

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 27 March 2025

Title: School Organisation Code

Purpose of the report: To provide information on the School Organisation process following the Member Workshop held on 14 January 2025

Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:

For Information

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:

Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Background

At the request of Councillor Elizabeth Evans Leader of the Liberal Democrats, a full workshop was held to the Council on the 14th January, 2025 to provide information and ensure a full understanding of the processes followed in relation to proposals to restructure 4 rural primary schools in Ceredigion.

Officers gave the Council a comprehensive presentation that covered all areas of concern providing clear evidence that was conclusive proof of the integrity of the process and the thorough work of the officers.

The 25 **Elected** Members present spent a very extended period questioning and challenging the officers on the specific details presented.

Councillors confirmed at the end of the workshop they were completely satisfied with the process and were re-assured no evidence of misleading from officers had occurred.

However, the Elected Members felt that the matter should be put on the forward work programme of the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as the appropriate public forum) for information, and to share as much information as possible whilst conforming with information protection guidelines.

It was decided that a joint statement from the three Leaders of the political groups will be released confirming their satisfaction with the evidence received.

Elected Members from across the political groups stated that they were **fully satisfied that they had not been misled by officers prior to, during or after the Cabinet meeting of 3 September 2024**

Current Situation

The purpose of this session is to provide the public with an overview of the evidence presented at the workshop. The evidence will address a number of contentious issues raised during the process and subsequently demonstrate the factual accuracy of the information presented.

The topics covered will include:

- Governance arrangements that provided the political mandate to undertake the work.
- Legislative data (for school re-organisation)
- Data accuracy.
 - PLASC
 - School Capacity
 - School transport costs
- Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Complaint.
- Welsh Language Commissioner Complaint.
 - Response from Ceredigion County Council.
- Estyn response to process.

Appendix A provides details of the process that is followed in relation to a rural school closure proposal and also the required information included within the statutory documents.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

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

Not a policy or service change

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term:

Collaboration:

Involvement:

Prevention:

Integration:

Recommendation(s):

For information following the Member Workshop on the 14 January 2025

Reasons for decision:

To provide the public with an overview of the evidence presented at the workshop

Contact Name: Elen James

Designation: Chief Education Officer Corporate Lead Officer for Lifelong Learning & Schools

Date of Report:

Acronyms:

PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

Appendix A

Flowchart and details of the required information included within statutory documents