

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016

## Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – 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:

- The objections received during the Statutory Notice period.
- After considering the objections received, approves to proceed with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin from bilingual 2A to category Welsh medium and to recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice as from 1 September 2016.

### Reasons:

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

### To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

- Executive Board – 20th June 2016
- County Council – 13th July 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@camarthenshire.gov.uk">edgmorgans@camarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Simon Davies	School Modernisation Manager	01267 246471 <a href="mailto:sidavies@camarthenshire.gov.uk">sidavies@camarthenshire.gov.uk</a>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016

**Modernising Education Programme (MEP) –  
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 was 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 (attached) 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 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.

Following the formal consultation period, a consultation report (attached) which summarised all of the observations received and the Local Authority's responses to these observations was presented to the ECS Scrutiny Committee, Executive Board and ultimately to the County Council for decision of whether or not to publish a statutory notice to implement the proposal.

In March 2016 approval was given by the County Council for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice (attached) was published on 13th April 2016. The notice provided objectors with 28 days in which to forward their objections in writing to the Council. The Statutory Notice period ended on 10th May 2016. A total of 2 objections were received to the Statutory Notice.

The attached Objection Report which summarises the objections received by stakeholders, will be presented to the Executive Board and ultimately the County Council 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.

Should County Council agree to implement the proposal, the language category of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Myrddin will change from category Bilingual 2A to category Welsh medium from 1 September 2016.

**Recommendation:** That the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee recommend to the Executive Board the implementation of the proposal as laid out in the Statutory Notice.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

- **Consultation Document**
- **Consultation Report**
- **Statutory Notice**
- **Objection Report**

# 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	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: **Gareth Morgans** Chief Education Officer

1. **Local Member(s)** – Local members were notified of the Statutory Notice Period
2. **Community / Town Council** – Community and Town councils were notified of the Statutory Notice Period.
3. **Relevant Partners** – Other relevant partners were notified of the Statutory Notice Period.
4. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – The following staff side representatives and other organisations were notified of the Statutory Notice 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	<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>
Consultation Document Consultation Report Statutory Notice	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/secondary-schools/bro-myrrdin/">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/secondary-schools/bro-myrrdin/</a>
Bro Myrddin – Proposal (Stage 2) Language Category Change – E&C Scrutiny Committee (21st January 2016)	<b>Agenda / Minutes:</b> <a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&amp;MId=255&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=153&amp;MId=255&amp;Ver=4</a>
Bro Myrddin – Proposal (Stage 2) Language Category Change – Executive Board (22nd February 2016)	<b>Agenda / Minutes:</b> <a href="http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&amp;MId=346&amp;Ver=4">http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=131&amp;MId=346&amp;Ver=4</a>