

Date · Dyddiad

19 October 2020

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Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am

To all statutory consultees

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning for the Future of Welsh Medium Education in the Pembroke Area

I write to inform you that at its meeting of 8th October 2020, Pembrokeshire County Council considered and approved the following published proposal:

- i. To establish a new 3-11 Welsh medium primary school at Old Bush Farm, Pembroke to serve the Pembroke and Pembroke Dock area with effect from January 2023
- ii. To alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Gelli Aur / Golden Grove School from January 2023 so that it becomes an English Medium School.

Prior to reaching its decision, the Council took account of the comments received as part of statutory consultation, the proposer's responses thereon, and also noted that no objections were received following the re-publication of the statutory notice. Furthermore the Council were satisfied that the proposal will address the key issues identified in the case for change. A summary of the reasons for the Council's decision in respect of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code is given below; the full version is available to be viewed at www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/have-your-say/school-reorganisation.

Quality and Standards of Education

The proposal will have a positive impact on the standards achieved by pupils in both schools (new proposed Welsh medium and Gelli Aur / Golden Grove) as the emphasis and resources will be focused on one language in the main. In relation to specific groups the schools will be able to make better provision to meet the needs of learners with specialist staff who understand the linguistic skills of pupils. There will be an opportunity to create a leadership team in the new Welsh medium school who will fully embrace the Welsh Medium ethos and philosophy. Also there will be an opportunity to further strengthen the leadership team in the English medium school that will take them forward on their journey of further improvement.

It is Estyn's opinion that this proposal will at least maintain the current standards of education

Need for places and the impact on the accessibility of schools

Prior to formulating this proposal, the Council undertook a demand survey in the Pembroke area. The findings of this survey together with a number of other considerations relating to Welsh medium education provision concluded that a number of pertinent factors demonstrated that there is a continuing demand for Welsh medium provision in the area and

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For a copy in large print, easy-read, Braille, audio, or an alternative language, please contact Pembrokeshire County Council on the number above. / Os am gopi mewn print mawr, fformat hawdd ei ddarllen, Braille, sain neu mewn iaith arall, cysylltwch â Chyngor Sir Penfro ar y rhif uchod.

that any expansion of provision would be best met in a new stand-alone Welsh medium school rather than at the current dual stream provision.

Resourcing of education

In accordance with the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, all schools are funded according to a formula which is largely pupil based and this is the funding which is delegated to school governing bodies for schools' revenue expenditure. Both Ysgol Gelli Aur and the new Welsh medium school will receive funding based on the number of pupils on roll, and on the basis of other factors such as buildings and site areas. In order to realise the proposal, the new Welsh medium school will occupy new purpose-built premises to be built at Old Bush Farm in Pembroke. This will be funded from Welsh Government's Welsh Medium in Education and Childcare Offer capital grants.

Other general factors

The establishment of a new school will allow for the full range of provision to be available to children from economically deprived backgrounds. Furthermore, the equality impact assessment has identified no negative impact on any vulnerable of minority groups.

Specific factors in the consideration of proposals for the change of language medium

Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) Regulations require local authorities to set the strategic direction for the planning, delivery and growth in Welsh medium education and specifically to increase the number of Year 1 pupils studying through the medium of Welsh; the proposal will support this target. It is considered that the expansion of the provision can only take place if it is provided from a school which caters only for the teaching of children through the medium of Welsh. The foundation laid by the current Welsh stream provision at Ysgol Gelli Aur and the planned expansion in Pembroke is part of the Council's contribution towards that aspiration.

To conclude, a temporary governing body for the new school will be appointed in due course in order to carry out the appropriate implementation arrangements.

Yours faithfully



Steven Richards-Downes
Director of Education