

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 3 December 2024

Title: Reorganisation of Ysgol Craig yr Wylfa, Ysgol Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, Ysgol Llangwryfon and Ysgol Syr John Rhys

Purpose of the report: To determine whether to amend the decision of 3rd September 2024 and to proceed on a basis of an informal consultation on the proposals to reorganise Ysgol Craig yr Wylfa, Ysgol Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, Ysgol Llangwryfon and Ysgol Syr John Rhys and to consider their future.

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Cllr Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Introduction

Cabinet considered this matter on 3/9/24:

<https://council.ceredigion.gov.uk/documents/g506/Public%20reports%20pack%2003rd-Sep-2024%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10&LLL=0>

Cabinet resolved:

DECISION:

“C50 - To approve the proposal to commence the statutory consultation process to cease to maintain the provision at Ysgol Craig yr Wylfa with effect from 31 August 2025.

C51 - To approve the proposal to commence the statutory consultation process to cease to maintain the provision at Ysgol Llanfihangel y Creuddyn with effect from 31 August 2025.

C52 - To approve the proposal to commence the statutory consultation process to cease to maintain the provision at Ysgol Llangwryfon with effect from 31 August 2025.

C53 - To approve the proposal to commence the statutory consultation process to cease to maintain the provision at Ysgol Syr John Rhys with effect from 31 August 2025.”

Following the Cabinet decision, Statutory Consultation papers were prepared.

The formal consultation for Ysgol Craig yr Wylfa, Ysgol Llangwryfon and Ysgol Syr John Rhys commenced on 14/10/24, and is due to end on 3/12/2024. The formal Consultation for Ysgol Llanfihangel y Creuddyn commenced on 5/11/24 and is due to end on 16/12/24.

Current Position

On 19 November 2024, the Authority received a formal challenge to the decision made on 3/9/2024 to undertake a statutory consultation with a proposed closure date of 31/8/25 which is deemed not feasible and therefore needs to re-consider the decision made on that date.

The Authority needs to consider whether to amend the decision of 3/9/2024 to provide that the current process be an informal consultation period to gather further information, rather than that of a statutory consultation.

The responses received during the informal consultation period will be analysed, and any future statutory consultation proposals and assessments will be comprehensively prepared and completed.

It is accepted that the current timeline for the reorganisation process is not achievable, and therefore the 3/9/24 decision is not deemed to be capable of implementation.

It is proposed therefore to treat the ongoing statutory consultation (14/10/2024 to 3/12/24 for Ysgol Craig yr Wylfa, Ysgol Llangwryfon and Ysgol Syr John Rhys; and 5/11/24 to 16/12/24 for Ysgol Llanfihangel y Creuddyn) as an informal consultation on the future of the schools and any reorganisation.

A further report will then be presented to Cabinet. After considering the response to the informal consultation, any proposals will be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.

A Statutory Community and Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed (draft) and the Local Authority Integrated Impact Assessment has also been drafted, however both documents for all schools, will be updated after considering the responses to the informal consultation.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment: n/a

Long term: n/a

Collaboration: n/a

Involvement: n/a

Prevention: n/a

Integration: n/a

Recommendation(s):

1. To note that the Cabinet decision 3/9/24 is not capable of implementation.
2. To approve that Cabinet 3/9/24 decisions C50, C51, C52 & C53 are amended as follows:

“the statutory consultation process to cease to maintain the provision at Ysgol Craig yr Wylfa, Ysgol Llanfihangel y Creuddyn, Ysgol Llangwryfon and Ysgol Syr John Rhys with effect from 31 August 2025”, shall instead be treated as an informal consultation on the reorganisation and future of the schools”.

Reasons for decision:

- Ceasing to maintain the schools as from 31 August 2025 is not an option as the timetable is deemed not to be achievable.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Education Infrastructure Workstream – 1 February 2024

Policy Framework:

Corporate Strategy – 2022-2027

Medium Term Financial Strategy -2023/24 – 2026/27

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages

Finance and Procurement implications:

Costs associated with legal challenge.

Legal Implications:

- Failure to adhere to statutory requirements
- Risk of legal challenge

Staffing implications:

n/a

Property / asset implications:

n/a

Risk(s):

- Not adhering to the requirements of the ‘Principles for Ensuring Sustainable Education Infrastructure’
- Not adhering to statutory requirements
- Legal Challenge

Statutory Powers:

School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

The Council’s Constitution

Guidance – The School Organisational Code – Welsh Government Guidelines – 011/2018

Background Papers:

Cabinet report 3/9/24

Appendices:

n/a

Corporate Lead Officer:

Elen James, Corporate Lead Officer: Lifelong Learning

Reporting Officer:

Nia James, Corporate Manager: Learning Resources

Date:

27/11/2024