

INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Council has secured significant investment to modernise primary education provision in the city of Bangor.

A total of £12.7 million has been earmarked for the work, which includes a commitment of £6.35 million from the Welsh Government to enable the Council to review and improve education provision.

BANGOR AREA

The Council Cabinet has identified Bangor as an area where primary education provision needs to be reviewed. There are a number of issues which require consideration in the catchment area, namely:

- As some schools are full, there is a need to ensure sufficient space in schools and that no school is overcrowded
- School buildings need to be in good condition
- The cost per head need to be similar across schools
- A need to ensure that schools are viable for the future and that schools are not too small to maintain
- To provide space for children living in the new housing development at Goetre Uchaf in Penrhosgarnedd
- To seek to improve the provision of education in the Bangor catchment area, taking advantage of Welsh Government funding

GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S CABINET REPORT

The Council's Cabinet Report on Education Provision in the Bangor Catchment Area fully outlines all considerations for the Bangor catchment area. All relevant details are found in this report.

A copy of the report is available on the Council's website:

<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Schools-and-learning/Modernising-Education/Adolygu-Darpariaeth-Addysg-Bangor.aspx>

CONTEXT

Gwynedd Council's vision is to develop an education system that will:

“Provide education of the best possible quality that will provide the county's children with the experiences, skills and confidence to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens.”

In order to realize this vision, consideration must be given to changing and improving the existing provision in any way possible.

21st CENTURY SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Funding has been made available through the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme to modernise education provision in Wales. Gwynedd Council provides match for its bids to access 21st Century School Programme budgets to improve education provision, and the Bangor area is one of the areas that could benefit from this funding.

CATCHMENT REVIEW PANEL

As part of the engagement process, a Bangor Catchment Area Review Panel has been established to discuss future education provision in the area.

Membership of the Review Panel includes:

- **The Cabinet Member for Education**
- **Local Councillors**
- **Head, Chair of Governors and Parent Governor of all schools**
- **Head of Education in Gwynedd Council**
- **Additional Gwynedd Council officials**
- **Representation from the Church in Wales and the Catholic Church**

The purpose of the meetings is to offer everyone the opportunity to consider the current situation in the Bangor catchment area and to consider how to ensure the provision of world class education in the future. The first meeting was held on June 26, 2017 and the second on 10 July 2017.

The Panel received the following information as a basis for the discussion:

- Location of schools
- Pupil numbers and projections
- Capacity of schools and surplus places
- Headteacher provision and recruitment issues
- Class size
- Information from where pupils come from
- School financial allocations
- The linguistic profile of the schools
- Suitability of buildings
- Facilities and resources in schools
- Community use

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Council is keen to ensure that members of staff, parents and pupils of each school are fully aware of the discussions that are currently taking place. This newsletter is intended to update everyone about the discussions and any developments. Local panel members will also inform and update staff, governors and parents on relevant developments.

NEXT STEPS

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| October 2017 | Third Bangor Catchment Area Review Panel meeting to discuss possible options before deciding on a preferred option that meets the educational needs of the area. |
| December 2017 | A formal report will be presented to Gwynedd Council's Cabinet for consideration seeking the Cabinet's consent to hold a statutory consultation on a preferred option in the area. |
| To be confirmed | Following the Cabinet's decision, a statutory consultation will take place and everyone will have the opportunity to express their views on the preferred option. |
| May 2018 | Final decision of the Cabinet |

We will keep you updated along the way and inform you of anything that is likely to affect individual schools or the education of your children as it emerges.

More information on Modernising Education is available on the Council's website on www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ModernisingEducation or by contacting the Education Office: ModernisingEducation@gwynedd.gov.uk

