

EXECUTIVE BOARD

4th JULY 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP)

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BETWS PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

Recommendations / Key decisions required:

It is recommended that the Executive Board approves:

- To proceed with the proposal to change the age range of Betws Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11 and to recommend to the County Council that it implements the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice as from 1 January 2017.

Reasons:

To comply with statutory procedures and guidance in relation to school re-organisation.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee Consulted – Unfortunately, due to the constricted statutory process it has not been possible to consult with the ECS Scrutiny Committee at this stage. However, at all previous stages to date the ECS Scrutiny Committee has unanimously resolved to proceed with the proposals to change the age range of Betws Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11. In addition, no objections were received to the Statutory Notice.

Executive Board Decision Required YES – 4th July 2016

Council Decision Required – YES (13th July)

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 4th JULY 2016

MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BETWS PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 4-11 TO 3-11

The Flying Start programme in Carmarthenshire is a Welsh Government prevention initiative, providing families with children aged 0-3 years with a range of targeted intensive prevention services, who live in geographic areas of deprivation within Carmarthenshire

The provision of good quality childcare for children from 2-3 years of age is the centre-piece of service delivered under the Flying Start initiative. The quality childcare provision focuses on children living in disadvantaged communities and aims to improve their outcomes in preparation for school and in the long term.

As a result of the original eight and more recently an additional nine geographic areas being identified to receive targeted services, Flying Start currently commission childcare based in a number of Carmarthenshire Primary Schools.

The age range of Betws CP School is currently age range 4-11. This has presented the Authority with a challenge whereby children can benefit from interventions through the Flying Start programme until they are three years of age but have no provision for nearly a year until admitted to school. One of the advantages of the Flying Start programme located on school sites is to facilitate entry into school at the age of three. Therefore, to ensure continuity of progression for these disadvantaged children into primary school, the Authority has arranged for nursery provision to commence at these schools. The children can now benefit from interventions through the Flying Start programme until they are admitted to school. The Headteachers and Governing Bodies of these schools have been consulted on the new arrangements and are fully supportive.

Under the 2013 School Organisation Statutory Code a regulated alteration such as a change in the age range of a school by a year or more requires a statutory proposal to be published to formalise arrangements.

In order to support the seamless transition of pupils through the Flying Start programme to school admission, it is considered essential that the County Council moves to extend the age range of Betws School from 4-11 to 3-11 as soon as possible, through formal statutory procedures.

In accordance with County Council's instructions, a formal consultation exercise was undertaken from 7th December 2015 to 29th January 2016. The results of the consultation exercise are contained in the attached report.

The consultation report 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 April 2016 approval was given by the County Council for the publication of the Statutory Notice. The Statutory Notice (attached) was published on May 6th 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 2nd June 2016. No objections were received to the Statutory Notice.

As this proposal commenced under the Authority's previous arrangements for determining school organisation proposals, the Executive Board are provided the opportunity to offer comment and a recommendation to County Council whether or not to implement the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice.

Should the County Council decide to implement the proposal the age range of Betws Primary School will change from 4-11 to 3-11 from 1 January 2017.

Recommendation

That the Executive Board recommends to the County Council that it implements the proposal as detailed in the Statutory Notice as from 1 January 2017.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES: Consultation Document Supplementary Information Consultation Report Statutory Notice
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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	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.

4. ICT

NONE

5. Risk Management Issues

Continuing with current age range of schools would not reflect the present position. The statutory consultation process needs to be completed to formalise arrangements.

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 were notified of the Statutory Notice period.

2. Local Member(s)

Local members, Cllr. Ryan Bartlett was notified of the Statutory Notice period.

3. Community / Town Council

The Community Council and Town Council were notified of the Statutory Notice period.

4. Relevant Partners

Not applicable.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Teaching and non-teaching staff unions were notified of the Statutory Notice period.

No objections were received during the Statutory Notice period.

Staff (Teaching and Ancillary) Ysgol Betws	Governors and Parents, Ysgol Betws
Carmarthenshire Children's Partnership Child Care/Early Years** Communities First Partnership	Community Councillors Ammanford Town Council
Local County Councillors	Welsh Language Commissioner
Assembly Member (AM) Regional Assembly Member	National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)
National Union of Teachers (NUT)	Association Of Teachers & Lecturers (ATL)
Undeb Cenedlaethol Athrawon Cymru (UCAC)	The Professional Association of Teachers (PAT)
National Association Of Head Teachers (NAHT)	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
Local Service Board	Regional Transport Consortium
Local Police and Crime Commissioner	Welsh Ministers
Estyn	Diocesan Director of Education & RC
Flying Start	

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/resident/s/education-schools/modernising-education-programme/primary-schools/betws/