

EXECUTIVE BOARD

TUESDAY, 1 September 2015

PRESENT: Councillor E. Dole (Chair)

Councillors:

H.A.L. Evans, L.D. Evans, D.M. Jenkins, T.J. Jones, PA Palmer, LM Stephens and J Tremlett

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. James, Chief Executive
R Sully, Director of Education & Children
R. Staines, Head of Housing and Public Protection
R. Edgecombe, Legal Services Manager
A. Parnell, Treasury and Pensions Investments Manager
D. Williams, Press Manager

Chamber, County Hall, Carmarthen - **10.00** - 10.40 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M. Gravell and G.O. Jones.

The Chair referred in sympathetic terms to the death of Councillor Keith Davies and expressed his sympathy to Councillor Davies's family.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME - PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO MYRDDIN FROM BILINGUAL (2A) TO WELSH MEDIUM (WM).

The Executive Board considered a report outlining a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin. The Education & Children Department fully supported the school's desire to continue along the Welsh language continuum and to change the language category to Welsh Medium (WM). Whilst informal consultation with pupils, governors, staff and parents of existing and prospective pupils had recently been completed and indicated support for the proposal the 2014 School Organisation Statutory Code required a regulated alteration such as a change in the language category of a school to be published to formalise arrangements. The Authority was therefore required to complete a statutory consultation process which, if approved, would commence in the Autumn Term 2015.

The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee fully supported the proposal to proceed with the statutory consultation.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that

3.1 the above proposal, as outlined in the consultation document, be approved;

3.2 to authorise officers to initiate formal consultation on the

proposal during the Autumn Term 2015;
3.3 that a report be submitted to the Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

4. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES AND ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS - LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY COUNCIL (LLANGENNECH WARD) AND LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL (BYNEA WARD)

The Executive Board considered a report detailing the outcome of a consultation on a review of the Community Council Boundaries and Electoral Arrangements for Llangennech Community Council (Llangennech Ward) and Llanelli Rural Council (Bynea Ward). All the comments received supported the draft proposals and had been formulated into the final proposals.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT

4.1 the views of those consulted be noted;

4.2 It agrees to formally submit the findings of this review to the Local Democracy Boundary Commission for Wales for its consideration;

4.3 the outcomes of the review, as decided by the Local Democracy Boundary Commission for Wales, be noted.

5. OUR COMMITMENT TO AFFORDABLE HOMES.

The Executive Board considered a report detailing the outcome of an extensive consultation exercise with the public and partner organisations on the issue of affordable homes which had resulted in more than 800 responses. The report also outlined the background in terms of housing need and demographic trends which the Authority had to respond to, such as:

- The growth in the number of older people;
- The growth in the number of single people and smaller household sizes generally;
- Shortages of different types of accommodation in different parts of the County;
- Affordability problems and how these vary throughout the County.

The intention was to set a clear policy direction and set of principles before developing a delivery plan in the autumn. The report had been endorsed at a joint meeting of the Community and Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Strategic directions paper 'Our Commitment to Affordable Homes' be approved.

6. QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT 1ST APRIL 2015 TO 30TH JUNE 2015

The Executive Board considered an update on the treasury management activities from 1st April 2015 to 30th June 2015.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be approved.

7. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL ON THE PROVISION OF COURT AND TRIBUNAL SERVICES IN WALES.

The Executive Board considered the Ministry of Justice's consultation on the proposed provision of Court and Tribunal Services in Wales. The proposals for Carmarthenshire's courts were:

- to close the Carmarthen Civil, Family, Tribunal and Probate Hearing Centre (Hill House) and to transfer the work to Llanelli Civil and Family Court and Haverfordwest Law Courts and Aberystwyth Justice Centre;
- to close the Carmarthen Law Courts (The Guildhall) and to transfer the Crown Court work to the Crown Court at Swansea, and the Magistrates Court hearings to Llanelli.

Whilst the Board recognised that the Guildhall was underused concerns were expressed that the closure of *both* the Carmarthen Courts would reduce access to services locally and in some cases involve longer journeys to the replacement courts, particularly from the rural areas, and the ability to attend the courts by the appointed times would be dependent upon the availability of public transport for non- car owners. It was considered that the longer journeys to the identified courts would also add to the financial strain on people and the Travel Time Data included in the consultation document was disputed.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Ministry of Justice be informed that, for the reasons outlined above, the Carmarthen Civil, Family, Tribunal and Probate Hearing Centre (Hill House) should remain open and incorporate Crown Court work from the Guildhall.

8. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON THE 27TH JULY 2015.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on the 27th July, 2015 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE