

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018

## MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. The observations received and the Local Authority's responses following the consultation period (Consultation Report attached).
2. The publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

#### 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 – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018

### MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF GORSLAS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 110 TO 210

#### Background

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

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

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

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the Executive Board approved a revised Modernising Education Programme and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band A Programme and within Carmarthenshire County Council's 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The scheme is currently in development and it is proposed that the new school building will be ready for occupation by 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 when occupation at the new school building is proposed.

In accordance with Executive Board's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to 17<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached Consultation Report.

The ECS Scrutiny Committee are provided the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to the Executive Board whether or not publish a Statutory Notice. Should the Executive Board grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

If approved, following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee; the Executive Board and ultimately County Council for determination.

### **Recommendation**

That the ECS Scrutiny Committee endorses the proposal and recommends to the Executive Board the publication of a Statutory Notice.

**DETAILED REPORT  
ATTACHED?**

**YES: - Consultation Document  
Consultation 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: **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
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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

## 2. Legal

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

## 3. Finance

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

## 4. ICT

None

## 5. Risk Management Issues

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

## 6. Physical Assets

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

## CONSULTATIONS

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

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

**1. Scrutiny Committee** – The Scrutiny Committee were made aware of the formal consultation period.

**2. Local Member(s)** – Cllrs. Darren Price and Aled Vaughan Owen were formally consulted with during the consultation period.

**3. Community / Town Council** – Gorslas Community Council were formally with consulted during the consultation period.

**4. Relevant Partners** – All relevant partners were formally consulted with during the consultation period.

**5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Staff side representatives and other organisations were formally consulted with during the 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 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools	Strategic Outline Programme 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	<a href="http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en</a>
MEP Biennial Review 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> Executive Board 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Website	<a href="http://www.21stcenturyschools.org">www.21stcenturyschools.org</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools: Information Document (May 2010)	<a href="http://www.wales.gsi.gov.uk">www.wales.gsi.gov.uk</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools: Information Document (May 2010) - Summary	<a href="http://www.wales.gsi.gov.uk">www.wales.gsi.gov.uk</a>
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Strategic Outline Programme Template	<a href="http://www.wales.gsi.gov.uk">www.wales.gsi.gov.uk</a>
Modernising Education Programme (May 2005)	Department for Education and Children Building 2, Parc Dewi, Carmarthen.