

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23rd NOVEMBER 2015

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- Proposal to proceed to discontinue Llangennech Infant School and Llangennech Junior School and establish a new Llangennech Community Primary School.

Reasons:

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

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans	Head of Education Services	01267 246450 EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Simon Davies	School Modernisation Manager	01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background

Since the inception of the Modernising Education Programme, it has been set out to create Community Primary Schools to replace Infants and Junior Schools.

Following the retirement of the Llangennech Infants school Headteacher at the end of the Summer term 2013 a soft federation has already taken place with the Headteacher of Llangennech Junior school. On 24th September 2014, the Governing Bodies of both Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools resolved to pursue a formal federation as from April 2015.

The Authority now wishes to proceed with a proposal to create a Community Primary school to replace Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The details of the proposal are outlined in the attached Draft Consultation document. The Consultation Document is currently in draft format and updated where appropriate during the informal consultation exercise.

In Llangennech the local Authority are currently able to offer as a 4-11 primary school part time learning provision through the medium of Welsh and English. As part of the new 3 – 11 primary school that will include nursery provision, it is proposed to change the current linguistic categories of Llangennech Infant school (Dual Stream – (DS) and Llangennech Junior school (Dual Stream – (DS) to a new Welsh Medium – (WM) language category school which will increase the provision of Welsh Medium education in Carmarthenshire and will ensure that bilingualism is increased in the Llangennech area. It will ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) (2014-2017).

Proposal

- To discontinue Llangennech Infant school on 31st December 2016
- To discontinue Llangennech Junior school on 31st December 2016

- As from 1st January 2017, to establish a new 3-11 Welsh Medium (WM) language category Community Primary School with a nursery provision (hereinafter called the 'New School') on the existing sites and buildings of the current Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools. The current capacity of both schools will remain unchanged but will be reviewed and adjusted accordingly should the demands arise in the future.
- The linguistic change of categories from Dual Stream (DS) to Welsh Medium (WM) will increase the provision of WM education in Carmarthenshire and ensures linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in Welsh and English as detailed in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP (2014-2017)).

Having one new school will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that helps make up a community.

Recommendation

E&C Scrutiny Committee is requested to endorse the proposal to discontinue Llangennech Infant school and Llangennech Junior school and establish a new Llangennech Community Primary School.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

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** **Head of Education Services**

S. Davies **School Modernisation 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 Corporate Strategy, Children and Young People’s Plan and the Modernising Education Strategic Outline Programme.
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- 2. Legal**
- Appropriate consultation will need to be initiated in accordance with the relevant statutory procedures.
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- 3. Finance**
- Revenue implications will be catered for within the Local Management of Schools Fair Funding Scheme.
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- 4. ICT**
- NONE
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- 5. Risk Management Issues**
- The proposal to close Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Junior schools and open a new Llangennech Community Primary School and also change the language category from Dual Stream to Welsh Medium may impact on the demand for school places at the school and other schools in the Llanelli 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.
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- 6. Staffing Implications**
- Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council’s Redeployment Policy and Procedures.

7. Physical Assets

Arrangements are in place to install a Double Mobile classroom on the current Llangennech Infant school site. This will provide the school with additional accommodation but it will not increase the capacity of the new school. We will monitor the situation and will review the situation if the pupil figures continue to rise.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: **G. Morgans** **Head of Education Services**
 S. Davies **School Modernisation Manager**

1. Local Member(s) – Not at this time but will be consulted during the consultation process

2. Community / Town Council – Not at this time but will be consulted during the consultation process

3. Relevant Partners – Not at this time but will be consulted during the consultation process

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Not at this time but will be consulted during the consultation process

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
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15	www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk County Council Agenda 14 th January 2015