

Modernising Education Programme Newsletter - October 2011

Edeyrnion Area Review

On the 13th October 2011 Denbighshire County Council published two statutory notices for the proposals:

1. To discontinue Ysgol Maes Hyfryd and Ysgol Llandrillo on 31 August 2012 and to establish a new Welsh Medium area school serving the communities of Cynwyd and Llandrillo on the existing school sites from 1 September 2012 moving to a single site in Cynwyd following the completion of extension & refurbishment works, and;
2. To discontinue Ysgol Glyndyfrdwy on 31 August 2012 and to transfer pupils to Ysgol Y Gwernant, Llangollen subject to parental preference.

The publication of the statutory notices marks the commencement of a one month objection period.

Ysgol Bryn Collen / Gwernant Project

An £800,000 investment into the shared site of Ysgol Bryn Collen / Ysgol Y Gwernant in Llangollen to extend & refurbish areas of the existing site has been completed with the new facilities handed over to the schools.



Amalgamation of Ysgol Gwaenynog & Ysgol Heulfre

The statutory notice period for the proposal ended on the 8th October 2011.

No objections were received.

The Council will now work with the governing bodies of Ysgol Gwaenynog and Ysgol Heulfre to implement the proposal.

The Federation of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd & Ysgol Gellifor

The Federation of Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor was established on the 1st September 2011.

A federated governing body has been set up and the previous governing bodies for Ysgol Bryn Clwyd and Ysgol Gellifor have been dissolved.

For more information please visit:

www.denbighshire.gov.uk/modernisingeducation



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21st Century Schools Update

Revised guidance has been received from the Welsh Government regarding 21st Century Schools. The guidance provides the opportunity for local authorities to review projects provided in the first band of funding (Band A) on an affordability basis (i.e. the provision of 50% match funding from local authorities) and against the prioritisation criteria established. (programmes / projects that are tackling estate inefficiencies).

The re-submission will require Denbighshire to illustrate to the Welsh Government its overall strategy to reduce surplus capacity for the whole school estate, including an identified target for surplus places. For Band A projects we will be required to demonstrate how the proposals will reduce surplus places, improve the condition of the school estate and allow for a reduction in running costs and backlogs of maintenance.

The Welsh Government will require individual submissions by the 18th November. It is anticipated that the Minister will make an announcement in early December as to the profile of funding for local authorities for the six year period of 2014 to 2020.

Local authorities earmarked for funding will be required to proceed to develop Outline Business Cases for individual projects as the next stage of the approval process during early 2012.

Tranche 3 Funding Update

The Council has received draft contracts from the Welsh Government in order to access the Tranche 3 funding. Once all contracts have been returned, the funding should become confirmed.

This funding will be used to extend Ysgol Y Lllys in Prestatyn and for remodeling works at Ysgol Dewi Sant in Rhyl and Ysgol Twm o'r Nant in Denbigh.

Bodnant Community School

The amalgamation is progressing well. Mrs Helen Vernon has taken up her post as headteacher of the new school and is preparing for the opening of the new school on the 1st January 2012.

Building Capacity in Schools

We know that schools are under pressure to cope with the workloads around business and finance in schools and so we are currently working on a project aimed to build capacity in schools and to free up the time that head teachers spend dealing with these issues. It is looking to set up each cluster of schools with a model that has an Operational Manager and a Finance Manager supporting the Head teacher and Governing body with the day to day running of the school. This is an exciting opportunity for Denbighshire Schools and we look forward to working with schools to make this project a success over the next few months.

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