

Llywodraeth Cymru

Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00236/24

Adam Price AS Adam.Price@senedd.cymru

15 February 2024

Dear Adam,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January regarding Coleg Sir Gâr, specifically the Ammanford Campus.

Colleges are responsible for the strategic management of their estate and closing any campus or facilities is a local decision. Coleg Sir Gâr has undertaken an extensive review of their overall estate to ensure they can best meet the needs of learners across the County. The review identified that rationalisation of the estate would be required to improve financial stability and allow the college to invest in facilities to provide state of the art teaching and learning spaces that would enhance the curriculum offer and learner experience.

The facilities at the Ammanford Campus are generally in poor or very poor condition, which are costly to maintain and are inefficient. The site is also liable to flooding and is within a Flood Zone 3 according to the Flood Map for Planning, which would limit potential for future development.

Coleg Sir Gâr's leadership team and governors agreed that rationalising the existing estate to relocate provision from Ammanford and Jobs Well to the Pibwrlwyd Campus would be the best option for the college and learners across the County.

The college has assured me that significant support will be in place for learners and staff throughout the transition. Transport will also be provided for learners from Ammanford to the Pibwrlwyd Campus.

The college has included investment at Pibwrlwyd Campus as part of their strategic outline programme for investment for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The project, which will be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model, will provide state of the art facilities at Pibwrlwyd Campus. The new facilities will replace poor condition buildings, which will significantly improve the learner experience, with additional recreational and wellbeing facilities provided. The strategic outline programme was approved in 2017 and the strategic outline case was approved in 2023. The college is now working with officials and technical advisors to finalise their project brief, which will need to be issued to WEPCo for consideration.

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 Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd

 gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

I fully appreciate your constituents will be concerned about the closure of the Ammanford Campus. However, the rationalisation of the college's estate, along with the proposed investment at the Pibwrlwyd Campus, will ensure the long-term financial viability of the college, whilst also significantly improving facilities and curriculum offer, benefiting learners and staff across Carmarthenshire.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg Minister for Education and Welsh Language