

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	The Executive
Date:	21 March 2023
Subject:	Modernising Schools on Anglesey - Moving the statutory notice implementation date for Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Ieuan Williams
Head of Service / Director:	Marc B. Hughes Director of Education, Skills and Young People
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Local Members:	Councillor Non Dafydd Councillor Dylan Rees Councillor Paul Ellis

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

Reasons

In order to comply with the School Standards and Organization (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code, the Authority published a Statutory Notices of its intention to:

discontinue Ysgol Talwrn, Talwrn, Ynys Môn LL77 7TG which is currently maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council and to increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig which is a Welsh medium community school and is maintained by the Isle of Anglesey County Council at a site near Ysgol y Graig, Llangefni, LL77 7LP for boys and girls aged 3-11.

The **Statutory Notice** was published on 18 January 2021 and a period of 28 days to oppose the proposals followed and the objection period ended on 15 February, 2021. Objections were received to the above proposal. A report on the objections was prepared and the Executive resolved at its meeting on 15 March 2021 to approve the original proposal.

However, the implementation date of the proposals was 1 September 2023. Several factors have pushed the start date of the proposal for the following reasons:

- a. The land purchase process has taken longer than expected
- b. The process of obtaining planning permission also took longer than expected and planning permission was not received until 6 July 2022.
- c. The Isle of Anglesey County Council Election on 5 May 2022 added 6 weeks to the process because of the pre-election period.
- ch. After the prospective project went out to tender in February 2022, bids were withdrawn because the costs of goods were increasing due to the war in Ukraine and the Council had to go out to tender again after the end of the election period for the Isle of Anglesey County Council Election.
- d. A condition of the planning permission obtained from the Planning and Orders Committee in its meeting on 6 July 2022 was that archaeological work had to be carried out at the site before the build. This was added to the timeline. The start date of the archaeological work was then pushed back almost two weeks due to the Queen's death.

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

Section 6 of the School Organisation Code 2018 states: " Under Section 55 of the 2013 Act if a proposer is satisfied, after consultation with any affected governing body, that a proposal would be unreasonably difficult to implement on the original implementation date, or that circumstances have so altered since the proposal was approved that its implementation on the original date was inappropriate, it may modify the proposal so that its implementation is delayed by up to three years.

Where proposals have received approval by the local authority under section 53 of the 2013 Act, the local authority itself can decide to delay, bring forward or abandon a proposal.

Notification of any determination to delay, bring forward or abandon a proposal must be given to relevant parties including the Welsh Ministers, Estyn, the maintaining local authority, and the governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff of any affected school, as appropriate, within seven days of it being made. The notification must set out, briefly, the reasons for that determination."

The Executive agreed that the original implementation date of the statutory notice was 1 September 2023 but due to the reasons listed above, the Executive is requested to extend the period for 12 months to 1 September 2024. Accordingly, there is a need for the Isle of Anglesey County Council's Executive, as the proposer of the intention in the statutory notice, to defer the implementation date of the proposal to 1 September 2024.

It is recommended that the Executive:

Approves the delay of the implementation date of the proposal namely to "increase the capacity of Ysgol y Graig to take pupils from Ysgol Talwrn, close Ysgol Talwrn and review the catchment areas of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn" to 1 September 2024.

Subject to the above, officers will notify the "relevant parties" of the decision to defer the implementation date of the proposal for Ysgol y Graig."

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

No other option is being considered because adhering to the original timetable laid down by the Executive is not possible due to the reasons outlined in part A above.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The Executive agreed to the original timetable and so it is outside officers' delegated powers to change the timeline.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes. The Executive is responsible for school modernisation matters. It is in keeping and consistent with the Anglesey School Modernisation strategy 2018 (adopted by the Executive in October 2018) and Annual Delivery Document 2019/20 (adopted by Full Council).

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

The proposed project was approved after it was amended to reflect the new tendered cost of the project. This was approved by the Executive on 19 July 2022.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

1	How does this decision impact on our long-term needs as an Island?	<p>The proposal ensures the long-term sustainability of education in this part of the Llangefni area and ensures that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs now and into the future.</p> <p>It will also ensure that the new building for Ysgol y Graig is fit for purpose and meets 21st Century Schools and BREEAM standards and will be a Net Zero Carbon building.</p>
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	<p>Yes– The Llangefni area was prioritised as part of the school modernisation programme, due to insufficient school capacity. Any proposal to create additional capacity is likely to lead to additional costs, however the new building for Ysgol y Graig will enable children in the catchment area to attend a local school for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The preferred option i.e. building a new Foundation Phase block will develop a new school building which will contribute to the school becoming a “Learning Organisation” (Education in Wales: Our National Mission 2017-2021).</p> <p>Pupils in turn should benefit from experiences at school that will support them in becoming young adults that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives • enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work • healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society. <p>The proposal will be financed 35/65 by the Council and Welsh Government through the 21st Century Schools Programme.</p> <p>The Council’s investment will be via a 60 year loan, part financed through the capital receipts.</p>

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
		The preferred option will eliminate the current and projected future maintenance spend at Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn and contribute to revenue savings.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.	<p>Yes-The following contributed during the statutory consultation process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Elected Members • Local Member of Parliament • Local Senedd Member • Regional Senedd Members • GwE • Estyn • Police and Crime Commissioner • The Welsh Government • Welsh Language Commissioner • Neighbouring Local Authority • Local Town and Community Councils • Teaching and staff trade unions representing Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn • Cylch Meithrin Talwrn • Headteacher Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni • Isle of Anglesey County Council - Senior Officers • Isle of Anglesey County Council-Principal Youth Officer • Other interested parties
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	<p>Yes – stakeholders were consulted on the proposal during the statutory consultation held from 6 February 2020 - 20 March 2020. Stakeholder responses to the statutory consultation were included in the consultation report.</p> <p>The citizens of Anglesey have been given the opportunity to present other reasonable alternatives as part of the process during the consultation period noted above.</p>
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	See the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	See the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	See the Equality Impact Assessment on the proposal

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Incorporated in this report.
4	Human Resources (HR)	No comments were received.
5	Property	Incorporated in this report.
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	No comments were received.
7	Scrutiny	N/A
8	Local Members	Local members are aware of the delay.
9	Any external bodies / other	The governing bodies of Ysgol y Graig and Ysgol Talwrn are aware of the delay.

F - Appendices:

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Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

1. Minutes of the meeting of the Executive for 15 March 2021.
2. Statutory Consultation Documents
3. The proposed project was approved after it was amended to reflect the new tendered cost of the project. This was approved by the Executive on 19 July 2022.
4. School Organisation Code 2018.
5. Report to the Executive 10 December 2020 on the statutory consultation.
6. Equality Impact Assessment for the proposal