

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 28th SEPTEMBER 2017

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. the proposal as outlined in the attached Consultation Document;
2. officers to initiate a formal consultation on the proposal during the Autumn Term 2017;
3. that a report back to the Executive Board is submitted at the end of the statutory consultation period.

Reasons:

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

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES – 23rd October

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

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| Directorate: Education & Children | Designations: | Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses: |
| Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans | Director of Education & Children's Services | 01267 246522 EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**EDUCATION & CHILDREN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28th SEPTEMBER 2017**

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposal

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

Recommendation

That the ECS Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposal and recommends to the Executive Board that a formal consultation be initiated.

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

YES – Consultation Document

IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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

2. Legal

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

3. Finance

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

4. ICT

None

5. Risk Management Issues

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

6. Physical Assets

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

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

1. Scrutiny Committee – The Scrutiny Committee will be fully consulted during the formal consultation period.

2. Local Member(s) – Local members have been fully informed during the progression of the scheme and will be consulted during the formal consultation period.

3. Community / Town Council – Gorslas Community Council have been consulted throughout the progression of the scheme and will be consulted during the formal consultation period.

4. Relevant Partners – All relevant partners will be consulted during the formal consultation period.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Staff side representatives and other organisations will be consulted during the formal consultation 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 |
|---|---|
| Strategic Outline Programme 21 st Century Schools | Strategic Outline Programme 21 st Century Schools |
| Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017 | http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en |
| MEP Biennial Review | www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk Executive Board 20 th June 2016 |