

EXECUTIVE BOARD

21st MARCH 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANEDI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Recommendations / key decisions required:

It is recommended that Executive Board approves:

1. the proposal as outlined below;
2. officers to initiate formal consultation on the proposal during the Summer Term 2016;
3. that a report is submitted to the E & C 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.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted - YES (9th March 2016)

The Committee unanimously resolved:

- That the report be noted.
- That prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee considers a further report clarifying the data presented by officers and the claims made by the Friends of Llanedi School during their public questions.
- That prior to making any recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the future of the school, the Committee undertakes visits to both Llanedi and Hendy CP Schools.

Council Decision Required - NO

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	Chief Education Officer	01267 246450 EDGMorgans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Simon Davies	School Modernisation Manager	01267 246471 SiDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE BOARD 21st MARCH 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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 headteacher 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 headteacher 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 headteacher 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 31st August 2017;
- It is proposed from 1st 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 1st 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.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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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: **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	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Developments are consistent with the Authority's Corporate Strategy, Integrated Community Strategy 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:	G. Morgans	Head of Education Services
	S. Davies	School Modernisation Manager

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. 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:	
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.wales – The County Council Agenda 9 Pre 28/06/2004) – 11/04/2001
Modernising Education Provision Strategy and Draft Implementation Plan	www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales – Education and Learning – Useful Links
Modernising Education Provision Timeline / Rollout:	www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales – Executive Board Agenda – 31/05/2005
Modernising Educational Provision Future Use/Disposal of Redundant Land and Buildings arising from the MEP programme	www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales Executive Board 31/05/05
Strategic Outline Programme 21 st Century Schools	Strategic Outline Programme 21st Century Schools
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