

SUBJECT:	YSGOL GYMRAEG Y FENNI NURSERY PROVISION
MEETING:	Single Member Decision
DATE:	WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	North Monmouthshire (specifically Abergavenny)

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To determine the proposal to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, to include part time nursery provision.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the proposal to extend the age range at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni from 4-11 years to 3-11 years, to include part time nursery provision.
- 2.2 To open the nursery class at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni in April 2016.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The statutory notice was published on Monday 21st September 2015. There were no objections received and the objection period ended on Monday 19th October 2015.
- 3.2 The majority of responses received during the consultation period were in support of the proposal. Children consulted with during the consultation period were unanimously in support of the proposal and Estyn's opinion is that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of provision and they had no specific concerns.
- 3.3 The main concerns raised during the consultation process relate to the likelihood that this will lead to a shortage of Welsh medium childcare places. Discussions are already underway as to the possible relocation of Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni to enable them to offer morning and afternoon sessions.
- 3.4 It is likely that the LA Nursery will be oversubscribed in April 2016. Priority will be given to children who are 4 before September 2016 and due to start in Reception the following term.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 The governing body of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni feel strongly that having an integral LA Nursery will ensure that they are able to raise standards amongst vulnerable pupils and that this will have a positive effect on outcomes at the end of Foundation Phase and beyond. By immersing children in the Welsh language from a younger age, it is expected they will start Reception with a higher baseline level.
- 4.2 Of the 42 responses received during the consultation period, only one was not in support of the proposal; their concern was that this proposal would effectively reduce rather than increase the number of Welsh medium places available.
- 4.3 If the proposal is approved, Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will only be able to offer morning sessions as the LA Nursery will be using the building for the afternoon session. It is very unlikely they will be able to provide wrap around childcare for children attending the LA Nursery, as was hoped.
- 4.4 Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni will continue as an approved provider of Early Education and will accommodate the rising 3s who are entitled to free part time Early Education during the spring and summer terms.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will be funded based on the age weighted pupil unit rate of £2,050 per FTA place; hence if they admit 30 pupils they will receive £30,750. The total budget for schools is fixed; therefore all other primary schools will have a slight reduction in budget in order to accommodate this increase.
- 5.2 There will be a significant saving to the Early Education budget in 2016/17 (approximately £30,000), as it is likely that far fewer children will access their early education at Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni in the future. This funding can possibly be used to refurbish alternate premises in order for Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni to provide morning and afternoon sessions in the future.
- 5.3 It is not anticipated that there will be any capital costs in relation to this proposal as the demountable building to be used by the school nursery has already been adapted to accommodate the Foundation Phase curriculum.
- 5.4 Resource costs will be minimal as the intention is for Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni and Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni to share equipment and resources.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Future Generations Evaluation is attached; the main findings are:

- There is a positive impact on the Wellbeing goals of 'A Wales of Cohesive Communities' and 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language' by offering diversity of provision for parents and the possibility to access wrap around childcare; hence making Welsh medium education more attractive and a viable option for working parents.
- Discussions are already taking place and options are being considered in order to mitigate the negative impact of reducing the number and flexibility of childcare places available.
- The proposal meets a number of the sustainable development principles.

7. CONSULTEES:

The Consultation Document, Consultation Report and Statutory Notice were published on the MCC website. All documents were distributed to the statutory consultees, as per the list on page 4 of the consultation report. The Statutory Notice was also displayed on all entrances to the school building and Cylch Meithrin Y Fenni demountable building and parents of both the school and the setting received a copy.

All comments received through the consultation process were incorporated within the report; no objections were received.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Consultation Document
- Consultation Report
- Statutory Notice

9. AUTHOR:

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