

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	19 May 2014
Subject:	Modernising Schools on Anglesey
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Ieuan Williams
Head of Service:	Gwynne Jones
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Emrys Bebb
Local Members:	Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones Councillor Raymond Jones Councillor J. Arwel Roberts

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>At the meeting of the Executive Committee on December 10, 2012, the Committee resolved:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recommend Option 10 (merger of 3 schools i.e. Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol Parch. Thomas Ellis in a new school) as the Executive’s preferred option for formal consultation; • That the new primary school in Holyhead be located on the Cybi site. <p>It was also resolved at the meeting that, prior to going out to consultation, a report be brought back to Executive members as regards the following matters:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land ownership at the three sites. 2. Affordability. 3. Traffic management and road safety issues. 4. The status of the new school and 5. Issues surrounding the preservation order at the former Cybi school site at Holyhead. <p>This report details the responses to the 5 points mentioned above.</p> <p>1. <u>Land Ownership of the sites</u></p> <p>Following consultation with the Council’s Legal Team, it can be confirmed that Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol y Parc are both registered in the ownership of the Council.</p> <p>The position with regard to Ysgol Parchedig Thomas Ellis is not as straight forward. However, further work needs to be done to clarify the current position.</p>

2. Affordability

The key elements of a potential new school on the Cybi site were:

- Refurbishment of the existing Cybi block
- A new 2 storey extension
- External works and landscaping
- New staff car park

The total cost of developing the Cybi site was initially estimated to be £13,600,000. However, there were concerns regarding the available external play areas left on the site if the new school was to accommodate 510 children. A nursery facility for up to 70 children would also be required and it looked increasingly unlikely that the Cybi site would be large enough to accommodate a school of 480-510 pupils along with a nursery for 70 children. Welsh Government officers also expressed the view that the build cost noted above was relatively high.

Officers from the County Council have subsequently examined how the cost of the scheme could be reduced, which has included the consideration of a variety of sites.

As a result of this detailed work, the preferred site for development at present is the Cybi site. This development would accommodate pupils from the three primary schools under consideration. This proposal was included in the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) recently presented to the Welsh Government. It is however foreseen that further development of the scheme will lead to a reduction in the overall costs.

3. Traffic Management and road safety issues

Officers from the Highways Department assessed the work required to ensure a safe route to the proposed new school. Subsequently, officers from the Highways and Waste Management Service made a successful application for a Safer Routes in the Community grant from the Welsh Government for £422,000. This work is independent from the work listed in section 2 above.

4. The status of the new school

Ysgol Parchedig Thomas Ellis is a Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School. If this school is included in the reorganisation, the status of the new school will need to be determined. The Church in Wales Diocese is eager for the new school to be a Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School and for the statutory consultation to be on the basis that the new school will be a Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled School.

As outlined in the report on the informal consultation process, the Board of Governors of Ysgol y Parc was content for the parents of pupils at Ysgol Y Parc to decide on the status of the new school. However, no response was received from the Board of Governors of Ysgol Llaingoch.

5. CADW's preservation order at the former Ysgol Cybi school site

The Cybi block and the boundary walls were listed by CADW on the 13th March 2009. Both are grade II listed. The extent of the protection does not include the site but does include both the inside and outside of the Cybi block and anything affixed to the building. The advice from the Planning service is that when considering development within the setting of a listed building, special regard has to be paid to preserving the setting of the building. In this instance, the frontage setting is paramount while greater scope exists to the rear. As the building and the boundary wall were listed only relatively recently, CADW advised Council officers that there is very little likelihood of making a successful application for de-listing. There were also concerns about the condition of the building due to its being unused for a few years, ingress of water due to lead flashings having been stolen etc. This will increase the overall build cost of the new school.

It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

1. Authorise officers from the Lifelong Learning Department to move forward to the formal consultation process.

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

Several options were considered by the Executive Committee at its meeting on December 10, 2012. At that meeting, the Executive Committee decided to support Option 10 (merger of 3 schools i.e. Ysgol y Parc, Ysgol Llaingoch and Ysgol Parch. Thomas Ellis in a new school) as the Executive's preferred option for formal consultation. The options can be seen in the report to the Executive Committee for the meeting on the above date and in the informal consultation document.

Several other sites have been considered.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

The Executive Committee is responsible for school organisation matters.

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

Yes

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

Yes – It is one of the plans in the Strategic Outline Programme that was approved by the Executive Committee on January 13, 2014.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	
5	Human Resources (HR)	
6	Property	
7	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	
10	Any external bodies / other/s	

F – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	

FF - Appendices:

G - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Committee meeting minutes for December 10, 2012. 2. Informal Consultation Document 3. Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) presented to the Welsh Government in December 2013. 4. Letter from the Welsh Government dated January 31 2014.