

# **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU ADDYSG A PHLANT 9<sup>fed</sup> O FAWRTH 2016**

## **Y Rhaglen Moderneiddio Addysg –**

**Cynnig i gau Ysgol Gynradd Llanmiloe, Ysgol Gynradd Wirfoddol Rheoledig Tremoilet ac Ysgol Wirfoddol Rheoledig Talacharn, a chreu ysgol ardal newydd**

### **Ystyried y materion canlynol a chyflwyno sylwadau arnynt:**

1. Y cynnig a amlinellir isod;
2. Bod swyddogion yn cychwyn yr ymgynghori ffurfiol yn ystod tymor yr Haf 2016;
3. Bod adroddiad yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Craffu Addysg a Phlant a'r Bwrdd Gweithredol ar ddiwedd y cyfnod ymgynghori statudol.

### **Rhesymau:**

- Er mwyn cydymffurfio â'r cyfarwyddyd a'r gweithdrefnau statudol ar gyfer ad-drefnu ysgolion.
- Galluogi'r aelodau i lunio safbwyntiau i'w cyflwyno i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol eu hystyried.

**Angen cyfeirio'r mater at y Bwrdd Gweithredol er mwyn gwneud penderfyniad: OES (21ain Mawrth 2016)**

**Aelod y Bwrdd Gweithredol sy'n gyfrifol am y Portffolio:**  
Cyng. Gareth Jones (Addysg a Phlant)

<b>Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:</b> Addysg a Phlant  <b>Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:</b> Gareth Morgans  <b>Awdur yr adroddiad:</b> Simon Davies	<b>Swyddi:</b>  Prif Swyddog Addysg  Y Rheolwr Moderneiddio Ysgolion	<b>Rhifau Ffôn / Cyfeiriadau E-bost:</b>  01267 246450 <a href="mailto:edgmorgans@sirgar.gov.uk">edgmorgans@sirgar.gov.uk</a>  01267 246471 <a href="mailto:sidavies@sirgar.gov.uk">sidavies@sirgar.gov.uk</a>
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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **EDUCATION & CHILDREN**

### **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

## **Modernising Education Programme (MEP) – Proposal to discontinue Llanmiloe Primary, Tremoilet Voluntary Controlled and Laugharne Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools and create a new area school**

### **Background**

The Authority has a legal responsibility to review the number and type of schools it has in an area and whether or not it is making the best use of resources and facilities to deliver the opportunities that children deserve.

In recent years, many of our rural primary schools have witnessed a decrease in pupil numbers, Tremoilet VC, Llanmiloe CP and Laugharne VC primary schools all bear witness to this trend and based on current data available no significant change in this trend is anticipated. Declining pupil numbers across the schools will cause further educational and financial challenges, in particular, maintaining appropriate pupil teacher staffing ratios to provide an effective curriculum for all learners.

A range of 'soft federation' arrangements have existed between the three schools over a period of time. Llanmiloe CP School and Tremoilet VC School have experienced a 'shared leadership' model (under the previous and last permanent head teacher of Llanmiloe CP School). A similar model between Laugharne VC School and Tremoilet VC School was established in 2014, with the newly appointed head teacher at Laugharne VC School (September 2015) currently developing this work.

Each model has explored and highlighted the benefits of greater levels of collaboration between schools. However, they have also recognised the challenges and fragility of such models. These findings have reinforced the need for a more formalised approach and sustainable resolution to serve the longer term educational needs of this area. Whilst head teacher recruitment is a national challenge, it is undoubtedly the case for such small schools as Llanmiloe CP and Tremoilet VC Schools.

Llanmiloe CP School is currently under the leadership of an acting head teacher for an interim period while the Governing Body attempts to put in place more secure and strategic arrangements.

The culmination of these unavoidable facts presents a current model of provision in the area which does not represent a platform for educational stability and enhancement or the best use of resources. With no prospect of there being a significant increase in pupil numbers in the area for the foreseeable future, coupled with ongoing challenges two of the schools face to secure permanent senior leadership, it is not viable to sustain current arrangements.

## **Proposal**

The Authority's proposal is as follows:

- To close the existing Tremolet VC, Llanmiloe CP and Laugharne VC Schools on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017;
- To open a new 3-11 Voluntary Controlled area school on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 using the site and buildings of the current Laugharne VC school to accommodate pupils from Tremolet VC, Llanmiloe CP and Laugharne VC Schools. The language category of the new area school will be dual stream offering a Welsh and English stream;
- It is proposed from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 that the catchment area of Tremolet VC, Llanmiloe CP and Laugharne VC primary schools be combined to create the new catchment of the new area school.

It has been identified in a review of Carmarthenshire's Early Years Provision that the Tremolet VC / Llanmiloe and Laugharne VC geographical area is currently unable to offer the Foundation Phase Early Years Learning Entitlement. If this proposal is approved it will ensure that the children in the Tremolet VC / Llanmiloe CP and Laugharne areas will have access to Foundation Phase Early Years Learning.

The details of the proposal are outlined in the attached Draft consultation document. The consultation document is currently in draft format and updated where appropriate during the informal consultation exercise.

As stated in the School Organisation Code (2013) the Diocesan Authority has been consulted prior to the consultation document being published. No comments were received.

## **Conclusion**

In light of the present pupil numbers and uncertainty with regard to fulfilling the senior leadership position at two of the schools it is recommended that the Authority moves to close Tremolet VC, Llanmiloe CP and Laugharne VC primary schools through the instigation of formal statutory procedures.

From 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017, the catchment area of Tremolet VC and Llanmiloe primary schools to be included within the existing catchment area of Laugharne VC primary school.

Transfer to Secondary School will remain unchanged.

Transport will be provided in accordance with Carmarthenshire County Council's School Transport Policy.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## 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
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>

**1. Policy and Crime & Disorder** – Developments are consistent with the Authority’s 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** – Resources will follow pupils to alternative school within the locality including ICT.

**5. Risk Management Issues** – Continuing with current inadequate provision would see current problems being perpetuated and the County Council failing to meet its obligations for the education of children in the area served by the present school.

**6. Organisational Development** – Staffing implications will be addressed in accordance with the County Council’s Redeployment Policy and Procedures.

**7. Physical Assets** – Two redundant school buildings. Should the proposal be adopted the Tremolet VC school building would revert back under the ownership of the Church in Wales. Llanmiloe CP School building would be addressed in accordance with the Modernising Educational Provision Future Use/Disposal of Redundant Land and Buildings arising from the MEP programme policy and procedures.

# 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)** – The Local Member (Laugharne Township) has been advised of the proposal.

**2. Community / Town Council** – Not applicable at this stage in the process. The relevant Community Councils will be consulted formally in subsequent stages.

**3. Relevant Partners** – As stated in the School Organisation Code (2013) the Diocese Authority has been consulted prior to the consultation document being published. No comments were received.

**4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – Teaching and non-teaching staff unions will be consulted during the formal consultation stage.

## 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.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</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.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> – Education and Learning – Useful Links
Modernising Education Provision Timeline / Rollout:	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> – Executive Board Agenda – 31/05/2005

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Modernising Education Provision Update / Revised Draft Timetable	<a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</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.wales">www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales</a> Executive Board 31/05/05
MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2104/15	<a href="#">MEP Annual Report 2013/14 and Programme 2104/15</a>
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="#">WESP 2014-2017</a>