

21st Century Schools Programme

Newsletter November 2016

Welshpool Town Primary Schools Project



What's happening?

Formal Consultation took place between 5th September and 18th October 2016 about the proposal to establish two new schools in Welshpool:

- A new English-medium Church in Wales school on the grounds of Welshpool High School; and
- A new Welsh-medium Community Primary School on the current Ysgol Maesydre site.

The Council received nearly 300 responses to the consultation, and these have now been analysed and included within a Consultation Report. The Consultation Report and Portfolio Holder's recommendation will be discussed by the Cabinet of Powys County Council on the 22nd November. If you would like to read the Consultation Report and recommendation, these will be published on the Council's website on the 16th November:

<http://powys.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=3101&Ver=4>

What happens next?

If Cabinet approve the recommendation, then statutory notices will be published, which will mean that anyone who objects to the proposal can write to the Council within 28 days of publication. In January, Cabinet will then consider any objections received before making a final decision.

If Cabinet gives a final approval to establish the schools, then two temporary (shadow) governing bodies will be formed immediately. These governing bodies will be formed by inviting expressions of interest from members of the four existing governing bodies. The job of the temporary governing bodies will be to recruit headteachers to both schools, and to establish and appoint the staff to the two new schools. This will be done in accordance with the Council's HR Policies.

Any news on funding for the two new builds?

Yes! The Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams AM, has approved the Outline Business Case for a £13m investment in the two new school buildings. The Welsh Government will contribute 50% towards this sum, with the Council contributing the other half.

Dependent on Cabinet's decision following the consultation period, the next steps will be to start designing the school plans, and appointing a contractor. The plans will be discussed with the four schools as they are developed, before they are finalised and submitting for planning permission, and a Full Business Case is submitted to Welsh Government.

Information will be posted regularly on the Council's website

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/welshpool-project/>

or email schools.modernisation@powys.gov.uk if you have any queries.