

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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

To consider and comment on the following issues:

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

Reasons:

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

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

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

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

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
Report Author: Simon Davies	Modernisation Services Manager	01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14th MAY 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statutory Proposal

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

The Process

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendation

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

**DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?**

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

IMPLICATIONS

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

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

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

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

2. Legal

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

3. Finance

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

4. ICT

None

5. Risk Management Issues

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

6. Physical Assets

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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