TAFLEN BENDERFYNIAD CABINET Y CYNGOR/ COUNCIL CABINET DECISION NOTICE

Dyddiad/Date 20140916

PWNC / SUBJECT
Eitem 9 Dyfodol Darpariaeth Addysg Anghenion Arbennig Meirionnydd a Dwyfor
Item 9 The Future of Special Educational Needs Provision in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor

PENDERFYNIAD / DECISION

- Cymeradwyo'r cynnig i ail-leoli Ysgol Hafod Lon ac Uned Tŷ Aran i safle newydd ym Mhenrhyndeudraeth ar 1 Medi 2016
- cynyddu capasiti yr ysgol ac ychwanegu elfen breswyl i'r ddarpariaeth
- a chyhoeddi rhybuddion statudol yn unol â gofynion Adran 48 Deddf Safonau a Fframwaith Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 er gweithredu hyn.

- *To approve the proposal to relocate Ysgol Hafod Lon and Tŷ Aran Unit to a new site in Penrhyndeudraeth on 1 September 2016*
- *to increase the capacity of the school and add a residential element to the provision*
- *and to issue statutory notices in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act (Wales) 2013 to implement this.*

Rhesymau dros y penderfyniad / Reason for the decision:-

Yn ei gyfarfod ar 10 Mehefin 2014, cyflwynwyd adroddiad i'r Cabinet i ofyn caniatâd i ymgymryd â phroses ymgynghori statudol, yn unol â Deddf Safonau a Fframwaith Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 i ail-leoli Ysgol Hafod Lon ac Uned Tŷ Aran i safle newydd ym Mhenrhyndeudraeth ar 1 Medi 2016, cynyddu capasiti yr ysgol ac ychwanegu elfen breswyl i'r ddarpariaeth.

Roedd yr adroddiad yn nodi'r achos am newid, y drefn datblygu opsiynau a chytuno'r ffordd ymlaen, y rhesymeg dros ddewis yr opsiwn a ffafrir i ymgynghori arno, a manylion a chostau'r opsiwn hwnnw. Derbyniwyd cymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i'r argymhelliad.

Cynhaliwyd yr Ymgynghoriad Statudol yn unol â chanllawiau Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (006/2013) Llywodraeth Cymru rhwng 23 Mehefin – 5 Awst 2014.

Dosbarthwyd dogfen ymgynghori i'r holl fudd-ddeiliaid oedd ar restr Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion (006/2013) a budd-ddeiliaid perthnasol eraill oedd wedi eu hadnabod.

Roedd y ddogfen ymgynghori yn cynnwys gwybodaeth dros y rheswm am newid, y drefn datblygu opsiynau a chytuno'r opsiwn a ffafrir, trefn a lleoliadau cyfarfodydd ymgynghori, sut i ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad a sut i gael manylion cefndirol pellach,

gan gynnwys pecyn cefndirol. Roedd y pecyn cefndirol hwn yn cynnwys asesiad effaith y cynnig ar yr iaith Gymraeg, y gymuned a chydraddoldeb.

Yn dilyn dosbarthu'r ddogfen ymgynghori derbyniwyd sylwadau gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn argymell cynnwys gwybodaeth ychwanegol i'r hyn oedd yn y ddogfen yn barod. Yn dilyn creu dogfen gyda'r wybodaeth yma, a chael cymeradwyaeth Llywodraeth Cymru, dosbarthwyd yr atodiad i'r holl fudd-ddeiliaid oedd wedi derbyn y ddogfen ymgynghori yn y lle cyntaf a'i ychwanegu i'r dogfennau ar wefan y Cyngor.

Cynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd gyda staff, plant a chorff llywodraethol Ysgol Hafod Lon a staff Uned Tŷ Aran a chynhaliwyd diwrnodiau agored ym Mhwllheli, Dolgellau a Penrhyndeudraeth.

Yn gyffredinol roedd yr ymateb dderbynwyd yn ystod y cyfarfodydd hynny yn datgan cefnogaeth gryf i'r argymelliad o ddatblygu ysgol newydd ac uned preswyl ac egwyl fer ym Mhenrhyndeudraeth gan ail-leoli Ysgol Hafod Lon ac Uned Ty Aran.

Yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad bu cyfle i drafod a chynnig sylwadau ar yr amryw opsiynau gafodd eu hystyried, trefn asesu'r opsiynau a'r opsiwn ffafredig yn nhyb y Cyngor sef yr opsiwn yr ymgynghorwyd arno.

Yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad statudol ni dderbyniwyd unrhyw sylw negyddol i'r drefn o asesu opsiynau a chytuno'r ffordd ymlaen.

Nododd Estyn yn eu sylwadau bydd y tîm arweinyddiaeth presennol yn cael ei gadw o ganlyniad i natur adleoli'r cynnig.

Gan fod y cynnig wedi'i seilio ar adleoli staff profiadol, mae'n annhebygol o gael effaith negyddol ar gyflwyno'r cwricwlwm sydd wedi'i seilio ar y cwricwlwm cenedlaethol ac yn cael ei deilwra i fodloni angen pob disgybl unigol. Mae'r cynigiwr wedi ystyried y bydd yr adnoddau arbenigol sydd wedi'u gosod yn yr ysgol newydd yn ychwanegu'n sylweddol at y profiadau a'r ddarpariaeth sydd ar gael i'r disgyblion.

Yr unig bryder a godwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad oedd na fyddai disgyblion Tŷ Meirion yn elwa ar y ddarpariaeth newydd. Er bod Uned Tŷ Meirion gryn bellter o Benrhyndeudraeth, mae'n fwriad i gynnig cyfleoedd i'r disgyblion sy'n mynychu Uned Tŷ Meirion i ddefnyddio'r adnoddau yn yr ysgol AAA newydd. Credir fod y cyfleoedd integreiddio a dilyn cwricwlwm prif-lif fydd disgyblion yn elwa ohonynt yn Uned Tŷ Meirion yn gorbwyso'r cyfleoedd eang o ddefnyddio'r ddarpariaeth fydd ar gael yn yr ysgol newydd.

O safbwynt rheolaethol y drefn newydd mae'r Cyngor yn bwriadu adolygu trefn lywodraethol holl ddarpariaeth addysg anghenion arbennig ar draws Gwynedd gan gynnwys yr Ysgol newydd, Uned Tŷ Meirion ac Ysgol Pendalar, er mwyn sicrhau'r drefn reolaethol orau i'r dyfodol.

Roedd cytundeb buan fod lleoliad Ysgol Hafod Lon yn hollol anaddas ar gyfer gwasanaethu plant Meirionnydd a Dwyfor ac mai ardal Porthmadog / Penrhyndeudraeth fyddai'r lleoliad delfrydol. Un o'r prif resymau am ddarganfod

lleoliad yn ardal Penrhyndeudraeth ar gyfer yr ysgol newydd oedd lleihau pellter teithio i fwyafrif plant Meirionnydd a Dwyfor h.y man canolog i'r ddwy ardal. Fe wnaeth yr ymgynghoriad gadarnhau bod y lleoliad yn ddewis addas ar gyfer yr Ysgol newydd.

Rhoddwyd ystyriaeth yn yr ymgynghoriad i elfennau megis teithio, darpariaeth preswyl ac egwyl fer, cydweithio rhwng asiantaethau, costau cyfalaf a refeniw, asesiad effaith ar y gymuned, yr iaith Gymraeg a chydraddoldeb.Yn dilyn ystyried yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad statudol mae'r Cyngor yn dal o'r farn fod yr hyn yr ymgynghorwyd arno, sef

- ail-leoli Ysgol Hafod Lon ac Uned Tŷ Aran i safle newydd ym Mhenrhyndeudraeth ar 1 Medi 2016,
- cynyddu capasiti yr ysgol
- ac ychwanegu elfen breswyl i'r ddarpariaeth

yn parhau i gynnig yr opsiwn gorau ar gyfer dyfodol addysg anghenion arbennig ym Meirionnydd a Dwyfor.

At its meeting on 10 June 2014, a report was submitted to the Cabinet to request permission to undertake a process of statutory consultation, in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act (Wales) 2013 to relocate Ysgol Hafod Lon and Tŷ Aran Unit to a new site in Penrhyndeudraeth on 1 September 2016, to increase the capacity of the school and to add a residential element to the provision.

The report noted the case for change, the procedure for developing options and agreeing on the way forward, the rationale for selecting the preferred option to consult upon, and the details and costs of that option. The Cabinet approved the recommendation.

The Statutory Consultation was undertaken in accordance with the Schools Organisation Code guidelines (006/2013) by the Welsh Government between 23 June and 5 August 2014.

A consultation document was distributed to all stakeholders who were on the Schools Organisation Code list (006/2013) and other relevant stakeholders who had been identified.

The consultation document included information on the reason for change, the procedure for developing options and agreeing on the preferred option, the order and locations of consultation meetings, how to respond to the consultation and how to obtain further background details, including a background pack. This background pack included the impact assessment of the proposal on the Welsh language, the community and equality.

After distributing the consultation document, observations were received from the Welsh Government which recommended including additional information to what had already been contained in the document. After creating a document containing this information, and obtaining the Welsh Government's approval, the appendix was distributed to all the stakeholders who had received the consultation document in the first place, and was added to the documents on the Council's website.

Meetings were held with the staff, children and governing body of Ysgol Hafod Lon and the staff of Tŷ Aran Unit and open days were held in Pwllheli, Dolgellau and Penrhyndeudraeth.

The response received during those meetings was generally one of strong support of the recommendation to develop a new school and residential unit and short-break at Penrhyndeudraeth and relocating Ysgol Hafod Lon and Tŷ Aran Unit.

During the consultation, there was an opportunity to discuss and offer remarks on the various options considered, the procedure for assessing the options and the preferred option in the Council's opinion, namely the option consulted upon.

During the statutory consultation no negative remarks were received to the procedure of assessing the options and agreeing on the way forward.

In its remarks, Estyn noted that the existing leadership team would be retained due to the relocation nature of the proposal.

As the proposal is based on relocating experienced staff, it is unlikely to have a negative effect on introducing the curriculum which is based on the national curriculum and is tailored to satisfy the need of each individual pupil. The proposer has considered that the specialist resources installed in the new schools will be a substantial addition to the experiences and provision available for the pupils.

The only concern raised during the consultation was that the pupils of Tŷ Meirion would not benefit from the new provision. Despite Tŷ Meirion Unit being a considerable distance from Penrhyndeudraeth, it is intended to offer opportunities to those pupils attending Tŷ Meirion Unit to use the resources at the new SEN school. It is believed that the opportunities to integrate and follow the mainstream curriculum that pupils will benefit from at Tŷ Meirion Unit will outweigh the wider opportunities of using the provision that will be available at the new school.

In terms of the management of the new procedure the Council intends to review the governing arrangements of the entire special educational needs provision across Gwynedd including the new school, Tŷ Meirion Unit and Ysgol Pendalar, in order to ensure the best management system for the future.

There was agreement early on that the location of Ysgol Hafod Lon was completely unsuitable to serve the children of Meirionnydd and Dwyfor and that the Porthmadog / Penrhyndeudraeth area would be the ideal location. One of the main reasons for finding a location in the Penrhyndeudraeth area for the new school was reducing the travelling distances for the majority of children from Meirionnydd and Dwyfor i.e. a central area for both areas. The consultation confirmed that the location was a suitable choice for the new School.

The consultation gave consideration to elements such as travelling, residential and short-break provision, collaboration between agencies, capital and revenue costs, impact assessment on the community, Welsh language and equality. After considering all the responses to the statutory consultation, the Council is still of the

opinion that what was consulted upon, namely

- *to relocate Ysgol Hafod Lon and Tŷ Aran Unit to a new site in Penrhyndeudraeth on 1 September 2016*
- *to increase the school's capacity*
- *and to add a residential element to the provision*

continued to be the best option for the future of special needs education in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor.

Sylwadau neu bwyntiau croes / *Observations or opposing views*:-

Yn dilyn cyflwyno'r adroddiad gan yr Aelod Cabinet Addysg, eglurwyd os penderfynir yn unol â'r argymhelliad, y byddai'r achos fusnes yn mynd gerbron Panel Cyfalaf yn niwedd mis Tachwedd gyda'r bwriad o gychwyn ar y gwaith adeiladu yn dechrau 2015 a nod o agor yr ysgol newydd yn Medi 2016.

Yn ystod y drafodaeth nodwyd y croesawir cynnwys darpariaeth breswyl ac egwyl fer ar safle'r ysgol newydd ac edrychir ymlaen at y cynllun arloesol yma a fydd yn gwella ansawdd addysg anghenion arbennig.

Following the submission of the report by the Cabinet Member for Education, it was explained that if a decision was made in line with the recommendation, the business case would go before the Capital Panel at the end of November with the intention of commencing building work at the beginning of 2015 with the aim of opening the new school in September 2016.

During the discussion it was noted that the inclusion of residential and short-break provision on the site of the new school was welcomed and that there was great anticipation for this innovative scheme which would improve the quality of special needs education.

Barn y swyddogion statudol / The views of the Statutory Officers:-

1. Y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive:-

Mae'r cam hwn yn gam pwysig ar y llwybr o ddod â datblygiad yr adnodd pwysig hwn gam yn nes. Rwy'n cymeradwyo'r argymhelliad.

This is an important stage in bringing the development of an important resource a stage closer. I approve the proposal.

2. Swyddog Monitro / Monitoring Officer:-

Mae'r adroddiad yn adlewyrchu'r gwaith manwl sydd wedi'i gyflawni wrth ddatblygu'r cynllun yma. Fel yr adroddir mae'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion 2013 yn gosod gofynion manwl ynglyn â'r broses ymgynghorol ac mae'r adroddiad yn cyfarch hyn. Cloriannir canlyniadau'r broses ymgynghori a gynhaliwyd yn fanwl ynghyd â'r ffactorau perthnasol eraill i gyrraedd yr argymhelliad.

The report reflects the detailed work that has been achieved in developing this scheme. As reported the School Organisation Code 2013 sets detailed

requirements for the consultation process and the report addresses these requirements. The results of the consultation process are evaluated in detail along with other relevant factors to reach the recommendation.

3. Prif Swyddog Cyllid / Chief Finance Officer:-

Rwy'n cefnogi'r bwriad i ad-drefnu ysgolion mewn modd teg a rhesymegol, er gwaetha'r her o ymdrechu i gyflawni'r amcanion yma mewn cyd-destun ariannol hynod heriol.

O ran oblygiadau cyfalaf y cynllun, mae'r adroddiad yn nodi bod y cynllun yn dibynnu ar gymeradwyaeth Llywodraeth Cymru i'r achos busnes terfynol. Ymhellach, cadarnhaf fod Cynllun Rheoli Asedau'r Cyngor eisoes wedi ymrwymo i ddarparu'r arian cyfatebol angenrheidiol - h.y. mae'r Cyngor wedi neilltuo £6.2m, sef 50% o'r costau cyfalaf, ar gyfer gweithredu'r cynnig i ail-leoli Ysgol Hafod Lon ac Uned Tŷ Aran i'r safle newydd ym Mhenrhyndeudraeth.

O ran oblygiadau ariannol parhaol (cyllideb refeniw blynyddol) sy'n deillio o'r cynnig yma, mae rhan 5.9.2 yr adroddiad yn amcangyfrif arbediad blynyddol "posib" o £101,574. Wrth gwrs, mae hynny i'w groesawu yn yr hinsawdd ariannol presennol, er y dylid nodi'r risg gan nad oes sicrwydd bydd modd denu'r incwm all-sirol perthnasol i'r Cyngor. Yng nghyd-destun y cyfle a'r risg yma, deallaf fod yr Adran Addysg a'r Adran Plant a Chefnogi Teuluoedd wedi ystyried y cynllun yn drylwyr o fewn eu strategaeth arbedion, a'u bod yn glir mai'r Adrannau hyn fydd yn gyfrifol am ganfod unrhyw ddiffyg yng nghostau rhedeg yr ysgol newydd.

I support the proposal to re-organise schools in a fair and reasonable manner, despite the challenge of striving to achieve these goals in a very challenging financial context.

In terms of the plan's capital implications, part 5.9.1 states that the plan is subject to the Welsh Governments' approval of the final business case. Furthermore, I confirm that the Council's Asset Management Plan has already committed to providing the necessary match funding – i.e. the Council has set aside £6.2m, which is 50% of the capital costs, for implementing the proposal to re-locate Ysgol Hafod Lon and Uned Tŷ Aran to the new site in Penrhyndeudraeth.

In terms of permanent financial obligations (annual revenue budget) resulting from this proposal, part 5.9.2 of the report estimates "potential" annual savings of £101,574. Of course, it is to be welcomed in the current financial climate, although the risk should be noted as there is no assurance that the relevant income can be attracted from outside the county. In the context of this opportunity and risk, I understand that the Department of Education and the Department of Children and Family Support have thoroughly considered the plan within their savings strategy, and are clear that those Departments will be responsible for identifying any shortfall in the operating costs of the new school.

Barn yr aelod lleol / Views of the Local Member

Dim i'w nodi

Nothing to note.