

**CYNGOR GWYNEDD
CABINET DECISION NOTICE**

Date of Cabinet Meeting:	11 July 2023
Date decision will come into force and be implemented, unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Cyngor Gwynedd Constitution	26 July 2023

SUBJECT

Item 6: TO ISSUE A STATUTORY NOTICE ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOL FELINWYDDA ON 31 DECEMBER 2023, AND TO TRANSFER THE CURRENT PUPILS TO AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL NEARBY, EITHER YSGOL BONTNEWYDD OR YSGOL LLANDWROG, ACCORDING TO PARENTS' CHOICE, FROM 1 JANUARY 2024.

DECISION

1. It was approved to commence the process to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 December 2023 under Section 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
2. It was approved to publish a statutory notice on the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 December 2023, allowing a statutory objection period of 28 days in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the School Organisation Code 011/2018, and to transfer the current pupils to an alternative school nearby, either Ysgol Bontnewydd or Ysgol Llandwrog, according to parents' choice, from 1 January 2024.
3. To approve transport arrangements for the transition stage only, where free transport will be provided for those pupils who are currently registered in Ysgol Felinwnda and living in the catchment area of Ysgol Felinwnda, to Ysgol Bontnewydd or Ysgol Llandwrog, for the remainder of the learner's time in either of those schools, in accordance with Cyngor Gwynedd's transport policy.
4. Subject to the Cabinet's decision regarding the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda, allow a consultation to be held on revising the catchment area boundaries of schools that border Ysgol Felinwnda's current catchment area.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Section 48(3) of the 2013 Act provides that the requirement to consult does not apply to proposals to close a 'small school' as defined in the Act, and the School Organisation Code 011/2018 provides as follows:

"Where a school has fewer than 10 registered pupils (or there are no pupils remaining at a school) at the January census point the 2013 Act permits governing bodies/local authorities to undertake a streamlined procedure to bring about official closure.

This consists solely of the issue of the notice of closure – the requirement for general consultation being waived, provided sufficient equivalent school places have been identified which would be reasonably accessible to those pupils actually or potentially displaced."

Since there were fewer than 10 registered learners at Ysgol Felinwnda in the January 2023 PLASC, the School Organisation Code allows the authority to follow a streamlined procedure in order to close the school. Specifically, the requirement for general consultation is waived, and the only requirement is to publish the statutory notice. Subsequently, the usual objection period would be held, and there would be a need to consider any objections received before making a final decision. Under the 2023 Act it is not possible to refer such a decision to Welsh Ministers as is the case with other schools.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Menna Trenholme declared a personal interest in Item 6 as she was a governor in Ysgol Bontnewydd. She was not of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers and the Local Member were consulted to seek their views, which are included in the report.

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SUBJECT Item 7: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC SAFEGUARDING PANEL 2022-23	
DECISION To accept the report for the year 2022-23.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is essential that Cabinet members are aware of the Panel's work on safeguarding and are satisfied that the Panel has undertaken the required work in a thorough and conscientious manner.2. The Statutory Director is required to report consistently and regularly on safeguarding matters to members.	
DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.	
ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which are included in the report.	

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SUBJECT Item 8: ADOPTION OF HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE MANUAL	
DECISION To adopt the Highway Maintenance Manual enclosed in Appendix 1.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To ensure that the Council's current procedures for maintaining highway assets comply with the latest national guidelines.2. That the changes proposed by the Department to Gwynedd's highway network hierarchy and its highway inspection and repair arrangements are adopted.	
DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.	
ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION The Statutory Officers were consulted for their views, which are included in the report.	

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SUBJECT Item 9: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES	
DECISION To accept and note the information in the report.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION To ensure effective performance management.	
DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.	
ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION The Statutory Officers were consulted for their views, which are included in the report.	

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SUBJECT Item 10: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	
DECISION To accept and note the information in the report.	
REASONS FOR THE DECISION To ensure effective performance management.	
DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.	
ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION The Statutory Officers were consulted for their views, which are included in the report.	