

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26TH NOVEMBER 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) School Organisation Code 2018

Purpose:

To advise members of the implementation of the Welsh Government's updated School Organisation Code.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The Welsh Government revised School Organisation Code 2018.

Reasons:

To advise members of the Welsh Government's implementation of a revised School Organisation Code, including the most substantial element to strengthen the code in respect of a presumption against the closure of rural schools.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee consulted:

Education and Children Scrutiny Committee – 26th November

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: No
Council Decision Required: NO

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education & Children Portfolio Holder)

Directorate:

Education & Children

Name of Head of Service:

Simon Davies

Report Author:

Sara Griffiths

Designations:

Head of Access to Education

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 26TH NOVEMBER 2018

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) School Organisation Code 2018

The previous School Organisation Code came into force on 1 October 2013. Following three years of operation the Welsh Government reviewed the code reflecting on feedback and learning received since that time.

From the 1st November 2018 the Welsh Government implemented an updated School Organisation Code. These changes alter the requirements to take forward proposals which involve changes to schools, new schools or school closures.

The most substantial change is the strengthening of the code in respect of a presumption against closure of rural schools.

A copy of the School Organisation Code 2018 is attached.

Also attached is a copy of the Authority's process for undertaking School Organisation Proposals.

Recommendation

That the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the revised School Organisation Code.

YES

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Appendix 1 – School Organisation Code 2018
Appendix 2 – Authority Process

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:

S Davies

Head of Access to Education

Policy and
Crime &
Disorder

Legal

Finance

ICT

Risk
Management
Issues

Organisational
Development

Physical
Assets

NONE

YES

NONE

NONE

NONE

NONE

NONE

2. Legal

The Welsh Government's proposals affect elements of the procedure to publish statutory school organisation proposals.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:

S Davies

Head of Access to Education

1. Scrutiny Committee

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – to be consulted on 26th November 2018.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

2. Local Member(s)

Local Members will be consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

3. Community / Town Council

Town and Community Councils have not been consulted at this stage as this is a strategic matter for the County Council.

Town and Community Councils will be consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

4. Relevant Partners

Key partner organisations, including the Church in Wales, Roman Catholic Church and Coleg Sir Gar, are consulted on proposals that affect them.

Schools affected will be fully consulted on individual school reorganisation proposals as they are taken forward.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Not applicable at this stage as this is a strategic matter.

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
Welsh Government Consultation on School Organisation Code	MEP	https://beta.gov.wales/school-organisation-code