

# COUNTY COUNCL

## 10/03/2016

**Subject:**

**MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP)**

**Purpose:**

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

That the proposal change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh Medium (WM) be proceeded with and a statutory notice be published 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.

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted YES (21<sup>st</sup> January 2016)**

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received and that the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Myrddin from Bilingual (2A) to Welsh-medium (WM) be endorsed and that the Executive Board and County Council be urged to proceed with the publication of the statutory notice.

**Exec Board Decision Required YES (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016)**

**Council Decision Required YES (10<sup>th</sup> 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

School Modernisation Manager

**Tel No.:**

01267 246649

**E Mail Address:**

[EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**Tel No:**

01267 246471

[SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
10/03/2016**

**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
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

### 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.

### 5. Risk Management Issues

The change of language category at Ysgol Bro Myrddin may impact on the demand for school places at the school and other schools in the Carmarthen 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.

## CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: G. Morgans  
S. Davies

Head of Education Services  
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.

<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
Planning School Places - Primary Schools – The Way Forward		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</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.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> – Education and Learning – Useful Links
Modernising Education Provision Timeline/ Rollout:		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> – Executive Board Agenda – 31/05/2005
Modernising Education Provision Update / Revised Draft Timetable		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</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.uk">www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> Executive Board – 31/05/05
School Organisation Code		<a href="http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en">http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/school-organisation-code/?lang=en</a>
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2014/15		<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/</a> County Council Agenda 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
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="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/welsh/pages/trafodiaith.aspx">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/welsh/pages/trafodiaith.aspx</a>