

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21st JANUARY 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSED DISCONTINUATION OF COPPERWORKS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND LAKEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- The proposal to discontinue Copperworks Infant and Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School and to implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice dated 3rd November 2015.

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 (1st February, 2016)

The Council for decision: YES (10th February, 2016)

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Directorate: Department for Education and Children	Designations: Chief Education Officer	Tel Nos. 01267 246450 E Mail Address: EDGMorgans@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Name of Head of Service: Gareth Morgans	School Modernisation Manager	Tel No: 01267 246471 E Mail Address: SIDavies@cararthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Simon Davies		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21st JANUARY 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSED DISCONTINUATION OF COPPERWORKS INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND LAKEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

Background

The 21st Century Schools Programme – programme of projects 2011 was approved by Executive Board on the 12th December 2011 which included capital investment at Copperworks Infant and Nursery school and Lakefield Primary school to facilitate a new Primary school to be located on the former Draka site at Seaside Llanelli following a site selection study. A revised Modernising Education Programme (MEP) and 21st Century Band A investment programme was approved on 29th April 2013

It is an ongoing objective of the Authority to where possible create a Community Primary School to replace existing school buildings which are in a poor condition with inherent defects which includes Asbestos, Water penetration through external walls and Roofs, Historic Dry Rot problems which would be very costly to repair along with shortcomings in educational suitability and access for disabled users.

The County Council has a legal duty to look at the number and type of schools it has in Carmarthenshire and is required to make sure that they are located in the right place, have the right facilities for the future and have the right resources to deliver education and learning for pupils. Changes in the curriculum and the way in which children will be taught in the future also means that we also have to look at whether or not, it is possible or too costly, to adapt the existing buildings to meet the future needs of the pupils.

In accordance with County Council instructions in January 2015 a consultation document was produced and distributed to identified interested parties with regard to the following proposal.

Proposal

- to discontinue Copperworks Infant and Nursery School on 31st August, 2016
- to discontinue Lakefield Primary School on 31st August, 2016
- as from 1st September, 2016, to establish a new 3-11 Dual Stream (DS – Welsh and English) language category Community Primary School on the existing sites and buildings of the current Copperworks infant and nursery school and the current Lakefield Primary School to cater for 60 nursery places and 420 pupils aged 3 – 11 until such time the new school building is complete.

The linguistic change of category from English Medium (EM) and English with significant Welsh (EW) to Dual Stream (DS) will increase the provision of Welsh medium 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 2014-2017)

As part of the consultation process consultees were invited to forward their observations or any comments they wished to make in relation to the proposal to the Council.

A Consultation Report was produced and published electronically which provided details of the observations received as well as the Authority's response to the issues raised including Estyn's response to the consultation document and details of the consultation undertaken with the pupils at Copperworks Infant and Nursery and Lakefield Primary schools.

Under the requirements set out in the Code on School Organisation which came into force on 1st October 2013 a Statutory Notice has to be published within 26 weeks. Due to the time lapsing to publish a notice in relation to this proposal a time extension was requested and granted from Welsh Government.

In accordance with the County Council instructions in July 2015 a Statutory Notice (attached) was published on the 3rd November 2015 which provided objectors with a one month period in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council.

At the end of the Statutory Notice period **NO** objections were received by the Authority in respect of the proposal.

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

The process outlined above would enable the proposal to be presented to County Council for determination in February 2016.

Conclusion

Following the completion of the statutory consultation processes the conclusion remains the same. Having one new school will help keep and develop the sense of belonging, heritage and tradition that helps make up a community whilst at the same time ensuring that the pupils be afforded some of the most modern and up-to-date learning facilities in the county.

Therefore, in the long term interests of pupils in the area it is considered essential that the County Council resolves to implement the proposal to close both Copperworks Infants and Junior School and Lakefield Primary School and make alternative arrangements for the future primary education provision in a "New School" as detailed in the attached Statutory Notice.

Recommendation

E & C Scrutiny Committee is requested to endorse the implementation of the proposal to discontinue Copperworks Infant and Nursery School and Lakefield Primary School and to implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice of 3rd November 2015.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

YES (Copy of 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** **Chief Education Officer**
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	NONE	NONE

- 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.
- 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.
- 5. Risk Management Issues**
 Continuing with current inadequate provision would see current problems being perpetuated with the education of children in the area being placed at unacceptable risk and the County Council failing to meet WG target that all buildings should be of an appropriate standard.
- 6. Physical Assets**
 Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council’s Redeployment Policy and Procedures.
- 7. Staffing Implications**
 Two redundant school buildings which would be addressed in accordance with the Modernising Educational Provision Future Use/Disposal of Redundant Land and Buildings arising from the MEP programme policy and procedures.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: G. Morgans

Chief Education Officer

S. Davies

School Modernisation Manager

1. Scrutiny Committee

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has been consulted formally during the formal consultation period. The committee will also be asked to consider and comment on the findings of the statutory consultation exercise on 21st January 2016.

2. Local Member(s)

Local Members Cllr. Keri Thomas, Cllr. Jeffrey Owen, Cllr. Louvain Roberts and Cllr. Winston Lemon have been advised and are supportive of the proposal.

Observations were received from Cllr Louvain Roberts during the formal consultation period.

No objections were received following publication of the Statutory Notice.

3. Community / Town Council

Community Council has been consulted formally during the formal consultation period.

No observations were received during the formal consultation period.

No objections were received following publication of the Statutory Notice.

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Teaching and non-teaching staff unions have been consulted during the formal consultation stage.

No observations were received during the formal consultation period.

No objections were received following publication of the Statutory Notice.

The following interested parties have also been provided with a copy of the consultation document and Statutory Notice;

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Copperworks Infant and Nursery school Lakefield Primary school	Governors and Parents, Copperworks Infant and Nursery school Lakefield Primary school
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership	Community Councillors Llanelli Town Council
Local County Councillors	Welsh Language Commissioner
Assembly Member (AM) Regional Assembly Member	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union Women Teachers (NASUWT)
National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Association Of Teachers & Lecturers (ATL)
Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)	The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT)
National Association Of Head Teachers (NAHT)	GMB Union
UNISON	*Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools Carmarthenshire
Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G)	LA Special Educational Needs Division
Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities	ERW – Education through Regional Working
Local Service Board	Regional Transport Consortium
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Welsh Ministers
Estyn	Diocesan Director of Education

*Consultation document sent to Headteacher and Chair of Governors (Maes Y Morfa CP, Bigyn CP, Old Road CP, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant, Pentip VA, Secondary Schools Ysgol Y Strade, Coedcae).

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
Planning School Places - Primary Schools – The Way Forward		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk – the County Council Agenda 9 Pre 28/06/2004) – 11/04/2001
Modernising Education Provision Strategy and Draft Implementation Plan		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk – Education and Learning – Useful Links
Modernising Education Provision Timeline/ Rollout:		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk – Executive Board Agenda – 31/05/2005
Modernising Education Provision Update / Revised Draft Timetable		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk – Executive Board Agenda – 24/07/2006

Modernising Educational Provision Future Use/Disposal of Redundant Land and Buildings arising from the MEP programme		www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk Executive Board – 31/05/05
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/ County Council Agenda 14 th January 2015
Strategic Outline Programme 21 st Century Schools		Strategic Outline Programme 21st Century Schools
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/welsh/pages/trafodiaith.aspx
Copperworks Infant and Lakefield Primary Schools Consultation Report		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/964988/ConsultationReportEnglish.pdf