

Education and Children Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group 2021/22

Consultation Process for School Organisation Changes

Draft Planning & Scoping Document

Task & Finish Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review the current consultation process for school organisation changes including changes in linguistic provision and closure of schools
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development within their remit. • The Education and Children Scrutiny Committee agreed in principle to undertake a review into the current consultation process for school organisation changes including changes in linguistic provision and closure of schools • Many Elected Members and School Governors have raised this as a concern. • The following will be included:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Statutory procedures in relation to the opening of a maintained school (including a special school); ➤ Statutory procedures in relation to the closing of a maintained school (including a special school); ➤ Statutory procedures in relation to change the category of a maintained school ➤ Statutory procedures in relation to make a regulated alteration to a maintained school; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the transfer of any school to a new site • changing a school (including a special school) from single-sex to mixed or vice-versa • a change in the age range of a school • the introduction of, or ending of, sixth form provision at a school; • the alteration of the medium of instruction • an enlargement of the premises of a school (excluding nursery and special schools), which would increase the capacity of the school by at least 25% or 200 pupils as compared with the school's capacity on the appropriate date.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the making permanent of a temporary enlargement of the school • the reduction in the physical capacity of a mainstream school, • the introduction or removal of SEN provision or any change in the type of such provision
Membership	<p><u>Elected Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be agreed at the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee scheduled to take place on 21st April, 2021 • 6 Elected Members appointed to reflect the political balance of the Council as whole, as far as possible are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plaid Cymru - Cllrs. Darren Price, Kim Broom & Emlyn Schiavone • Independent Group – Cllr. Edward Thomas • Co-opted Member - Anthony Enoch • Labour Group – Cllr. Bill Thomas • New Independent Group – Cllr. Shahana Najmi <p><u>Advisors / Support Officers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon Davies, Modernisation Services Manager • Rhian Lloyd (Democratic Services Officer) <p>Additional Officers as and when required:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aneirin Thomas, Head of Education & Inclusion Services • Aeron Rees, Head of Curriculum & Wellbeing • Rachel Isles, Graduate Trainee Research Officer • Catrin Griffiths, Welsh Language Development Manager • Sara Griffiths, Modernisation Team Manager • Diane Phillips, Press & Communications Officer
The main aims of the review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the current process of engaging and consulting with schools, pupils, parents and the public in terms of any proposed school changes 2. Identify national and international best practice on consultation and engagement 3. Review the way in which the Council’s Strategic Objectives is communicated, consulted upon and understood by schools, pupils, parents and residents eg WESP and MEP. 4. To formulate recommendations for consideration by the Executive Board.
Scope of the review	Review the current process of engaging and consulting with schools, pupils, parents and the public in terms of any proposed school changes
How it will contribute to achieving	Contributes to the following outcomes from the County Council’s Corporate Strategy 2018-2023:

**corporate /
community
objectives and well-
being objectives**

- We will provide an excellent school in the right place by improving the condition, suitability and resource efficiency of our schools' network through the Modernising Education Plan.
- We will continue the development of Welsh in all our services, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual. Pupils can fulfil their potential in gaining skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond.

This project will link directly to the following **Carmarthenshire County Council Well-being** objectives:-

- Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences
- Help children and young people live healthy lifestyles
- Support and improve progress, achievement and outcomes for all learners
- Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty
- Promoting Welsh Language and Culture

Delivering the **Carmarthenshire County Council Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5-years** specifically objectives-

- Deliver all Band A commitments identified in the Modernising Education Programme by 2019 therefore supporting our children and young people to receive a world class education in safe and stimulating environments.
- Deliver a further £129million Modernising Education Programme investment between 2019-24.
- Consider the delivery of primary education provision in the Ammanford, Llandeilo and Llandovery areas.
- Continue to improve outcomes for all pupils with a particular emphasis on raising the achievements of pupils entitled to free school meals and looked after children.
- Ensure best use is made of school facilities to support wider community activity.
- Work with the County's primary and secondary schools to move them along the Welsh language continuum and also ensure that individual pupils within relevant schools are provided with opportunities to continue with their Welsh medium education throughout all key stages.
- Ensure the Council fully responds and complies with the requirements of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code to support the attainment of better educational outcomes with specific reference to requirements for rural schools.
- Consider options to utilise the Welsh Government Mutual Investment Model (MIM) to further develop the education infrastructure through capital investment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current specialist behaviour support services in the County with a view to decentralise and support bringing support services into mainstream provision by 2021.
List of key stakeholders [not exhaustive]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and Children's Services Officers School Staff (including those who have been through the process) School Governors (including those who have been through the process) Local Elected members (including those that have been through the process) Pupils and parents Others as identified
What information / documents are required to inform the work of the study? [not exhaustive]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School organisation code: https://gov.wales/school-organisation-code CCC School Organisation Process (Agenda Item 6) - https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=153&MIId=3367&Ver=4 WESP - https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/4227/latest-versiongd4830_wesp_strategy5-en.pdf ALN Transformation Programme - Additional learning needs Sub-topic GOV.WALES / https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/additional-learning-needs/#.YHWA345KiHs
Timescale for completion of the review	6 months