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Dyddiad / Date: 15 July 2021	E-bost / E-mail:	RJonesEvans@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Dear Consultee

**Notification of County Council Decision –
Proposal to discontinue Abernant Primary School**

On 14 July 2021, with the responsibilities delegated to the Executive Officer by Carmarthenshire County Council, the decision was made to approve the following proposal:

On the last day of the Summer Term 2021, 16 July 2021, the Authority discontinues Abernant Community Primary School and from 17 July 2021, the catchment area of Abernant Community Primary School is included within the existing catchment area of Cynwyl Elfed Community Primary School.

Objections to the proposal

No objections were received.

This proposal was considered in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and noted that no objections had been received in respect of the proposal during the statutory objection period.

In determining the proposal, the Executive Officer took into account the following factors as outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018 as follows:

Quality and standards in education

It is the Authority's opinion that this proposal will at least maintain the present standards of education, this is confirmed by the Estyn inspection report carried out at the schools affected by this determination.

The Local Authority worked closely with the Headteacher and respective governing body to ensure a smooth transition to alternative schools.

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant,
Neuadd y Sir, Gaerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA31 1JP

Direction of Education & Children's Services,
County Hall, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire SA31 1JP



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Need for places and the impact of accessibility of schools

In approving this proposal, the Executive Officer has considered the sufficiency of places and the likely demand for places in the future. It was noted that there was a high level of surplus places at Abernant Community Primary School. Projections show that there are sufficient places at Cynwyl Elfed Community Primary School to accommodate current and forecasted pupils which, in turn, will have a positive impact reducing the surplus places at Cynwyl Elfed Community Primary School.

Resourcing of education

In reaching this decision a number of factors have been taken into account, in particular the low pupil numbers, the lack of permanent leadership and associated effect on education provision coupled with the high cost of running the school.

Presumption against the closure of a rural school

The second edition of the Code (2018) makes special arrangements in regard to rural schools establishing a procedural presumption against their closure. Abernant Community Primary School has been designated as a rural school which required the Local Authority to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal.

The implementation of the proposal to discontinue Abernant Community Primary School is seen as the most appropriate response to address the reasons identified in formulating the proposal due to the following factors:

- Significant surplus places at Abernant Community Primary School.
- Associated effect on education provision at Abernant Community Primary School due to low pupil numbers.
- Lack of sustainable leadership with no permanent headteacher at Abernant Community Primary School.
- There is surplus capacity at Cynwyl Elfed Community Primary School to accept all pupils from Abernant Primary School.
- Have a positive impact on reducing the surplus places at Cynwyl Elfed Community Primary School.
- A reduction in the cost per pupil at Cynwyl Elfed Community Primary School if the number of pupils increase.
- Supports Carmarthenshire County Council's Primary Education Footprint Principles.

Referral of local authority decisions to the Welsh Ministers

Should any of the following bodies believe that an incorrect decision has been made by the Local Authority then, under section 54 of the 2013 Act, they may within 28 days refer the proposal to the Welsh Ministers for consideration:-

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- Another Local Authority affected by the proposals;
- The appropriate religious body;
- The governing body of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A trust holding property on behalf of a voluntary or foundation school;
- A further education institution affected by the proposals.

Please contact Rhianydd Evans of this department if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services

Gareth Morgans, BAdd/BEd; MGw/MSc

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