

## **Secondary Modernisation Strategy**

Powys County Council's Board has agreed to an in-depth review of secondary and post-16 education in the county in response to falling pupil numbers and severe financial pressure on secondary schools.

Chief Executive, Jeremy Patterson said: "As an Authority, our aspiration is to develop a secondary and post-16 education and training sector that offers the highest quality bilingual learning provision with a broad range of learning opportunities, supported by world-class facilities and technology, which will enable all Powys learners to develop their skills to the highest level.

"The review was only approved on January 5 and is in its very early stages. Officers have been developing a Strategic Outline Programme that describes the strengths and weaknesses of the sector as it exists currently; explains why there is a need for change, including educational provision in Welsh and English; and considers whether there are different ways of providing learning which would deliver benefits to learners. Concurrently, the review will also ensure that any future model of secondary and post-16 education is financially viable for the next 25 years.

"Any such changes will need to be developed in full consultation with headteachers, governing bodies, school staff, parents, pupils, elected members, professional associations, partner organisations and the wider community. A full programme of consultation and engagement is planned. There will be a detailed assessment of a range of possible solutions, including those models that are mentioned in the Strategic Outline Programme, as well as other options. No decisions have been made. None will be made until the full consultation process has been completed at each stage.

"Although a version of the Strategic Outline Programme has been prematurely released and is in the public domain, the Council remains committed to the review of secondary and post-16 education and is bringing forward project management structures that will allow full and transparent consultation to take place, and to ensure that we can achieve our aspiration for the benefit of all learners in Powys.

Powys County Council is committed to the need to modernise our education sector if we are to provide the best possible education for our youngsters.

Ends