

TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE **EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE **CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, CARMARTHEN** AT **2.30 PM** (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE JOINT MEETING OF THE EDUCATION & CHILDREN AND SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – WHICHEVER IS THE LATER) ON **MONDAY, 23RD MAY, 2016**, FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.

*Mark James*

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



PLEASE RECYCLE

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Ref:	AD016-001

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 COUNCIL MEMBERS, 2 NON-ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS AND 3  
ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS

## PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 6 MEMBERS

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|----|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | C.A. Campbell         |
| 2. | Councillor | J.M. Charles          |
| 3. | Councillor | W.G. Hopkins          |
| 4. | Councillor | P. Hughes Griffiths   |
| 5. | Councillor | M.J.A. Lewis          |
| 6. | Councillor | J.E. Williams (Chair) |

## INDEPENDENT GROUP – 3 MEMBERS

- |    |            |                 |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Councillor | I.W. Davies     |
| 2. | Councillor | D.W.H. Richards |
| 3. | Councillor | T. Theophilus   |

## LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

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|----|------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | D.J.R. Bartlett (Vice-Chair) |
| 2. | Councillor | J.D. James                   |
| 3. | Councillor | P.E.M. Jones                 |
| 4. | Councillor | J. Williams                  |

## NON ELECTED VOTING MEMBERS (2)

- |    |               |                                      |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. V. Kenny | Roman Catholic Church Representative |
| 2. | Canon B. Witt | Church in Wales Representative       |

## ELECTED VOTING PARENT GOVERNOR MEMBERS (3)

*Term of office expires on the 31/03/2018*

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|----|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Mrs. E. Heyes   | Area 3 – Llanelli   |
| 2. | Mrs. K. Hill    | Area 1 – Dinefwr    |
| 3. | Mrs. A. Pickles | Area 2 – Carmarthen |

# AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF PROHIBITED PARTY WHIPS**
4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

## **4.1 QUESTION BY DARREN SEWARD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

Carmarthenshire County Council has produced a document describing its proposal to CLOSE/DISCONTINUE Llangennech Infants and Llangennech Juniors school and open a new Welsh Medium only Llangennech community primary school. why is ccc pushing the Welsh assembly directives on Welsh language so far when it is not happening in other counties like Swansea neath port talbot and Newport??

## **4.2 QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

There are 121 pupils currently in the School who are not living in the village of Llangennech. However, there are 96 children living in the village travelling to other schools, out of area. Only 15 of those children are attending welsh medium so that leaves 81 attending alternative English medium. Why such a differentiation? Some of these could have had places in Llangennech but have been turned away making the English stream look as if it is declining.

## **4.3 QUESTION BY NIKKI LLOYD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

We have already had one parent that we know of refused a place in Byn due to 54 requests for only 30 places. Hendy is full also, where are you going to provide provision for parents who want or NEED to educate their children in English medium?

## **4.4 QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

Out of the 121 children currently in the school 91 are attending Welsh medium. Why is this so? when the new furnace school is under capacity by 132 places and Brynserfiel under by 38.5 Pupils according to section 2.3 of the consultation document. There's surplus capacity at Welsh Mediums which is not in alignment with School Organisation Code 2013 which states no more than a 10% surplus. There are 1,710 as per Carmarthenshire Councils website surplus places in all welsh medium primary schools in carmarthenshire figures taken from ccc own website. So doesnt justify any further spaces being created. The School Organisation code

2013 states when developing proposals relevant bodies should have regard to Local plans for economic or housing development. Why has there been no regard given to the 91 houses being built in Hendy and 700 plus houses planned for Pontardulais? Surely, this would have a major impact on the surrounding schools. Hendy is one of the nearest schools for English medium if this proposal goes through. However, Llanedi school is facing closure and advised to relocate to hendy. Hendy school are already nearing full capacity and as a dual stream are earmarked for changing to Welsh Medium Only. The other nearest English medium is the Bryn School but the county have already been issuing reject letters as they have received 54 applications so far and only have 30 spaces. As well as the proposed new school being unfit for purpose as it does not serve the community it's meant to support, English speaking children appear to have no nearby alternatives?

#### **4.5 QUESTION BY JACQUELINE SEWARD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

Following the closure of a school and the consequential loss of a language stream, provision should be offered to at least equivalent standards to learners according to the School Organisation code 2013. However, Llangennech is currently Green. Hendy is yellow and the Bryn is Amber. How is this equivalent?

#### **4.6 QUESTION BY DARREN SEWARD, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

Is there need for additional nursery places in the area when we already have two providers? Specific factors need to be taken into account for proposals to add or remove nursery classes as outline in the School Organisation Code 2013. Relevant bodies should take into account specific factors: the standard of nursery education and the sufficiency of accommodation and facilities offered both in the classroom and outdoors, and the viability of any school that wishes to add nursery places; whether there is a need for additional nursery places in the area; the levels of demand for certain types of nursery education e.g. Welsh medium or provision with a religious character; the effect of the proposals on other institutions, including private and third sector providers; and the extent to which proposals will integrate early years education with childcare services or are consistent with an integrated approach. Within the consultation document, there is no evidence that these have been taken into consideration and the effect of the proposals on other private sector providers?

#### **4.7 QUESTION BY NIGEL HUGHES, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

The consultation document is a flawed document that does not recognise those disadvantaged by the proposals from within Llangennech village. To state that there is nobody affected by these proposed changes is naïve and ignorant and shows that the Authority has failed to show 'due regard' under the Public Duty Act to those affected by simply saying they don't exist. In doing so, they have not covered the Health and Safety aspects or capacity issues

at alternative schools. If walking to Hendy for example, crossing a dual carriageway, will put lives at risk. There is a CrashMap available online which shows along that particular route, one accident occurring every 2 months on average. Therefore, this consultation simply exposes a rush to a predetermined outcome irrespective of any views that were to be gathered throughout the process. We believe that we can evidence the fact that either the LEA or the governing body or both have failed to comply with The School Organisational Code 2013 and possibly the law. Do you think this is acceptable to put young children at risk daily?

#### **4.8 QUESTION BY STEVE HATTO, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

Figures manipulated – From the information supplied by the LEA as the groups knowledge of the school it is clearly evident that the figures have been manipulated by individuals to bolster a particular scenario. We can evidence that the current English streams at the school make up over 30% of the total number of pupils. The consultation states Llangennech infant school total pupils in 2015 had 186 in Welsh stream. This is not a true figure as it includes all pupils in Derbyn 1 and 2 which totals 94 pupils, irrelevant of it they are registered to continue into the English stream they have been falsely identified for the purpose of the consultation document as Welsh stream pupils. Also if we factor in the 27% coming from outside areas, together with a potential loss of English Stream, current projections will show that Llangennech School will have over 50% of pupils coming from outside the area. Do you believe, that we then have 'the right school, in the right place and can you confirm if these figures are correct ?

#### **4.9 QUESTION BY MICHAELA BEDDOWS, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

Special Educational Needs: No consideration has been given for children with special educational needs who are usually advised to only go in an English medium. Stream or the language of their home environment. Children with global delay struggle with one language let alone two, therefore by removing the dual stream it would exclude these children from attending the school. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder really cant cope with change in routine, so if they were to start then struggle in a Welsh Medium school and then have to move to an English Medium school that change would have a massive impact on them. How has this been overlooked and why has it not been addressed?

#### **4.10 QUESTION BY KAREN HUGHES, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

There are approximately 11 dual Stream Schools in Carmarthenshire which according to the Welsh Language Strategy, are being earmarked for Welsh Medium only. It must be recognised that not all these schools will be suitable based upon their logistics as they will be dual stream for a reason, so how and who is assessing the demand and suitability? Has an horizon scanning exercise been conducted for Llangennech community i.e to assess how the

village/population of Llangennech will look in 5, 10, 15 years time? With an increased number of new builds, an influx in migration, being close to the M4 corridor, can we confidently say that Welsh Medium Only will meet these demands when 80% of the population is already English speaking. After all, 27% of pupils are coming from outside areas and village figures do not show an increase in demand for Welsh. The Welsh Language Strategy Impact has also not been assessed properly if at all. There is no reference to English speakers having less of an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Wales if they attend English Medium only, more people are likely to try the Welsh stream if they know they can fallback to English within the same school. This will have the adverse effect. The use of Welsh within the community is minimal and does not support the linguistic demographics or the stats from the 2011 census. Why aren't these risks being factored in?

#### **4.11 QUESTION BY ROBERT WILLOCK, DUAL STREAM COMMITTEE**

The Community Impact Assessment is not actually an Impact Assessment at all. It has not recognised any risks or risk assessed them (given a positive, negative or neutral rating). One would expect consideration to be given to the impact on neighbouring schools, impact on parents and families, impact on pupils, travel implications, impact of community demographics, environmental impacts, impact upon community activities, impact on residents. These are the areas which are likely to be negatively assessed and have totally been overlooked! Why?

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| <b>5. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) - PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE LLANGENNECH INFANT SCHOOL AND LLANGENNECH JUNIOR SCHOOL AND ESTABLISH LLANGENNECH COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> | <b>7 - 182</b>   |
| <b>6. PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN 2016</b>   | <b>183 - 456</b> |
| <b>7. MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MEP) BIENNIAL REVIEW</b>  | <b>457 - 478</b> |
| <b>8. EDUCATION &amp; CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/17</b>   | <b>479 - 494</b> |