

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

### Modernising Education Programme (MEP) proposal to discontinue Llanedi Primary School

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. The proposal as outlined below;
2. That officers initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016;
3. That a report be submitted to Education & Children Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board at the end of the statutory consultation period.

#### 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 (21<sup>st</sup> March 2016)**

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

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children	<b>Designations:</b>	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Gareth Morgans	Chief Education Officer	01267 246450 <a href="mailto:edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">edgmorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016

## Modernising Education Programme (MEP) proposal to discontinue Llanedi Primary School

### Background

The Authority has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in an area and whether or not it is making the best use of resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

In recent years Llanedi Primary School has seen a steady decline in pupil numbers from 33 pupils on roll in January 2010 to 18 pupils on roll in January 2015 (PLASC) resulting in 51% surplus places at the school. Following the departure of the last permanent head teacher in December 2013 the school has faced challenges and uncertainty with regard to fulfilling the senior leadership position. The school has implemented a range of senior leadership models including serving teachers 'acting up' and a part time acting head teacher model (used in partnership with another primary school) between September 2014 and August 2015. Current arrangements since September 2015 are utilising the skills of a current member of staff in the role of 'acting deputy head teacher for an interim period of the current academic year.

The culmination of these unavoidable facts presents a school model which does not represent a sound, stable educational model or best use of resources. With no prospect of there being a significant increase in pupil numbers for the foreseeable future and the ongoing challenges the school faces to secure permanent senior leadership, it is not possible to sustain current arrangements.

In addition, the Authority feels that from an educational perspective having such a small number of pupils makes it extremely difficult for the school to deliver the breadth and depth of curricular and social experiences which pupils of this age require to fully develop.

### Proposal

The Authority's proposal is as follows:

- To close Llanedi Primary School on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017;
- It is proposed from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 that the catchment area of Llanedi be re-designated and included within the existing catchment area of Hendy Primary School.

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.

## Conclusion

In light of the present pupil numbers and uncertainty with regard to fulfilling the senior leadership position at the school it is recommended that the Authority moves to close Llanedi Primary School through the instigation of formal statutory procedures. The closure of the school will be planned for the end of the summer term in 2017.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, the catchment area of Llanedi Primary School should be included within the existing catchment area of Hendy Primary School.

Transfer to Secondary School will change to Bryngwyn School and Ysgol Y Strade (Welsh stream). It must be noted that it is the home address which is taken into account when considering admission to secondary school and not the primary school attended.

Transport will be provided in accordance with Carmarthenshire County Council's School Transport Policy.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES</b>
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## 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: **Gareth Morgans** Chief Education Officer

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

**1. Policy and Crime & Disorder** – 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.

**4. ICT** – Resources will follow pupils to alternative school within the locality including ICT.

**5. Risk Management Issues** – Continuing with current inadequate provision would see current problems being perpetuated and the County Council failing to meet its obligations for the education of children in the area served by the present school.

**6. Staffing Implications** – Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council’s Redeployment Policy and Procedures.

**7. Physical Assets** – One redundant school building 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: Gareth Morgans Chief Education Officer

- 1. Local Member(s)** – The Local Member (Hendy Ward) has been advised of the proposal.
- 2. Community / Town Council** – Not applicable at this stage in the process. The Community Council will be consulted formally during the formal consultation stage.
- 3. Relevant Partners** – Not at this time but will be consulted during the formal consultation stage.
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Teaching and non-teaching staff unions will be consulted during the formal consultation stage.

## 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	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> – The County Council Agenda 9 Pre 28/06/2004) – 11/04/2001
Modernising Education Provision Strategy and Draft Implementation Plan	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> – Education and Learning – Useful Links
Modernising Education Provision Timeline / Rollout:	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> – Executive Board Agenda – 31/05/2005

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Modernising Education Provision Update / Revised Draft Timetable	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> – Executive Board Agenda – 24/07/2006
Modernising Educational Provision Future Use/Disposal of Redundant Land and Buildings arising from the MEP programme	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> Executive Board 31/05/05
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15	<a href="#">MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2104/15</a>
Strategic Outline Programme 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools	<a href="#">Strategic Outline Programme 21st Century Schools</a>
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2014-2017	<a href="#">WESP 2014-2017</a>