education assessment. As we have a high percentage of learners accessing Welsh medium education we are not required by law to measure the demand. Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has been formally approved by the Welsh Ministers. The progressive increase in the number of pupils attending the Welsh stream and the decrease in the number of pupils attending the English stream in the Llangennech schools over recent years clearly shows that there is an increasing demand for Welsh medium education within the area.

5.3. QUESTION BY MRS MICHAELA BEDDOWS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

The Chair advised that Mrs Beddows was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that he ask the question on her behalf.

“In a previous Scrutiny Committee meeting Mr Sully stated that his intention is to change all Dual Stream Schools to Welsh Medium and all English Medium to Dual Stream and so on... This will eventually eradicate all English medium schools in

Carmarthenshire. Can you confirm if this is also the Authorities long term Education plan?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children responded as follows:-

“Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. Carmarthenshire’s last two WESPs have been accepted by Welsh Government Ministers and Carmarthenshire County Council. WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual with access to at least two languages.

5.4. QUESTION BY MR STEVE HATTO TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“According to the latest Pisa report, Wales is still lagging behind the rest of the UK in Maths, Science and English. This could be a direct result of children not being educated in their native tongue. Children who are not quite so bright academically would not reach their full potential if they don’t fully understand the lesson being taught and parents not being able to support them at home. Does CCC feel that by pushing the Welsh language so aggressively is worth the sacrifice of the standard of our education?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. We do not accept that education through the medium of Welsh results in lower standards and outcomes. Pisa tests test a range of skills and aptitudes and is administered in the language the child is studying in. There are no Carmarthenshire County Council level results unfortunately or individual level results and therefore it is impossible to ascertain how Carmarthenshire pupils performed in these tests.”

Mr Hatto asked the following supplementary question:-

“Research has proven that children taught in Welsh who come from Welsh speaking homes are more likely to meet their potential. Children from English speaking homes are not meeting their full potential when they are taught all in Welsh. Professor Angelina Kioko in a study from Africa states that using the child’s home language is more beneficial to their education than using a second language. After working for 20 years in colleges in Swansea and Llanelli, every year we asked the students who came from Welsh comprehensive schools if they wanted to be taught

in Welsh, they were never ever taken up. Does the Council agree that the case as stated by Professor Kioko is true?"

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

"I am not familiar with that research myself but I will look it up by the next meeting and have a better answer for you then."

5.5. QUESTION BY MRS JULIA REES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

"As a parent of a child with additional learning requirements I obviously feel very strongly about what is going on here today. My son was placed by Carmarthenshire County Council into a short term assessment centre, one of only 3 within Carmarthenshire. He was placed there to assess his requirements before release to mainstream education like many other children each year. All 3 of these assessment centres educate via English medium and there is no Welsh medium equivalent in Carmarthenshire. As stated previously it has been communicated to us that the aim of the council is to discontinue all English medium education by 2022 and that Llangennech School is simply part of this long term plan. How can the council discontinue English medium Education within the County when there are numerous children placed by the County specialists each year into these English medium Assessment centres but no English medium schools to be released to after assessment?"

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

"Carmarthenshire County Council provides for learners with additional learning needs in both Welsh and English languages. The questioner correctly identifies that there are three Observation and Assessment Centres within the county. However, whilst two of these centres educate through the medium of English, the centre located at Ysgol Bro Banw educates bilingually. We also have a Welsh medium unit at Ysgol Nantgaredig. The Welsh in Education policy requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual. Expectation for progress applies to all schools, however, the pace at which schools will be able to extend bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances. While the WESP requires all primary schools to move along the language continuum, it is not Carmarthenshire County Council's aim to discontinue English medium education by 2022."

Mrs Rees asked the following supplementary question:-

"You said that there is bilingual education in Bro Banw but when I spoke to them they said that it is not immersion Welsh and it is simply sort of a sandwich so there is no immersion at the school. I also spoke to Nantgaredig School and they said that because it is part of their main primary it only gives access to children within the locality and not wider areas. So children like my son who was placed in a Welsh medium school but was taken out by the Council to be placed in an assessment centre which was only English, he has got no chance. What are you going to do about that sort of situation in the future?"

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

“We have spoken previously about this. The answer will be provided within the letter we discussed at that previous meeting. The centre at Nantgaredig caters for a large area. It is not limited to which areas the children travel from.”

5.6. QUESTION BY MR DEAN BOLGIANI TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“Recent information obtained under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 advised us that Bryn and Bynea Schools have already refused admission requests at the schools despite in previous meetings we were told the Schools were not oversubscribed. The next nearest English Medium School is Hendy which does not have a safe route to school. You have informed us throughout this consultation that it is not the Authorities intention for any child to leave Llangennech School but it is obvious that you have already driven some away and the welcome mat has been pulled up by the chair of Governors openly stated that English Speaking children are detrimental to the Welsh speaking children’s Education. If English Medium is removed from Llangennech the freedom of choice for parents is also being removed. Could you please answer this question this time as to where you are going to cater for pupils who seek English Medium Education as it will no longer be available at Llangennech for those who seek it?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“The County Council is not proposing alternatives to Llangennech School for local children. We maintain that all the needs of the learners can be met at Llangennech School. It is the Local Authority’s desire that all current pupils remain at the school and that in the future local children attend their village school, receiving education principally through the medium of Welsh with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium of instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school. It is Carmarthenshire County Council’s aim that all children become fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school with access to further opportunities and choices when they leave the school. The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council’s published Admissions Policy which favours children attending their local or designated school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published Admissions Policy. As the Admissions Authority for all schools within Carmarthenshire, the Council is impartial and legally cannot advise parents on the choice of schools for their children. The Admissions for Parents booklet provides parents with all the information required to help choose the school of their choice e.g. language choice, faith schools etc. I-Local is also available to help identify the schools from the applicant’s home address and postcode. The number of places available in schools is very fluid and can change daily. There are a number of schools where demand for places exceeds the number of places available.”

Mr Bolgiani asked the following supplementary question:-

“During this long on-going process Mr Sully has spoken about catchment areas. Even during the last scrutiny meeting Sully raised concerns that I had delivered an objection questionnaire at the Bryn which he stated was out of area. Following a Freedom of Information it appears 456 of the pro submission questionnaires had no street names or any post codes and only 32 were actually from Llangennech. If so, could you please confirm that the pro change submission forms have been withdrawn as they are out of catchment area being LL16 Denbighshire, LL58 Anglesey, CF35 Bridgend, CG71 Pontypool, CF36 Porthcawl, SA32 and SA31 Carmarthen, SA17 Kidwelly/Ferryside, SA4 Swansea and SA18 Ammanford/Glanamman.”

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

“All the letters received have to be considered because it is a personal viewpoint from these people.”

5.7. QUESTION BY MRS KAREN HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“The KeepDualStreamCommittee are members of the Llangennech community who have voluntarily given up their time and money to ensure that the majority within Llangennech have a voice. To date, any questions have been met with responses such as ‘We must do it because it’s the WESP’ or ‘Carmarthenshire Council know what’s best for your child’s education’ or that ‘there is no demand for Dual Stream’. These are simply speculative, misleading non-factual statements and prove that real issues are not being addressed. Concerns regarding children with disabilities learning abilities, to the emergence of social divisions, increased traffic through Llangennech as children are unnecessarily being shipped in and out to pursue educational language choices, detrimental effects on the environment and promotion of healthy lifestyle are all failing to be even acknowledged. Plus we must not forget the negative impact on the Welsh language itself which most parents had embraced as Llangennech has always been supportive of its culture, heritage and language. We are astounded that none of these factors have been built into the Community Assessment despite there being a legal necessity to provide ‘due regard’. It appears it is just a tick box exercise and nobody appears to be taking it seriously or providing workable solutions but instead is using the WESP as a defence mechanism. It is ironic that the purpose of the Community Assessment is to inform the WESP and highlight risks in order to ensure that what is implemented is fit for purpose. Out of all the issues raised by the Community, none have been recorded in your risk assessments. This begs the question what is the purpose of doing this consultation when the majority opinion and concerns are being overlooked. Can you explain the logic for ignoring an informed and democratic decision making process and how can you see this as a positive?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“The consultation document has been prepared and the consultation process and the statutory objection period have been conducted in compliance with the statutory

School Organisation Code. We have to follow that process. Carmarthenshire County Council has agreed to determine proposals in relation to school reorganisation. Prior to the beginning of the consultation period on 25th January, 2016 the consultation document was considered by the Education Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board and permission to consult was granted. Following the end of the consultation period on 18th March, 2016 a consultation report was prepared containing all the submissions received including all supportive comments and objections in response to the consultation period. This report also contains Estyn's and the School's response to the proposal. The consultation report was presented to the Education Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Board and the contents of the report were considered. In July 2016 the Executive Board granted permission to publish the proposal via Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice was published on 5th September, 2016. Following this an objection report has been prepared containing all objections and supportive comments received in response to the Statutory Notice and the Local Authority's responses to these submissions. The report was presented to the Education Scrutiny Committee on 21st November, 2016 and will ultimately be presented to the County Council for their determination. At each stage of the process, each report has been carefully considered by members before a decision to proceed has been made. Throughout the process, the department has accommodated requests and has shared correspondence with interested parties, demonstrating openness and transparency."

Mrs Hughes asked the following supplementary question:-

"I think we can agree that the objective of the consultation and the Community Impact Assessment is to ensure that the consultees can shape and influence the proposal. The expectation being that those impacted the most have the biggest voice. From a Freedom of Information request supplied by yourselves it is clear that from within Llangennech village a whopping 700+ object to these proposals whilst there are only 32 in support. This is a hugely unsupported and problematic proposal and for this consultation to be effective it needs to take account of these views. Please can you evidence how you have revised your proposals according to the responses to ensure that the 95% of objectors from the village aren't ignored. Failure to do so shows closed minds and by de facto a failed consultation process."

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

"As I mentioned previously we have to consider all the consultations sent in, which I know you are not happy with that situation but there is nothing I can do about that unfortunately, it is part of the process. Certainly this will be added to the evidence that has been produced and it is important that you have had a chance to air your views again this morning."

5.8. QUESTION BY MR NIGEL HUGHES TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

"The elimination of dual stream in Llangennech will have a massive effect on discouraging non Welsh speaking professional people moving into the area. If they have young children who have had their education in English in their early years, then they are unlikely to move into the area. This will have an adverse effect on house prices and investments from outside the county. Carmarthenshire County

Council's long term strategy appears to be seeking to create a county of isolation and seclusion. Please explain how you are planning to attract new businesses and talent to the County when you will only teach children in one of the two recognised languages of Wales and not provide families with any choices? This appears to be another oversight by the local councillors that wrote the WESP which does not appear to have considered the longer term impacts."

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

"There are already many Welsh medium schools within Carmarthenshire successfully educating pupils from English/other backgrounds, with pupils succeeding. The evidence for the Llangennech schools confirm that children in the Welsh language stream from non-Welsh speaking homes achieve consistently good outcomes in all subjects, including the English language. The education at Llangennech School will be bilingual with English being taught as a subject in Key Stage 2 and used as a medium of instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the schools along with the Welsh language. It is Carmarthenshire County Council's aim that pupils will be fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages when they leave for secondary school. Carmarthenshire County Council regard the Welsh language as an advantage and a key skill for employment in Carmarthenshire and Wales as bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment."

Mr Hughes asked the following supplementary question:-

"As I said, Wales has two recognised languages, Welsh and English. I think that you are underestimating the importance of having a good education in English. In this modern economic world English is a recognised business language of over 2 billion speakers and is vital to the economic and educational future of the children of Wales. How do you see its removal as a benefit when other countries are seeking to use it more and more?"

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

"We are not seeking to remove English as a subject at Ysgol Llangennech or within the county. It is very, very important as a key employment skill, you also need your English. With being bilingual it will add to the advantage that these children have already."

5.9. QUESTION BY MR PHILLIP WILLOCK TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

"We are about to discover whether you, like the open minded Mr Campbell believe in Welsh education by compulsion. You have asked for the public's opinion via the statutory consultation and we are now very interested as to whether you are going to listen to it. Given that the majority of Llangennech's responses are objections to

the change are you going to assume an authoritarian approach on this consultation?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“I cannot speak for other members’ views regarding the proposal, however, whilst considering all of the submissions received, the decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal must, by virtue of the law, be made on the grounds of the best interests of learners. It is, therefore, the educational merits that must be the determining factor in decision making, rather than the number of responses received in favour or against the proposal.”

Mr Willock asked the following supplementary question:-

“Early years children are disadvantaged if they are not taught in the main language of the household. Research by Dr. Angelina Kioko, along with Helen Pinnock’s Unesco report and the Pisa test results show this. In the Pisa results, Finnish children start school age 7 and are taught in the language of the household. Finland, who finished fifth in the Pisa results, were only a handful of marks behind the first place Singapore. Finland, like Wales, has an indigenous language of Suomi. By embracing the household language for the need of the children and not making political, ulterior motives with education, Finland are forging ahead of Wales. Have the Executive Board considered any other reports rather than Professor Donaldson and if so, who were the authors and did they pick the reports that suited their motives?”

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

“We are bound by Welsh Government legislation as well as other reports. I know that officers make sure that they are up to date with all the current issues concerning bilingualism.”

5.10. QUESTION BY MRS SALLYANN THOMAS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

The Chair advised that Ms Thomas was unable to attend today’s meeting and had requested that he ask the question on her behalf.

“A recent wide ranging consultation was conducted by the Welsh Government to find out the views from myriad sources for its long term vision for the Welsh language. The aim of WAG is to create a million bilingual speakers of Welsh and English by 2050 however, the results from this consultation are still being reviewed. Undoubtedly the findings will have a major impact on how we deliver our education system in Primary Schools. What reasons do you have for not waiting for the recommendations of this independent panel Wales consultation due early in 2017 before any change is decided to any of our schools in Carmarthenshire?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“Prior to the publication of the “Consultation on a Welsh Government Draft Strategy: A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050”, the Welsh Government already had and continue to have legislation and requirements of Local Authorities in respect to Welsh medium education. In 2010 the Welsh Government published its national policy “Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2010” for developing Welsh medium education across the nation. The national strategy sets out the Welsh Government’s views on the importance of Welsh medium education to outcomes for learners and to the ambition to develop bilingual citizens. The Welsh Government also published the “Welsh Language Strategy 2012-2017 – A Living Language: A Language for Living”. This national policy considers the conditions that are needed to promote a greater use of the Welsh language by children and young people in all aspects of their lives and proposes a set of high level actions to secure their goal. Carmarthenshire County Council as well as other Local Authorities in Wales must continue to adhere to these legislations and requirements regardless of the consultation to create a million Welsh speakers. Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 requires Local Authorities to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan setting out how they will carry out their education functions with a view to improving the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh and improving the standards of Welsh medium education and the teaching of Welsh. This places duties on Carmarthenshire County Council to enhance and expand Welsh medium education. We also have a responsibility to respond to Carmarthenshire County Council’s report that was developed following the 2011 Census which showed that the percentage of the number of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire had decreased and for the first time in history, fell under half. In addition, the process for any proposal must be conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code. The School Organisation Code states that “under section 53 of the 2013 Act, determination by the proposer must be made within 16 weeks (112 days) of the end of the objection period. Where the proposer fails to determine the proposal within the period of 16 weeks it is taken to have withdrawn the proposal and it is required to republish the proposals if it wishes to proceed.”

5.11. QUESTION BY MS VICKI FREEMAN TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“Many Doctors and nurses in the NHS are from a different ethnic background. A lot of nurses are Filipino and Indian, and a vast majority of Doctors are from the middle and Far East. English is already their second language. Carmarthenshire has many vacancies in both professions. There has been discussion as to why so few people apply for these jobs. Many answered that as their children already speak two languages, they feel it would be too difficult to move to this area when the Welsh language is being forced onto non Welsh speaking immigrants. This was especially a concern when children were already 8 or 9 years of age and never been exposed to the Welsh language. Is CCC aware that by heading on the path to eradicating English medium education, it is going to affect the whole infrastructure of the county and prevent professional immigration into our local NHS and other businesses?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“The Education Department provides support to all of its pupils throughout the county including to latecomers who may come from different backgrounds/ non-

Welsh homes. All schools within the county are dedicated and committed to educating and supporting all pupils to the best of their ability and we have many success stories of learners from different backgrounds becoming very proficient Welsh speakers. I am also sure that any person, regardless of backgrounds, wishing to move to Carmarthenshire, or indeed any part of Wales, will consider all of the factors questionable, including the two national languages of the country before making their decision. When making their decision, each person will have considered the standard and the language of instruction of the education that their children may receive at their local school. It must also be remembered that Carmarthenshire County Council as well as other Local Authorities in Wales, must follow legislation and requirements provided by the Welsh Government. Policies published by Welsh Government will have been scrutinised before being approved.”

Ms Freeman asked the following supplementary question:-

“How do you intend to cater for children with disabilities? I have a child with disabilities who is struggling with English alone. If she is forced to now change into Welsh, she is not going to manage her education. It hasn’t been captured in your disability assessment.”

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

“We have a policy that we try to cater for all possible additional learning needs within the county. I wasn’t sure if you were referring to the NHS or the Education Authority there but we will have as much support as possible for you and your family.”

5.12. QUESTION BY MS ORLA WILLIAMS TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

The Chair advised that Ms Williams was unable to attend today’s meeting and chose to ask her question on her behalf.

“CCC is segregating and marginalising the current and future bilingually and English stream learners in Llangennech school by not providing a suitable pathway for those learners. In Welsh government legislation, English and Welsh have equal status. But not if you live in East Carmarthenshire. The move to Welsh only in Llangennech, where there is a high percentage of out of catchment middle class parents on their way to J48 of the M4, and insisting on Welsh only is a flawed plan by the County Council. What provision is being put in place to raise performance in Hendy Primary, Strade Comprehensive to justify this exclusionary practice and to provide an equivalent high standard of education in Llangennech for parents who wish and require their children to be educated bilingually as Bryn School does not have the same bilingual ethos, performance, outcomes or leadership to allow children to that Llangennech currently offers and why parents choose the bilingual stream. Maintaining the bilingual stream in Llangennech will help reach the government target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. By excluding families from bilingual education will not encourage or embrace those families willing to take the first steps into fluency. This proposed policy will exclude; discourage some families from speaking Welsh and create division and an unequal, divisive education provision in East Llanelli. Surely it is better to welcome people in as proven by studies in Catalan, Finland and Lithuania where truly bilingual education is proven by success in performance, PISA and international performance. Would looking for inclusive

solutions not better serve the current intake and future generations of our community and provide a better legacy for this Council?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“As stated previously, it is Carmarthenshire County Council’s aim to create bilingual individuals with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. As a result of this proposal, pupils will leave Llangennech School with two first languages and proficiency in both Welsh and English. This proposal seeks to provide this opportunity to all of the pupils at the Llangennech schools. Carmarthenshire County Council have a policy of parental choice in regard to school admissions but priority is given to catchment area pupils. The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council’s published admissions policy, which favours children attending their local or “designated” school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published Admissions Policy.”

5.13. QUESTION BY MR DARREN SEAWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“Councillor Gwyn Hopkins has stated many times that those opposing the changes are a vociferous minority and has peddled this fairy-tale in the press. Given that there are over 750 objections, probably the largest appeal in the history of Llangennech, it is unfortunate that after being a County Councillor for over 20 years that Mr Hopkins does not understand the needs and wishes of his electorate better. It also begs the question, what other poor judgements have been made during this consultation. We believe it would be fairer to all, including the new candidate that this decision be postponed until after May 2017 elections when a new candidate is appointed and confidence can possibly be restored and that the village has a representative voice. Do you agree this should be delayed?”

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

“It is not my place to comment about Councillor Hopkins’ views, however, I’m aware that he is the local member for Llangennech and he will have local information regarding the area. The process for any proposal must be conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code and that is the process.”

5.14. QUESTION BY MRS JACQUELINE SEWARD TO COUNCILLOR GARETH JONES, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN:-

“It really saddens us to see how much our once close knit community has been divided by this proposal. We seem to have overlooked what is important here which is infact we have an extremely successful dual stream school that caters for all. Llangennech School has an excellent reputation and is sought after by many who

are even willing to travel from outside of area to be educated at Llangennech. Many of the children in the Welsh Stream would not have tried it if the school was a Welsh only School and this is what we must recognise. The Welsh Government wants one million speakers by 2050. The Welsh language should be desired not forced and by taking parents choices away we will only end up diluting the welsh language not increasing it. Llangennech is already contributing to increasing the number of Welsh speakers and will continue to do so as a dual stream. Other Schools need to follow our example. Let's look at the impact this proposal has had on Llangennech community who have embraced the Welsh language for years. It does make us wonder how would other Schools especially all English Medium School would react if faced with the same proposal as per the wishes of Mr Sully to make every school in Carmarthenshire Welsh medium. This will create resent and end up damaging the Welsh Language which is certainly not what we want. We want our children to continue learning Welsh as they are able to do now in the dual steam but at their own pace and parents choice. From our last exercise we have hard proof of 750 people against the proposal. There were 698 support comments submitted but following an FOI request we have been made aware that a large majority who commented were not even from the village or even county. We have asked again under an FOI for a further breakdown of streets so a true analysis can be made. But unfortunately as usual this is not readily available. For a number of years before this proposal, figures and people have been manipulated to present a false picture of the demand in the village. The people of Llangennech have spoken and it's about time they were finally listened to. Can you honestly make such an important decision about our children's future and education when so many questions are still unanswered?"

Councillor Gareth Jones, Executive Board Member for Education & Children, responded as follows:-

"We have confidence that Llangennech schools' reputation and standards will not change as a result of this proposal. The proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the schools to secure continually improving outcomes. As stated previously, children at Key Stage 2 will receive a bilingual education, with English being taught as a core subject and used as a medium for instruction in some other lessons in the later years of the school. It must also be remembered that current pupils at the school will not be affected by this proposal. We are aware that objections and supportive comments were received from outside the area of Llangennech, however, each person has a right to voice their personal opinion. The decision on whether or not to proceed with the proposal must, by virtue of the law, be made on the grounds of the best interests of learners. It is, therefore, the educational merits that must be the determining factor in decision making, rather than the number of responses received in favour or against the proposal."

Mrs Seward asked the following supplementary question:-

"None of the questions have really been answered here today and as usual the same pre-printed answers are passed on to each Chair or Councillor on the day to read. They don't address the questions at all. Llangennech has just over 1600 houses. We had 757 objections and that proves that 4.5% only supported the change and 95% were against the change. Even though everyone is entitled to an opinion, we were told at the beginning that we were a minority and that the village didn't want it but obviously now we have proved that we are not a minority. 95% of the village do not want this change. Surely it should be the parents' choice what

they want their children to be educated in and not the Council's beliefs to make that decision. We know you may have made up your mind already before coming here today but we do urge you to look at the facts and now listen to the people. Are you going to now listen to the 95% of the village and respect their wishes?"

Councillor Jones responded as follows:-

"Certainly, we are listening to you this morning. It is all part of the process and I am listening very, very carefully to what you are saying."

The Chair thanked the questioners for their attendance at the meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

At 11.00 a.m. the meeting was adjourned for a short break.

7. RECONVENED MEETING

The meeting reconvened at 11.15 a.m.

8. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Board considered a detailed report on the proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish Llangennech Community Primary School.

Following the retirement of the headteacher of Llangennech Infant School at the end of the summer term 2013 a soft federation was established with the headteacher of Llangennech Junior School. On 24th September, 2014 the Governing Bodies of both school resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April, 2015.

The Local Authority currently offered full time learning provision for 4-11 year old through the medium of Welsh and English at the federated Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. As part of the new 3-11 primary school which would include nursery provision, it was proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant School (Dual Stream (DS)) and Llangennech Junior School (Dual Stream (DS)) to a new Welsh Medium (WM) language category school which would increase the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and would ensure that bilingualism was increased in the Llangennech area. It would ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil would become fluent and confident in Welsh and English, as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014-17.

As a result of a small extension to the consultation period, the pre-election period and the high number of responses received during the consultation period, the dates for the proposal had changed. This was in order to ensure that sufficient time was allowed for people to express their views and that the school holiday period did not impede on the process. It was therefore proposed:-

- (i) to discontinue Llangennech Infant School on 31st August, 2017;
- (ii) to discontinue Llangennech Junior School on 31st August, 2017;
- (iii) as from 1st September, 2017, to establish a new 3-11 Welsh Medium (WM) language category Community Primary School with nursery provision (hereinafter called the “New School”) on the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Junior Schools. The current capacity of both schools would remain unchanged but would be reviewed and adjusted accordingly should the demand arise in the future.

In accordance with the Executive Board’s instructions at the meeting held on 4th January, 2016 (minute no. 15 refers) a formal consultation exercise was undertaken between 25th January and 18th March, 2016, the results of which were appended to the report.

At the meeting held on 26th July, 2016 (minute no. 9 refers) the Executive Board approved the publication of a Statutory Notice to implement the proposal. The Statutory Notice was published on 5th September, 2016 and provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period was due to end on the 2nd October, 2016, however, following a request from an interested party, the Director of Education & Children’s Services agreed to extend the statutory objection period by one week, until 9th October, 2016.

A total of 1,418 submissions were received to the Statutory Notice and an Objection Report which summarised the objections and the supportive comments received together with the Local Authority’s responses to these submissions was appended to the report.

Should the County Council agree to implement the proposal, Llangennech Infant and Llangennech Junior Schools would be discontinued on the 31st August, 2017 and a new 3-11 Welsh Medium Community Primary School would be established on 1st September, 2017.

Officers were satisfied that there were no other related proposals, the statutory proposal had been consulted upon and published in accordance with the School Organisation Code and contained all the relevant information and, having considered the consultation document and consultation report, the objections and any responses to the notice supporting the proposal in the objection report, recommended that the Executive Board recommend to Council the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

In accordance with CPR 11.1 Councillor D.M. Cundy referred to the recommendations of the Welsh Language Census Working Group which were passed by County Council in April 2014. He pointed out that the public consultation was not undertaken and the responses not brought back to Council for ratification. He therefore queried whether the proposal should be held until due process had been followed. The Executive Board Member for Education & Children clarified that the recommendations of the Working Group were included in the WESP 2014-17 which was one of the drivers behind the proposal. The Chief Executive further clarified that the process was not flawed as the proposal was not dependent upon the Working Group’s recommendation in relation to consultation.

In accordance with CPR 11.1 Councillor J.S. Edmunds asked why, in view of the fact that Llangennech School is one of the best schools in the county and a successful model of community cohesion, the Council is looking to divide the community and destroy the cohesion that Llangennech has enjoyed. The Executive Board Member for Education & Children clarified that the Authority is not trying to divide the community but is following Welsh Government policies and other national drivers such as the aspiration to increase the number of Welsh speakers. Councillor Edmunds asked whether the Board was concerned over the message this decision was sending to the rest of Wales. The Executive Board Member for Education & Children stated that the Council was sending out a very positive message as the consultation process and community involvement undertaken has set an excellent example for the rest of Wales.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

8.1 that the submission received to the Statutory Notice and the Authority's responses thereto, as detailed in the Objection Report, be noted;

8.2 that, 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, the objections and any responses to the notice supporting the proposal in the objection report, the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice be implemented.

9. PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY

The Executive Board was advised that Public Service Boards have replaced the former Local Service Boards and are specifically required to:-

- (a) Undertake a wellbeing assessment for the area;
- (b) Set local wellbeing objectives as part of a wellbeing plan;
- (c) Take all reasonable steps to meet those objectives.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires a designated overview and scrutiny committee of a Local Authority to have a key role in assuring democratic accountability of the Public Service Board via its prescribed role as outlined in the Act. The designated scrutiny committee would be specifically expected to:-

- Formally receive the Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan from the Public Service Board;
- Act as a statutory consultee for the Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan;
- Review the Wellbeing Plan if directed to by the Welsh Minister (who has the power of referral but not approval).

Chapter 6 of the Welsh Government Shared Purpose: Shared Future: Statutory Guidance 3 states that:-

“174. In order to assure democratic accountability there is a requirement for a designated local government scrutiny committee of the relevant local authority to scrutinise the work of the Public Service Board. It will be for each local authority to determine its own scrutiny arrangements for the Public Service Board of which it is a member. For example, existing legislative powers can be used to put in place joint arrangements, such as ‘co-opting’ persons who are not members of the authority to sit on the committee, and where appropriate to appoint joint committees across more than one local authority area.

175. While it will continue to be entirely legitimate for a subject scrutiny committee (such as a children and young people’s scrutiny committee) to scrutinise the public services board’s work in relation to a specific issue, it is important that one committee takes an overview of the overall effectiveness of the board. This is the reason one committee must be designated to undertake this work.”

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee be designated as the Authority’s Scrutiny Committee for the purposes of scrutinising the work of the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board and that this function be reflected in Article 6 of the Council’s Constitution.

10. PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION AND PROMOTING INDEPENDENT LIVING

[NOTE: Councillor H.A.L. Evans, having earlier declared an interest in this item, left the meeting prior to the consideration and determination thereof.]

The Board was advised that the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act placed a statutory responsibility on Local Authorities to promote preventative services for the local population. Consultation conducted by Integrated Services with older people showed that maintaining independence and staying connected with their community was a key priority.

The strategy outlined ways in which preventative services would be embedded across the whole provision to promote independence and ensure that early intervention strategies were used to keep people as well and self-sufficient as possible. The strategy was an essential component in delivering cost savings, but these would be achieved within the context of promoting independence and providing the right support at an early stage so that crisis is avoided.

It was noted that, whilst cost savings would be delivered through initiatives such as right sizing packages of care and improved information, advice and assistance provision, extra funding had been secured through the Intermediate Care Fund to ensure that services outlined in this strategy were robust and able to deliver not only efficiencies in the long term but improve community services as a whole and promote the ethos of independence and personal responsibility for wellbeing.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy for Carmarthenshire’s Integrated Services be approved.

11. SCHOOL STAFF ABSENCE SCHEME

The Board was advised that most schools currently sourced their own insurance policies through a range of providers to cover the replacement costs of teaching, learning support and other staff absent from school. The cover provided by these insurance policies vary greatly, as do the costs and the benefits. 105 schools were currently covered by insurance policies with premiums costing in excess of £1m for primary and secondary schools. Income received from claims in recent years was approximately £850k.

In order to ensure value for money, officers had undertaken a review of the external insurance provision, in consultation with schools within the county and research indicated that a Schools Staff Absence Scheme provides financial and operational benefits to schools and the Local Authority where similar schemes have been introduced.

The scheme has been designed to operate on the principles of partnership and the purpose of raising funds from its membership which can then be used to provide common shared benefits to all members of the scheme. Current insurance premiums and absence patterns within Carmarthenshire schools have been considered in developing the scheme and officers were satisfied that a well administered and structured Schools Staff Absence Scheme could operate successfully in the county, subject to sufficient membership by schools. Based on current levels, a surplus net of expenditure and administration costs would be achieved for the benefit of the members of the scheme instead of them paying insurance premiums to external providers at a net loss when compared to the reimbursements received.

In the event of the level of claims from scheme members exceeding the available funds, the deficit would be carried forward and offset against future year gains. It was therefore in both the schools' and the Authority's interest to manage attendance positively and proactively, in line with policies, to benefit from reduced premiums in future years. Based on the data available and a commitment from all interested parties to adhere to guidance and policies, the risk of a deficit was deemed to be low.

The Schools Staff Absence Scheme would operate initially for a period of two years commencing on 1st April, 2017 until 31st March, 2019 and would operate as a non-profit making partnership fund for the benefit of participating members. It would be reviewed annually to ensure ongoing financial viability into subsequent financial years.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the establishment of a Schools Staff Absence Scheme be endorsed.

12. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2017-18

The Board was reminded that the Council was required to determine, on an annual basis, its Council Tax Base and the Council Tax Base of each community within its area, for the purpose of calculating the level of Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year and, under the provisions of Section 84 of the Local Government Act

2003 and the Local Authorities Executive Arrangements (Functions and Responsibilities) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2004, the annual calculation had been delegated to the Executive Board.

The calculation of the Tax Base for the County Council for 2017-18 was detailed in Table 1a and summarised in Table 1b, which were appended to the report. The calculation for individual Town and Community Council areas for 2017-18 was summarised in Table 2 and detailed in Appendix A, which were also appended to the report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

12.1. that the Council Tax Base calculations for the financial year 2017-18, as detailed within Appendix A of the report, be approved;

12.2. that a Council Tax Base of 71,598.56, as detailed within tables 1a and 1b of the report, be confirmed in respect of the County Council area;

12.3. that the relevant tax bases for the individual community and town council areas, as detailed in table 2 of the report, be confirmed.

13. CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2019

The Council undertakes a comprehensive review of its Corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP) every three years, setting out its priorities in property terms to meet the aims highlighted in the Corporate and Integrated Community Strategies.

In addition, the AMP captures the property implications of issues experienced by services, brought about by changes in local and national agendas. These service property requirements are referred to in the Service Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) evidenced by assessments of the relevant portfolio's suitability to meet such changes.

The AMP reviews the high-level performance of the corporate portfolio and highlights key challenges and priorities moving forward over the next 3-year cycle.

One of the outcomes of the recent Corporate Assessment was the requirement to strengthen links between SAMPs and the AMP, in addition to reviewing information on backlog maintenance to better inform decision making. These items, along with the challenges detailed below, had been highlighted as the key priorities for property related matters over the next 3 years:-

- Investment in strategic sites to promote economic growth;
- Sustaining community assets;
- Ensuring suitability of the retained estate;
- Exploring alternative ways of holding assets for service delivery;
- Greater collaboration with partners on property related matters;
- Generating capital receipts;
- Reducing revenue costs.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the revised Corporate Asset Management Plan 2016-2019 be approved.

14. CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S GUIDANCE AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT ON CHARGEABLE PRE-APPLICATION AND POST CONSENT ADVICE IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PLANNING (WALES) ACT 2015) AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (PLANNING ACT 2008)

The Board considered a report seeking approval for the Local Planning Authority to introduce charges for pre-application advice given to developers preparing Developments of National Significance (DNS) applications for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and to update existing guidance/fees relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

DNSs and NSIPs are major infrastructure developments such as proposals for power plants, large renewable energy projects, new airports and airport extensions, major road projects etc.

The Local Government Act 2003 gave Local Planning Authorities powers to recover the costs of pre-application advice in recognition of the time officers have to spend assessing and researching information in order to provide answers to prospective developers or agents. The use of a charging regime for pre-application advice was supported at a national level and was established practice with the majority of Local Planning Authorities.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

- 14.1 that the Council's duties and general procedures when providing the advice service to developers of NSIP and DNS projects be agreed;**
- 14.2 that the amendments to the existing guidance relating to NSIPs and the inclusion of provisions to deal with DNSs be agreed;**
- 14.3 that the details relating to charges, invoicing and payment procedures be agreed;**
- 14.4 that the details relating to developer confidentiality be agreed.**

CHAIR

DATE

This page is intentionally left blank