

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21/01/2016

Subject:

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP)

Purpose:

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO MYRDDIN FROM BILINGUAL (2A) TO WELSH MEDIUM (WM)

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. The observations received following the consultation period (Consultation Report attached).
2. The publication of a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

Reasons:

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

Exec Board Decision Required YES (22nd February 2016)

Council Decision Required YES (10th March 2016)

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children Portfolio Holder)

Directorate:

Department for Education and Children

Name of Head of Service:
Gareth Morgans

Report Author : Simon Davies

Designation:

Chief Education Officer

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EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21/01/2016

SUBJECT:

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE LANGUAGE CATEGORY OF YSGOL BRO MYRDDIN FROM BILINGUAL (2A) TO WELSH MEDIUM (WM)

Background

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin is currently a Category 2A Bilingual school. The description in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan of category 2A is '*At least 80% of subjects apart from English and Welsh are taught only through the medium of Welsh to all pupils. One or two subjects are taught to some pupils in English or in both languages.*'

In recent years the school has moved along the language continuum naturally in accordance with Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17. At present there are no pupils studying Mathematics in English in years 7 to 10 and only one group of pupils have chosen to study science in English in year 7. The change has occurred organically over a period of years and it offers an opportunity therefore, to proceed further by establishing the first WM category secondary school in Carmarthenshire.

The Department for Education and Children fully supports the schools desire to continue along the welsh language continuum and to change the language category to Welsh Medium (WM). The description of a category WM school is '*All subjects apart from English are taught through the medium of Welsh to all pupils, although some schools may introduce English terminology in one or two subjects.*'

An informal consultation with pupils, governors, staff and parents of existing and prospective pupils has recently been completed. However, under the 2013 School Organisation Code a regulated alteration such as a change in the language category of a school requires a proposal to be published to formalise arrangements. The Authority was therefore required to complete a statutory consultation process which was completed in the Autumn Term 2015.

In accordance with County Council's instructions in October 2015 a consultation document was produced and distributed to identified interested parties with regard to the following proposal:

- To change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin School to Welsh Medium (WM) (as laid out in the attached consultation document) from September 2016.

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.

Appendix A of the Consultation Report attached provides a list of respondents to the consultation report. Appendix B provides a list of the observations received as well as the Authority's response to the issues raised. Appendix C provides an Estyn response to the consultation document and the Authority's response. Appendix D provides details of the

consultation undertaken with the pupils at Bro Myrddin.

Should County Council grant permission to proceed to Statutory Notice, the intention is to publish in April 2016.

Following the end of the Statutory Notice period, an objection report which summarises any objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to ECS Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board for their consideration.

This provides ECS Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board 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 July 2016.

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

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	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-17, 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.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: G. Morgans
S. Davies

Chief Education Officer
School Modernisation Manager

1. Scrutiny Committee

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee has been consulted formally during the formal consultation period.

2. Local Member(s)

Local Members Cllr. Jean Lewis, Cllr. Sue Allen, Cllr. Jane Tremlett, Cllr. Roy Llewellyn, Cllr. Philip Hughes, Cllr. Pam Palmer, Cllr. Irfon Jones, Cllr. Mair Stephens, Cllr. Alun Lenny, Cllr. Jeff Thomas, Cllr. Daff Davies, Cllr. Emlyn Williams, Cllr. Tom Defis, Cllr. Alan Speake. Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, Cllr. Gareth O Jones, Cllr. Mansel Charles, Cllr. Tyssul Evans, Cllr. Ieuan Davies and Cllr. Linda Evans have been advised of the proposal.

Observations were received from Cllr. Jeff Thomas, Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, Cllr. Gareth O Jones and Cllr. Cefin Campbell during the formal consultation period.

3. Community / Town Council

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

Observations were received from Abernant Community Council during the formal consultation period.

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

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

The following interested parties were provided with a copy of the consultation document during the formal consultation stage;

No observations were received during the formal consultation period.

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin	Governors and Parents / Guardians Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin
Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) feeder primary schools	Governors and Parents / Guardians feeder primary schools
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership	Carmarthen Community Councillors
Local County Councillors	Welsh Language Commissioner
Assembly Member (AM) / Regional Assembly Member	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)	National Union of Teachers (NUT)
Association Of Teachers & Lecturers (ATL)	The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT)
National Association Of Head Teachers (ASCL)	GMB Union
UNISON	Neighbouring Primary and Secondary schools in Carmarthenshire
Transport and General Workers' Union (T&G)	LA Special Educational Needs Division
Director of Education – All Neighbouring Authorities	ERW – Education through Regional Working
Carmarthen Town Council	Coleg Sir Gâr
Local Service Board	Regional Transport Consortium
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Welsh Ministers
Estyn	RHAG (rhieni dros addysg Gymraeg)

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

These are detailed below.

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
School Organisation Code		http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en
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
Consultation Document		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/secondary-schools/bro-myrdin/