



**Consultation on the proposal to close
Llanbister C.P. School**

Consultation Report

August 2016

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Consultation on the proposal to close Llanbister C.P. School

1. Overview of the consultation

Powys County Council consulted on a proposal to close Llanbister C.P. School with effect from the 31st December 2016 during the period 11th February 2016 to the 5th May 2016.

1.1 Consultation methods

The consultation documentation was available on the council's website throughout the consultation period, and was distributed to stakeholders, as required by the School Organisation Code (2013). A separate version for young people was also available and distributed to pupils, and was also available on the council's website throughout the consultation period.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing an online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the School Modernisation Team at County Hall, or writing to the School Modernisation Team.

Meetings were also held with the following:

- School Council – 8th March 2016
- Staff – 10th March 2016
- Governors – 10th March 2016
- Parents / community – 10th March 2016

1.2 Responses received

A total of 194 written responses were received to the consultation. These included:

- i) 28 responses to the online questionnaire
- ii) 166 other written responses

This included a response from Estyn, which is provided on page 19.

1 written response was received from a current pupil, and in addition, 9 written 'pupil debates' were received.

In addition, copies of two petitions were received. One of these was signed by 603 people and the other was signed by 164 people. Both petitions included written comments.

2 Consultation with pupils

2.1 Written responses from pupils

1 written response was received from a pupil currently attending Llanbister C.P. School. In addition, 9 copies of written debates which had been prepared by pupils on the subject 'Debate to keep Llanbister School open' were provided to the School Transformation Team.

The issues listed in these responses are summarised below:

- Why do you want to close all small schools in Radnorshire?
- We will have nothing left in our community for the younger people
- Concern that pupils will have to change school during the school year and that the teachers in the new school won't know what work they have covered
- It will be hard for pupils to make friends if they are shy, this could cause them to feel sad and ruin their education
- It will affect the community as the hall will shut and no activities will take place
- Crossgates School will be overcrowded
- Children will get new friends and will forget their old friends
- Will there be enough toilets?
- Children will be in a tight space – this might cause more germs to be passed on
- Money will need to be spent to get more classes for Crossgates
- Families will have to spend more money on uniforms
- Crossgates might need a bigger playground
- More money will need to be spent on petrol for the buses and cars
- The community will split if there's no hall in Llanbister
- Concern that they would lose their friends if they have to move school
- There will be no school nearby for newcomers to the area
- Because there are less pupils at Llanbister there is more time for one to one with the teacher which improves children's education
- Teachers will have to find new jobs
- It will cost more to transport pupils to Crossgates
- Concerned about the impact of petrol fumes to children's health when they are playing outside in the playground
- There will be a lot more pupils coming to Llanbister School over the next few years
- Powys only think about money – they don't think about the children and what may happen to their future
- Portacabins are too small and often cramped, and won't have all the equipment you need
- Children in the portacabins will be parted from the rest of the school and would have to walk further to the dining rooms and other facilities
- The council will have to pay for more teachers

- You get more one to one attention in small schools which will increase your levels and you will get better grades
- Children would have to change schools and change teachers
- Pupils may be upset because they wanted to stay with their old teacher
- Children will have to make new friends but they may want to stay with their old friends
- Closing the school will split up best friends
- You don't realise that there isn't enough room in Crossgates
- Concern that it could take 30 minutes to go to the toilet if you are taught in a portacabin and have to go to the main school, which will mean that pupils miss out on the lesson
- It will be harder to make friends because there are already friendships
- Pupils might get bullied for being new

2.2 Meeting with the School Council

Officers from the local authority met with the School Council of Llanbister C.P. School to get their views on the proposal. The issues raised in this meeting are summarised below:

What do you like about Llanbister School?

- There are lots of toys
- The classrooms are nice and colourful
- They learn lots of stuff
- It's a small school so they all know each other
- There isn't many people in the school so they get more attention, more help and more opportunities
- They like the P.E. lessons
- They like the sports they do after school
- They have a big yard so there is more space to play
- The food is nice

What don't you like about Llanbister School?

- Welsh classes
- It is noisy at dinner time

What would be worse if you had to move to a different school?

- They would have further to travel
- Some people will go to different schools so they may be split up from their friends
- They may not be able to see their friends every day
- They will have to get used to different teachers and a new school lay-out
- They will have to move in the middle of the school year
- Crossgates C.P. School will be overcrowded
- They may get muddy from the field

Is there anything that would be better if you had to move to a different school?

- Would have more friends
- Might have a better teacher
- There is a field at Crossgates C.P. School but there isn't here
- Because the school is lower down they may have less snow

What do you think the impact of closure of the school would be on pupils that have additional needs?

- It might be more difficult for them to travel
- The school may not have the right teachers to help them
- It might be harder for them to move around if they are in a wheelchair and the school is busy
- They might get made fun of

Pupils were asked whether they had any further comments or concerns to raise. The following issues were asked:

- How would the transport work?

Pupil debates

The pupils had taken part in a debate about the closure of Llanbister C.P. School as part of a P.S.E. lesson. Two pupils read out their statements against the closure of the school. These statements included the following points:

- Pupils will have to change schools half way through the school year which will affect their education and the teachers in the new school won't know what they have covered
- It will be hard to make new friends if they are shy which could make them feel sad and could ruin their education
- It will affect the community because the hall will shut and then the activities will not carry on
- Crossgates C.P. School will be overcrowded
- They will get new friends and may forget their old friends
- Being compact into tight spaces will increase the chance of germs being passed on
- Money will be spent on building more classrooms
- Parents will have to spend more money on new uniforms
- A new playground might be needed for Crossgates C.P. School
- There will be more transport on the roads and more fumes damaging the environment
- The children get a better education because there is more time to have one to one support
- It will cost more money to transport pupils to Crossgates C.P. School

- The impact of the petrol station being close to the school on the children's health
- The number of pupils attending Llanbister C.P. School is due to rise
- The portable cabins are too small and will be far away from the school

3 Consultation meetings

Consultation meetings with staff, governors and parents / the community were held during the consultation period. The issues raised at these meetings are listed below:

3.1 Meeting with staff

- Why are you closing all the small schools in Radnorshire? There are schools in Montgomeryshire with fewer pupils which have not been closed. There are only 3 councillors on the Cabinet who are not from Montgomeryshire
- It is probably a closed case anyway
- The school is projected to have a very good intake of pupils in the next few years – where will they go?
- Crossgates School will be overcrowded
- Pupils will be in larger class sizes – that is not good for the children
- Children will find it hard going to a bigger school – many younger children will not cope well as they would get 'lost in the system'. Some children do not cope well in larger classes
- Concern about impact on families who already have one sibling in school – the child who is already in Llanbister is guaranteed a place at Crossgates but if Crossgates is not their closest school then this would not be the case for siblings, so parents could have children in different schools
- What if the classes were full to capacity and a family already has one child in Crossgates and the sibling cannot get a place in the school?
- Parents need a guarantee that siblings can get a place in the school if the older child is in Crossgates School
- Parents will be disadvantaged if they have children in two different schools
- If Crossgates is projected to be near capacity, would it not be sensible to keep this school open so siblings can attend the same school?
- The school already works closely with Crossgates, there are 3 members of staff at this school who have already worked at Crossgates, couldn't the site be kept open as part of Crossgates?
- The number of pupils at Crossgates is going to grow very quickly – are there any plans to increase capacity?
- The mobile classroom at Crossgates is not fit for purpose
- Repairs to the roof of the mobile at Crossgates will not suffice
- You are going to be transferring children from a permanent building to a portacabin
- The biggest year group at Llanbister is the nursery age group, they will be in reception by the time the proposal to change the school admission age is implemented
- Concern about the toilet facilities in the mobile – you can't expect 30 children to use 2 toilets – more toilets will need to be included, this would reduce the capacity of the mobile
- Affordable housing is planned in the area, that will encourage more young families to come to the area so Crossgates will get bigger

- The provision here is perfectly acceptable, the pupils are happy and are learning.
- How can Llanbister School building be rated as C/D? It is either one or the other.
- The toilet area has been refurbished since the building survey was completed.
- There are no leaking roofs at this school.
- We can provide our own school dinners here.
- The condition of the building is better than 'C'.
- Concern that pupils will be tired when they arrive at school if they have to travel to Crossgates
- Concern that pupils will be a long time on school transport and some will have to go on two different lots of transport.
- The Authority is saying the school transport will be provided to Crossgates School should Llanbister close, would the authority provide transport for Felindre children to Knighton School?
- Concern that closure of the school would impact on the children's friendship groups
- Concern that closure would have a big impact on the community
- Extra-curricular activities and community groups take place in the school buildings
- Parents of pupils at this school and at Crossgates School will not want their children taught in a mobile classroom
- Safety issues at Crossgates School in relation to car parking.
- If a decision is made to close the school, will there be a separate meeting for staff?
- If a decision is made to close the school and staff were given notice, would they be invited to put their names on the redeployment register?
- Concern about the Redeployment Policy – should have been revised years ago
- School closures are impacting on the lives of many school staff
- Concern about heads being told they have to interview redeployees – they are not going to take kindly to that.
- Request for an explanation of the redeployment process
- The staff at this school are dedicated to the pupils
- What happens to staff on fixed term contracts? Would they be dismissed if their contract finishes?
- If the school closed and pupils transferred to Crossgates and there was a need for additional Teaching Assistants at Crossgates, would the governing body need to give priority to staff from this school?
- If we were made redundant and have worked in different schools, would we get redundancy pay based on the entire period?
- Is it because the school is under threat of closure that we have only been given temporary contracts until August?
- Concern about staff being expected to travel 20 miles for posts following redeployment.

3.2 Meeting with governors

- The community is united in support of the school
- Reference to a photograph of all children in the school and playgroup – 69 children, which included current and potential pupils
- Concerns around standards of education at the school were over leadership, not the children's educational standards
- School was placed in Special Measures due to leadership and management of the school being graded unsatisfactory
- School has continued to make progress each time Estyn have returned to monitor the school
- Local authority report after a monitoring visit on the 3/2/16 gave Llanbister Amber for its progress in all areas of the action Plan – no red judgements from the Local Authority, so they should be no longer concerned about standards at the school when they have reported that the school is making progress
- An action plan for Special Measures is in place for a minimum of 18 months to 2 years, therefore it will be at least this time next year before we can remove the label of 'Special Measures'
- The present staff of Llanbister are not the staff responsible for Special Measures.
- 2015 results – 100% of Llanbister pupils in Yr 2 and Yr 6 achieved the expected levels at the end of the year, placing the school in quartile 1 for all areas of the tested subjects, which means Llanbister is in the top 25% of results in Wales.
- School given an ERW categorisation of 3 for standards, as it is based on the average of the last 3 years
- This year, pupils are again projected to achieve the expected levels, so again 100%, so would expect to improve in the ERW categorisation
- ERW make a second judgement on leadership, which was deemed to be unsatisfactory, giving an overall categorisation of red.
- Estyn still have concerns that the Local Authority are holding back on providing stability at the school as all staff contracts are due to end on the 31/8/16 – not even lasting until 31/12/16 when the authority proposes to close the school.
- Page 3 of the consultation document state building condition 'D' or 'C' – why is this?
- Building condition was assessed in 2009, since then, boys and girls cloakrooms were extensively refurbished
- Agreed that a detailed breakdown would be provided of how the building has been categorised – still have not received this.
- Visual survey been carried out by a Structural Engineer based in Llandrindod, based on this, governors believe the building should be category 'B'.
- Concern about capacity at Crossgates – will be over capacity based on projected numbers

- There are no plans for new build or a new mobile classroom / refurbishment of the existing mobile classroom – if there were, costings would have been provided in the Consultation document as a comparison to the maintenance of the status quo as laid out in section 1.5 of the School Organisation Code.
- By 2019 a second mobile would be required – there are no costings provided for this.
- We have to ask whether a breach of the School Organisation exists – Section 1.4 which states accommodation of at least equivalent quality for existing and projected pupil numbers
- SORP meeting 15 December 2015 – ‘Officers agreed that it would not be aspirational to have pupils taught in mobile classrooms on a permanent basis’
- Becoming a site of Crossgates would alleviate the need for children to be taught in lower standard accommodation having already completed an additional 7 mile bus journey
- We would make every effort to make merger with Crossgates a success
- Projected figures show that pupil numbers will increase over the next few years – by Summer of 2017 there will only be 4 spare places, will exceed capacity by the Summer of 2018 – these figures are based on real children
- Even if proposed changes to age of admission were passed, numbers are looking good even without nursery pupils
- Why does the School Transformation Policy only examine historical data, why does it not look to the future?
- Cabinet meeting on 26th January – mis-representation of pupil numbers and capacity available at Crossgates, pupil numbers quoted only included Reception to Year 6 pupils, didn’t include Nursery pupils.
- Request for confirmation of an accurate figure for the number on roll at Crossgates on 4th April 2016 and September 2016.
- Crossgates presently has 22% surplus places, which means that the school meets the School Transformation criteria – hope that Llanbister hasn’t been targeted purely to rectify the problem with surplus capacity at Crossgates
- Enlarging class sizes at Crossgates will have a negative impact on educational performance for the children from Llanbister and also the children currently in Crossgates School
- Assumed that education at Crossgates is adequate although they haven’t had an Estyn inspection for 6 years.
- Financial pressures that will be placed on Crossgates by more pupils, reduction in cost per pupil and enlarged class sizes will have a detrimental impact on overall education
- Classroom sizes projected for January 2017 are well above the Welsh average of 25 pupils per class.
- Average size of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes in the future will be unlawful as they will exceed 30 pupils
- Llanbister School has capacity for all of the projected pupils in the catchment area.

- Increase in pupil numbers to over 50 within 2 years and reduction of surplus capacity to 9% in one year from now will disregard 2 of the criteria which places the school under review.
- Figures for Crossgates do not take account of children transferring from Nantmel.
- Capacity figures for Llanbister are based on using one room as a single classroom, this could be divided and used as 2 teaching spaces with a total capacity of 71.
- Many housing developments proposed for the local area.
- Ysgol Trefonnen is full to capacity and pupils are being transported to Crossgates
- Governors believe that there is a misrepresentation of savings from closure quoted in the consultation document
- Governors dispute the cost of additional school transport that would be required – the figures need further investigation
- There will be one-off costs to refurbish the mobile classroom e.g. re-felting the roof, repairing the floor structure, update the heating system, install fire and security alarm system, relocate CCTV system, install ICT facilities and furniture – estimated total costs £50k
- Second mobile would be needed at Crossgates to accommodate increased pupil numbers – estimated total costs £145k
- If the authority were to apply for 21st century schools funding to extend Crossgates School, there would be a cost to the taxpayer and Powys County Council as the Council would have to match fund Welsh Government funding.
- No sound business case for closure because the County Council will need to invest more money in transport
- Merger is the only financial solution – the additional costs listed would be savings under merger and the added cost of transport would not be needed.
- Concern about pupils spending more time on school transport than at home with their families
- Concern that pupils would be losing out on educational resources because more money would need to be spent on school transport
- Pupils would miss out on the opportunity to attend extra-curricular activities because activities at Crossgates do not take place at lunchtime as stated in the consultation document
- Transported pupils will not be able to access daily extra-curricular activities as the current pupils of Crossgates do.
- Governors acknowledge savings need to be made and are not against closure of Llanbister School providing that it can be merged with Crossgates and education remains on the Llanbister site
- Challenge to the reasons against a merger listed in the consultation document.
- There are many sound reasons to merge e.g. forecast of 66 pupils, senior teacher in place who is committed to the school, leadership and management guaranteed by the headteacher and governors of the merged school,

reduction in cost per pupil guaranteed by rising numbers, insufficient capacity at receiving school, saving in transport costs

- Recommendation to close the school has been made in a rush to close the school before it escapes the net

3.3 Meeting with parents / community

- Pupil numbers in the school are projected to increase by 82% in the next 4 years
- Consultation states that pupil numbers would continue below 50 in the short term – can you clarify how long short term is?
- What is the current number of pupils on roll at Crossgates?
- Where are the nursery aged pupils at Crossgates currently taught?
- Why are nursery aged pupils not included in the data on pupil numbers in the consultation document?
- What is the capacity per class in Crossgates and what would be acceptable?
- The consultation document is misleading – there has been no formal change to the age of admission yet, so the nursery needs to be accounted for
- In January 2017, the total number of children in Crossgates will be 231
- You have not factored in children from Nantmel who will transfer to Crossgates
- Some year groups in Llandrindod are full and children are being transported to Crossgates – where will you put these children?
- Should the proposal go ahead, the capacity at Crossgates School would be exceeded
- By keeping the school in Llanbister you would be able to provide education in the community and ensure that capacity at Crossgates is not exceeded
- A mobile should not be an acceptable alternative to a permanent school building
- Consultation document states that the overall condition of the Llanbister building is D or C, however in section 3.4 the building is classified as C, why is this?
- What is sustainability in relation to building condition?
- Despite 3 FOI requests, we are still waiting for information as to how the building has been assessed.
- The school commissioned an independent structural survey of the school buildings, and the surveyor stated that all of the buildings forming the school are structurally sound.
- How has the school building been graded as poor when £120k was spent on it 6 years ago?
- Why are you using reports from 2009 to consider that the building is D rated when £120k has been spent on the building since?
- Can we have clarification that the information reported in the document was based on the classification of the building before investment of £120k?
- It is disgraceful that you published a consultation document based on information on the school building's condition before £120k was spent on it.

- How much will it cost to bring the mobile at Crossgates up to a fit for purpose standard?
- Do you think it will be possible to maintain a suitable temperature in the mobile classroom?
- Are the mobile at Ysgol Carno as old as the one at Crossgates School?
- There is poor ventilation in the mobile and problems with vermin
- Parents are concerned about their children being taught in a mobile
- Concern that the children in the mobile will feel isolated from the main school
- Concern about access to the mobile in bad weather
- Seems a backward step for pupils to go from a good permanent school building to a mobile.
- Have you factored in the costs of bringing the mobile up to standard?
- In 2005, the Council decided to invest substantial money in extending Crossgates School - £2.2m was spent, and now you are proposing to have children taught in mobiles. At that time, the Council decided that mobiles should not be regarded as a permanent solution – what has changed?
- Would you agree that it would be acceptable to put all council officers in mobiles instead of County Hall?
- You mentioned the school at Carno as having mobiles but that is because they are building a new school
- Welsh Government guidelines state that mobiles should only be used for 3 years
- How long have pupils at Ysgol Carno been taught in mobile classrooms?
- We need to hear that there are long term plans – a mobile classroom does not fit the bill
- Concerns about inaccuracies in the method used in the Community Impact Assessment to determine closest schools and computation of distances and travelling times.
- Concern about lack of assessment of cognitive damage which will have an impact on the children
- Community Impact Assessment does not consider the significance of the increase in travel time or consider a weighting
- The document is based on January 2015 figures and will be two years out of date at the time of the proposed closure of the school – a valid assessment can only be based on school attendance figures at the time of proposed closure.
- You have calculated the next nearest school based on the nearest but not the most practicable route e.g. the B4355 is repeatedly closed because of snow and the roads to Newcastle are dangerous in the winter
- Consultation document does not take into account that parents may opt for Welsh-medium education
- We do not want children separated and placed in separate schools because of the transport policy – we want assurance that all children in Llanbister School will be entitled to free transport to Crossgates
- We need assurance that siblings would be entitled to transport even if Crossgates is not their nearest school

- We need assurance that all children will be accommodated in Crossgates so that they can maintain their friendships
- What about the children who are not yet on the roll of Llanbister School?
- What would happen if Crossgates School was full?
- Concern that the Council cannot guarantee that there will be places for future children at Crossgates – you are splitting the community and you will be splitting families
- Consultation does not assess the impact of closing Dolau and Nantmel
- Reference to Newcastle school, however that school is in England – pupils are entitled to be educated in Wales
- Figures quoted for distances to nearest alternative school are inaccurate. Do not take account of the fact that some of the roads will be closed due to the construction of the Newtown bypass.
- All pupils will experience a 50% increase in distances to be travelled to school
- The maximum shortest journey to Crossgates is just over 16 miles
- What is the recommended travelling time for children to travel to school?
- There are pupils in Llanbister School who travel from Felindre and who have a journey time of 50 minutes already – why are some children travelling more than the recommended journey time and why are you recommending a proposal which will mean children will be travelling longer than the recommended journey time?
- Reference to the work of John Bowlby which suggests that there is a high probability that pupils will be emotionally impacted by long journeys
- Concern about separation anxiety for children of 4 years of age
- Concern that a long journey particularly if there is shared transport with older children is likely to have an effect on pupils
- Longer journey times may mean that parents may not be immediately available to attend if their child is taken ill at school and longer journey times can have a detrimental effect on children's ability and willingness to learn
- Closure of Llanbister school would mean extra costs for families
- Consultation document is based on out of date data in relation to extra-curricular provision
- We understand that savings have to be made and the school community is willing to work with you.
- Concern that attendance would drop if pupils were attending Crossgates School if there was bad weather and transport didn't run
- Consultation document doesn't give a full picture of the financial costs of closing the school
- The Council has deliberately excluded financial information and underestimated the costs of closing the school
- Transport costs estimated as just over £68k, we estimate the costs to be £142k to Crossgates – would question whether this is cost effective
- Received a verbal quote of £39k for a bus from Llaithddu to Crossgates
- Transport costs could double due to projected increase in pupils
- Do the estimated transport costs include children who currently live in the Llanbister catchment but travel to Crossgates?

- School transport costs are annual costs, not one off payments – additional costs would have an impact on overall savings, which would decrease significantly
- The data in the consultation document is not correct and does not explain the full impact closure of the school would have on the community or the financial impact
- There would be financial discrepancy if the proposal to close Llanbister School were to go ahead.
- You have implied that high school and primary school children could travel together on school transport
- Concern about the wellbeing of young children sharing school transport with secondary school aged children
- Would there be another adult on school transport with the children other than the driver?
- Concern about impact on Ti a Fi playgroup – would lead to parents being isolated if the playgroup were to close
- Playgroup provides regular opportunities for parents of children in the playgroup to meet and talk to teachers in the school, which assists the children with transition to school.
- Request for clarification in relation to the transition process that would be put in place to aid pupils with their transfer to Crossgates.
- What provision is there for the playgroup? The setting on the Crossgates site is for 2 and 3 year olds, it is not a mother and babies group
- How has Welsh Language provision been factored in?
- Concern about the impact on Cantal and Llanbadarn YFC – should the school close, children would travel to other schools and use youth services in other areas
- Concern about impact on The Lion Hotel – events at the school mean that the pub is busy, school playground is used by the pub when there are weddings and funerals, many parents of pupils call in to buy papers and provisions from the pub.
- The village has already lost the shop, no more must be lost
- Would the community be able to use car parking on the school site if the school were to close?
- How will Powys County Council help businesses and the community to survive if the school is closed?
- The community is in favour of retaining the school site, this is more important than retaining the school name.
- Concern about impact on the Community Hall – school currently pays the Hall Committee approximately £3k a year for use of the hall during the day, also receives additional funding for school concerts and events held by the school – if the school were to close, these income streams would be under threat
- What will the Council do to help our hall survive if the primary school closes? An estimated 50% of funding for the hall comes from the school.
- Concern that children may be educated in different shires e.g. Llandrindod High School and Ladywell Green / Hafren.

- There will be two teachers out of contract at the end of August – what steps has the local authority taken to ensure that there will be teachers to run the school from September?
- Concern that local community councils have not been informed of the consultation
- The consultation document is not reliable or fit for purpose
- Reference to concern about benzene at Crossgates School – parents are alarmed that it is proposed to send children to Crossgates, which is within 100m of a petrol station.
- Only basic tests in relation to benzene have been undertaken at Crossgates.
- Take offence at the statement that no children who attend Llanbister School were directly affected by closure of Beguildy School – children attended the playgroup in Beguildy and were familiar with the surroundings, although they were too young to attend the school.
- Closure of Beguildy had a devastating effect on the community – children are growing up as strangers and attend 7 different schools in Wales and England. Community events have reduced.
- How does this fit in with the Council’s slogan ‘strong communities in the green heart of Wales’?
- Pupil numbers at the school will double and surplus places will not be an issue
- Education standards have never been a cause for concern and leadership issues will be resolved
- The school buildings are not a problem
- Merging with Crossgates would achieve the aims identified and would achieve savings
- Has to be accepted that Crossgates School does not have sufficient capacity in the long term to accommodate all pupils – parents will not accept education in a substandard accommodation
- If 21st Century Schools funding is needed when would it be available?
- Will the Cabinet report be publicly available, and will the Cabinet meeting be public?
- Concern that the Council will be up to 98% capacity in schools in North Radnorshire by 2020 – will fail to have surplus capacity of 10%
- Did you consult with the Regional Transport Consortium?
- Page 26 of Code says that you should put forward descriptions of the benefits of each option – closure, merger or amalgamation. In your documentation you have only talked about closure not about merger.
- Page 27 of Code – you are expected to discuss standards or quality of education
- Why did you not state in the proposal that you were intending to use a mobile classroom? – we had to work out that you were talking about a portacabin
- Why have you not removed the portacabin – are you in breach of your own building regulations?
- How are the estimated additional transport costs in the Nantmel document the same as the Llanbister document?

- Powys County Council will face criticism that it is the prosecutor, judge and jury – under Appendix E of the Code there is a process where you could appoint an independent body to look at your proposal – why did you not follow appendix E?

4 ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

Estyn response to the proposal to close Llanbister C.P. School County Primary School

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is by Powys County Council.

The proposal is to close Llanbister C.P. School, Llanbister, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6TN from the 31st December 2016, with Crossgates C.P. School, Crossgates, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6RE to be named as the receiving school.

Summary/Conclusion

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to improve the educational outcomes and provision for pupils in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposal that includes addressing the issue of surplus places. The proposer clearly sets out its vision for a new Powys Schools Transformation Policy and refers to its primary and secondary school transformation programme, which aims to have the right number of schools in the right places and to remove surplus places.

The proposer clearly defines the reasons why the school should close.

The school is currently in Special Measures and is judged to be a school causing concern as classified by ERW's implementation of the National Model of School Improvement. The school has had fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the

three previous years and the percentage of surplus places in the school is higher than 15%. The overall building condition is categorised as category D or C based on the Welsh Government's assessment of building condition. The cost per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average for the sector.

The proposer has set out the pupil projections year on year until January 2020. These are very low, but are set to increase in the next few years. The proposer states that there is enough capacity within the cluster to accommodate pupils from Llanbister C.P. School should it close.

The proposer has included a clearly defined list of options and risks associated with the proposal if the school was to remain open or be closed. These appear to be reasonable and focus on recruitment to leadership positions, variable standards achieved by learners, costs of running the school and the number of surplus places across the authority.

The proposer has clearly set out admission arrangements, and suggests that there are four other schools where pupils may wish to transfer. It states that the anticipated proposal will have little or no effect on the pupils on roll in the local area. The proposer has set out and stands by its commitment to providing free home to school transport and the impact on pupil travel arrangements is minimal. The proposer does not appear to have undertaken a Welsh language impact assessment. However, the proposer has undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment that includes a consideration of impact upon people and communities whose language of choice is Welsh. It has concluded that these proposals would not adversely affect any particular group.

Educational aspects of the proposal

Llanbister C.P. School has been categorised by the regional school improvement consortium (the EAS) as a school causing concern needing the most intensive support. Estyn in its most recent inspection of the school in January 2015 identified the school as requiring special measures.

The proposer has included information about the performance of schools identified as potential recipients for Llanbister pupils should there be a decision to close the school. This information includes their inspection outcomes and their national category. The information demonstrates that these schools (Crossgates C.P. and Ladywell N. & I) are effective or highly effective and that their inspection outcomes are at least adequate. The information suggests that should the proposal be implemented, it is likely that outcomes and provision for pupils in the area would improve.

5 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

The following tables list the issues raised during the consultation period, including issues raised in writing by pupils and all other consultees, and issues raised in the consultation meetings held with the School Council, staff, governors and parents / the community.

REF	ISSUE	LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE
1 IMPACT ON PUPILS		
1.1 Pupil well-being		
1.1.1	The stress on young children will be unacceptable	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.
1.1.2	Closure of the school would be detrimental to pupil well-being	The authority is committed to ensuring the well-being of all pupils, and accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.
1.1.3	Concern about the impact of additional travel time on pupil well-being	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the</p>

	<p>transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>1.1.4 Concern about emotional damage to pupils as a result of moving schools</p>	<p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.</p>
<p>1.1.5 The children's health and well-being should be a priority, a happy healthy child achieves their full potential</p>	<p>The Proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which states that 'Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing); • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)'. <p>The authority is committed to ensuring the health and well-being of all children, and the One Powys Plan sets out the authority's aim to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.</p>

1.1.6	Based on advice received from educational psychologists, there is a high probability that smaller children would be significantly affected by such lengthy journey times	The authority notes this comment.
1.1.7	Concern about separation anxiety for 4 year olds due to lengthy journeys to school – if they are not reassured and supported by a parent, this could lead to school refusal later in life	The authority notes this comment.
1.1.8	Concern that lengthy journeys for 5 year old pupils will create emotional problems which will have long lasting effects	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school, although this issue has been raised during the consultation.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
1.1.9	Concern that additional stress will	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of

<p>have an impact on the development of young children and on their ability to learn</p>	<p>uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.</p>
<p>1.1.10 Additional travel time and distance will cause stress for the affected children</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school, although this issue has been raised during the consultation.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>1.1.11 Concern that additional travel will place psychological and physical pressure on pupils</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving</p>

	<p>school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>1.1.12 Due to the additional travel required, pupils will be at increased risk of illness, will miss out on school activities such as swimming lessons, will have less time to do homework, will have less family time and less time to unwind after a busy day at school</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school, although this issue has been raised during the consultation.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>1.1.13 The proposal goes against the best interests of the pupils</p>	<p>The Proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which states that 'Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her</p>

	<p>Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing); • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)’. <p>As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority is committed to ensuring that ‘all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential’. In order to achieve this, the Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.</p> <p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.</p>
<p>1.1.14 The proposal fails to take into consideration the many negative effects this could have on our children</p>	<p>The Proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code, which states that</p> <p>‘Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing); • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)’ <p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of</p>

	<p>uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.</p>
<p>1.1.15 Not enough consideration has been given to the effect it would have on the children</p>	<p>A consultation process is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their view about a Proposal and to draw attention to specific concerns – during this consultation, many respondents have stated that they are concerned about the effect of the proposal on the children.</p> <p>The proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code, which states that ‘Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing); • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)’. <p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.</p>
<p>1.1.16 The proposal is equal to child cruelty</p>	<p>The proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code, which states that ‘Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing);

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)'. As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority is committed to ensuring that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. In order to achieve this, the Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'. The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.
1.1.17	Children will suffer psychological and physiological abuse if this ridiculous plan passes	The authority notes this comment, and accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.
1.1.18	The children are sick with worry	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.
1.1.19	It is unfair that children are being put through this situation again	Based on the authority's records, none of the pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School were pupils at another school at the time of closure.
1.1.20	When you're talking about our children's education and emotional and psychological well-being, cost should not be the main driving factor	The proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, which states that 'Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing); • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)'. The Code also states that those bringing forward proposals should also consider the need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School places and the impact on accessibility; and the • Resourcing of Education and other Financial Implications
1.1.21	Closure of the school will create lasting, long-term problems for future generations	The authority notes this comment. However, the proposal is aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education system.
1.2 Separation from friends		
1.2.1	Some children will be attending schools in Newtown as this will be closer, however this will cause friendship groups to break down	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.2	Concern about pupils starting their education on their own in a different county	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.3	Admission and transport should be provided for all children and siblings to the school of parents' choice if there is a good reason, as there is here	Transport will be available to qualifying pupils to the named receiving school in Crossgates or the closest school to their home if this is the choice of their parents.

1.2.4	Concern that closure of the school would have an impact on the children's friendship groups	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.5	We need assurance that all children will be accommodated in Crossgates so that they can maintain their friendships	Should Llanbister C.P. School close, the authority is required to provide places to all existing pupils in the named receiving school. Younger siblings of children living in the enlarged catchment area for Crossgates would be prioritised for places in the school in accordance with the authority's admission criteria.
1.2.6	Pupils are concerned that some pupils would go to different schools so they would be split up.	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.7	Pupils are concerned that they wouldn't be able to see their friends every day if they went to different schools	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.8	It will be hard for pupils who are shy to make new friends, which could make them feel sad and could ruin their education	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.9	Pupils might get new friends and forget their old friends	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2.10	It might be harder for pupils to make new friends because there are already friendship groups in the new school	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.

1.3 Disruption to pupils		
1.3.1	It would be detrimental for children to be taken from their own environment	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.3.2	Unfair to move children in their last year of school	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.3.3	Unfair for pupils who have already been through the process once	Based on the authority's records, none of the pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School were pupils at another school at the time of closure.
1.3.4	Some of the children affected may have already moved schools as a result of previous closures and a further change will cause more and repeated disruption to the education of these pupils in particular	Based on the authority's records, none of the pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School were pupils at another school at the time of closure.
1.3.5	The proposal will take children out of their comfort zone, which will be most traumatic for young pupils	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.3.6	Concern that children will have to get to know a new school in a new place	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.3.7	Moving the children would disrupt their roots	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their

		transition.
1.3.8	Pupils would have to get used to different teachers and a new schools layout	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.3.9	Concern that teachers in the new school won't know what work pupils have already covered	Teachers will be responsible for assessing the ability and stage of development of the pupils and will differentiate accordingly to avoid repetition and to ensure that learning builds on previous experiences.
1.3.10	Children might be upset because they want to stay with their own teacher	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.4 Impact on quality of education provided to pupils		
1.4.1	Joining Crossgates will take away the quality of education the pupils receive and their ability to build bonds with their teachers	The authority has no concerns about the quality of education pupils receive at Crossgates C.P. School. Relationships between staff and pupils at Crossgates C.P. School are good.
1.4.2	Closure of the school would be detrimental to pupils' learning	The authority is satisfied that the quality of education that would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school would improve the quality of education currently provided at Llanbister C.P. School.
1.4.3	Concern about educational impact to pupils of having to move schools during their last year at school	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.4.4	How can you be sure the proposal will not damage pupils educationally?	The authority always makes every effort to ensure that the transfer of pupils to any new school is as seamless and effective as possible. There is no evidence from previous transformation projects to suggest that this is a concern.

1.4.5	Concern that pupils' academic studies will be hindered by changing schools half way through a school year	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition, in order to ensure continuity and progression in achievement and attainment.
1.4.6	Concern that all pupils will miss a proportion of the set syllabus if this has already been covered at the other school, which will disadvantage pupils when they move to high school	Teachers will be responsible for assessing the ability and stage of development of the pupils and will differentiate accordingly to avoid repetition and to ensure that learning builds on previous experiences.
1.4.7	Powys policy states that 'Powys is committed to ensuring that all children and young people have an equal opportunity to receive the best possible education' – given the lengthy journeys that will be involved, which mean that children are likely to miss extra days of school during bad weather, do not accept that closure of schools on the scale proposed will fill this commitment	The authority notes this comment.
1.5 Lack of equal opportunity		
1.5.1	Pupils from Llanbister will be at a disadvantage in terms of access to extra-curricular activities as they will be reliant on school transport	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
1.5.2	In this day and age of equality and human rights, it is sad that a local authority is considering placing	The authority notes this comment.

primary school children on a daily bus journey on these roads		
1.6 Impact of moving to a larger school		
1.6.1	Pupils may be educated in large unwieldy classes	<p>The authority accepts that should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is likely that pupils would be educated in larger classes, although these would be single-age classes which is not the case currently in Llanbister – pupils will be taught with pupils of the same age and similar abilities. This is likely to improve a teacher’s ability to better meet the needs of all learners. The authority recognises that the current class sizes at Llanbister C.P. School are small, however, the authority is confident that pupils achieve well in larger class as well as in smaller classes.</p> <p>The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities.</p>
1.6.2	Transferring the pupils to a larger school would destroy the culture and individuality of these pupils	The authority notes this comment. However, current pupil numbers at Llanbister C.P. School are small, and as stated in the One Powys Plan, ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.
1.6.3	Children will find it hard going to a bigger school – many younger children will not cope well	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.6.4	Concern that children would get ‘lost in the system’ in a bigger school.	The authority does not agree that children will get ‘lost in the system’ in a bigger school. In the Maesydderwen catchment, the authority closed 10 primary schools and established four new larger primary schools. This has resulted in improved outcomes and standards of wellbeing, which is evidenced in the recent Estyn inspections of all four schools.
1.6.5	Concern that some children do not cope well in larger classes	The authority acknowledges that some pupils might be happier in a small class situation, however all schools are expected to ensure that pupils are happy in their learning environment, and should Llanbister C.P. School close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would be expected to provide full support to pupils

		<p>to aid their transition.</p> <p>The authority accepts that should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is likely that pupils would be educated in larger classes, although these would be single-age classes which is not the case currently in Llanbister – pupils will be taught with pupils of the same age and similar abilities. This is likely to improve a teacher’s ability to better meet the needs of all learners. The authority recognises that the current class sizes at Llanbister C.P. School are small, however, the authority is confident that pupils achieve well in larger class as well as in smaller classes.</p> <p>The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities.</p>
1.7 Separation from the community		
1.7.1	Concern that pupils living in Radnorshire will be attending schools in Montgomeryshire	The authority notes this concern. However, Powys is one county and the authority is committed to providing the best possible opportunities for all pupils, regardless of where in Powys they live or attend school.
1.7.2	Concern that pupils will not be educated in their home area	The authority notes this concern. However, Powys is one county and the authority is committed to providing the best possible opportunities for all pupils, regardless of where in Powys they live or attend school.
1.7.3	The school ensures that a real sense of belonging to the community is established in the children from an early age	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.4	Pupils show an interest in their community and a great community spirit, this would end	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.5	Children will lose their identity by removing them from their communities	The authority notes this comment.

1.7.6	Families will socialise in the area that their children attend school	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.7	Children would travel in different directions which would divide the community	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.8	Pupils will lose their strong links with the community	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.9	Children educated in an urban area will have no desire to return to their rural background	The authority notes this comment. However, the named receiving school in respect of this proposal is Crossgates C.P. School, which is not located in an urban area. Should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is possible that some pupils would choose to transfer to alternative schools which are located in an urban area, however as Powys is a rural county, it is likely that these schools would include a mixture of pupils from urban and rural backgrounds.
1.7.10	The children are supported by all generations in the community as they currently see them so often in their daily, weekly and annual activities	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.11	Children need the security of knowing their roots	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.12	The whole family community from birth to grave is important for stability. Taking it away for the sake of money is not the way to go	The authority notes this comment.
1.7.13	Llanbister is a community with a wide range of activities which reflect the firm foundation given to young people from an education received in	The authority notes this comment.

Llanbister School		
1.7.14	Concern that the council cannot guarantee places for future children at Crossgates School – the council will be splitting the community and splitting families	If Llanbister C.P. School were to close the authority would include the Llanbister catchment area in that of Crossgates. Pupil places for future intakes would be allocated in accordance with the authority’s admissions criteria, which prioritises those children living in the school’s allocation area and in particular those with siblings already in the school.
1.8 Other		
1.8.1	The closure would affect 35 children immediately – 25 of these are aged 6 or under	The authority notes this comment.
1.8.2	Concern that the children will lose the personal touch they are used to	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority’s aim is to ensure that ‘All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential’. Whilst it is accepted that it is likely that pupils would have to attend a larger school and would be in larger classes should Llanbister C.P. School close, there is no reason to believe that this would mean that they would no longer be treated as individuals.
1.8.3	The children should be your first priority	<p>The proposal is aligned with the requirements of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code, which states that ‘Relevant bodies should place the interests of learners above all others. With reference to the key questions of the Office of Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn), they should give paramount importance to the likely impact of the proposals on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outcomes (standards and wellbeing); • provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and • leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)’. <p>As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority’s aim is to ensure that ‘All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential’. However, the Plan also states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure</p>

		affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.
1.8.4	It’s important for children to be able to mix with children from similar families and lifestyles	The authority notes this comment. As Powys is a rural county, the majority of schools include a mixture of pupils from urban and rural backgrounds, therefore should Llanbister C.P. School, it is likely that pupils would continue to mix with pupils from similar backgrounds.
1.8.5	Children from Llanbister are fighting to show how much they want to keep the school open	The authority notes this comment. The issues raised by pupils are listed separately in this report, and will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when they determine how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
1.8.6	Pupil attendance would drop if pupils were attending Crossgates School if there was bad weather and transport didn’t run	The additional mileage between Llanbister and Crossgates is on a priority route for winter maintenance and therefore the likelihood of additional closure days for pupils attending Crossgates would be reduced. However the authority recognises the rural nature of the enlarged catchment of Crossgates C.P. School may have a marginal impact on the pupils’ attendance levels.
2 IMPACT ON PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS / VULNERABLE PUPILS		
2.1 Pupils with Additional Needs		
2.1.1	Concern about impact on dyslexic pupils – when the school budget was cut and the school could no longer afford a special needs teacher, the class teacher was able to ensure that pupils kept up with the class	Identification of special educational need such as dyslexia is dependent on good quality teaching and assessment together with effective SENCo practice and expertise. All Powys schools have access to advisory support, and there is no reason why a pupil with a specific learning difficulty will not have those needs recognise and responded to in the alternative schools.
2.1.2	It might be more difficult for pupils with additional needs to travel	The authority would undertake a needs assessment in respect of any pupils with additional needs that required home to school transport.
2.1.3	The other school might not have the right teachers to help pupils with additional needs	The proposal’s impact on pupils with additional needs was considered in the Equality Impact Assessment in respect of this proposal, where the authority concluded that it was ‘confident that the proposed receiving school and any other schools in the local area which pupils may prefer to transfer to would be able to meet the needs of pupils currently

		attending Llanbister C.P. School who belong to the protected characteristic groups.’ The Equality Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect comments made during the consultation period, and a revised Equality Impact Assessment will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
2.1.4	It might be harder for any pupils that are in a wheelchair to move around if the school is busy	The authority notes this comment.
2.1.5	Pupils with additional needs might get made fun of	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition, which would ensuring that any pupils with additional needs were comfortable and settled in their new school.
2.2 Vulnerable Pupils		
2.2.1	Adverse impact on pupils from less well-off families as they will have reduced access to after school activities unless parents have the means and time to provide transport themselves	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils’ ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day, and that this may have a greater impact on pupils from less well-off families. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
2.2.2	25 of the 32 pupils who would be transferring from Llanbister would be under the age of 6, the most vulnerable age. Is this acceptable?	<p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition, and a transition process would be put in place in the term prior to closure.</p> <p>Experience from other school closures in the authority has shown that the young children adapt to the new school very quickly especially when supported by their parents, the schools and the authority.</p>
3 TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS		

3.1 Additional travel time / distance for pupils		
3.1.1	Young children could be away from home longer than working parents	The additional transport time per week is estimated at between 1.5 and 2 hours per week per pupil. Those children whose travel times to and from school is at or above 45 minutes will be away from school for between 8 and 8.5 hours per day.
3.1.2	Additional travel time will inevitably impact on pupils' well-being	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.3	Concern that longer journeys will cause separation anxiety for 4 year old pupils	The authority notes this comment.
3.1.4	Concern that lengthy journeys for 5 year old pupils will create emotional problems which will have long lasting effects	Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.

The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.

All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.

3.1.5 Concern that extra travel time and distance to Crossgates will cause stress for pupils

Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.

The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.

All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.

3.1.6	Pupils will be putting in more hours than most of their teachers	The additional transport time per week is estimated at between 1.5 and 2 hours per week per pupil. Those children whose travel times to and from school is at or above 45 minutes will be away from school for between 8 and 8.5 hours per day.
3.1.7	Concern that some pupils would have to travel up to 15 miles each way	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.8	Concern about long journey times for 5 year olds, especially in winter	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of</p>

		<p>the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.9	Concern that some children would have to leave home at 8am	The additional transport time per week is estimated at between 1.5 and 2 hours per week per pupil. Those children whose travel times to and from school is at or above 45 minutes will be away from school for between 8 and 8.5 hours per day.
3.1.10	Concern about the hours of travel for four year olds	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.11	Additional travel would be detrimental to the health of young children	Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would

add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.

The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.

All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.

3.1.12 Concern that children will be tired as a result of the additional travel and will be unable to learn well

Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.

The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.

All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school.

	<p>The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>3.1.13 Concern that children who have had long and tiring journeys will not be able to concentrate in order to do well at primary level, which will harm their ability to learn and their performance at secondary school and beyond</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>3.1.14 Unfair to expect children to travel from 7.30am until 4.30pm</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about</p>

	<p>any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p> <p>It is unlikely that children will have to commence their journey as early as 7.30 but the authority recognises that these children living the furthest distance from the named receiving school may have to commence their travel around 8am.</p>
<p>3.1.15 Travel time of up to an hour will impact on the child's concentration and subsequently on their learning</p>	<p>There is no evidence to suggest that this might be the case.</p>
<p>3.1.16 Concern that very young children will be travelling 45 minutes to reach the proposed receiving school</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>

3.1.17	Concern that children will have to travel further in poor weather conditions	The authority, schools and transport contractors are experienced in dealing with travel arrangements during periods of adverse weather, the additional travel time per journey is estimated at between 10 and 15 minutes per journey.
3.1.18	The Council states the average distance a child will have to travel to school is 7.7 miles, Llanbister children will be travelling up to 14 miles	<p data-bbox="860 368 2029 533">Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p data-bbox="860 571 2029 836">The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p data-bbox="860 874 1980 1007">All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.19	Pupils that would have attended Beguildy School already have to travel 35 minutes, and are facing a further 15 miles travel time if Llanbister closes	<p data-bbox="860 1050 2029 1214">Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p data-bbox="860 1252 2029 1380">The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the</p>

		<p>transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.20	The travel time would be outside the recommended maximum travel time	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.21	The travel time would exceed Welsh Government guidelines	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p>

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All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.

3.1.22 A journey of 45 minutes each way is a very long time for 4 year olds

Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.

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All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.

3.1.23	The distance from Llanbister to Crossgates is too far	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.24	Some 4 year olds will have their journey time extended to an hour and a half each way	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p>

		<p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.25	<p>Concern that other schools are too far away to travel to</p>	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.26	<p>Pupils will have to travel 3 times the distance they currently travel</p>	<p>The authority notes this concern and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School would lead to an increase in travel distance for pupils.</p>
3.1.27	<p>Concern that 4 year old children may not be fully aware of their toilet needs</p>	<p>The authority and schools are experienced in dealing with children who experience toileting accidents in the early years. The authority acknowledges that the additional transport times may exacerbate this issue in the first few weeks following any closure of the school.</p>
3.1.28	<p>The extra travel will add instability and disruption to the children's lives</p>	<p>The authority notes this concern.</p>

3.1.29	The Council's role is to mitigate long journeys not exacerbate them	The authority's role is to provide high-quality education for all its pupils, and to provide transport arrangements in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy and Wales Travel Measure.
3.1.30	It will take some children 4 times as long to get to school	<p data-bbox="857 368 2033 528">Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p data-bbox="857 571 2033 836">The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p data-bbox="857 879 2033 1007">All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.31	Concern that travel times will exceed the national guidelines	<p data-bbox="857 1050 2033 1209">Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p data-bbox="857 1252 2033 1380">The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the</p>

		<p>transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority has not been informed about any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.1.32	Concern that children will get bored travelling	The authority notes this concern.
3.1.33	Additional travel will lead to a poor attendance record	The additional mileage between Llanbister and Crossgates is on a priority route for winter maintenance and therefore the likelihood of additional closure days for pupils attending Crossgates would be reduced. However the authority recognises the rural nature of the enlarged catchment of Crossgates C.P. School may have a marginal impact on the pupils' attendance levels.
3.1.34	Long journey times will have a detrimental effect on children's ability and willingness to learn	There is no evidence to substantiate this claim. Many pupils both in Powys and in other authorities travel similar distances to school and there is no detrimental impact on their academic progress or wellbeing.
3.1.35	All pupils will experience a 50% increase in the distance to be travelled to school	The authority accepts that those children living in or to the north of Llanbister will have an additional 7 miles travel per journey to and from the named receiving school.
3.1.36	Reference to the work of John Bowlby which suggests there is a high probability that pupils will be emotionally impacted by long journeys	The authority notes this comment.
3.2 Cost of additional travel		

3.2.1	Suspicion that stated cost of additional travel is inaccurate	The majority of children who attend Llanbister C.P. School are already conveyed on authority funded home to school transport, with the additional marginal costs being incurred to transport the children the extra miles to the named receiving school. Should the school close the actual transport costs incurred will be dependent on the decisions made by the parents in respect of their chosen schools for their child/ren.
3.2.2	Suspicious that the estimated additional travel cost for Nantmel and Llanbister are the same despite the mileage being different	The majority of children who attend Llanbister C.P. School are already conveyed on authority funded home to school transport, with the additional marginal costs being incurred to transport the children the extra miles to the named receiving school. Should the school close the actual transport costs incurred will be dependent on the decisions made by the parents in respect of their chosen schools for their child/ren.
3.2.3	There is no evidence that the authority has consulted with transport companies in relation to the impact the proposal will have on transport costs	The authority is experienced in contracting home to school transport routes and the estimated costs provided are based on the knowledge and experience of officers in the schools and transport services.
3.2.4	Extra travel costs to the receiving school in Crossgates far outweigh any potential savings that the Council identified in the consultation document	The authority accepts that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in transport costs. The estimated additional cost of school transport should the proposal be implemented was included in the consultation document.
3.2.5	Spending considerable sums on transporting children does not meet the policy aim of cost-effectiveness and efficiency	The authority accepts that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in transport costs. The estimated additional cost of school transport should the proposal be implemented was included in the consultation document.
3.2.6	Travel costs have not been considered	Estimated additional transport costs were included in the estimated savings in the consultation document.
3.2.7	School transport figures were grossly underestimated	The estimated additional costs of transport is significantly less than the estimated revenue savings that would be achieved through the closure of the school. The overall cost of the provision following the closure of the school would provide a more cost effective and

		efficient education service than currently.
3.2.8	Transport costs are estimated at just over £68k, we estimate the costs to be £142k to Crossgates	The authority notes this comment, but does not agree with the figure quoted. The figure provided in the consultation document is based on the estimated costs of extending the existing transport into Llanbister to Crossgates.
3.2.9	The community has received a verbal quote of £39k for a bus from Llaithddu to Crossgates	The authority notes the comment. If the school closed the authority would consider the options on how it would recommission the required transport and if put to tender this would be undertaken through the e-tendering processes that has been used for all new tenders over the last 18 months.
3.2.10	Transport costs could double due to the projected increase in pupil numbers	The authority notes this comment. The figure provided in the consultation document is based on the estimated costs of extending the existing transport into Llanbister to Crossgates.
3.2.11	Concern that pupils would be losing out on educational resources because more money would need to be spent on school transport	All Schools are funded in line with Powys Fair Funding formula. The funding that would be transferred to the receiving schools to support the pupils has been excluded from the savings calculation included in the consultation document.
3.3 Impact on access to after school activities		
3.3.1	Concern that pupils will miss out on extra-curricular activities	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
3.3.2	Pupils will be at a disadvantage as it will be difficult and expensive for them to attend after school activities	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
3.3.3	Working parents will be unable to use	Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from

<p>the breakfast club and after school facilities due to the children having to be transported to Crossgates School</p>	<p>Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
<p>3.3.4 Pupils will be unable to attend after school activities due to transport difficulties</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.</p>
<p>3.3.5 Children of parents who are unable to drive will be penalised</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and accepts that it would be more difficult for parents who are unable to drive</p>
<p>3.3.6 Out of school socialising will be difficult for children</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.</p>
<p>3.3.7 Pupils will miss out on after school</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could</p>

	clubs as they will have to travel home by bus	have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
3.4 Additional transport requirements for pupils who currently make their own way to school		
3.4.1	Do the estimated additional transport costs include children who currently live in the Llanbister catchment but travel to Crossgates?	Yes, the estimated additional transport costs do include children who currently live in the Llanbister catchment but travel to Crossgates.
3.5 Concerns about the transport that will be provided		
3.5.1	The travel system will be complex and will potentially affect how children learn in the classroom	There is no evidence to suggest that this might be the case.
3.5.2	Sharing school transport with secondary aged pupils is unsuitable and inappropriate	The authority's transport policy provides for joint transport where possible, and a significant number of routes across the authority operate as joint transport for both primary and secondary aged pupils on the same transport. However, as no secondary transport goes to Crossgates, it is unlikely that pupils would be transported with secondary pupils in this case.
3.5.3	Concern about unaccompanied children as young as four travelling alone	The authority notes this concern. The current provision does not normally include the provision of an escort on mainstream routes, but this provision has been provided in exceptional circumstances, especially where there are behavioural issues on the transport.
3.5.4	Having to travel alone will cause additional stress for very young children	The authority notes this concern. The current provision does not normally include the provision of an escort on mainstream routes, but this provision has been provided in exceptional circumstances, especially where there are behavioural issues on the transport.
3.5.5	Concern about safety of buses for the	The authority's policy is that all buses used for home to school transport have to be fitted

	distance travelled as there are no seat belts / booster seats which will endanger pupil safety	with seat belts and that these should be used by the pupils.
3.5.6	Concern that pupils will be unsupervised on the school bus	The authority notes this concern. The current provision does not normally include the provision of an escort on mainstream routes, but this provision has been provided in exceptional circumstances, especially where there are behavioural issues on the transport.
3.5.7	Concern about who will look after young children of 4 years old if they wet themselves on the bus	The authority and schools are experienced in dealing with children who experience toileting accidents in the early years. The authority acknowledges that the additional transport times may exacerbate this issue in the first few weeks following any closure of the school.
3.5.8	Will you be employing staff at a ratio similar to pupil-teacher ratios in schools for the buses?	The provision of Home to School transport does not currently include the provision of an escort. The bus is operated by the driver.
3.5.9	Concern about the well-being of young children sharing school transport with secondary school pupils	The authority's transport policy provides for joint transport where possible, and a significant number of routes across the authority operate as joint transport for both primary and secondary aged pupils on the same transport. However, as no secondary transport goes to Crossgates, it is unlikely that pupils would be transported with secondary pupils in this case.
3.5.10	Concern that some pupils will have to go on two lots of transport	The authority does use link transport in some areas, where pupils are transported to meet a larger bus. In these cases the contractors are required to undertake a risk assessment to ensure the pupils are transferred between the two vehicles safely.
3.6 Environmental impact of additional travel		
3.6.1	Concern about increase in CO2 emissions for all the additional journeys, including the school transport and the increase in parent travel that will be needed	The authority accepts that there will be an environmental impact due to the provision of additional transport, however this will be mitigated to some extent by a reduction in the building footprint of schools and the reduction in parental transport.

3.6.2	Concern that additional transport will create more pollution in Crossgates	The authority notes this comment, all buses used for home to school transport must meet the required standards and are subject to regular checks and tests.
3.6.3	Schools are teaching pupils that we should be using less vehicles in order to protect the environment	The authority has a duty to consider the overall impact on the environment of any proposal and this assessment will be included as part of the single integrated impact assessment.
3.6.4	Additional fumes caused by additional travel have not been considered	The authority accepts that there will be an environmental impact due to the provision of additional transport, however this will be mitigated to some extent by a reduction in the building footprint of schools and the reduction in parental transport.
3.7 Concern about the roads		
3.7.1	The A483 is dangerous	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules.
3.7.2	Concern about bussing children along the ill renowned and dangerous section of the A483, especially in winter	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules.
3.7.3	Concern that the road from Crossgates to Newtown is dangerous	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules.
3.7.4	The catchment area is very hilly, this is the reason children take a long time to get to school, it would take even longer to get to Crossgates	Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school. The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn

		<p>Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
3.7.5	The road to Newcastle-on-Clun is unclassified and is very dangerous in the winter	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules.
3.7.6	The travelling conditions are challenging, particularly in the winter months	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules.
3.7.7	Concern that transport will be needed for 10 pupils on a road which is not suitable for anything other than a car	The authority considers the type and nature of the roads when deciding the size of vehicle that should be used on a particular route.
3.7.8	90% of pupils live on farms that have steep access roads	The authority considers the type and nature of the roads when deciding the size of vehicle that should be used on a particular route.
3.7.9	Bus providers often ring the school to say that for health and safety reasons they won't drive	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.10	Concern about large buses blocking smaller roads	The authority considers the type and nature of the roads when deciding the size of vehicle that should be used on a particular route.

3.7.11	Pupils will have to travel on narrow, steep and rough roads	Pupils already travel to their current school on such roads, the additional mileage from Llanbister to Crossgates is on the A483.
3.7.12	The roads are dramatically affected by bad weather	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules.
3.7.13	Concern about the road to Kerry – invite Cabinet members and the council to come and assess the road themselves	The authority notes this comment, should parents chose to send their child to Kerry as the closest school then the services would make an assessment of the road. All Powys roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the relevant speed limits that apply to the individual road.
3.7.14	The geography is rural and the roads, byroads and farm tracks are particularly hazardous during challenging weather	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.15	The byroads and areas could be considered risky if driving on a regular basis	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.16	Weather conditions can be extremely challenging in the north of Radnorshire – this factor has been completely overlooked	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.17	There would be a risk to children from travelling on the roads daily	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children

		during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.18	Local roads become impassable when there is snow	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.19	The A483 is one of the most accident prone roads in Wales	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.20	In bad weather the Council doesn't clear the minor roads very quickly	All roads are safe subject to the road users using them within the national speed limits for the road. The schools and transport services liaise closely around the inclusion of home to transport routes on the winter maintenance schedules. There is an agreed procedure that travel operators use when deciding if the road conditions are safe to transport children during periods of adverse winter weather.
3.7.21	Many families already travel along hazardous byroads, narrow lanes and dirt tracks to get to Llanbister School	The authority notes this comment.
3.7.22	The B4355 is repeatedly closed in the winter	The B4355 is the road from Knighton to Dolfor and crosses over the hill between the Teme and Severn valleys and the authority recognises that this road is closed in severe weather.
3.8 Reference to large area currently served by Llanbister C.P. School		
3.8.1	Llanbister C.P. School is within 6 communities – Felindre/Beguildy, Llanbadarn Fynydd/Llaithddu, Llanbister, Abbey Cwm Hir	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.2	Llanbister School serves six large	The authority notes this comment.

	rural communities	
3.8.3	Llanbister is a rural area and the school serves a wide catchment area	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.4	The school serves numerous villages/communities	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.5	The community is very close despite being so vast in terms of area	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.6	The catchment area of Llanbister School is massive, with this in mind I fail to see why Powys officials have put this proposal to Cabinet.	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.7	Concern that there would be no school between Crossgates and Newtown	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.8	The school serves so many villages – Llaithddu, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llananno, Llanbister and Felindre	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.9	Closing Llanbister School would leave an area of 300 square miles without a school	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.10	Llanbister is currently the only school in the north of Radnorshire within a 23 mile radius.	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.11	If Llanbister School closes there will be a distance of 24 miles along the A483 without a school from Newtown	The authority notes this comment.

	to Crossgates	
3.8.12	Llanbister serves a large catchment area of approximately 162 km ² of unique terrain, high altitudes with many poor, unclassified single roads	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.13	Llanbister School covers a large geographical area which is affected by bad weather	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.14	Some of the roads used to calculate travel distances will be closed due to construction of the Newtown bypass	
3.9 Other		
3.9.1	Ask you to look at the routes travelled, the distances, journey duration and road conditions, only then can you make an informed decision about the future of our school	Officers of the transport team are fully aware of the roads that are currently used to transport children to Llanbister C.P. School, the additional mileage will be along the A483 between Llanbister and Crossgates.
3.9.2	Where will pupils be picked up and dropped off?	The pick-up points and drop off points for these children who currently travel on transport to school would be the same as they are now, for those pupils who live in Llanbister or under the qualifying distance the authority and contractor would agree safe pick up points for pupils.
3.9.3	Pupils are entitled to transport from their house to the bus stop which is approximately 3 miles away	The pick-up points would be agreed by the service and contractors and would be in line with the requirements contained in the authority's home to school transport policy.
3.9.4	Parents currently make a special effort to get children to school by	The authority notes this comment.

	using 4 wheeled drive vehicles and tractors, will they continue to do this if the children attend Crossgates?	
3.9.5	The authority is saying that transport will be provided to Crossgates School should Llanbister School close, would the authority provide transport for Felindre children to Knighton School?	Yes, if Knighton C. in W. School was the closest suitable school to the home address or it was agreed by the authority to continue the transport routes to the school down the Teme Valley.
3.9.6	Concern about children having to attend different schools because of the transport policy – want assurance that all children in Llanbister School will be entitled to free transport to Crossgates	Should Llanbister C.P. School close, all children currently attending the school would be entitled to home to school transport to Crossgates C.P. School if they live within the current catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School.
3.9.7	What is the recommended travel time for children to travel to school?	The policy on the public site states: 'The Authority will aim to ensure that, except in exceptional circumstances, a pupil being transported to their nearest allocated mainstream school/centre should not normally have a single journey time of more than 45 minutes for primary schools and 60 minutes for secondary schools.'
4 IMPACT ON STAFF		
4.1	Will more teaching assistants be employed at the receiving school to support staff?	The employment of staff at the receiving school is at the discretion of the governing body in collaboration with senior leaders.
4.2	If a decision is made to close the school, will there be a meeting for staff?	Should a decision be taken to close the school then consultation would be entered into with all of the relevant staff and Trades Unions.
4.3	If a decision is made to close the school and staff were given notice, would they be invited to put their	Should a decision be taken to close the school, staff would be entitled to be placed on the redeployment list and Powys County Council will make every effort to identify suitable alternative positions for them.

	names on the redeployment register?	
4.4	School closures are impacting on the lives of many school staff	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for those affected. The authority is keen to conclude this process as soon as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty.
4.5	Concern that heads won't take kindly to being told that they have to interview redeployees	Whilst Powys County Council cannot force Headteachers or Governing Bodies to consider applications from redeployees, Headteachers recognise that in situations such as school closures it is not the fault of the redeployee that they are in the situation that they are and there is no implied criticism of their abilities or work performance. We are hopeful that Headteachers and Governing Bodies will be sympathetic to the position of redeployees.
4.6	Request for an explanation of the redeployment process	The Redeployment Policy is available to staff on Page 7602 of the Powys County Council Intranet.
4.7	What would happen to staff on fixed term contracts if the school closed? Would they be dismissed if their contract finishes?	It would depend upon how much continuous service the members of staff have. Should a decision to close the school be made then HR would be available to support all staff through the process and to provide more detailed information based on individual circumstances.
4.8	If the school closed and pupils transferred to Crossgates and there was a need for additional Teaching Assistants at Crossgates, would the governing body need to give priority to staff from this school?	Whilst Powys County Council cannot force Headteachers or Governing Bodies to give priority to applications from redeployees, Headteachers recognise that in situations such as school closures it is not the fault of the redeployee that they are in the situation that they are and there is no implied criticism of their abilities or work performance. We are hopeful that Headteachers and Governing Bodies would be sympathetic to the position of redeployees. In the event that a decision is taken to close the school and pupils transfer to Crossgates C.P. School it may be possible to agree with the Governing Body of Crossgates C.P. School to give priority to staff who would otherwise be at risk of compulsory redundancy.
4.9	If we were made redundant and have worked in different schools, would we get redundancy pay based on the entire period of employment or just the employment at this school?	In the event that a redundancy takes place, any compensation payment would be calculated on the basis of continuous Local Government service where an employee has only one position. Where employees have multiple posts then depending upon the circumstances the calculation may be based upon continuous service in that post only. Should a decision to close the School be made then HR would be available to support all

		staff through the process and provide more detailed information based on individual circumstances.
4.10	Is it because the school is under threat of closure that staff at the school have only been given temporary contracts until August?	Any new staff appointed to a school which is being considered for closure by the authority would be unlikely to be given permanent contracts by the governing body due the uncertainty of continuity of employment.
4.11	Concern about staff being expected to travel 20 miles for posts following redeployment	Relocation mileage is not currently paid by Powys County Council. Should a decision to close the school be made then HR would be available to support all staff through the process and discuss what might be considered reasonable depending on individual circumstances.
4.12	Two teachers will be out of contract at the end of August – what steps has the local authority taken to ensure that there will be teachers to run the school from September?	School staff are appointed by the Governing Body, not by the Local Authority. The Local Authority discussed the extension of contracts to 31 December in the first instance during the summer term 2016.
4.13	The redeployment policy should have been revised years ago	The Redeployment Policy is currently being revised as part of the new Schools Handbook. We anticipate that this will be available to be adopted by schools during the Autumn Term 2016-17.
4.14	Concern that teachers will have to find new jobs	Should a decision be made to close the school then staff would be entitled to be placed on the redeployment list and Powys County Council would make every effort to identify suitable alternative positions for them. It is however possible that it will not be possible to identify suitable alternative roles and that staff may be in a position where they are made redundant and have to seek alternative employment.
5 IMPACT ON PARENTS / FAMILIES		
5.1 Removing choice for families		
5.1.1	Choice of our children's future is being taken away by closing the	Whilst the authority has named a receiving school as part of the proposal to close Llanbister C.P. School, parents could apply for a place in any other school should

	school	Llanbister C.P. School close, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what school they wished their children to go to.
5.1.2	Without Llanbister School, the choice of parents in relation to how they wish their children to be educated would be taken away	Whilst the authority has named a receiving school as part of the proposal to close Llanbister C.P. School, parents could apply for a place in any other school should Llanbister C.P. School close, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what school they wished their children to go to.
5.1.3	Closure of Beguildy School has already removed choice for some families	The authority notes this comment.
5.1.4	The Welsh element makes the choice of alternative schools very limited	The authority notes this comment.
5.2 No choice of rural school		
5.2.1	Parents and children should not have to fight just to get access to education in rural Powys	Should Llanbister C.P. School close the authority would continue to provide access to education to pupils living in the area currently served by the school at alternative schools, and free home to school transport would be provided for qualifying pupils.
5.3 Impact on families		
5.3.1	There will be a financial impact on families who will have to drive their children to school themselves	Should Llanbister C.P. School close, the authority would provide free home to school transport to alternative provision for qualifying pupils, therefore parents would not be expected to drive their children to school themselves. However, it is accepted that there would be an impact on parents due to the need to travel to the alternative school to attend other school activities.
5.3.2	Parents would miss out on communication with the school at drop off / pick up times	Communication between all parents and children is critical to their success at schools. Many pupils are transported to school by home to school transport, which means that their parents are unable to speak to the teachers at the start or end of the school day, however there are many other ways for schools to ensure that contact with parents is maintained, such as home to school books, regular telephone contact, e-mail etc.

5.3.3	Parents will have to take children away from the local community to engage in activities	Should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is true that children would be travelling to a different location to access education provision, and therefore it is likely that they and their families would also travel to this location to attend other activities related to the school. However, they will continue to live in their present communities, therefore there is no reason why they wouldn't be able to continue to engage in activities within the community where they live.
5.3.4	Adverse impact on after school activities unless parents have the means and time to provide transport themselves – this will have an adverse impact on less well-off families	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day, and that this may have a greater impact on pupils from less well-off families. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
5.3.5	Concern that families may have children in different schools if there is no room for subsequent siblings in Crossgates	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. Pupil places will be allocated for future intakes in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the schools allocation area and in particular those with siblings already in the school.
5.3.6	Concern that some families could have children in 3 different schools across 30 miles distance	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. Pupil places will be allocated for future intakes in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the schools allocation area and in particular those with siblings already in the school.
5.3.7	The proposals are having an impact on families	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for those affected. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty.
5.3.8	It will be disturbing for parents and children to have to change routine	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for those affected. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty.
5.3.9	The possibility of children having to	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of

	attend schools so far away is placing immense pressure on families	uncertainty for those affected. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty.
5.3.10	Detrimental impact on family life if ability to access breakfast club and after school club are taken away	<p>Based on the timetable used for the high school bus, the additional travel time from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School is 10 minutes per journey, which would add between 1.50 and 2.00 hours of additional travel per week for the children. Of the 37 children expected in the school for the 2016-17 school year 17 (46%) live more than 10 miles from the named receiving school.</p> <p>The additional travel time between Llanbister and Crossgates is estimated to be between 10 and 13 minutes and will extend travel times for those children living north of Llanbadarn Fynydd and in the top of the Teme Valley to just over 45 minutes to the named receiving school in Crossgates. There are several remote areas within the county where the transport times to the closest school would be similar to the estimated times for some of the children from Llanbister if school closed. The authority is not aware of any stress, physical illness or psychological issues affecting any primary aged child being transported this amount of time to primary school.</p> <p>All children who are transported to school are at risk of not being able to access after school clubs etc. and this risk is extended by the distance the home is from the school. The authority will work with the named receiving school to discuss children's ability to access extra-curricular activities at the school.</p>
5.3.11	The proposal will make it difficult for parents to attend assemblies, plays, to hear children reading or to be immediately available if children are sick.	The authority accepts that implementation of the proposal would make it more difficult for parents to get to school during the school day if needed.
5.3.12	Concern that parents will be unable to work if the school moves	The authority does not agree that the proposal to close Llanbister C.P. School would mean that parents would be unable to work.
5.3.13	It will be difficult for parents to get children to school on time	The additional travel time is projected to be 10 to 15 minutes and this additional time requirement should not make it difficult for parents.

5.3.14	Concern about siblings being split up and having to attend different schools	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. Pupil places will be allocated for future intakes in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the schools allocation area and in particular those with siblings already in the school.
5.3.15	Concern that pupils will have less time to spend with their family due to the additional travel time	The authority notes this concern.
5.3.16	Closure of the school will affect family life as parents use breakfast club to be able to get to work in Newtown on time	It is unlikely that the children using home to school transport will be able to access breakfast club at Crossgates. Should the school close the authority will work with the school and transport contractors around the transport times.
5.3.17	The proposal goes against the wishes of families	The authority notes this comment.
5.3.18	Parents need a guarantee that siblings will be able to get a place at Crossgates School if an older child gets a place there	Should Llanbister C.P. School close, the authority would include the Llanbister catchment area in that of Crossgates. Pupil places will be allocated for future intakes in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the school's allocation area and in particular those with siblings already in the school.
5.3.19	Parents will have to spend money on new uniforms	The authority will work with the named receiving school around the provision of school uniforms to new pupils. The authority does not provide any support to parents in respect to funding the costs of new uniforms.
5.4 Other		
5.4.1	The Council hasn't taken into account those who wish for their children to go to a Welsh-medium school	Llanbister C.P. School is an English-medium school, therefore should the school close, the authority would expect pupils to transfer to alternative English-medium provision. Parents would be able to apply for a place for their children in Welsh-medium provision if this was their preference.
5.4.2	As working parents, we feel penalised	The authority notes this comment.

for working

6 IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

6.1 Community hall

6.1.1	The school's close proximity to the community hall allows children to use the facilities	The authority notes this comment.
6.1.2	The community hall is a vital hub where the community meets for local events, what will happen to the building and the land?	The proposal is around the closure of the school and not the whole site. Should the school close, it is the authority's expectation that the community hall would continue under its current arrangements and that discussions would be undertaken with the management group around any further transfer of land required for car parking etc.
6.1.3	Concern about the financial impact on the Hall as the school provides 50% of the overall income to the hall per year	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.1.4	The income provided by the school provides stability to keep the hall running year on year.	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.1.5	Without the school providing income to the hall, and with Powys' funding stream coming to an end in 2017, the hall is at risk of not having enough income to cover the running costs, which puts the hall at a higher risk of closing	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.1.6	Closure of the school would lead to a significant reduction in use of the hall,	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss

	for example for after school clubs, parties, PE and PTA events, and other groups that are not directly linked to the school such as Young Farmers, sports groups and parent / toddler group	of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.1.7	The community hall is a village facility although it is used by the school	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.1.8	The community hall is physically and financially connected with the school	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.1.9	What consideration has been given to the financial viability of the community hall if it loses essential revenue from the school based lettings?	Concerns raised in relation to the financial viability of the community hall should the school close will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
6.1.10	The school currently pays the Hall committee approximately £3k a year for use of the hall during the day, and receives additional funding for school concerts and events held by the school – if the school were to close, these income streams would be under threat.	The authority acknowledges this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during and outside of the school day.
6.2 Impact on community organisations and activities		
6.2.1	If the school closed, it would have a knock on affect for the churches	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanbister C.P. School on the local churches. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term

	locally	sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.2	Concern that the playgroup would close if the school closed	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanbister C.P. School on the playgroup. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.3	Concern that the local YFCs would close	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanbister C.P. School on the local YFCs. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed. The authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, therefore the YFC could continue to meet in the hall.
6.2.4	Concern about the negative effect on the annual village show	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanbister C.P. School on the annual village show. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.5	Closure of the school would have a huge effect on the local community's amenities and the local activities	The authority notes this concern. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.6	Concern about the annual fair if there is no school in the area	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanbister C.P. School on the annual fair. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.7	The Ti a Fi playgroup will be affected as it will not continue if the school	The authority notes this comment. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.

	closes	
6.2.8	Where will the YFC meet if the school closes?	The authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, therefore the YFC could continue to meet in the hall.
6.2.9	Historic and cultural links with the YFC are formed within the schools	The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.10	The school links with the churches, YFC, village shows, sports clubs and more – these will all be lost	The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.2.11	Ti a Fi group fluctuates in numbers from 10-25 parents and children and acts as a natural feeder to Llanbister School	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.12	If the school closes, the Ti a Fi group will close as families will invest their time within the catchment area of the school	The authority notes this concern.
6.2.13	Of the 28 parents that attend Llanbister Ti a Fi, 82% attend no other playgroup. The 18% that do attend another playgroup all attend Felindre, which is now part of the catchment area of Llanbister School since the closure of Beguildy	The authority notes this concern.
6.2.14	There will be no activities for young people	The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational

		issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3 Concern about impact of closing a school on the community / village		
6.3.1	The school is part of local life and to lose it would be a blow to the community	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.2	The school is an important hub for the local community	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.3	The school is at the heart of the community, closing it would have a devastating effect	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.4	The school is dedicated to supporting the local community	The authority notes this comment.
6.3.5	Closure of the school would significantly mar the community spirit in Llanbister	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.6	The school is what holds the community together	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.7	Closure of the school would have a detrimental effect on children and	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and

	parents in the community	social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.8	Closure of the school would mean that the community would lose its focal point	The authority notes this comment. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.9	The school's playground is used for community events and used by the pub for weddings and funerals	The authority notes this comment.
6.3.10	It has been proven that the heart of the community goes when a school is closed	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.11	The detrimental impact closing a school has on the community has already been seen following the closure of Dolfor and Beguildy schools – local shows, young farmers clubs and other social gatherings have been severely affected	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.12	Closure of the school would have a negative impact on future generations	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.13	Closure of the school would change the way the community functions socially	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.

6.3.14	The school has strong links with the community which will be torn apart	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.15	Closure of Beguildy has had a devastating effect on the local community – the children now attend 7 different schools in Wales and England	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.16	Since the closure of Beguildy School community events have reduced by 50%	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.17	Not enough consideration has been given to the effect it would have on the community	The authority notes this comment. An initial community impact assessment was published with the consultation document in relation to this proposal. This will be updated following the consultation period to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.
6.3.18	Moving the children would deprive the village of any young community life	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.19	The community needs to keep its primary school, for its community spirit, for its heritage and for the people of Powys as a whole	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.

6.3.20	The community members of Llanbister, Llanbadarn Fynydd, Llananno, Felindre, Llaithddu and Beguildy whose nearest school is Llanbister have completed a survey to demonstrate the importance of the school and how it strengthens the communities it serves	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.21	The village has already lost the shop, no more must be lost	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4 Closure of the school would mean that people would not want to live in Llanbister		
6.4.1	It would stop young people from staying in the area and would stop people from moving into the area	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.2	If there is no school, it will prevent new families moving into the area	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.3	Without a school it is hard to see a future for the area	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.4	The mobile phone and broadband	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term

	networks are not good in this area. Without a primary school families will not move to the area, and an increasing proportion of elderly people would remain	sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.5	The social and economic future of this rural area will depend on well-educated and inventive young people wishing to stay and raise their own families here. This will not happen without a good local primary school	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.6	Closing the school will destabilize the population balance as families will not want to settle in the area	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.7	What would attract people to the area if there were no school?	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.8	Closure of the school would cause rural depopulation	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.9	Housing in the local area is not selling due to the threat to the school	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.10	There will be no school nearby for newcomers to the area	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social

		factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.4.11	If there was no school, the village would become a retirement village.	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.5 Impact on the local economy		
6.5.1	Closing the school would have a devastating effect on local businesses	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.5.2	Closing the school will take away a major stream of income for The Lion which arises from events at the school and outside bars we supply for school fundraising events	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.5.3	Concern about the impact of closure of the school on The Lion, a struggling rural pub	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.5.4	Closure of the school would have a detrimental effect on the turnover of The Lion	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.5.5	Concern about economic and social impact on the community, on existing local business such as the public house and on prospects for any new	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.

	business that might serve the community	
6.6 Reference to the One Powys Plant / Powys County Council's Vision – 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'		
6.6.1	Concern that rural areas will die	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.6.2	It feels like the council is destroying our rural communities and way of life, which goes against the council's vision	It is true that the Council's vision is 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'. However, one of the Council's priorities, as outlined in the One Powys Plan, is 'Transforming Learning and Skills'. Within this priority, the Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
6.6.3	The Council should live up to its mission statement	It is true that the Council's vision is 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'. However, one of the Council's priorities, as outlined in the One Powys Plan, is 'Transforming Learning and Skills'. Within this priority, the Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
6.6.4	The proposal goes against the ethos of the Council to maintain thriving communities in the green heart of Wales	It is true that the Council's vision is 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'. However, one of the Council's priorities, as outlined in the One Powys Plan, is 'Transforming Learning and Skills'. Within this priority, the Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
6.6.5	How does shutting schools fit in with the Council's mission statement?	It is true that the Council's vision is 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'. However, one of the Council's priorities, as outlined in the One Powys Plan, is 'Transforming Learning and Skills'. Within this priority, the Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
6.6.6	We are currently a strong community	It is true that the Council's vision is 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'.

	and we will continue to be so, but how can this be your mission statement when you are proposing to rip our community apart as you have done with both Dolfor and Beguildy by shutting their schools	However, one of the Council's priorities, as outlined in the One Powys Plan, is 'Transforming Learning and Skills'. Within this priority, the Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
6.7 Issues relating to rural isolation		
6.7.1	The school provides a much needed social aspect to our community	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.7.2	The YFC helps combat rural isolation, concern that closure of the school will have a detrimental effect on the YFC	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.7.3	The thriving Ti a Fi group offers vital social networks	The authority notes this comment.
6.7.4	People would feel very isolated if the village hall suffered	The authority notes this concern. Whilst the authority's current proposal does not propose any changes to the community hall, it is acknowledged that there would be a loss of income to the hall should the school close, due to the school's extensive use of the hall during the school day.
6.7.5	In rural areas such as this, opportunities to socialise are often generated by the school. These are ties that will be destroyed if the school is closed	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.7.6	The school provides a much needed social aspect to our community, not	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social

	only for parents and children at the school but for the community as a whole – it is a very rural area and all social gatherings are important	factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.7.7	Closure of the school would only serve to isolate individuals and families more	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.7.8	Closure of the Ti a Fi playgroup would lead to parents being isolated	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.8 Other		
6.8.1	In the last few months construction has started on a wind farm in our area and part of the overall package is that the development company provide a community benefit fund. If the school closure goes ahead there will be no community to benefit	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.8.2	46% of people in the communities served by the school visit the village of Llanbister at least 5 times a week, the reasons for the visits are: taking/collecting children from school, collecting daily papers from the Lion Hotel, weekly clubs, meetings and socialising	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.8.3	The community is very strong and is	The authority notes this comment.

	willing to cooperate with Powys County Council	
6.8.4	There is an emphasis in Wales on preserving the Welsh Language but there will be no history, tradition or community without the school	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality Welsh education infrastructure which would be available at the receiving school.
6.8.5	If the school closed, would the community have the opportunity to purchase the site?	Yes, the school would be declared surplus by the schools service and would be subject to disposal through the authority's asset management processes.
6.8.6	Llanbadarn Fynydd will be receiving a long-term annual benefit of in excess of £60k from the owners of the wind farm, reasonable to expect some of this to be given to Llanbister School	The authority notes this comment.
6.8.7	Please don't think about short term fixes, think about the bigger picture – Radnorshire is unique, please keep it that way	The authority notes this comment.
6.8.8	The community is united in support of the school	The authority notes this comment.
7 ISSUES RELATING TO PUPIL NUMBERS / SURPLUS PLACES		
7.1 Expected increase in pupil numbers		
7.1.1	There are 34 pupils in the school now which will rise to 50 plus by 2020	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.2	Projections show that Llanbister School will be nearly full by 2018	The authority notes this comment.

7.1.3	Numbers at Llanbister School will increase by 82% in the next 4 years, that is only including the children we know of	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.4	There is a change in the local population as farmers are diversifying into hens/chickens and holiday lets/lodges, this keeps the young people here as they don't have to work away, this is why pupil numbers are increasing	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.5	Pupil numbers at Llanbister are going up	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.6	Llanbister has a rising intake	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.7	Projected pupil numbers show that the issue of low numbers will resolve itself in a few years	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.8	By 2019 the school will have potentially 80 children accessing the school	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.9	Vacant places at the school will diminish in the next couple of years	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.10	Projected pupil numbers for January 2020 are estimated at 54, this would put the school over capacity	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.11	The local community has produced a	The authority notes this comment.

	list of actual names and dates of birth of all children in the area who will be attending the school in 2020 which comes in at 69 pupils	
7.1.12	As a growing community we believe that a school site in Llanbister is a must	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.13	The school will reach its initial capacity of 45 with 47 pupils by September 2018, the school will have 61 pupils by September 2019	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.14	The population in Llanbister seems likely to increase	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.15	The school has a rising intake of pupils due to sons and daughters taking over family businesses	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.16	The school is well attended and by 2018 with the expected level of increase in pupil numbers the school will need to be extended not closed	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.17	The biggest year group in Llanbister is the nursery age group, these children will be in reception by the time the proposal to change the school admission age is implemented	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.18	Even if the proposed changes to the age of admission are passed, pupil numbers are looking good even	The authority notes this comment.

	without nursery pupils	
7.1.19	Pupil numbers at the school will double	The authority notes this comment.
7.2 Decline in pupil numbers		
7.2.1	Council figures show that there are falling rolls and a high level of vacant places across the county, this is not the case in Llanbister	The authority notes this comment.
7.2.2	The school has been under capacity for the last few years but not as low as the figure given on page 18 of the consultation document	As stated in the consultation document, the figures on page 18 are the actual number of pupils from Reception to Year 6 at Llanbister C.P. School in January 2016, based on information taken from the authority's Teacher Centre database.
7.3 Housing developments in the local area		
7.3.1	There is planning permission for additional housing in Llanbister	The authority has considered the impact on the school from future housing developments in the catchment area. On average in Powys we have 1 primary age child for every 6 houses.
7.3.2	Housing development being built in Llanbadarn Fynydd which will bring new families into the area	The authority has considered the impact on the school from future housing developments in the catchment area. On average in Powys we have 1 primary age child for every 6 houses.
7.3.3	There are plans for a new housing development which will bring more families into the community	The authority has considered the impact on the school from future housing developments in the catchment area. On average in Powys we have 1 primary age child for every 6 houses.
7.4 Other		
7.4.1	Population statistics are difficult to predict	The authority notes this comment.

7.4.2	The refugee crisis could be turned to our advantage if the many well educated, resourceful and motivated people fleeing for their lives could be accommodated here	The authority notes this comment.
7.4.3	The Council are not factoring in the birth rate in this area	The authority has been made fully aware of the number of pre-school children in the catchment area and is using this information to update its pupil number projections for the school.
7.4.4	The Council will be up to 98% capacity in schools in North Radnorshire by 2020 – the council will fail to have surplus capacity of 10% as is required by the School Organisation Code	The School Organisation Code does not require the authority to maintain 10% surplus places in its schools. The Welsh Government has identified that there are costs associated with surplus places and authorities are required to reduce the overall surplus places to under 105 over time, with each school ideally being in the range of running at 85% to 105% of capacity.
8 POSITIVES ABOUT LLANBISTER C.P. SCHOOL		
8.1 Standards / educational provision		
8.1.1	Teaching standards at Llanbister are of the highest quality	In the Estyn inspection in January 2015, the quality of teaching at Llanbister C.P. School was judged as Adequate. Satisfactory progress has been made in improving the quality of teaching since this inspection.
8.1.2	Llanbister School is and has been a premier example of rural education	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training. The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.3	Standards at Llanbister School have been brilliant	Standards at Llanbister School are currently Adequate at best. This has been confirmed by Estyn and the National Classification of Schools in Wales in 2016.
8.1.4	The school has a good educational	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special

	record	Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.5	Estyn report stated that 'The school provides a curriculum that satisfies statutory requirements'	This is correct. The school provides a curriculum which meets statutory requirements.
8.1.6	The Estyn report stated that the education is very good	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.7	Pupil currently attending the school is reading above their expected age	The authority notes this comment.
8.1.8	This is not a failing school, it serves the local community well	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.9	The consultation document questions the schools standards. However the educational standards, as in how our children learn, continue to be high and of a good standard	Standards at Llanbister C.P. School are currently Adequate at best. This has been confirmed by Estyn and the National Classification of Schools in Wales in 2016.
8.1.10	Llanbister is in special measures due to leadership, however generally standards at the school are good	Standards at Llanbister School are currently Adequate at best. This has been confirmed by Estyn and the National Classification of Schools in Wales in 2016.
8.1.11	It was not made clear to the Cabinet that Llanbister is in special measures due to leadership and management and not education	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The school's current performance was judged as Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were judged as Unsatisfactory. The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed

		the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.12	Educational standards at Llanbister are rated exactly the same as Crossgates	This is not the case. The National Categorisation of Schools in 2016 judged standards at Crossgates C.P. School to be 2 and standards at Llanbister C.P. School to be 3.
8.1.13	Over 18 months, the staff, governors and headteacher have addressed all issues within the inspection	Overall, Estyn has judged that satisfactory progress being made at Llanbister C.P. School.
8.1.14	It would be criminal to stop such an output of academic excellence	Llanbister C.P. School in currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.15	The Estyn inspection report recognised the work which had already been done to improve the situation. The school has worked with Estyn and has continued to meet the improvement targets it has been set. It is due to be out of Special Measures by the end of the year	Overall, Estyn has judged that satisfactory progress being made at Llanbister C.P. School.
8.1.16	Educational standards have always been good at Llanbister School	Llanbister C.P. School in currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
8.1.17	Personal experience of Llanbister School is very positive	The authority notes this comment.
8.1.18	Reference to historical Estyn inspections of the school	Llanbister C.P. School was placed in follow-up activity following the Estyn inspections in both 2012 and 2015.

8.1.19	The present staff of Llanbister School are not the staff that are responsible for the school being in Special Measures	The authority accepts that this statement is true. However, since the core inspection in January 2015, Estyn judges that satisfactory progress has been made in 5 recommendations, limited progress has been made in one recommendation and strong progress has been made in one recommendation, therefore the school remains in Special Measures.
8.1.20	The school has continued to make progress each time Estyn has returned to monitor the school	The Estyn report following the monitoring visit in June 2016 states: 'Llanbister C.P. School is judged to have made insufficient progress overall in relation to the recommendations following the core inspection in January 2015. As a result, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is maintaining the level of follow-up activity.'
8.1.21	According to 2015 results, 100% of Llanbister pupils in year 2 and year 6 achieved the expected levels at the end of the year, placing the school in quartile 1 for all areas of the tested subjects, which means Llanbister is in the top 25% of results in Wales	Three pupils were assessed at the end of the Foundation Phase in 2015 and it is true that all did achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator. Five pupils were assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 in 2015 and it is true that all achieved the Core Subject Indicator. However, this does not place the school in the top 25% of results in Wales. It places the school in the top 25% of similar schools in Wales.
8.1.22	An action plan for Special Measures is in place for a minimum of 18 months to 2 years, therefore it will be at least this time next year before we can remove the label of 'Special Measures'	The authority acknowledges that this is likely to be the case.
3.1.23	The local authority's report after a monitoring visit on the 3/2/16 gave Llanbister amber for progress in all areas of the action plan – there were no red judgments from the Local Authority, so they should no longer be concerned about standards at the school when they have reported that the school is making progress	The local authority document 'Monitoring Powys Schools 2015-2016' issued to all schools clarifies that an amber judgement equates to satisfactory progress. The definition of satisfactory progress is 'Limited impact on standards and/or quality of provision and many aspects addressed but still significant work to do in important areas'. The school remains a school causing concern to the local authority.

8.1.24	The school was given an ERW categorisation of 3 for standards, as it is based on the average of the last 3 years. This year, pupils are again projected to achieve the expected levels, so again 100%, so we would expect to improve in the ERW categorisation. ERW make a second judgement on leadership, which was deemed to be unsatisfactory, giving an overall categorisation of red.	<p>The 3 awarded for standards was a Welsh Government judgement, not an ERW judgement. The National Categorisation of Schools is based on three steps:</p> <p>Step 1: the outcome will be a standards group for each school (1-4) Step 2: the outcome will be a judgement about a school's improvement capacity (A-D) Step 3: this will lead to a support category for each school (green, yellow, amber, red).</p> <p>The improvement capacity of a school requiring special measures should not normally be higher than D and the support category red in the first instance.</p>
3.1.25	Pupils like that they learn lots of things in school	The authority notes this comment.
3.1.26	Pupils like the PE lessons	The authority notes this comment.
8.3 Behaviour and Attendance		
8.3.1	Pupils are polite, courteous and well-mannered which had a special mention in the Estyn Report 2015	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that they would not be polite, courteous and well-mannered if they attended a different school.
8.3.2	Children at the school are friendly, polite and respectful. Don't think you would get the same at a larger school	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that they would not be friendly, polite and respectful if they attended a larger school.
8.4 Buildings and Facilities		
8.4.1	The school has an adequate building and community hall for all the children	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.2	The school is located in a well maintained building with a sports hall	The authority notes this comment.

	next door	
8.4.3	The buildings are sound and durable	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.4	The school is situated off the main road therefore it is safe for the children and there is no polluted air from petrol fumes	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.5	The school has ample parking off the main road – it is a safe environment	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.6	The school is in very good condition	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.7	The school has robust, well modernised, warm and comfortable buildings	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.8	It is a fit for purpose building	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.9	Over 18 months contractors have only been called out once	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.10	The Council has graded the school building incorrectly as £120,000 has been spent on improvements to the building – after spending this much money an up to date survey should have taken place to re-evaluate the structure	The condition and other assessments are based on evaluations undertaken by Welsh Government appointed surveyors a number of years ago. The Cabinet has recently approved a 5 year rolling programme of updating the overall assessments of schools in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.
8.4.11	Part of the building is an older structure but about half of the school is a total rebuild or a total refurbishment.	The authority notes this comment.

8.4.12	Approximately £120,000 was spent on the school in the last few years and the building is of sound nature and will provide an excellent educational base for years to come	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.13	The school has the bonus of having a community hall which is annexed to the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.14	The only thing that has had to be repaired in the last few years was the boiler	The school is part of the property plus building maintenance service and has had jobs undertaken in line with the terms and conditions of the scheme in addition to the works carried out to the cloakrooms and toilets.
8.4.15	£120,000 was spent on refurbishing the cloakrooms and toilets	The condition and other assessments are based on evaluations undertaken by Welsh Government appointed surveyors a number of years ago. The Cabinet has recently approved a 5 year rolling programme of updating the overall assessments of schools in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.
8.4.16	Llanbister School was built approximately 90 years ago, why are you saying that it is in a poor state of repair?	The condition assessment was undertaken by Welsh Government appointed officers to give a consistent approach to the assessments across Wales. The age and historic spend on repairs and maintenance on the school will determine the current overall condition of the school building.
8.4.17	The school is in good order and has excellent facilities	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.18	If the community hall is included, the facilities are more than fit for purpose	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.19	The school has capacity for all of the projected pupils in the Llanbister catchment area	The authority notes this comment.

8.4.20	Capacity figures for Llanbister are based on using one room as a single classroom, this could be divided and used as 2 teaching spaces, with a total capacity of 71	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.21	There are no leaking roofs here	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.22	School dinners can be provided at the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.23	A visual survey has been carried out by a Structural Engineer based in Llandrindod, based on this, governors believe the buildings should be category B	The authority notes this comment. Cabinet approved a rolling programme of reassessment of school conditions commencing in September 2016.
8.4.24	There are lots of toys in the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.25	The classrooms are nice and colourful	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.26	There is a big yard at the school so there is plenty of space for pupils to play	The authority notes this comment.
8.5 Opportunities for pupils		
8.5.1	Sports tuition provided to pupils at Llanbister School was brilliant	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.2	The school has a record of providing opportunities for pupils to take part in a range of activities, including academic, sporting, artistic and	The authority notes this comment.

	musical	
8.5.3	Estyn report stated that 'pupils have equal access to the curriculum and to all extra-curricular activities'	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.4	A wide range of educational and sporting activities are provided	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.5	The school has won the swimming gala 4 years in a row, beating larger schools	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.6	Pupils like taking part in sports after school	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.7	Pupils get more opportunities because there aren't many pupils in the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.6 Staff		
8.6.1	The teachers and headteacher always offer time to support pupil needs or to provide reassurance	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.2	Estyn report states that staff treat all pupils 'equally, fairly and with respect'.	The authority notes this comment.
8.7 Support provided to the school		
8.7.1	The school has strong support from parents	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school.

8.7.2	The school has support from some of Radnorshire's oldest families	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school.
8.7.3	Parents and volunteers keep the grounds well maintained	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school.
8.7.4	There is a strong community and a fundraising committee which is well supported by parents	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school.
8.8 Friendly nature of the school		
8.8.1	There is an open door policy at the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.2	Classrooms are full of happiness	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.3	The school provides a caring and welcoming environment	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.4	Llanbister is a happy, thriving school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.5	Estyn report states that 'the school provides an inclusive, caring and welcoming environment'	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.6	The school's caring and inclusive environment is important for the well-being of the children that attend	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.7	It's a small school so everyone knows each other	The authority notes this comment.
8.9 Success of previous pupils		

8.9.1	Llanbister School produces Llandrindod Wells High School's top athletes	The authority notes this comment.
8.9.2	Children from Llanbister School have been consistent high achievers through the generations	The authority notes this comment. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect pupils to continue to achieve to the best of their ability should they attend a different school.
8.9.3	A high number of pupils went on to higher education due to the superior teaching standards at Llanbister School	The authority notes this comment. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect pupils to continue to achieve to the best of their ability should they attend a different school.
8.9.4	Llanbister School gave pupils a good foundation to their progressive education	The authority notes this comment. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect pupils to continue to achieve to the best of their ability should they attend a different school.
8.9.5	Both children attended Llanbister School and were educated to a high standard with excellent teacher support. They were always happy to go to school and graduated from university	The authority notes this comment. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect pupils to continue to achieve to the best of their ability should they attend a different school.
8.10 The school's place in the community		
8.10.1	The school is at the heart of this rural community	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues.
8.10.2	The school has a strong history	The authority notes this comment.
8.10.3	The school has strong community values	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues.

8.11 Support provided to pupils		
8.11.1	Pupils are taught on an individual basis	The authority notes this comment. All schools are expect to treat pupils as individuals and to cater for their individual needs, therefore there is no reason to believe that pupils would not be taught on an individual basis should they attend a different school.
8.11.2	Children are currently attending Llanbister School and are doing well	The authority notes this comment.
8.11.3	Children are taught and nurtured based on their ability not just their year group	The authority notes this comment. All schools are expect to teach and nurture pupils based on their ability, therefore there is no reason to believe that this would not be the case should pupils attend a different school.
8.11.4	It is an understanding school for children	The authority notes this comment.
8.11.5	The smaller class sizes at the school mean that there is more one to one time, which has added to pupils' confidence and academic achievements	The authority notes this comment. Should Llanbister C.P. School close, the authority acknowledges that it is likely that pupils would be taught in larger classes. However, the authority's aim is to ensure that all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential, and there is no reason to believe that this would not be the case should pupils attend a different school.
8.11.6	A pupil's confidence and social levels have increased, do not believe this would have happened so soon in a larger school	The authority notes this comment.
8.11.7	As there aren't many people in the school pupils get more attention and more help	The authority accepts that should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is likely that pupils would transfer to a larger school. However, effective teaching would ensure that all pupils were taught effectively, regardless of how many pupils were in the class, and that pupils get the attention and help they need.
8.11.8	The children have a better education because there is more time to have	The authority accepts that should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is likely that pupils would transfer to a larger school. However, effective teaching would ensure that all pupils were

	one to one support	taught effectively, regardless of how many pupils were in the class, and that pupils get the attention and help they need.
8.12 Other		
8.12.1	It is a well-run country school	The authority notes this comment.
8.12.2	Pupils feel secure and motivated to learn	The authority notes this comment. However, the authority would expect that pupils in all Powys schools feel secure and motivated to learn.
8.12.3	Llanbister School is and has been a premier example of rural education and it would amount to a criminal act to shut such a successful school	The authority notes this comment.
8.12.4	5 years ago Llanbister was one of the top primary schools in Wales	The authority notes this comment.
8.12.5	Llanbister is a good, thriving school	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training. The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category in January 2016.
9 POSITIVES ABOUT SMALL / RURAL SCHOOLS		
9.1 Benefits of small schools		
9.1.1	There has been an increase in pupils' confidence and social skills since being in the school, this would not have happened in a larger school	The authority notes this comment.
9.1.2	Small schools work well because the staff know each individual child and their needs	The authority notes this comment. However, staff in all schools are expected to cater to the individual needs of each child to ensure that they can achieve their potential.

9.1.3	Smaller schools can provide better education	The authority acknowledges that there are good and bad examples of small schools and larger schools.
9.1.4	You get more one to one attention in small schools which will increase your levels and you will get better grades	Effective teaching would ensure that all pupils were taught effectively, regardless of how many pupils were in the class, and that pupils get the attention and support they need in order to achieve their potential.
9.1.5	Small schools give pupils the best start in life	The authority notes this comment. Staff in all schools are expected to cater to the individual needs of each child to ensure that they can achieve their potential.
9.2 Benefits of small classes		
9.2.1	Provides more one to one time	The authority notes this comment.
9.3 Benefits of rural / village schools		
9.3.1	Country schools are unique	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.2	Know of someone who got a job on the grounds that she went to a rural school	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.3	A rural school is important to many people	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.4	Rural schools are key in a community	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.5	Local schools are important for local children	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.6	We choose to live in a rural area, therefore we want our children to be brought up in their surroundings rather than being forced to a town	The authority notes this comment. The named receiving school in respect of this proposal is located in the village of Crossgates and serves a predominantly rural catchment area, therefore should the proposal be implemented, the authority would not be forcing children to attend a town school.

school		
9.4 Concern about bigger schools / classes		
9.4.1	Are large classes good for learning?	<p>Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes. There is no evidence that pupils do not make good progress in larger classes. The authority accepts that should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is likely that pupils would be educated in larger classes, although these would be single-age classes which is not the case currently in Llanbister – pupils will be taught with pupils of the same age and similar abilities. This is likely to improve a teacher’s ability to better meet the needs of all learners. The authority recognises that the current class sizes at Llanbister C.P. School are small, however, the authority is confident that pupils achieve well in larger class as well as in smaller classes.</p> <p>The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities.</p>
9.4.2	Larger schools would not give children the same opportunities to develop their skills	<p>Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes. There is no evidence that pupils do not make good progress in larger schools. This is evidenced in Estyn inspections.</p>
9.4.3	Concern that larger classes mean less one to one time between the teacher and the child	<p>Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes. There is no evidence that pupils do not make good progress in larger classes. The authority accepts that should Llanbister C.P. School close, it is likely that pupils would be educated in larger classes, although these would be single-age classes which is not the case currently in Llanbister – pupils will be taught with pupils of the same age and similar abilities. This is likely to improve a teacher’s ability to better meet the needs of all learners. The authority recognises that the current class sizes at Llanbister C.P. School are small, however, the authority is confident that pupils achieve well in larger class as well as in smaller classes.</p> <p>The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities.</p>
9.4.4	Pupils will not have the same level of education in a larger school	<p>The authority disputes this comment. However, pupils achieve well in larger schools as well as in smaller schools. There is no reason to believe that pupils currently attending Llanbister C.P. School would not receive education at least of the same level in the named</p>

		receiving school.
9.4.5	Pupils will become just another number in a larger school and won't receive the help and encouragement that's needed	The authority does not agree with this comment. All schools are expected to ensure that all pupils receive the help and encouragement they need to achieve their potential, regardless of the school's size.
9.5 Other		
9.5.1	Changing to larger schools and new buildings does not give a better education	The authority notes this comment. The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities.
9.5.2	Finland supports the concept that bigger is not always better	The authority notes this comment. The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities.
10 ISSUES RELATING TO THE NAMED RECEIVING SCHOOL		
10.1 Capacity		
10.1.1	The capacity at Crossgates School needs to be thoroughly investigated	Crossgates School has 7 permanent class bases and a mobile classroom which gives the school a total capacity of 238 pupils. (7 x 30 plus 1 x 28)
10.1.2	If Crossgates was full to capacity would you then propose to take the children even further? Into Llandrindod?	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. Pupil places will be allocated for future intakes in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the schools allocation area and in particular those with siblings already in the school.
10.1.3	Crossgates will exceed its capacity if all the planned closures go ahead	The authority is fully aware of the potential numbers of pupils that could transfer to Crossgates if all proposed closures proceed and all parents wished their children to attend Crossgates C.P. School. This will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.

10.1.4	Where will our children be taught if Crossgates School exceeds its capacity?	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. The available places in Crossgates would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the catchment area and in particular those with older siblings in the school. If places were not available in Crossgates C.P. School then the authority would have a duty to offer places in another local school.
10.1.5	Crossgates School does not have capacity for all the children from Llanbister, Dolau and potentially Nantmel	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. The available places in Crossgates would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the catchment area and in particular those with older siblings in the school.
10.1.6	The school does not have the capacity to absorb three more schools as well as the overflow from the English-medium stream at Trefonnen	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. The available places in Crossgates would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the catchment area and in particular those with older siblings in the school.
10.1.7	You have not considered the capacity of Crossgates	Information about the capacity of Crossgates C.P. School was provided in the consultation document in respect of this proposal.
10.1.8	Numbers at Llanbister are projected to increase, can Crossgates cope with this?	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. The available places in Crossgates would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the catchment area and in particular those with older siblings in the school.
10.1.9	What happens when the school becomes overcrowded because of all the new pupils?	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. The available places in Crossgates would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the catchment area and in particular those with older siblings in the school. If places were not available in Crossgates C.P. School then the authority would have a duty to offer places in another local school.

10.1.10	Llandrindod Wells is close or at capacity, with some pupils already being transferred to Crossgates	If the school were to close the authority would include the catchment area of Llanbister C.P. School within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. The available places in Crossgates would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria which prioritises those children living in the catchment area and in particular those with older siblings in the school.
10.1.11	Many Nantmel pupils may go to Crossgates early, which will push pupil numbers above the school's capacity	The authority is fully aware of the potential numbers of pupils that could transfer to Crossgates if all proposed closures proceed and all parents wished their children to attend Crossgates C.P. School. This will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
10.1.12	Pupil numbers at Crossgates are going up	The authority is fully aware of the potential numbers of pupils that could transfer to Crossgates if all proposed closures proceed and all parents wished their children to attend Crossgates C.P. School. This will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
10.1.13	The changes being proposed at Crossgates will require considerable capital investment, on a site which has no or little room for expansion	Apart from some minor refurbishment of the Mobile Classroom, there are no plans to spend any capital money on the school at Crossgates.
10.1.14	There will be capacity problems in Crossgates by January 2017 if Llanbister School is closed	The authority is fully aware of the potential numbers of pupils that could transfer to Crossgates if all proposed closures proceed and all parents wished their children to attend Crossgates C.P. School. This will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
10.1.15	Would like some clarity as to the exact number of children Crossgates can accept?	Crossgates School has 7 permanent class bases and a mobile classroom which has a total capacity of 238 pupils (7 x 30 plus 1 x 28).
10.1.16	The new school will be overcrowded which will affect the quality of education	Crossgates School has 7 permanent class bases and a mobile classroom which has a total capacity of 238 pupils (7 x 30 plus 1 x 28). The authority is aware of the potential pupil number pressure on Crossgates C.P. School if all parents in the three school requested places at the school. This will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when

		determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
10.1.17	Crossgates cannot accommodate the projected pupil numbers	Crossgates School has 7 permanent class bases and a mobile classroom which has a total capacity of 238 pupils (7 x 30 plus 1 x 28). The authority is aware of the potential pupil number pressure on Crossgates C.P. School if all parents in the three school requested places at the school. This will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
10.1.18	If the authority were to apply for 21 st century schools funding to extend Crossgates School, there would be a cost to the taxpayer and Powys County Council as the Council would have to match fund Welsh Government funding	The authority notes this comment. There are currently no plans to apply for funding from the 21 st Century Schools programme for improvements to Crossgates C.P. School
10.2 Concern about use of mobile classroom		
10.2.1	Current portacabin used for after school club is not a fit or healthy environment to be taught in	The school does not have a portacabin, but a mobile classroom. The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.2	Do not want current Crossgates pupils taught in the current portacabin	The authority notes this comment.
10.2.3	Pupils will be leaving well equipped schools to be 'herded into inadequate sheds'	The mobile classroom on the Crossgates site is not a "shed", the authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.4	Concern about use of portacabins at Crossgates School	The authority notes this concern. The school does not have a portacabin, but a mobile classroom. The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).

10.2.5	The receiving school can only cope with the additional children if they use a mobile classroom that has been on site since 2003 and does not pass current building regulations	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B). The school has 7 permanent class bases plus the mobile classroom and has a total capacity of 238 pupils.
10.2.6	The mobile classroom hasn't been used since 2009 and was deemed not fit for purpose	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.7	A substandard portacabin is not an improvement for Llanbister pupils	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B). If utilised the mobile classroom would be one of 8 single age classes.
10.2.8	Unacceptable for pupils to be taught in portable huts	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.9	Would be taking pupils into temporary portable accommodation of unknown / unstated condition, which goes against the Council's own policy	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.10	Concern about pupils attending a damp portacabin	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.11	Existing mobile classroom does not pass building regulations and is unsafe	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.12	Welsh Government and the Council's education policies state that mobile classrooms are a thing of the past	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the need for and use of mobile classrooms, however this is expected to be at least a 20 years strategy.

	and are not to be used on a regular basis	
10.2.13	Concern about pupils being moved from their school building to temporary buildings	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.14	There are no plans for a new build or a new mobile classroom, or refurbishment of the existing mobile classroom – if there were, costings would have been provided in the Consultation Document	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.15	The portacabin has no fire or security alarms fitted therefore they cannot be used as an option to increase capacity	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B). The work will include the provision of appropriate alarms etc.
10.2.16	The portacabin is rated below an A or B which it should be according to the school transformation policy.	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.17	Portacabin has holes in the roof, is invested with vermin, has damage to the walls and is not fit for purpose	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.18	Money will have to be spent on the mobile classroom at Crossgates	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.19	Portable classroom will accommodate 28 children, this will not provide adequate space	The mobile classroom does have a capacity of 28 pupils which will be factored into the capacity calculation for the school, giving a total classroom capacity of 238 places and an annual admission number of 29.

10.2.20	Why leave bricks and mortar for a tin cabin?	The authority notes this comment. The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.21	It will cost £6000 to repair the portacabin, as a parent I want to know exactly what needs to be done and the exact amount	The updated estimated costs for the works on the mobile classroom is between £10k and £15k.
10.2.22	The Council quoted £6000 to refurbish the portacabin, £50,000 would be a more realistic figure	The updated estimated costs for the works on the mobile classroom is between £10k and £15k.
10.2.23	As the portacabin does not meet the required standards it cannot be included to increase capacity	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.24	If no refurbishment takes place Powys will be in breach of the School Organisation Code	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.25	Unacceptable for the Council to justify children being taught in a mobile classroom	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the mobile classroom at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B). If utilised the mobile classroom would be one of 8 single age classes.
10.2.26	The authority is unsure whether the portacabin meets the required standards	The authority is undertaking some repair work to the portacabin at Crossgates C.P. School, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).
10.2.27	By 2019 a second mobile classroom will probably be required however no costings are provided	The authority is not planning any additional capital expenditure at Crossgates C.P. School for the provision of a second mobile classroom base.
10.2.28	Concern about toilet facilities in the mobile – you can't expect 30 children	The required ratio for toilets for children aged 5 to 11 is 1:20 under building bulletin 99.

	to use 2 toilets. More toilets will need to be included, which will reduce the capacity of the mobile	
10.2.29	Concern that children taught in the mobile will feel isolated from the main school and will have to walk further to the dining room and other facilities	If the school does use the mobile as a teaching base it is expected that a pupil would be in the mobile for a period of 1 year as the school would be structured with single aged classes.
10.2.30	Concern about access to the mobile in bad weather	The authority will work with the school to ensure that the impact of bad weather on pupils accessing the mobile is minimised.
10.2.31	At the SORP meeting on the 15 th December 2015, 'Officers agreed that it would not be aspirational to have pupils taught in mobile classrooms on a permanent basis'	The authority's long term goal is to reduce the use of mobile classrooms over the next 10 - 20 years. The change to the age of admission will reduce the number of children in the school from September 2017 and will reduce the school's need to utilise the mobile as a full time teaching base.
10.2.32	Welsh Government guidelines state that mobiles should only be used for 3 years	The authority's long term goal is to reduce the use of mobile classrooms over the next 10 - 20 year, with the long term aim of only using mobile classrooms to address a short term pupil pressure.
10.2.33	Are you in breach of your own building regulations due to the fact that you haven't removed the portacabin?	The authority is to review the planning permission around the mobile to ensure that the appropriate permission is in place.
10.2.34	Portacabins are too small and are often cramped, and they won't have all the equipment needed	The capacity of classroom whether it is a permanent or mobile classroom is based on the physical measurement of the teaching space. The mobile has been assessed as having a capacity of 28 pupils, with the 7 classes in the school having a capacity of 30.
10.2.35	It might take 30 minutes for pupils to go to the toilet if they are taught in a portacabin and have to go the main school, so pupils will miss out on the	The mobile classroom has 2 pupil toilets integrated into the building and there would not be a need for the children to access toilets in the main school building.

lessons		
10.3 Class sizes and the impact on classes		
10.3.1	Crossgates' classrooms have already been split due to large classrooms	<p>Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Where additional pupils join year groups in the foundation phase that already have 30 pupils, the governing body would need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.</p>
10.3.2	Welsh Government guidelines has 30 to a classroom and the receiving school already exceeds this	<p>Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Where additional pupils join year groups in the foundation phase that already have 30 pupils, the governing body would need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.</p>
10.3.3	Concern about class sizes at Crossgates	<p>Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Where additional pupils join year groups in the foundation phase that already have 30 pupils, the governing body would need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.</p>
10.3.4	The class sizes will be too big in Crossgates and children's education will suffer	<p>Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.</p>

		Where additional pupils join year groups in the foundation phase that already have 30 pupils, the governing body would need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.
10.3.5	How can a teacher realistically provide quality education with such large groups of children with various capabilities and learning styles and needs?	Effective teaching and learning provides the opportunity for all pupils to make good progress.
10.3.6	Classroom sizes have huge impacts and would jeopardise the quality of education and understanding of how children learn on an individual basis	Effective teaching and learning provides the opportunity for all pupils to make good progress.
10.3.7	Concern that class sizes will be well over 30	<p>Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Where additional pupils join year groups in the foundation phase that already have 30 pupils, the governing body would need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.</p>
10.3.8	Enlarging class size at Crossgates will have a negative impact on educational performance for the children from Llanbister and also the children currently in Crossgates School	There is no evidence that teaching is less effective in larger classes. In the Maesydderwen Catchment, the authority closed 10 primary schools and established four new larger primary schools. This has resulted in improved outcomes and standards of wellbeing, which is evidenced in the recent Estyn inspections of all four schools. Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.
10.3.9	The class sizes projected for January 2017 are well above the Welsh	The authority notes this comment. Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class

	average of 25 pupils per class	sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.
10.3.10	The average size of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes in the future will be unlawful as they will exceed 30 pupils	<p>Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the authority's fair funding formula and it is the governors' responsibility to maintain class sizes within the statutory infant class sizes, and to ensure that reasonable arrangements are made in Key Stage 2.</p> <p>Where additional pupils join year groups in the foundation phase that already have 30 pupils, the governing body would need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.</p>
10.3.11	What is the capacity per class in Crossgates and what would be acceptable?	Crossgates C.P. School has 7 permanent class bases and a mobile classroom which has a total capacity of 238 pupils (7 x 30 plus 1 x 28). The authority's class size policy states that all early years and infant classes should be maintained at under 30 pupils with Juniors having 33 pupils or less.
10.3.12	Being compacted into tight spaces will increase the chances of germs being spread.	There is no evidence that pupils who are in larger classes have a worse sickness absence rate.
10.4 Access and car parking		
10.4.1	Parking is unsafe at Crossgates School, parents have to park in the Texaco garage	<p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>

10.4.2	How do you plan to accommodate extra buses and numerous cars that will be bringing their children from Llanbister, Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Nantmel in a car park that is unable to cope with the current pressure that is placed on it?	<p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.3	Concern about safety at Crossgates School following the increase in pupils	<p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.4	Concern about safety at Crossgates due to the junction of 4 roads, there is little safe area to drop off and pick up children	<p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p>

	There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.
10.4.5	<p>The car park is full to capacity now, what will happen when 3 other schools move to Crossgates?</p> <p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.6	<p>There is chaos in Crossgates car park at pick up and drop off time</p> <p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.7	<p>More parents will have to park in the Texaco petrol station and walk their child across</p> <p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p>

		<p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.8	Problems with increased traffic and parking at Crossgates	<p>The car parking at Crossgates C.P. School was significantly increased in 2007-08 when the school was remodelled. The car parking operates through the use of a one way system with specific spaces for drop off and spaces for minibus and coach areas. The current number of available spaces is in excess of 65.</p> <p>As a significant percentage of children are transported to the school on the authority run transport, it is the authority's view that the car parking arrangements are suitable if they are managed and used appropriately by staff and parents.</p> <p>There are no major incidents recorded in the authority's health and safety records in respect of incidents in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.9	I would expect a full risk assessment of all collection and drop off points to be carried out before any decisions are made	<p>The authority's home to school transport arrangements places a duty on each appointed contractor to provide a risk assessment on all pickup points in respect to authority run home to school transport.</p>
10.5 Building and facilities		
10.5.1	Pupils will get lost in overcrowded halls	<p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition. This would include transition days in Crossgates C.P. School, to ensure that the children are made aware and become used to the larger physical accommodation at the school.</p>

10.5.2	The Council would not be able to apply for capital funding to extend Crossgates until 2021	The authority has no plans to apply for capital expenditure under the 21st Century School funding programme in relation to Crossgates C.P. School. In addition to this programme, the authority has a major improvement capital budget which is planned to increase from £1m per annum to £2m per annum from the start of the 2017-18 financial year.
10.5.3	Building condition of B is misleading as it was only the school building that was assessed	The overall condition of Crossgates C.P. School was assessed as a condition B building which is the higher than the assessment given to Llanbister (C). Following some minor works to its roof and other fabric areas, the mobile classroom at Crossgates will be assessed as condition B.
10.5.4	The School Transformation Policy states that when a school is closed children should be relocated to a school where building condition is rated the same or higher	The condition of Llanbister C.P. School was assessed by Welsh Government appointed surveyors as condition C. There have been some works undertaken at the school in the interim period that may improve the rating to, at best, a B which is the same rating as given to Crossgates. 87.5% of the available teaching space at Crossgates has either been refurbished or newly constructed in the last 10 years. The only building on the site that was not part of those works is the remaining mobile classroom, and the authority is undertaking some minor works during the summer holiday period.
10.5.5	If no refurbishment of the existing accommodation takes place, will there be a breach of the School Organisation Code? Section 1.4 states that accommodation of at least the same quality should be provided for existing and projected pupil numbers	The condition of Llanbister C.P. School was assessed by Welsh Government appointed surveyors as condition C. There have been some works undertaken at the school in the interim period that may improve the rating to, at best, a B which is the same rating as given to Crossgates. 87.5% of the available teaching space at Crossgates has either been refurbished or newly constructed in the last 10 years. The only building on the site that was not part of those works is the remaining mobile classroom, and the authority is undertaking some minor works during the summer holiday period.
10.5.6	Will there be enough toilets at Crossgates?	The school has 14 pupil toilets in the main building and 2 in the mobile classroom and meets the required ratios for a school of 240 pupils.
10.5.7	Crossgates might need a bigger playground	The authority under its asset management plan is undertaking assessments of available external space as measured against the relevant building bulletins. Those schools with insufficient hard or soft grounds area will be identified and included in the major improvement budget plans and scored accordingly.

10.6 Quality of education and standards		
10.6.1	Crossgates School has not been inspected since 2010 – as schools must be inspected every 6 years this process should be starting now	Schools are inspected by Estyn at least once every 7 years. The decision when to inspect schools is at the discretion of Estyn and not the local authority.
10.6.2	Inspection of Crossgates School should be completed before any decisions are made as Llanbister pupils could potentially be sent to a school with worse educational standards	Schools are inspected by Estyn at least once every 7 years. The decision when to inspect schools is at the discretion of Estyn and not the local authority. However, in January 2016, the Welsh Government judged standards at Crossgates C.P. School as 2 and standards at Llanbister C.P. School as 3.
10.6.3	Children may be going to a school with lower standards – Crossgates school hasn't had an inspection for 6 years	Schools are inspected by Estyn at least once every 7 years. The decision when to inspect schools is at the discretion of Estyn and not the local authority. However, in January 2016, the Welsh Government judged standards at Crossgates C.P. School as 2 and standards at Llanbister C.P. School as 3.
10.7 Opportunities for pupils		
10.7.1	Pupils will miss out on opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities	The authority notes this comment.
10.7.2	Concern that pupils won't be able to take part in the same amount of activities due to Crossgates being a larger school	The authority acknowledges that as there are more pupils at Crossgates C.P. School it is possible that not all pupils will be able to take part in all activities. However all schools are expected to offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils, and to ensure that all pupils are able to take part.
10.7.3	After school activities will be a thing of the past for Llanbister pupils	The authority notes this comment.
10.7.4	Pupils will miss out as parents can't	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could

	commit to picking children up from after-school activities due to the distance	have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
10.7.5	There is evidence to show that there are after-school activities at Crossgates C.P. School on 4 days of the week, therefore current pupils of Llanbister School would miss out	The authority notes this comment and accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
10.8 Impact on staff		
10.8.1	Concerns for the teachers in Crossgates C.P. School as they will have to cope with a huge change from 20 pupils to 30+ pupils	The authority notes this comment.
10.8.2	Concern that there will be a high turnover of teachers at Crossgates C.P. School due to stress	The authority notes this comment.
10.9 Proximity to the petrol station		
10.9.1	What has been done about the health implications of sending our children to Crossgates C.P. School?	Testing has been undertaken at the school.
10.9.2	What tests have been carried out?	Using a Photoionization Detector, officers tested six spot locations for hydrocarbons (this is an industry recognised method for testing for leakage from fuel storage areas, and as such would detect petrol vapour), the result in all locations was negative for the presence of hydrocarbons.
10.9.3	Who has carried out any tests that have been carried out and what	This function was undertaken by a member of the Environmental Health Team who are qualified to undertake the duties of their office.

	qualifications do they have?	
10.9.4	What equipment has been used to carry out any tests?	The tests were carried out using a Photoionization Detector.
10.9.5	Over what time period have tests been carried out?	The tests were carried out on one day.
10.9.6	Tests should be carried out over a 12 month period in all weather conditions to get a true reading of what the health implications are	<p>The Local Air Quality Management process requires Local Authorities to screen for various scenarios which are likely to give rise to exceedance of the objective level. In respect of petrol stations TG09 requires Local Authorities to identify petrol stations which have:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a throughput of 2 million litres of petrol per annum; and - are located on a road with an annual average daily traffic movement of 30,000 - are located within 10m of a receptor <p>The petrol station at Crossgates does not meet any of the above criteria and therefore the guidance does not advise that further assessment is required as it is very unlikely that the objective level is being exceeded.</p>
10.9.7	Fumes from the petrol station and traffic on the crossroad is unacceptable for children	There have been no reports of fumes from the school.
10.9.8	Even though the petrol station holds a Part B Environmental Permit, parents are concerned that the school is within 100m of the petrol station when international guidance advises against this	The petrol station operates under the environmental legislation for the UK and as such is judged to be of the lowest risk category.
10.9.9	A serious Public Health Concern – chronic low dose exposure to benzene leads to fatal diseases	The authority does not disagree that benzene is a hazardous substance.

	particularly in the young	
10.9.10	Children could be at risk of chronic low dose exposure to Benzene. This raises their risk of Acute myeloid leukaemia, which for under 15 year olds has a 66% survival rate at 5 years, so 1/3 of young children do not survive 5 years	The authority does not disagree that benzene is a hazardous substance.
10.9.11	Risk is also raised for other types of leukaemia and aplastic anaemia, all of which have high fatality rates	The authority does not disagree that benzene is a hazardous substance.
10.9.12	Concern that you haven't addressed the issue over the petrol station – don't want children moving into a dangerous and life threatening environment	<p>The Local Air Quality Management process requires Local Authorities to screen for various scenarios which are likely to give rise to exceedance of the objective level. In respect of petrol stations TG09 requires Local Authorities to identify petrol stations which have:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a throughput of 2 million litres of petrol per annum; and - are located on a road with an annual average daily traffic movement of 30,000 - are located within 10m of a receptor <p>The petrol station at Crossgates does not meet any of the above criteria and therefore the guidance does not advise that further assessment is required as it is very unlikely that the objective level is being exceeded.</p>
10.9.13	An independent expert agency should be involved over a period of time if it is to be deemed to be a safe environment	<p>The Local Air Quality Management process requires Local Authorities to screen for various scenarios which are likely to give rise to exceedance of the objective level. In respect of petrol stations TG09 requires Local Authorities to identify petrol stations which have:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a throughput of 2 million litres of petrol per annum; and - are located on a road with an annual average daily traffic movement of 30,000 - are located within 10m of a receptor

		The petrol station at Crossgates does not meet any of the above criteria and therefore the guidance does not advise that further assessment is required as it is very unlikely that the objective level is being exceeded.
10.9.14	WHO recommends to reduce the exposure of Benzene to children as they are particularly susceptible to the carcinogenic effects as they develop	The authority does not disagree that benzene is a hazardous substance.
10.9.15	A statement was read out at the public meeting which was misleading and falsely reassuring to parents – it implied that Public Health Wales are more involved than they have been	Public Health Wales have stated that as long as the petrol station is operating in accordance with the relevant technical guidance and shown to comply, then there is no public health concern.
10.9.16	I have grave concerns about the proximity of the school to the petrol station and no satisfactory evidence has been provided by Powys County Council to allay the parents' concerns	The petrol station operates under the environmental legislation for the UK and as such is judged to be of the lowest risk category. In addition, monitoring was undertaken which showed no hydrocarbons were present.
10.9.17	How can you brush the WHO evidence with regard to the petrol station under the carpet?	The petrol station operates under the environmental legislation for the UK and as such is judged to be of the lowest risk category.
10.9.18	Concern about the risks of schooling so close to the petrol station	The petrol station operates under the environmental legislation for the UK and as such is judged to be of the lowest risk category.
10.9.19	Request for appropriate evidence to be supplied and for the risk to be assessed properly	The Local Air Quality Management process requires Local Authorities to screen for various scenarios which are likely to give rise to exceedance of the objective level. In respect of petrol stations TG09 requires Local Authorities to identify petrol stations which have:- - a throughput of 2 million litres of petrol per annum; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are located on a road with an annual average daily traffic movement of 30,000 - are located within 10m of a receptor <p>The petrol station at Crossgates does not meet any of the above criteria and therefore the guidance does not advise that further assessment is required as it is very unlikely that the objective level is being exceeded.</p>
10.9.20	<p>An expert consultant in Public Health feels underqualified so how can Council members be bold enough to tell us that there is no concern when we are not presented with any data or results of appropriate tests?</p> <p>Public Health Wales have stated that as long as the petrol station is operating in accordance with the relevant technical guidance and shown to comply, then there is no public health concern.</p>
10.10 Other	
10.10.1	<p>The receiving school is not fully prepared to serve the extra and additional needs of more students</p> <p>The authority has no reason to believe that the receiving school would not be able to meet the needs of any pupils that transfer to the school.</p>
10.10.2	<p>Financial pressure will be based on Crossgates due to the additional pupils, the reduction in cost per pupil and the enlarged class size will have a detrimental impact on overall education</p> <p>If the school were to close Crossgates' budget would be increased to take account of the additional pupils. The areas of the formula affected will be those that are funded based on pupil numbers, this will have the impact on reducing the overall funding per pupil but does not impact on the funding per pupil in respect of class related expenditure.</p>
10.10.3	<p>Where are the nursery aged pupils at Crossgates currently taught?</p> <p>The pupils admitted to the school on a full time basis are taught within the school building with the pre-school children being taught in the stand alone building on the school site.</p>
10.10.4	<p>What provision is there for the playgroup? The setting on the Crossgates site is for 2 and 3 year olds, it is not a mother and babies group</p> <p>The setting at the school is a newly established setting and it is the authority's understanding that the setting is looking to extend this provision to the younger children.</p>

10.10.5	Pupils might get bullied for being new	<p>The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school or any other school pupils might wish to transfer to would provide support to pupils to aid their transition, which would include ensuring that all pupils were comfortable and settled in their new school.</p> <p>Bullying occurs to some extent in all schools and the important issue is how the school responds to bullying, when it occurs, addressing the needs of both the young person who has experienced the bullying and the young person who has carried out the bullying. The named receiving school has an effective anti-bullying policy, which is regularly reviewed, and this is part of the Safeguarding arrangements within the school.</p>
11 CONCERNS ABOUT OTHER SCHOOLS PUPILS MIGHT WISH TO TRANSFER TO		
11.1	Want children to have a Welsh education and learn the language and culture of where they live	<p>Under the authority's home to school transport policy all pupils living in Powys have the right to attend a school in Powys, even if their closest school is in England. In addition, transport for qualifying pupils is provided to attend the closest or allocated school delivering the curriculum through the language of choice (English or Welsh).</p>
11.2	Want children to study the Welsh curriculum	<p>Under the authority's home to school transport policy all pupils living in Powys have the right to attend a school in Powys, even if their closest school is in England. In addition, transport for qualifying pupils is provided to attend the closest or allocated school delivering the curriculum through the language of choice (English or Welsh).</p>
11.3	Newcastle School is in England – pupils are entitled to be educated in Wales	<p>Under the authority's home to school transport policy all pupils living in Powys have the right to attend a school in Powys, even if their closest school is in England. In addition, transport for qualifying pupils is provided to attend the closest or allocated school delivering the curriculum through the language of choice (English or Welsh).</p>
12 ISSUES RELATING TO OTHER PROPOSALS / SCHOOLS		
12.1	Concern about possible closure of Llandrindod High School and new site	<p>This consultation is about the future of Llanbister C.P. School. Possible changes to secondary provision are being considered as part of a separate exercise, however the</p>

	planned in Builth Wells – this would mean that pupils from Llanddewi to the north of Radnorshire would be directed to Newtown High School. If pupils went to Crossgates C.P. School, they would be separated once more from their peer group in order to access secondary education	current proposal for the reorganisation of secondary schools includes retaining the provision on the Llandrindod High School site.
12.2	When Beguildy School closed we were told that the money saved would go to help Knighton School, as far as I'm aware this didn't happen	Following the closure of Beguildy School a large number of parents chose to send their children to a school in Shropshire or other Powys schools, with only a few pupils being sent to Knighton. Knighton and the other Powys schools received the relevant in year funding adjustment as well as the increase in pupil numbers for the next and subsequent financial years in accordance to the authority's scheme for financing schools.
12.3	Ysgol Carno has mobiles, but that is because they are building a new school	Ysgol Carno has functioned through a number of mobile classrooms for the last 20+ years. There is a local group that is exploring the possibility of funding the development of a new school building.
12.4	Are the mobiles at Carno as old as the one at Crossgates School?	Yes, the mobiles at Carno area as old as the ones at Crossgates C.P. School.
12.5	How long have pupils at Ysgol Carno been taught in mobile classrooms?	Pupils at Ysgol Carno have been taught in mobile classrooms for 20+ years.
13 ISSUES RELATING TO FINANCE		
13.1 Average cost per pupil / funding per pupil		
13.1.1	As the school is currently undersubscribed, obviously the cost per pupil is going to be higher, but this is only a short term problem.	The authority notes this comment.
13.1.2	Pupil numbers at the school are	The authority notes this comment.

	expected to increase, so the cost per pupil will go down	
13.2 Queries about estimated savings		
13.2.1	Has the cost been carefully calculated? Suspicious that no actual assessment of the cost has occurred	The breakdown of estimated savings and additional costs are provided in the consultation document.
13.2.2	There is reasonable suspicion that the financial figures are not reliable	The breakdown of estimated savings and additional costs are provided in the consultation document.
13.2.3	£63,000 is the proposed figure you will save by closing Llanbister School. How much will it cost in additional transport to convoy our children 44 minutes each way?	The estimated additional transport costs of £30.4k are included in the consultation document and have been included in the net savings
13.2.4	How much will the additional buildings and teachers at Crossgates cost?	There are no plans to extend the current building at Crossgates and therefore there would be no additional building cost. Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with the current fair funding formula, and if the school were to close Crossgates would receive an element of per pupil funding to support additional pupils.
13.2.5	The saving calculations are wrong because they don't include the cost of refurbishment of the mobile classroom	The cost of the refurbishment of the mobile classroom is approximately £15k and is being funded from the major improvement capital budget, the projected savings provided in the consultation document relate to the revenue impact only.
13.2.6	The estimated additional transport cost is £30,400 but you have the exact same cost for Nantmel, how is that possible given the difference in distances	The majority of the pupils in Llanbister C.P. School are already transported to the school under the authority's home to school transport policy. This isn't the case at Nantmel C. in W. School. The actual net additional cost of transport would be dependent on whether parents chose to send their children to the named receiving school or to an alternative school if this was the closest school to their home address. The estimated costs provided in the consultation report are based on children being allocated places in the named receiving school.

13.2.7	The calculations given to you at the meeting on the 10 th March show that the transport costs would be significantly higher than you have budgeted for	The figures are based on estimates at the time of consultation. The cost of providing transport is largely based on number of vehicles required, with the number and location of pupils only having a marginal impact.
13.2.8	How robust are the identified figures for projected savings, especially when increased transport costs are factored in, including medium and longer term requirements as pupil numbers rise?	The savings has been calculated based on the 2015/16 formula in place and current transport routes operating. These have been updated to take account of the 2016/17 formula and updated estimates and amount to an estimated £66k.
13.2.9	Costings need to be set out unambiguously, taking into account revenue savings, additional costs such as transport and indicating any capital expenditure required to implement the recommended proposal	The breakdown of savings and additional costs are provided in the consultation document. These are for the revenue savings only.
13.2.10	The decision is largely financial, as such the financial figures should be detailed and correct, and should include comparisons between keeping the school open and the cost of portacabins, construction and maintenance	As included in the consultation document the authority is proposing to close Llanbister C.P. School for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school is currently in Special Measures - The school has had fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the three previous years - The funding per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average - There are more than 15% surplus places at the school
13.2.11	There are no figures to show the cost of accommodating Llanbister School children at Crossgates School	The net savings exclude the funding that would transfer with pupils to their receiving school. £66k of the formula received by Llanbister C.P. School for the 16/17 financial year will transfer to the receiving school.
13.2.12	Cannot see how money will be saved by closing Llanbister and transporting	The breakdown of savings and additional transport costs are provided in the consultation document.

	pupils to Crossgates	
13.2.13	The cost of extra transport will outweigh the savings	The additional transport costs are provided in the consultation document and have been included in the net savings.
13.2.14	Financially it doesn't make sense to close the school	The estimated revenue savings for the 2016/17 financial year are £66k. The decision is based on financial and non-financial criteria, as included in the consultation document.
13.2.15	The Council cannot apply for further capital funding until 2021, if money from another pot is used this will outweigh the potential savings they are hoping to make	In addition to its 21 st century schools capital programme, the authority has a major improvement budget for schools which is planned to increase from £1m to £2m per year for the remaining 2 years of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
13.2.16	Using FOIs we have provided a more accurate estimate of additional transport costs, doubling it to £71,501.40, totalling an estimated spend of £139,525.20	The authority notes this comment. The figures are based on estimates at the time of consultation, but it needs to be noted that the cost of providing transport is largely based on number of vehicles required, with the number and location of pupils only having a marginal impact.
13.2.17	The figure for transport costs only includes the children that were on roll at the time, which will increase to over 60 by 2019, therefore the transport costs will rocket	The figures are based on estimates at the time of consultation, but it needs to be noted that the cost of providing transport is largely based on number of vehicles required, with the number and location of pupils only having a marginal impact.
13.2.18	£68,000 is already spent on transport for Llanbister, why increase these costs by almost double to transport the children to Crossgates?	The net additional transport costs have been factored within the net estimated saving the proposal would bring.
13.2.19	You have not factored in the cost of upgrading the portacabin to make it fit for purpose	The cost of the refurbishment of the mobile classroom is approximately £15k and is being funded from the major improvement capital budget, the projected savings provided in the consultation document are revenue impact only.

13.2.20	Why does the savings calculation not include redundancy costs?	The redundancy costs for all schools are funded by the Authority, regardless of whether a school is under review. Redundancy costs are a one-off cost.
13.2.21	This proposal is being sold as being accountancy driven, it is a dubious cost cutting exercise	As included in the consultation document the authority is proposing to close Llanbister C.P. School for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school is currently in Special Measures - The school has had fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the three previous years - The funding per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average - There are more than 15% surplus places at the school
13.2.22	The Council quoted £6000 to refurbish the portacabin, a more realistic figure would be £50,000	The cost of the refurbishment of the mobile classroom is approximately £15k and is being funded from the major improvement capital budget, the projected savings provided in the consultation document are revenue impact only.
13.3 Issues relating to the Council's financial strategy		
13.3.1	The Council is trying to use an urban accounting model to manage school provision within large rural areas	The authority notes this comment. The fair funding formula and any changes to it are consulted upon each year and agreed by Cabinet
13.3.2	The Council should be working up proposals that will attract the wealth-creating sectors of the future e.g. energy generation and other environmental technologies as well as more sustainable agriculture	The authority notes this comment.
13.3.3	It's common sense to use the money available to fund and support education, not to pay for pupils to be sat on a bus	The authority notes this comment. The One Powys Plan states the council's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential.' In order to achieve this, the plan states that 'We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.' The authority acknowledges that implementation of this proposal would lead to an increase in school transport costs, and these were included in the estimated savings provided in the consultation document.

13.3.4	Children's education should be at the top of the list, you shouldn't be wasting money on things that are not needed	The authority notes this comment. The One Powys Plan states the council's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential.' In order to achieve this, the plan states that 'We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
13.4 Issues relating to funding received from Welsh Government		
13.4.1	The Council should be working up proposals that will attract the wealth-creating sectors of the future and lobbying Welsh and Westminster governments for financial support	The authority notes this comment. Officers and member actively seek to influence funding levels for Powys whenever possible. This action successfully gained an additional £1.9m for the 16/17 financial year, of which £1.2m was directed to schools.
13.4.2	Rural schools in England are having extra payments made to the education departments, why can't the Council put more pressure on the Welsh Assembly?	Schools received an additional £1.2m during the 2016/17 financial year
13.5 Other		
13.5.1	Should the school close there would be an increasing proportion of elderly residents. The Council would have a statutory duty to provide care and support for them at considerable cost, far more in the long run than the modest cost of keeping Llanbister and other small rural schools open	The authority notes this comment
13.5.2	Aware that cuts have to be made but the education and well-being of our children should be the priority	The authority notes this comment. The One Powys Plan states the council's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential.' In order to achieve this, the plan states that 'We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'

13.5.3	There seems to be a lot of money available for new schools or for enlarging schools	All schools delegated funding is based on the funding formula consulted and agreed by Cabinet each year.
13.5.4	The Welsh children get all of the money, English speaking children are second class citizens	The primary formula has 2 allowances which are directly linked to Welsh-medium learners. Key Stage 2 Teaching Assistant support (£56 per Welsh-medium pupil 16/17) and Welsh Resources Allowance (£2500 lump sum & £30 per Welsh-medium pupil) for the sourcing of Welsh-medium resources and/or translation of English-medium resources.
14 ISSUES RELATING TO LEADERSHIP AT LLANBISTER C.P. SCHOOL		
14.1	There was a weakness in leadership at the school, this has now been fully addressed	In summer 2016, Estyn judged progress against stabilising leadership at the school as Limited. From September 2016, a new seconded acting headteacher will take up post and as a result, leadership at the school remains unstable.
14.2	The consultation report states that Llanbister is closing because of its standards, in fact it was due to leadership and management, which has now been rectified with a new headteacher.	Llanbister C.P. School is currently in the statutory category of a school requiring Special Measures by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training (Estyn). The National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the red category in January 2016. Standards at the school are Adequate.
14.3	Llanbister's previous headteacher was off sick for a long period of time. During this time, no support was received from Powys County Council	The authority notes this comment. However, the authority refutes the statement that no support was provided to the school.
14.4	When the previous head retired, the Council would not employ a permanent headteacher – this is what went against us in the Estyn report	The authority notes this comment. However, whether or not to appoint a Headteacher is a decision for the Governing Body. Circumstances necessitated the governing body working with the Local Authority to secure an urgent solution to the instability of leadership
14.5	If Powys County Council secure Mrs Rogers' role as headteacher, the	A new seconded acting headteacher will take up post at Llanbister C.P. from 1/9/16. The fact that the school is in Special Measures is not only due to instability in leadership. The

	special measures will be removed	school's current performance was judged as Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were judged as Unsatisfactory. In January 2016, the National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category.
14.6	The acting headteacher has stabilised leadership within the school	The authority notes this comment. However, in summer 2016, Estyn judged progress against stabilising leadership at the school as Limited. From September 2016, a new seconded acting headteacher will take up post and as a result, leadership at the school remains unstable.
14.7	The lack of leadership did not affect the educational credibility of the school	The fact that the school is in Special Measures is not only due to instability in leadership. The school's current performance was judged as Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were judged as Unsatisfactory. In January 2016, the National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category.
14.8	The concerns raised in the Estyn report in relation to leadership have now been resolved	The fact that the school is in Special Measures is not only due to instability in leadership. The school's current performance was judged as Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were judged as Unsatisfactory. In January 2016, the National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red category.
14.9	The school is in the red zone due to lack of leadership, if Powys won't let Llanbister employ a headteacher we will stay in the red zone	The fact that the school is in Special Measures and categorised as a Red support school is not only due to instability in leadership. The school's current performance was judged as Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were judged as Unsatisfactory.
14.10	In the past the headteacher was the problem	The authority notes this comment.
14.11	There was a catalogue of historic issues around the previous Headteacher who was unable to cope with a range of issues	The authority notes this comment.
14.12	The school had to manage without an active headteacher for the best part of 12 months	The authority notes this comment.

14.13	There is a new headteacher who is making improvements	In summer 2016, Estyn judged progress against stabilising leadership at the school as Limited. From September 2016, a new seconded acting headteacher will take up post and as a result, leadership at the school remains unstable.
14.14	It is leadership and management that is a cause for concern at Llanbister C.P. School not educational standards, and leadership and management fall under the remit of Powys County Council	The school's current performance was judged as Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were judged as Unsatisfactory. In January 2016, the National Categorisation of Schools in Wales placed the school in the Red support category.
14.15	The consultation document states that a weakness of keeping the school open is a difficulty to recruit a permanent Headteacher, however there is one, but Powys refuse to extend the contract	The authority notes this comment.
15 CRITICISM OF THE AUTHORITY		
15.1 General criticism of the council		
15.1.1	Business and farming communities are currently being held back by poor infrastructure	The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high quality education infrastructure. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues.
15.1.2	The council have taken the result of the Estyn inspection and have manipulated it to their advantage	This comment is untrue. Llanbister C.P. School was identified for review as part of the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel) process as outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014) based on meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the Policy.
15.1.3	It feels like the benefits of attending a rural school are being dismissed by Powys County Council	The named receiving school in respect of this proposal is located in the village of Crossgates and serves a rural catchment area. Whilst it is accepted that this school is significantly larger than Llanbister C.P. School, it remains a rural school. Current pupil

		numbers at Llanbister C.P. School are small, and as stated in the One Powys Plan, 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.1.4	The information provided by the Council on closure of Llanbister C.P. School is very misleading	The information provided in the consultation document contains factual information based on the latest verified data that was available.
15.1.5	This proposal doesn't reflect very well on the quality of the Council, 200 years ago you could afford to buy the land, build the school and run them, today you cannot afford to keep them open when they are free	The Council provides services for the 21 st Century, and is facing a challenging financial climate.
15.1.6	Have lost respect for the Council, finds the Council appalling and disgraceful due to the false figures, personal objectives, callous lack of thought for the children involved	The authority has put forward this Proposal for consultation, to hear the views of all stakeholders. Officers have ensured that children have had the opportunity to be part of this consultation.
15.1.7	The Council should bear the responsibility for the school being in Special Measures as this is due to Leadership and Management and this responsibility should not be borne by Llanbister School	The fact that Llanbister C.P. School is in Special Measures is not only due to Leadership and Management. In January 2015, the following judgements were made on the provision at Llanbister C.P. School: Standards: Adequate Pupil Well-being: Adequate Learning Experiences: Unsatisfactory Teaching: Adequate Care, Support and Guidance: Adequate Learning environment: Adequate Leadership: Unsatisfactory Improving Quality: Unsatisfactory Partnership working: Good Resource management: Adequate.

15.1.8	If the Council have changed information and supplied false evidence what else have they done to suit their own agenda?	It is not true that the Council have changed information and supplied false evidence. The information provided in the consultation document contains factual information based on the latest verified data that was available.
15.1.9	The Council is only attacking Radnorshire, there are schools in Montgomeryshire that are in a worse position due to lack of numbers and not meeting standards	The authority notes this comment. The schools in Radnorshire currently being reviewed were identified for review as part of the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel) process as outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014) based on meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the Policy. The authority is also currently reviewing primary provision in Welshpool, where there is a proposal to close 4 schools and open 2 new primary schools.
15.1.10	This proposal is badly planned and short sighted	The authority notes this comment.
15.1.11	This feels like a rushed job to ensure you get the funding from Welsh Government before the scheme deadline	There is no capital funding from Welsh Government linked to this proposal.
15.2 Criticism of the Cabinet / county councillors		
15.2.1	Misleading information was given at the Cabinet meeting, which insinuated that Llanbister was under special measures due to educational standards, when in fact the school is in special measures due to leadership and management issues	<p>The fact that Llanbister C.P. School is in Special Measures is not only due to Leadership and Management. In January 2015, the following judgements were made on the provision at Llanbister C.P. School:</p> <p>Standards: Adequate Pupil Well-being: Adequate Learning Experiences: Unsatisfactory Teaching: Adequate Care, Support and Guidance: Adequate Learning environment: Adequate Leadership: Unsatisfactory Improving Quality: Unsatisfactory</p>

		Partnership working: Good Resource management: Adequate.
15.2.2	How can the decision be considered democratic when 8 councillors from Montgomeryshire, 2 from Radnorshire and 1 from Breconshire decide the fate of this school?	The authority notes this comment. The make-up of the Cabinet has changed since this comment was made. The Cabinet now consists of 5 councillors from Montgomeryshire, 2 from Radnorshire and 2 from Brecknockshire.
15.2.3	County councillors have a duty to protect and serve all constituents and need to take responsibility to provide this, your decisions to close the school should not be wholly based on financial benefits	The authority notes this comment. As stated in the One Powys Plan, the Council's aim is to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. However in order to achieve this, the Plan states that 'We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.' The consultation document in respect of this proposal lists four reasons why closure of Llanbister C.P. School is being proposed, only one of these relates to finance.
15.3 Criticism of officers		
15.3.1	The facts that have been presented by officers did not reflect the reality of the situation	The data provided in the consultation document and by officers is the latest verified data that was available.
15.3.2	The numbers provided by officers were incorrect	The data provided in the consultation document is the latest verified data that was available.
15.3.3	Officials have quoted that education standards were bad in Llanbister, this is definitely not the case	In January 2015, Estyn judged standards at Llanbister C.P. School as Adequate and standards of pupil wellbeing were also judged as Adequate.
15.3.4	Cabinet have not been advised of the huge progress made at Llanbister School	Overall, Llanbister C.P. School is making satisfactory progress. In summer 2016, Estyn judged the school's progress as follows: Recommendation 1 – Satisfactory

		<p>Recommendation 2 – Satisfactory Recommendation 3 – Satisfactory Recommendation 4 – Satisfactory Recommendation 5 – Limited Recommendation 6 – Satisfactory Recommendation 7 – Strong</p>
15.3.5	The Cabinet was misled to think the school was in special measures due to standards of education – this has never been the case	<p>In January 2015, the following judgements were made on the provision at Llanbister C.P. School:</p> <p>Standards: Adequate Pupil Well-being: Adequate Learning Experiences: Unsatisfactory Teaching: Adequate Care, Support and Guidance: Adequate Learning environment: Adequate Leadership: Unsatisfactory Improving Quality: Unsatisfactory Partnership working: Good Resource management: Adequate.</p>
15.3.6	It is a sad reflection on the quality of the council’s accountants when money is more important than the welfare of little children	The authority is committed to ensuring the welfare of all children and young people in Powys, and as stated in the One Powys Plan, the council aims to ensure that ‘all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential’. However, the Plan also states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.
15.3.7	At the cabinet meeting when Llanbister was discussed with a view to closing it, officers were asked whether there were any children from Beguildy that came to Llanbister and they answered no, however I had received my daughter’s acceptance letter into Beguildy School	The authority notes this comment. However, it remains true that none of the current pupils at Llanbister C.P. School were attending Beguildy School at the time of closure.

15.3.8	At the SORP meeting in September 2015, officers agreed to provide a detailed breakdown of how the building has been categorised. 6 months later this still hasn't been received	The authority notes this comment.
15.3.9	Took great offence at the statement that 'no children who attend Llanbister School were directly affected by the closure of Beguildy School'	The authority notes this comment. However, it remains true that none of the current pupils at Llanbister C.P. School were attending Beguildy School at the time of closure.
15.3.10	The Estyn report was used to mislead Cabinet members into thinking the education standards were the reason for the school being in the red, however it was the leadership and management of the school, which has now been addressed	Cabinet members were provided with factual information that Llanbister C.P. School is in Special Measures following the outcome of the Estyn inspection carried out in 2015. Leadership at the school remains unstable.
15.3.11	Estyn still have concerns that the Local Authority are holding back on providing stability at the school as all staff contracts are due to end on the 31 st August 2016 – not even lasting until the 31 st December when the authority is proposing to close the school	School staff are appointed by the Governing Body, not by the Local Authority. The Local Authority discussed the extension of contracts to 31 December in the first instance during the summer term 2016.
15.3.12	Despite 3 FOI requests, we are still waiting for information as to how the building has been assessed	The authority notes this comment.
15.4 Criticism of Council's money saving plans		

15.4.1	More money could be saved by paying less councillors	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.2	The Council could save money by turning the heating down	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.3	The Council could save money by stopping buying carpets just because people don't like the colour	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.4	The Council could save money by not sending a man in a lorry around just to pick up 2 signs, 1 for each end. It's not good seeing him sleeping	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.5	The Council could save money by stopping cutting the grass in Winter	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.6	The Council could save money by stopping planting trees so close to the road that you have to cut them down	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.7	The Council could save money by letting roadmen clean out gutters when they are waiting for tarmac	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.8	The Council could save money by stopping sending people out to change a lightbulb	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.9	All council officers should be put in mobiles instead of County Hall	The authority notes this comment.
15.5 Criticism of Council policy		

15.5.1	Under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 the council should be taking full notice of the impact decisions will have on our future generations, in terms of actual educational provision and also community cohesion and long term sustainability of our rural way of life	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 was introduced in April 2016, therefore the act was not in force when the consultation document was produced. However a Single Integrated Impact Assessment, which takes account of the requirements of this Act, will be produced in respect of this proposal, and will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
15.5.2	Concerns over how Powys County Council is dealing with education in Powys, particularly in South Powys. The Council should stand up to the Welsh Assembly and keep our schools open	The authority notes this comment
15.5.3	The proposal to close Llanbister School contravenes Powys' own published policies in some areas	The authority notes this comment. The authority's work is led by the One Powys Plan, which states the council's aim to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential', and which also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.5.4	Closing Llanbister School goes against the spirit of the Council's regeneration priorities	The authority notes this comment. The closure of Llanbister C.P. School was proposed as a result of a review of the school by the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel), based on the school meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014). The need to review educational provision within Powys is supported by the One Powys Plan, which states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.5.5	The education policy is in direct conflict with the Authority's development policies	The authority notes this comment. The closure of Llanbister C.P. School was proposed as a result of a review of the school by the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel), based on the school meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014). The need to review educational provision within Powys is

		supported by the One Powys Plan, which states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.
15.5.6	The Council’s plans to modernise are desperate and short-sighted	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.7	The authority is expected to assess the viability of all its schools on a regular basis, but any closure should be based on robust evidence	The authority notes this comment. The closure of Llanbister C.P. School was proposed as a result of a review of the school by the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel), based on the school meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014). The need to review educational provision within Powys is supported by the One Powys Plan, which states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.
15.5.8	Don’t believe there is a plan to reform education, just a plan to cut costs	The authority notes this comment. The closure of Llanbister C.P. School was proposed as a result of a review of the school by the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel), based on the school meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014). The need to review educational provision within Powys is supported by the One Powys Plan, which states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’.
15.5.9	The Council needs to work on a long term plan to attract families with children	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.10	Is the education of Powys children really the priority for the local authority, or is it financial gain?	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority’s aim is to ensure that ‘All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential’. However the plan also states that in order to achieve this, ‘We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
15.5.11	Welsh Government policy states that schools should not be closed for financial reasons – there is no	The consultation document in respect of this proposal listed four reasons why the authority is proposing closure of Llanbister C.P. School. Only one of these reasons is financial. Llanbister C.P. School is currently in Special Measures following the outcome of the most

	educational basis for Powys to close these schools	recent inspection of the school in 2015, therefore the authority's view is that there is an educational basis to close the school.
15.5.12	If all parents refused to accept the additional mileage what would be the cost incurred by the Council in the discharge of their statutory duty to provide transport?	The authority has not undertaken the calculation of the cost that would be incurred to transport all pupils in Llanbister to their closest school.
15.6 Criticism of the Council's treatment of rural communities		
15.6.1	Powys is a rural county and cannot be run to a streamlined ideal without causing irreparable damage to people and communities	The authority notes this comment. The issues raised during the consultation period in respect of the proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
15.6.2	The Council should be trying to maintain rural communities and rural economies – having a local school or a school within easy reach is a key consideration for young families	The authority notes this comment. The issues raised during the consultation period in respect of the proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
15.6.3	Inexcusable to consider closing a school and destroying a community simply to fix some short term problems	The authority notes this comment. The issues raised during the consultation period in respect of the proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
15.6.4	The Council should be standing up for us, the local community	The authority notes this comment. The issues raised during the consultation period in respect of the proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
15.6.5	There are small village schools in local rural communities all over Wales, why is Powys so different?	The authority is aware that many other authorities are also taking forward discussions and / or proposals to ensure the sustainability of education in small rural communities.

15.6.6	The community has no street lighting, no road gritting, it takes 40 minutes for an ambulance to get here and we don't complain about this, however we expect to be able to get our children educated within a reasonable distance of the home	The authority notes this comment.
15.6.7	The Council is trying to destroy rural Radnorshire	The schools in Radnorshire currently being reviewed were identified for review as part of the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel) process as outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014) based on meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the Policy. The issues raised during the consultation period in respect of the proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
16 QUESTIONS ABOUT / ISSUES WITH THE PROCESS		
16.1 Consultation meetings		
16.1.1	At the meeting on the 10 th March, Powys County Council staff could not answer the questions asked	Officers endeavoured to answer all questions posed in the consultation meeting to the best of their abilities. Responses to all issues raised during the consultation period, including those raised in the consultation meetings, are provided in this report.
16.1.2	Why were 7 members of staff stood around the hall doing nothing during the consultation meeting?	This statement is untrue. Apart from the officers who were on the panel and taking minutes, there were 4 other members of Council staff in attendance. As the Council was expecting a large number of attendees at the meeting, these staff were asked to attend as stewards in order to ensure the health and safety of all those in attendance. The Council's view is that this was an appropriate number of staff for the number of people that were expected to attend and taking into account the requirements of the building.
16.1.3	Powys County Council's panel made a poor effort at answering questions from the public at the meeting on the 10 th March	Officers endeavoured to answer all questions posed in the consultation meeting to the best of their abilities. Responses to all issues raised during the consultation period, including those raised in the consultation meetings, are provided in this report.

16.1.4	At the consultation meeting Powys County Council quoted the wrong statistics, they stated that there were 140 pupils at Crossgates School, however there are also 17 nursery pupils	As stated in the consultation document, there were 140 pupils aged from Reception to Year 6 at Crossgates C.P. School. The authority uses the reception to year 6 pupil numbers as these are the age groups that relate to the statutory age range for primary schools and are the age ranges that is used to report pupil numbers to Welsh Government under the census collection process in January of each year.
16.1.5	You pointed out at the meeting that the consultation document is full of omissions and incorrect data, so why do you continue with the process?	The data provided in the consultation document is the most up-to-date, verified data that was available to the Council when the consultation document was being produced. At the meeting, it was acknowledged that additional information had been provided by the community, particularly in relation to projected pupil numbers and travel distances / costs, however the authority is satisfied that the information that was provided in the consultation document is accurate.
16.2 SORP process		
16.2.1	The evidence based process used by the Council in all this appears to be flawed	The data considered throughout the process has been the most up-to-date, verified data that has been available to the Council. During the consultation period, additional information had been provided by the community, particularly in relation to projected pupil numbers and travel distances / costs, however the authority is satisfied that the data that was used during the review process was accurate. This data was checked and agreed with the governing body of Llanbister C.P. School during the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel) process.
16.2.2	Understand that cuts need to be made but the procedure should be reviewed	The authority notes this comment.
16.2.3	Crossgates presently has 22% surplus places, which means that the school meets the School Transformation criteria – hope that Llanbister hasn't been targeted purely to rectify the problem with surplus capacity at Crossgates	Llanbister C.P. School has not been targeted in order to fill the surplus capacity at Crossgates C.P. School. All schools were ranked based on the criteria identified in the School Transformation Policy (2014), however Crossgates C.P. School only met one of the criteria. Llanbister C.P. School was identified for review as it met a number of the criteria outlined in the Policy.

16.2.4	Why does the School Transformation Policy / SORP process only examine historical data, why does it not look to the future?	Whilst the School Transformation Policy 2014 only refers to historical pupil numbers in the 'Criteria for Review', information on Projected Pupil Numbers was also considered during the SORP's discussions with the Governing Body of Llanbister C.P. School.
16.2.5	Why do you want to close all small schools in Radnorshire?	Llanbister C.P. School and the other schools in Radnorshire which are currently being reviewed were identified for review as part of the SORP (School Organisation Review Panel) process as outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014) based on meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the Policy.
16.3 View that a final decision has already been made		
16.3.1	Urge the Council to recognise the strength of local feeling and reconsider the proposed closure	No decision has been made on the future of Llanbister C.P. School. All issues raised during the consultation period, and the authority's response to these issues, will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed with this proposal.
16.3.2	I think that my views and those of every other person that has taken the time to write to you and share their opinions will make no difference	No decision has been made on the future of Llanbister C.P. School. All issues raised during the consultation period, and the authority's response to these issues, will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed with this proposal.
16.4 Queries about process going forward		
16.4.1	There has been a high level of interest and support for keeping Llanbister School open, how will the representations be presented to Cabinet members?	The issues raised during the consultation period will be presented to Cabinet members in this consultation report. In addition, the Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect information received during the consultation period. The minutes of the consultation meetings held in relation to this proposal will also be considered.
16.4.2	Urge the Council to complete risk assessments before continuing with the process	The authority will complete impact assessments on equality, community and a single integrated impact assessment. These will highlight any areas of risk and the authority's plans to mitigate these risks. Risks were identified in the consultation document.
16.4.3	What will happen to the school	If the school were to close the Schools Service would declare the school surplus to its

	building if the school closes?	requirements and the authority would commence its asset management disposal processes, which would include discussions with the local community around transferring part or all of the site to the community hall or other interested body. Ultimately in line with other school closures the authority would look to sell the site and reinvest any capital receipts received in other capital projects within the authority.
16.4.4	What is the agreed asset management disposal process in relation to the land and buildings of the school?	If the school were to close the Schools Service would declare the school surplus to its requirements and the authority would commence its asset management disposal processes, which would include discussions with the local community around transferring part or all of the site to the community hall or other interested body. Ultimately in line with other school closures the authority would look to sell the site and reinvest any capital receipts received in other capital projects within the authority.
16.4.5	Will an updated Cabinet report be drafted and will this also be subject to consultation prior to any final decision being made regarding the future of the school?	A new Cabinet report will be drafted which will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. This will include this consultation report, an updated Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment. There will be no consultation on this report. Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the current proposal, the authority will publish a Statutory Notice proposing closure of Llanbister C.P. School, and there would be a period of 28 days when people could submit written objections to the proposal to the Council.
16.4.6	If 21 st century schools funding is needed, when would it be available?	Band A of the 21 st Century Schools funding runs from 2014 – 2019 and is fully allocated to the current projects in Band A. Band B funding is expected to be available from 2019, subject to confirmation from Welsh Government.
16.5 Other		
16.4.8	Did you consult with the Regional Transport Consortium?	The consultation documentation was sent to the Regional Transport Consortium.
16.4.9	At the Cabinet meeting on the 26 th January there was a mis-representation of pupil numbers and the capacity at Crossgates, the pupil numbers only included Reception to	As stated in the consultation document, there were 140 pupils aged from Reception to Year 6 at Crossgates C.P. School. The authority uses the reception to year 6 pupil numbers as these are the age groups that relate to the statutory age range for primary schools and are the age ranges that is used to report pupil numbers to Welsh Government under the census collection process in January of each year.

	year 6 pupils, it didn't include Nursery pupils	
16.4.10	Concern that local community councils have not been informed of this consultation	At the consultation meeting held on the 10 th March it became apparent that the consultation documentation had not been sent to all of the community councils in the local are. The consultation documentation was subsequently sent to all community councils, and the consultation period to enable them to have 42 days to respond to the consultation.
16.4.11	The Council will face criticism that it is the prosecutor, judge and jury – under Appendix E of the Code there is a process where you could appoint an independent body to look at your proposal – why did you not follow Appendix E?	When the School Organisation Code was introduced, it was agreed that the Cabinet would be the decision making body for school reorganisation proposals. On June 14 th 2016, Full Council debated whether this was the appropriate decision making format, and agreed that it was. Appendix E of the School Organisation Code is an example put forward by Welsh Government of one possible decision making committee.
16.4.12	Section 1.4 of the Code states that accommodation of at least equivalent quality must be provided for existing and projected pupil numbers – have you breached this?	The school at Crossgates is at least the same condition as Llanbister C.P. School.
16.4.13	Parents at Crossgates C.P. School haven't had a say in what is going to happen	Whilst no meeting was held with parents at Crossgates C.P. School, a letter advising them of the consultation was sent to the school for distribution. The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period, and anyone could respond to the consultation.
17 QUESTIONS ABOUT / ISSUES WITH THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION		
17.1 Aspects which aren't included in the documentation		
17.1.1	Concern that the Equality Act 2010 is not being considered	An Equality Impact Assessment was included in the consultation document, which considers the proposal's impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups, as stated in the Equality Act 2010. This Impact Assessment will be updated to take account of issues raised during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet

		when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.1.2	The consultation document does not address the impact of long travelling times on children's health and well-being	During this consultation process, the issue of the impact on children's health and well-being due to the increase in travel has been raised frequently and will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.1.3	Proper weighting and significance has not been applied to the special circumstances and difficulties of living in a rural community	No weighting has been applied to any of the issues listed in the consultation document. All issues raised during the consultation period will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal, however no specific weighting will be applied to any of these issues.
17.1.4	The figures don't include nursery children, these children are entitled to school transport and use the same building and even have their own teacher so they should be counted	<p>As stated in the consultation document, there were 140 pupils aged from Reception to Year 6 at Crossgates C.P. School. The authority uses the reception to year 6 pupil numbers as these are the age groups that relate to the statutory age range for primary schools and are the age ranges used to report pupil numbers to Welsh Government as part of the annual census collection process in January of each year.</p> <p>Those children aged 4 or over on the 31st March in each year are included in the school funding allocation and are provided free home to school transport.</p> <p>Since the consultation on the closure of Llanbister C.P. School the authority has completed and approved the change of age of admission into schools from the start of the 2017-18 school year. From September 2017 there will be no nursery aged children in full time education in schools in Powys and transport will not be provided to the 3+ pre-school education provision.</p>
17.1.5	Not all schools that may be affected are identified	The authority has identified those schools which are closest to the home addresses of those pupils that were attending Llanbister C.P. School in January 2015. Should the school close, it is possible that parents would choose for children to attend other schools, however the number of pupils would very small and therefore it is not anticipated that this would have affect the school. Should this be the case, places would be allocated in accordance with the authority's admissions criteria.
17.1.6	The consultation document does not	During this consultation process, the issue of the impact on children's health and well-

	make reference to the potential for emotional and cognitive damage to the children	being due to the increase in travel has been raised frequently and will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.1.7	Page 26 of the Code states that you should put forward descriptions of the benefits of each option – closure, merger or amalgamation. In your documentation you have only talked about closure, not about merger	The consultation document provides the strengths and weaknesses of merger / amalgamation with Crossgates on page 5, ‘Closure of Llanbister C.P. School, but keep the site open as part of Crossgates C.P. School’ and with another school on page 7, ‘Amalgamation of Llanbister C.P. School and another school to create a new school on two sites’.
17.1.8	Page 27 of the Code states that you are expected to discuss standards or quality of education	Information about the quality of the current provision is provided on pages 19-22. The impact of the proposal on the quality of education is provided on pages 9-10.
17.1.9	Why did you not state in the proposal that you were intending to use a mobile classroom? We had to work out that you were talking about a portacabin	The mobile classroom would be 1 of 8 class spaces with the other 7 being in the main school building. At no time has the authority hidden the fact that the one building is a mobile classroom which following some minor works will have a condition assessment of a category B.
17.1.10	The figures for Crossgates do not take account of children transferring from Nantmel	The named receiving school in respect of the proposal to close Nantmel C. in W. School is Rhayader C. in W. School. During the consultation on closure of Nantmel C. in W. School, it became apparent that should Nantmel C. in W. School close, a number of pupils would choose to transfer to Crossgates C.P. School instead of Rhayader C. in W. School. No final decision has yet been made on the proposal to close Nantmel C. in W. School, the impact of any pupils from Nantmel C. in W. School that might transfer to Crossgates C.P. School will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.2 Request for clarification of aspects of the documentation		
17.2.1	The consultation document has led people to believe that there was an issue with standards at Llanbister, but	In January 2015, the following judgements were made on the provision at Llanbister C.P. School:

	it was down to leadership issues, which have now been addressed	Standards: Adequate Pupil Well-being: Adequate Learning Experiences: Unsatisfactory Teaching: Adequate Care, Support and Guidance: Adequate Learning environment: Adequate Leadership: Unsatisfactory Improving Quality: Unsatisfactory Partnership working: Good Resource management: Adequate.
17.2.2	The pupil projection figures in the consultation document are incorrect	The pupil projection figures that are provided in the consultation document are based on the authority's own projections for R – Year 6 pupils which are based on a statistical analysis actual pupils on roll and of live birth data of pupils living in the higher post code areas (LD1 for example), these provide a good estimate for a group of Primary schools but can show variation when analysed at an individual school level. The school and governors have provided the authority with some updated expected pupil numbers.
17.2.3	Consultation document states that there are 25 children in Llanbister School, this is incorrect there are 32 children. By the end of the school year the total will be 37. The school capacity is 45.	The authority notes this comment. As stated in the document, the figure of 25 children referred to the number of pupils of statutory school age, from Reception to Year 6.
17.2.4	Anomalies with the costings in the consultation document	The estimated savings at the time of consultation are included in the consultation document.
17.2.5	The consultation document states for Nantmel, Dolau and Llanbister the estimated canteen savings are £10,000, however there is no additional information on why those savings will occur. All three savings match, isn't that unusual?	Canteen Savings have been updated following the finalisation of the 2015/16 accounts and are broken down as follows: Cashiers: £2,312 Cooks: £12,571 Provisions/General Costs: £1,826

Total: £16,709		
17.2.6	The Council states that the average cost per pupil is higher than the county average, however Llanbister is on track for much larger numbers which within a short time will reduce the costs per pupil to average, negating the Council's average in this respect	The Authority has used the information available currently.
17.2.7	The information in the consultation document is out of date and inaccurate	The information in the consultation is the latest verified information that was available to the authority.
17.2.8	Information relating to distances and times for children to travel are inaccurate	The information relating to travel distances was calculated by the authority's research unit using GIS systems. No information was provided related to travel times.
17.2.9	Please look closely at the figures provided to you by the community and your own figures	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.10	Figures of Crossgates pupils were incorrect – you stated that there were 140 pupils but there are actually 157 pupils	As stated in the consultation document, the figure of 140 pupils referred to pupils from Reception to Year 6.
17.2.11	The building condition information is based on an out of date survey	The condition and other assessments are based on evaluations undertaken by Welsh Government appointed surveyors a number of years ago. The Cabinet has recently approved a 5 year rolling programme of updating the overall assessments of schools in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.
17.2.12	The transport figures are misleading and inaccurate, our school action	The authority notes this comment. The figures are based on estimates at the time of consultation, but it needs to be noted that the cost of providing transport is largely based

	group has provided evidence that the additional transport costs will far outweigh any savings	on the number of vehicles required, with the number and location of pupils only having a marginal impact.
17.2.13	Page 19 of document states that Llanbister School building is categorised as C poor. Page 3 states building condition as D bad or C poor – why is this?	The description on page 3 of the consultation document relates to the criteria that would trigger a review of a school, as outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014). Page 3 of the consultation document does not state that the condition of Llanbister C.P. School building is D bad or C poor.
17.2.14	Within the document, the risk impact to children if the school was to close but parents choose for their child to attend schools other than Crossgates was described as low – how can any professional worker class a school move as low?	The consultation document refers to the risk to the authority, not the risk to the pupils. Whilst the authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved, it does not consider a requirement for pupils to move schools to be a risk in this case.
17.2.15	The document states that no pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken – this is a false statement, I am a Welsh speaker and speak Welsh to the children at home	This information was based on the school’s PLASC return from January 2015, which states that no pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken.
17.2.16	The consultation document states that the majority of extra-curricular activities at Crossgates happen during school hours, however having read recent newsletters from the school it is evident that there are extra-curricular activities after school on four out of five nights	The authority notes this comment. Information about extra-curricular activities at Crossgates C.P. School was received from the school itself. The authority accepts that closure of Llanbister C.P. School could have an impact on pupils’ ability to access extra-curricular activities that take place outside of the school day. Should the school close, the authority would work with and support the receiving school and any other school to which pupils may transfer to maximise the access to extra-curricular activities for all pupils.
17.2.17	Consultation document makes reference to projected pupil numbers	Pupil numbers at the school are projected to remain below 50 in the short term, however the authority accepts that numbers are projected to increase to above 50 in the longer

	remaining below 50 in the short term, this is incorrect	term, and this is acknowledged in the consultation document.
17.2.18	Information in the document is inaccurate as it doesn't take into account all the other schools who feed into Crossgates, such as Llandrindod, Nantmel and Llanfihangel Rhydithon	Llandrindod Wells, Nantmel and Dolau are not currently within the catchment area of Crossgates C.P. School. No final decisions have been made in respect of the proposals relating to Nantmel C. in W. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
17.2.19	The consultation document hints that the state of the building is of concern, however the building has not been assessed since the capital investment made by Powys	The condition and other assessments are based on evaluations undertaken by Welsh Government appointed surveyors a number of years ago. Cabinet has recently approved a 5 year rolling programme of updating the overall assessments of schools in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.
17.2.20	How does building condition impact on the quality of education?	Pupils' learning environment has an impact on pupil well-being and on the standards pupils achieve and attain.
17.2.21	What improvements have been made to the building condition since the survey carried out in 2009 and how do they affect the overall rating?	The condition and other assessments are based on evaluations undertaken by Welsh Government appointed surveyors a number of years ago. Cabinet has recently approved a 5 year rolling programme of updating the overall assessments of schools in terms of condition, suitability and sufficiency.
17.2.22	Queries in relation to the school being in Special Measures – to what extent is this based on the lack of a permanent headteacher? What evidence is there that the school is on target to emerge from Special Measures? What evidence has been provided by the Governing Body to indicate improvement? What are the targets and predictions for the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2	<p>The school was placed in Special Measures for a number of reasons, one of which was Unsatisfactory Leadership. The school is currently making Satisfactory progress overall. This means that although progress has been made in many aspects, there is still significant work to do in important areas.</p> <p>The governing body provides reports at governing body meetings and at half-termly improvement board meetings with local authority officers about the progress the school is making. As a result, governors are becoming more aware of the impact that the progress of the school's post inspection action plan is having on the quality of its provision and pupils' standards.</p>

pupil outcomes in 2016?	Provisional data in 2016 indicates that in the Foundation Phase, 100% of pupils will achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator and 100% will achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2.
17.2.23 The consultation document states that the total number of children in Llanbister will rise to 54 by January 2020 – this is incorrect. By summer 2020, there will be 69 children at the school.	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.24 The consultation document states that there are 25 children attending Llanbister, there were 32 at the time and now there are 38, which only leaves 7 surplus places	The authority notes this comment. As stated in the document, the figure of 25 children was the number of pupils of statutory school age, from Reception to Year 6, who were attending the school on the PLASC counting day in January 2015.
17.2.25 The pupil numbers forecast in the consultation document show Crossgates with a capacity of 210, it will have 203 pupils by January 2017 rising to 235 by January 2020. This is without nursery children	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.26 Challenge the reasons against a merger listed in the consultation document	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.27 The consultation document is misleading - there has been no formal change to the age of admission yet, so the nursery needs to be accounted for	The consultation document clearly stated that the information provided related to pupils aged from Reception to Year 6. The authority uses the Reception to Year 6 pupil numbers as these are the age groups that relate to the statutory age range for primary schools and are the age ranges used to report pupil numbers to Welsh Government as part of the annual census collection process in January of each year. Those children aged 4 or over on the 31st March in each year are included in the school

		<p>funding allocation and are provided free home to school transport.</p> <p>Since the consultation on the closure of Llanbister C.P. School the authority has completed and approved the change of age of admission into schools from the start of the 2017-18 school year. From September 2017 there will be no nursery aged children in full time education in schools in Powys and transport will not be provided to the 3+ pre-school education provision.</p>
17.2.28	What is sustainability in relation to building condition?	Sustainability relates to the environmental issues surrounding the building, for example if the school has single glazing, it would have a lower score than a school that has double glazing.
17.2.29	Can we have clarification that the information reported in the documentation was based on the classification of the building before the investment of £120k	The information reported in the documentation was based on the survey undertaken by Welsh Government in 2009.
17.2.30	Concerns about inaccuracies in the method used in the Community Impact Assessment to determine closest schools and to calculate distances and travelling times	The travel distances by the authority using a GIS system based on the pupils that were attending the school at the time. The community impact assessment does not refer to travel time.
17.2.31	The community impact assessment does not consider the significance of the increase in travel time or consider a weighting	The authority notes this comment. The community impact assessment was produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The assessment will be updated to reflect the comments received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.2.32	The document is based on January 2015 figures and will be two years out of date at the time of the proposed closure – a valid assessment can only be based on school attendance figures at the time of the proposed	The authority notes this comment. The document used the January 2015 PLASC figures as these were the latest verified figures which were available when the consultation document was published. Updated January 2016 PLASC figures will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.

closure of the school		
17.2.33	The consultation document does not assess the impact of closing Dolau and Nantmel	<p>The consultation document does provide information about the authority's proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, and refers to this proposal on pages 9-10 and page 15. No decision has yet been made on how to proceed in relation to this proposal, however this will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p> <p>The named receiving school in respect of the proposal to close Nantmel C. in W. School is Rhayader C. in W. School. During the consultation on closure of Nantmel C. in W. School, it became apparent that should Nantmel C. in W. School close, a number of pupils would choose to transfer to Crossgates C.P. School instead of Rhayader C. in W. School. No final decision has yet been made on the proposal to close Nantmel C. in W. School, the impact of any pupils from Nantmel C. in W. School that might transfer to Crossgates C.P. School will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.</p>
17.2.34	The consultation document is based on out of date data in relation to extra-curricular provision	The authority notes this comment. This information was provided by the respective schools.
17.2.35	The consultation document doesn't give a full picture of the financial costs of closing the school	The consultation document provides an estimate of the revenue savings expected.
17.2.36	The data in the consultation document is not correct and does not explain the full impact closure would have on the community or the financial impact	The consultation document is based on the most up to date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was published.
17.2.37	How has Welsh language provision been factored in?	Llanbister C.P. School is an English-medium school and all pupils are educated through the medium of English, therefore there is no requirement for the authority to consider the impact on Welsh-medium provision. Should Llanbister C.P. School close, parents would be able to apply for a place for their children in Welsh-medium provision if this was their

		preference. All English-medium schools are required to teach Welsh as a second language.
17.2.38	Request for confirmation of an accurate figure for the number on roll at Crossgates School on the 4 th April 2016 and September 2016	<p>There were 144 Reception to Year 6 pupils at Crossgates C.P. School in April 2016. In addition, there were 17 Nursery pupils at the school.</p> <p>Based on the information currently held by the authority, it is expected that there will be 155 Reception to Year 6 pupils at Crossgates C.P. School in September 2016. In addition, it is expected that there will be 9 Nursery pupils at the school.</p>
17.3 General criticism of the consultation document		
17.3.1	The evidence in the consultation document showed significant inadequacies which doesn't make us feel confident in the full appraisal	The authority notes this comment.
17.3.2	The case for retaining the school in terms of projected numbers, potential class sizes and the quality of education has been very well put by the parents/school side and contrasts sharply with the figures put forward in the council's consultation paper	The authority notes this comment.
17.3.3	Powys has presented an inaccurate, inadequate and superficial report which puts our small children at risk from stress by extended travel times	The authority notes this comment.
17.3.4	There are no legitimate grounds on which to close the school	The authority notes this comment. The reasons why the authority is proposing closure of Llanbister C.P. School are outlined in the consultation document. All issues raised during the consultation period will be taken into account by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.

17.3.5	The document is inadequate, superficial and an insult to the community	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
17.3.6	Key information on factors such as rising pupil numbers were buried in the appendices	This is untrue, details of projected pupil numbers, which show that pupil numbers at Llanbister C.P. School are expected to increase, are provided on page 18 in the main body of the consultation document.
17.3.7	The consultation document lacked compassion and factual evidence	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and contains the latest verified data that was available to the Council at the time.
17.3.8	The consultation document is based on out of date data, lack of local context and is full of material omissions. It lacks transparency in its evaluation of statements, therefore is misleading	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and contains the latest verified data that was available to the Council at the time.
17.3.9	How can you consider proceeding with this consultation when there are so many inaccuracies in the document?	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and contains the latest verified data that was available to the Council at the time.
17.3.10	The arguments are either incorrect, uninformed guesswork based on estimates rather than actual facts and figures, or based on data that is many years out of date	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and contains the latest verified data that was available to the Council at the time.
17.3.11	Without having the current figures how can the local authority plan for the future by ensuring that places are available for children at nearby schools	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and contains the latest verified data that was available to the Council at the time.

17.3.12	Accurate figures need to be made public, if this is difficult an appendix could be added to the consultation document	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document was produced in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and contains the latest verified data that was available to the Council at the time.
18 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS		
18.1 Federation / Split Site School		
18.1.1	With pupil numbers growing in the next 4 years at Llanbister it is only logical to either keep the school open or open it as part of a new and improved Crossgates campus	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open or keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However these were not considered to be suitable solutions at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.2	Consider merging with Crossgates School whilst retaining the Llanbister site	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.3	The Council has just spent £120,000 on Llanbister School, it seems logical for Llanbister School to operate as an annex to Crossgates	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.4	Leave the school where it is and	The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the

	merge with Crossgates, this will give the benefits of a larger school but will let us stay in our own accommodation	<p>school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.5	Keeping the location open as part of another school would have a much better outcome than the large transport costs and the impact on 'family time' for young children	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.6	We disagree that Llanbister children's identity would be lost if we, as a school, merged with Crossgates. This would enhance links with Crossgates and would keep education in the community where it belongs	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.7	The proposal to become a second site to Crossgates would alleviate the need for children to be schooled in a lower standard accommodation having already completed an additional 7 mile bus journey	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.8	Suggest keeping school provision in Llanbister as part of a Federation, especially considering the projected increase in the school roll	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of a Federation with Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p>

		All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.
18.1.9	Llanbister School should remain open by federating or merging with another school	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the options of merging or federating the school with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However these was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.10	Keeping Llanbister site open and merging with Crossgates would provide the 'surplus' of children an alternative	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.11	We are not averse to change, and would be willing to merge with Crossgates	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.12	There would be many advantages to a merger, such as the bonus of sharing facilities, a wider pool of talent amongst staff, a Headteacher to manage both sites, no ridiculous increase in transport costs, keeping the community links and support	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>

18.1.13	Keeping Llanbister open as part of a merger would provide additional space for the future and would also mean that children and peer groups would not be separated	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.14	Leadership issues at Llanbister would be overcome by establishing a 'One School, Two Sites' model by merging with Crossgates School	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.15	The school already works closely with Crossgates and there are 3 members of staff at the school who have already worked at Crossgates, couldn't the site be kept open as part of Crossgates?	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.16	Becoming a site of Crossgates would alleviate the need for children to be taught in lower standard accommodation having already completed an additional 7 mile bus journey	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.17	The governing body of Llanbister School would make every effort to	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft</p>

	make merger with Crossgates a success	<p>recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.18	Merger is the only financial solution – the additional costs listed would be savings under merger and the added cost of transport would not be needed	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.19	Governors acknowledge that financial savings need to be made and are not against closure of Llanbister School providing that it can be merged with Crossgates and education remains on the Llanbister site	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of keeping the school open as part of Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.1.20	The community is in favour of retaining the school site, this is more important than retaining the school name	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of retaining the school site through either Federation or Merger with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.2 Status Quo		
18.2.1	Retaining Llanbister School is the way forward, to send our children to a school that cannot cope with the	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of retaining the status quo when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable</p>

	projected numbers and means the use of an ancient mobile classroom is not acceptable	<p>solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.2.2	With pupil numbers growing in the next 4 years at Llanbister it is only logical to either keep the school open or open it as part of a new and improved Crossgates campus	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of retaining the status quo or retaining the school site through a merger with Crossgates C.P. School when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanbister C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanbister C.P. School.</p>
18.3 Shared Headship		
18.3.1	The Council should pursue shared headteacher arrangements	The authority notes this comment. Whilst shared headteacher arrangements have provided successful short term arrangements where schools have been unable to appoint a headteacher, this is not a permanent solution. A shared headteacher arrangement could only become a permanent arrangement following an organisational change to the school, such as federation or amalgamation / merger.
18.3.2	The school could work with Crossgates in terms of resources (sports equipment etc.) and a shared headteacher in order to reduce costs.	The authority notes this comment. Whilst shared headteacher arrangements have provided successful short term arrangements where schools have been unable to appoint a headteacher, this is not a permanent solution. A shared headteacher arrangement could only become a permanent arrangement following an organisational change to the school, such as federation or amalgamation / merger.
18.4 Collaboration		
18.4.1	Appreciate that there are issues in relation to collaboration between county primary and church schools, but there is no evidence to suggest that, thus far, the Council has made	The authority notes this comment, however neither Llanbister C.P. School nor Crossgates C.P. School are church schools, therefore this issue does not affect this proposal.

any effort to deal with these		
19 OTHER QUESTIONS / COMMENTS		
19.1	Concern about lack of public transportation – one bus 7 times a day which is not ideal if not at the right time to get to local events	The authority notes this comment.
19.2	All parts of Wales should be treated equally, there are growing concerns that this is not the case and Mid and North Wales are becoming forgotten parts of Wales	The authority notes this comment.
20 COMMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSAL		
21.1	The proposal is likely to improve the educational outcomes and provision for pupils in the area	The authority notes this comment.
21.2	Fully support the whole school modernisation / organisation agenda, especially if it means better quality and range of education	The authority notes this comment.
21.3	Shropshire County Council has reviewed the potential consequential effect on pupil numbers and capacity at Newcastle CE Primary School, and considered that there are unlikely to be any detrimental issues affecting the school in the event of a decision to close Llanbister C.P. School	The authority notes this comment.

21.4	Pupils would have more friends at Crossgates C.P. School as there are more pupils	The authority notes this comment.
21.5	It is a positive move to close Llanbister School	The authority notes this comment.
21.6	Children currently attending Llanbister School will thrive in Crossgates	The authority notes this comment.
21.7	Llanbister is too small a school, it lacks in resources and is underperforming	The authority notes this comment.
21.8	I would rather pupils travelled the extra distance to Crossgates School	The authority notes this comment.