



**Consultation on the proposal to close
Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School**

Consultation Report

August 2016

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Consultation on the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School

1. Overview of the consultation

Powys County Council consulted on a proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 – 25th February 2016
- Staff – 1st March 2016
- Governors – 1st March 2016
- Parents / community – 1st March 2016

1.2 Responses received

A total of 129 written responses were received to the consultation. These included:

- i) 26 responses to the online questionnaire
- ii) 103 other written responses

This included a response from Estyn, which is provided on page 14.

6 written responses were received from pupils.

2 Consultation with pupils

2.1 Written responses from pupils

6 written responses were received from pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

The issues raised in these responses are summarised below:

- There are good teachers at the school
- Pupils have good friends at the school
- Pupils can take part in a range of activities
- Pupils will not be able to do as many activities in a big school as they will be in a bigger class
- Pupils are sad to think the school might close
- Some pupils have been to a few schools and have been the happiest at this school – this is the only school where they haven't been bullied
- The children are really nice
- The school is like a family
- Crossgates School don't compete in the Eisteddfod so pupils won't get a chance to compete again
- Learning is really fun at the school
- Pupils won't know many of the children or any of the teachers
- Teachers will lose their jobs

2.2 Meeting with the School Council

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

What do you like about Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School?

- They know everyone in the school
- They have lots of friends and there is no bullying
- They all play with each other
- Because the school is small they all know each other better
- The teachers are nice
- Members of the community go to the school and read to them
- They like the activities they do – School Plays, Activities Day, Sports Day, Fundraising, St David's Day activities
- P.E.
- The food is nice
- They have lots of books
- They like the outside play equipment – playhouse, shelter, climbing frames
- They get more 1-1 with the teachers

- The classes are small (10 pupils in one class and 20 pupils in another) so they get more attention from the teacher
- There is plenty of room in the classrooms
- The classes aren't too noisy so they can concentrate
- They like D&T and Art and they think the teacher is fab

What don't you like about Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School?

- The school is cold in the mornings
- The conservation area is messy

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

- They will spend longer travelling and will have to get up earlier
- They will have to make new friends
- They will have different teachers
- They will have different classrooms
- They will be in bigger classes and the teacher will have less time to help them
- They will be separated from friends
- The bigger classes will be noisy so it will be harder to concentrate
- They will need to get used to a new school layout
- The play equipment at the school may not be as good
- There may not be enough toys etc. for everyone and they may not get a chance to use the play equipment
- Members of the community won't be able to read to them anymore
- There may be more arguing because they don't know each other
- School dinners may not be as nice
- They will have to queue for ages to get their dinner
- They will be in different classes to their current friends (Different age groups are in the same class at the moment)
- The teams will be larger for sports and so they may not get to have a go

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

- Make more friends – they would know more people when they went to high school
- The same ages will be in a class
- There is a larger field at Crossgates
- There will be more time for teachers to explain the lessons because they will only have to explain a lesson for 1 year and not 3/4 years
- Larger sports teams more opportunity to play sports

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

- They may not get as much time with specialists in a bigger school
- They may get annoyed with the long journey

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

- What would happen to the school building if the school closed?

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

- If the Cabinet decides to close the school, how would that affect the staff from 31st December 2016?
- There were far fewer pupils in Llangurig C.P. School when that school closed – we can't believe this is happening
- There are lots of children whose parents want them to come to this school
- There is a new early years setting at Crossgates which operates from one of the mobile units
- If you put children from this school, Llanbister and Nantmel into Crossgates, where will the children from the early years setting go?
- There won't be enough capacity for the children coming into the early years setting from all the other early years settings if the schools close
- A number of children on the list to come to this school next term and in the future, and the same is true for the early years setting
- Numbers in the playgroup in Dolau went down to two children at one point, the community pulled together to keep the playgroup going
- What size will classes be at Crossgates School if it is proposed that the school receives pupils from both Llanbister and Llanfihangel Rhydithon?
- Concern about taking pupils from a good building to a mobile classroom
- Concern about whether the mobile will be warm enough
- What would your advice be to individual parents if they have a concern about the receiving school?
- If Llanbister, Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Nantmel schools close there will be no other rural school in the area
- There are children in this school who can only cope with a smaller number in the class – the education system will fail these children if there are no small schools
- How will the County Council ensure standards of education are maintained if children are in bigger classes?
- Teachers at this school put a lot of effort in
- How do teachers know that the next school will ensure pupils achieve the targets set by teachers here?
- Do you have proof that when children move they achieve their targets?
- Concern that children whose progress is 'average' get forgotten – we need evidence that their education is not affected
- Pupils in year 6 will only have a few months to move to high school, therefore the same children will be affected by two school closures
- Concern about the impact on pupils

- December would be the wrong time for the school to close – would be detrimental for year 5 and year 6 pupils to have to go through more than one transition
- When will Cabinet members visit the school?
- A shame that Cabinet can make the decision without visiting the school
- We have high standards of attainment at this school
- Is there any local representation on the Cabinet?
- It is the wrong time to have carried out consultation on the age of school admission
- Schools will be against the proposal to change the school admission age if it lowers their numbers
- You will have to increase funding for pre-school settings if the school admission age changes
- If the school closes what are the options for staff?
- Would staff need to pay back redundancy pay if re-employed by the authority within 12 months?
- Is there enough capacity within HR to deal with the redundancy process if the school closes?

3.2 Meeting with governors

- Confusion around the figures provided for capacity of Crossgates C.P. School
- Under the impression that you could not transfer pupils from a permanent school building to a mobile classroom
- What is the capacity of Crossgates C.P. School excluding the mobile classroom?
- How many pupils are there in Crossgates C.P. School?
- How many of the criteria for review of a school have to be met in order to trigger a review?
- Crossgates C.P. School has surplus capacity – why has that not triggered a review of Crossgates School?
- The condition of the school building is not urgent enough to trigger a review
- Has Estyn been informed of the proposal?
- Will Estyn be inspecting the receiving school?
- Crossgates C.P. School hasn't been inspected by Estyn for 6 years
- What would happen if standards fell at Crossgates C.P. School?
- You will be dramatically increasing numbers at Crossgates C.P. School
- You will be taking children from a school where they are receiving a high standard of education
- There is a new headteacher at Crossgates C.P. School who will have had relatively little experience in dealing with a school with a large number of pupils
- One of the schools near here has been assessed as being in the 'red' category
- We have a permanent leadership arrangement at this school

- We have tried to work with you in the past to arrive at a more permanent leadership arrangement
- We were going to look into becoming a Church in Wales School
- Shutting schools should be a last resort – we should be celebrating rural schools
- Of the three schools under review, Llanfihangel Rhydithon is the cheapest to run and has excellent standards
- The school offers ‘value for money’
- Is it true that you will not be transferring the full cost of the pupil when they transfer to another school?
- The building here doesn’t cost you anything
- Additional children in Crossgates will cost the Council money
- The Council is not taking the additional travel costs into account
- We have had independent quotes to indicate that additional transport costs will be £58,000, based on parents choosing to send their children to Crossgates School.
- Would not want to put 4 year old children on a bus
- Is there a protocol in place in relation to shared transport with secondary school children and journey times?
- Concern that children could be travelling up to 1 hour on school transport
- Concern about pupil wellbeing
- Concern that children could get upset on the bus
- The buses will need supervision
- How long are mobiles likely to last?
- The transformation document says that children should not be moved from a permanent structure to a temporary classroom.
- Could be 39 children from Dolau, Llanbister and Crossgates nursery going into a classroom in January 2017.
- Mobile classrooms should not be used as a permanent solution
- You cannot fit any more than 30 pupils in a classrooms
- What will happen to the capacity of Crossgates if pupils continue to come from Llandrindod to Crossgates School?
- Isn't it good practice for schools to have 10% surplus capacity? There will be no surplus capacity at Crossgates
- You are sacrificing two schools to build up the numbers at Crossgates
- There will be nothing to encourage young families to move into the area because there will be no places for children in the school
- Once you start closing schools you will never open them again
- 130 new houses are going to be built in Crossgates, and a development of affordable housing is also planned for Llandewi – schools will be at capacity
- If you close the school what is there here for the children?
- You are not looking at the long term
- If you have a big school of over 500 pupils funded at £5268 per pupil would you say that was an expensive school?
- What is the cost per pupil for the federated schools in the north of the county?

- Why have different figures been used for average per pupil funding in different reports – average per pupil funding quoted in report on Welshpool primary schools review was different to that in the report for Cabinet in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School even though the reports were considered by Cabinet on the same day – there can't be two averages
- There were 31 pupils, including early years, in the school in January 2015, but in the consultation document it says there were 29.
- In 2017 there will be 36 pupils in the school including the nursery
- There are two pupils at the school that receive free school meals
- How does it give the school a chance if you are using outdated data?
- What would happen about parking for the community hall if the school building is disposed of?
- What weighting is given to the impact on the community of a school's closure? – according to Welsh Government guidelines weighting should be applied.

3.3 Meeting with parents / community

- On what basis do you project that pupil numbers in the future will be as low as they are now?
- No great account is taken of population change in the area
- There is currently a natural dip in numbers in schools in the area and currently there are fewer children, but the houses that the older generation occupy will be occupied by a younger generation
- Concern that there will be no primary school between Crossgates and Presteigne
- Proposal is 'short termist' – there will be dips in the population but numbers will rise
- This is a very good school and has been for many years
- Greater consideration needs to be given to this area and its remoteness
- You have to accept that pupil numbers could increase in a few years if more houses are built and there are more jobs
- Questioned the estimated saving of £66,298
- Questioned the saving of £15,580 for Headteacher post
- Questioned the canteen subsidy of £10,000 – no canteen at Dolau, all meals are cooked in Crossgates and transferred to Dolau
- Estimated cost of transport is £22800 – we estimate £84234 over the school year
- If you transfer pupils from Llanfihangel Rhydithon School to Crossgates, it will cost £15,798.50
- Request for clarification in relation to the delegated budget for pupils transferring?
- Will the children receive less funding per pupil if the school closes and they transfer to the receiving school?
- Request for clarification in relation to the £15,580 saving from the Headteacher's post
- You should be consulting with the correct figures, not the incorrect figures

- Have calculated that there would be additional annual mileage of 32,456 for pupils if they were transferred from Llanfihangel Rhydithon to Crossgates
- Concern that there is no facility for schools to work together as part of this consultation
- Powys needs more vision to get more young people into this area – if you close the schools how are you going to attract younger people into the area?
- Have you looked at other areas where there are small rural schools?
- What about federation?
- Llanbister C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School should be working together to make sure we have the most viable primary school system we can get.
- Have you looked at new technologies / video conferencing between schools?
- You have a responsibility to have a vision for the future and to look at new ways of working so that small schools can be viable and there is career progression for teachers
- Reference to the Wye Forest federation in Gloucestershire – their Ofsted reports have improved since federation
- Are the four new primary schools in Ystradgynlais as cost effective as you had hoped as all exceed the cost per pupil average
- Wouldn't the SORP panel's time be better spent on Ysgol Bro Hyddgen which is failing educationally and financially?
- Making schools bigger does not make them better either financially or educationally.
- What evidence is there that bigger schools are better?
- Why is there no information for the Foundation Phase for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen?
- Crossgates C.P. School last inspected in June 2010 under previous Estyn regime – how can you say that the school is better or as good as Llanfihangel Rhydithon School?
- Concern about capacity of Crossgates C.P. School
- Cabinet meeting in 2005 – members asked that mobile classrooms should not be regarded as permanent fixtures
- Planning for extension and remodelling of Crossgates C.P. School was granted based on capacity of 162 – 179, 6 kitchen staff and 30 – 40 school staff – does your planning consent allow you to increase the capacity of the school?
- Standard of development provided by Dolau playgroup is second to none. Pupil numbers went down to 2 at one time. There are now 15 children.
- The playgroup was not mentioned in the consultation document
- What will happen to the playgroup if the school closes?
- A number of young couples have bought properties in the area – what will be the impact if there is no school in the area?
- What impact will closing the school have on the future of the village and the wider community and on young people moving into the area to start families?
- When I moved to the area, the mother and toddler group was my main point of interaction with other mothers in the area – now feel part of the community

- What would the class sizes be in Crossgates if Llanbister C.P. and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. were to close? Has been stated that there could be class sizes of 34 at Crossgates.
- If this school closed, there would be no other alternative school apart from Crossgates C.P. School
- What would be the alternative rural school?
- How many children get bussed from Llandrindod to Crossgates because Llandrindod schools are deemed to be full? If the two Llandrindod primary schools are full, where will the overspill go?
- Has Estyn been made aware of the possibility that Crossgates School may be increasing in numbers by 50%
- What will you do if you close this school and Crossgates School has a poor Estyn inspection? Would you reopen this school?
- Reference to council's slogan – 'Strong communities in the green heart of Wales'
- Schools are the nucleus of a community
- In Dolau, starts with the toddler group, then the playgroup then the school, then the local youth club, young farmers club, WI, bowls club etc all based on the school site
- You only have to look at the number of people at this meeting to know how well supported the school is
- Reason for the recommendation is financial
- Would the panel agree that teaching and leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon School are not in question?
- Is the proposal to close the school about education or finance?
- Friends of Dolau School have raised £28K over a number of years to finance play equipment and to subsidise school trips and swimming. Larger primary schools struggle to form a committee. In rural communities parents come together to raise money for the children, this is more difficult in larger schools
- What follow up monitoring has there been following other school closures e.g. Howey, Beguildy, Rhosgoch? Has children's welfare suffered as a result? Where can your research be viewed?
- Dolau Youth Club meets in the hall – concern about the impact of closure of the school on the youth club.
- You said that the consultation document is a work in progress – the consultation should not be a work in progress. The document you consult on has to be accurate.
- People have chosen to send their children to a small, rural school for many reasons. If this school closes, this community will not have that choice – that is not fair when other communities do have the choice.
- Schools in rural Radnorshire are strategically important
- Your transport policy could be legally challenged – it is illegal to make parents travel a mile with their children to catch a bus – parents do that to be helpful
- There are other options which would mean that the children could stay in their community, the community wants to work with you to achieve this.

- Proposals in Ystradgynlais worked because the community was offered something better – pupils were not being shoehorned into a school which didn't have capacity to take them, so it's not fair to compare school reorganisation in Ystradgynlais with the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
- The Council needs to offer this community something better – a vision and a future where young people want to stay and work
- UN Rights of the Child states that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration
- Our children are suffering emotionally under this consultation – you are not doing your best for my children
- Concern that children in year 5 will have to spend their final year in primary school with children they don't know and will have additional travel
- Powys County Council is trying to deprive our children of a decent education
- Concern that pupils will be in bigger classes
- Why hasn't the option of federation been included in the consultation document?
- Closure must be the last resort
- Savings don't add up
- Pupil number figures are incorrect
- Cabinet has based its decision on the wrong figures
- Children are scared of going to school in a community where she knows the children do not like her
- These proceedings have affected the children
- Sometimes it is better to find a solution that works for communities and not budgets
- Not one child will leave this school until you drag us out!
- What is your advice to parents of pupils due to start at the school in the next couple of terms? If the school closes, will be at the school for a short time then have to move, alternatively could start at the receiving school.
- Many parents who live closer to Crossgates School choose to bring their children to Dolau School
- Don't our children have human rights to go to a rural school?
- The school is part of the rural economy that pays for Powys County Council
- Numbers in the playgroup are increasing
- Condition of the school building is good and there is room to expand
- School's standards are leading the way in Powys County Council
- Reference to someone who lives in Dolfor who has chosen to take her child to Kerry because she wants her child to go to a rural school
- Has the Portfolio Holder done any research into solutions for saving small schools e.g. Dilwyn and Almeley schools in Herefordshire where pupil numbers are less? Have you spoken to Governors and Cabinet members in other rural counties?

4 ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

Estyn response to the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School with pupils transferring to Crossgates C.P. School subject to parental preference.

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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School with pupils transferring to Crossgates C.P. School subject to parental preference.

Summary

The proposal is part of Powys County Council's Schools Transformation Policy, which sets out the authority's vision and process for the transformation of primary and secondary schools in the county.

It is Estyn's opinion that the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The local authority has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits when compared with the status quo in relation to finance, surplus places and the continuity and progression in pupils' learning. The proposer also explains clearly how the proposal fits with the local authority's broader plan for school modernisation.

The proposal clearly defines the expected benefits of the proposal and these link well to the stated purpose and rationale. The local authority has provided sufficient evidence to show that the plan is likely to at least maintain the standard of education in the area.

The proposal notes appropriately the advantages of the proposal, which include the efficient and effective use of resources, a reduction of unfilled pupil places within the primary school network and permanent leadership arrangements are currently in place at the proposed receiving school.

The proposal has identified appropriately the disadvantages to the current proposal, which focus on the loss of provision in the village of Dolau and the additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school.

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposal on pupil travel arrangements. It intends to support home to school travel in line with the council's transport policy. It further recognises that the proposal will potentially result in additional travel time for many pupils for whom Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently the closest school. However, the proposal recognises that there would be a reduction in travel time for the remaining minority of pupils should they transfer to their nearest school. The proposer also recognises that in the event of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, it is unlikely that there would be suitable walking routes to the alternative schools available for pupils currently attending the school.

The proposer has appropriately shown how the proposal will affect surplus places by providing pupil numbers and the capacity of each school in the area for 2015. The proposal is likely to reduce the surplus places at local primary schools including Crossgates C.P. School, Llandrindod Wells C.P. School, Llanbister C.P. School and Knighton Church in Wales School subject to parental preference.

Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and the other four local primary schools in the local area are classified as English Medium Community Primary schools. None of these schools provide education through the medium of Welsh but teach Welsh as a second language. There would therefore appear to be no impact on the Welsh language arising from this proposal should pupils transfer to these schools.

The proposer has considered reasonably well the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and Crossgates C.P. School. The proposer has considered the outcomes of the most recent Estyn inspection reports for all five schools in the area, along with their categorisation in relation to the National School Categorisation system on the quality of leadership and pupil outcomes. However, the proposer has not commented on end of key stage outcomes for each school when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals.

The proposer has considered appropriately the impact of the proposals on the quality of the outcomes, provision and leadership and management at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. It has also appropriately considered the likely impact of the proposals on standards, wellbeing and curriculum delivery. The proposer has undertaken an appropriate equality impact assessment, which considers the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups including those with special educational needs.

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	Children's welfare should be high on the list for consideration	<p>The authority is committed to ensuring the welfare of all children, and accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved.</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>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>
1.1.2	Pupils are very happy at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools are expected to ensure that pupils are happy in their learning environment, and should Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 to aid their transition
1.1.3	Closure of the school would be traumatic for the children	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.
1.1.4	The proposal is having a negative effect on the children	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.
1.1.5	Concern about welfare of children having to leave home very early and return very late	The authority accepts that the closure of the school will increase the travel times for some children living within the current catchment area of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. It is the authority's view that the majority of pupils will be able to access the named school within a travel time of 30 minutes for a single journey.
1.1.6	Concern about additional stress for young children if they have to travel alone, without supervision	The authority does not normally provide escorts on home to school transport. The authority monitors any issues raised on transport by providers, children and parents and has a very low incidence of any issues on transport provided to Primary School.
1.1.7	Proposal has had a detrimental impact on some children attending the school – it has affected their physical and mental health	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.
1.1.8	None of the children embrace the prospect of extended travel time	The authority notes this comment.
1.1.9	There is evidence that children are becoming more anxious and stressed	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.
1.1.10	Closure would be catastrophic for children and would have a detrimental impact on their future and the community around them	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. However, the authority is satisfied that the education that would be provided in the named receiving school would be of an equivalent standard, and would not have a detrimental impact on their future. The proposal's impact on the community will be taken into account when determining how to proceed.
1.1.11	The impact and upset on some of these children should be paramount	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.
1.1.12	Concern that it will take some time for children to settle in alternative 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. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for pupils.
1.1.13	Concern that some pupils aren't very accepting of new pupils	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for the affected pupils. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the receiving school would be expected to provide full support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.1.14	The school is essential for the well-being of pupils	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools are expected to ensure the well-being of all pupils, and should Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 to aid their transition
1.1.15	Every effort should be made to take account of the wishes and needs of the children as the over-riding priority	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.
1.1.16	Children are scared about going to a school in a community where they know the children don't like them	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	The council is not doing its best for the children	<p>The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure.</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>
1.1.18	A child being bullied won't learn or thrive in a larger school environment	The authority notes this concern, and acknowledges that some pupils might be happier in a small school environment. However, all schools are expected to ensure that pupils are happy in their learning environment. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the receiving school would be expected to provide full support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.1.19	Tantrums, bed wetting and irrational	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of

	behaviour have happened during the consultation	uncertainty for the pupils involved, and is concerned to hear that the consultation is having this impact on pupils. 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.
1.1.20	Integration is not always automatic in receiving schools	The authority notes this concern, and acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for the affected pupils. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the receiving school would be expected to provide full support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.1.21	Reference to closure of Llangunllo School in 1984 – had a negative effect on pupils, have struggled to fit in and with self-confidence since then	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for the affected pupils. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the receiving school would be expected to provide full support to pupils to aid their transition.
1.2 Separation from friends		
1.2.1	Concern about children being split up from their 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.
1.2.2	Concern about children having to form new 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.
1.2.3	Reference to Llangunllo School which closed in 1984 when there were 9 pupils, all of the pupils went in different directions to new 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.
1.2.4	Pupils have good friends at the 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.
1.2.5	Concern that pupils will be in different classes to their current friends who are in different year groups	The authority notes this concern, 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.
1.3 Disruption to pupils		
1.3.1	Pupils will be taken out of their comfort zone	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	Closure would be disruptive to pupils, particularly those that will be moving into year 6 in September	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved, particularly those moving into year 6. 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	Concern about more and repeated disruption to the education of pupils who have already moved schools as a result of previous closures	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. The information held by the authority shows that none of the pupils who would be attending the school in December 2016 have previously been affected by previous school closures.
1.3.4	Concern about children having to adjust to new surroundings	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.
1.3.5	Pupils won't know many of the children in Crossgates	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	Pupils won't know any of the teachers in Crossgates	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	On average, it takes a term for pupils to settle into a new school	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.
1.3.8	Pupils in year 6 will only have a few months before they move to high school, therefore the same children will be affected by two school closures	The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved, particularly those moving into year 6. 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's current proposal in relation to high school provision does not propose any change to the current location.
1.3.9	December would be the wrong time to close the school – it would be detrimental for year 5 and 6 pupils to have to go through more than one transition	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. Due to the lengthy statutory process that must be followed when closing a school, it would not be possible to conclude in time for the school to close at the end of the summer term 2016, this is why the authority's consultation proposed closure of the school from the end of December.
1.3.10	Concern about impact on pupils due to start at the school in the next couple of terms – if the school closes, will be at the school for a short time then have to move.	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.
1.3.11	Concern that pupils in year 5 will have to spend their final year in primary school with children they don't know and will have to deal with additional travel	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.

1.3.12	Pupils are worried about being in a different class to their friends that are in different year 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.
1.4 Impact on quality of education provided to pupils		
1.4.1	Closure would be detrimental to pupils current standard of education	The authority's view is that the standard of education provided at the named receiving school is at least equivalent to the standard of education provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.4.2	Closure would impact on people's chances of getting good grades and/or a good education	The authority does not agree with this statement. 'Transforming learning and skills' is one of the priorities in the One Powys Plan, and within this priority, the plan states the authority's aspiration to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority is satisfied that pupils would continue to be able to achieve good grades and have a good education in the named receiving school.
1.4.3	School closure is messing up students educational needs	<p>The authority does not agree with this statement. 'Transforming learning and skills' is one of the priorities in the One Powys Plan, and within this priority, the plan states the authority's aspiration to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority is satisfied that the standard of education provided at the named receiving school is equivalent to that provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</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)'.
1.4.4	Concern that children will have to re-do work they have already done	Teachers will be responsible for assessing the ability and stage of development of the pupils and will differentiate accordingly to avoid repetition and ensure learning builds on previous experiences.
1.4.5	Pupils that have moved from Dolau will be educationally worse off	The authority is satisfied that the standard of education provided at the named receiving school is equivalent to that provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.4.6	Do you have proof that when children move schools they achieve their targets?	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.
1.4.7	Concern that children whose progress is 'average' get forgotten – we need evidence that their education is not affected	Schools are required to monitor the progress of all pupils, regardless of their ability to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential. In the Maesydderwen catchment, the authority closed 10 primary schools and established four new larger primary schools. This has resulted in improved standards, which is evidenced in the recent Estyn inspections of all four schools.
1.4.8	Children will lose the personal touch they are used to	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.
1.4.9	The Council is trying to deprive our children of a decent education	The authority does not agree with this statement. 'Transforming learning and skills' is one of the priorities in the One Powys Plan, and within this priority, the plan states the authority's aspiration to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority is satisfied that the standard of education provided at the named receiving school is equivalent to that provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.4.10	No child has volunteered the view that going to Crossgates would be to their educational advantage	The authority notes this comment.

1.4.11	Is it ethical to remove children from a school where 100% of pupils are achieving the expected outcomes to a school where 94% of pupils are achieving the expected outcomes (mylocalschool 2015)?	Pupil performance fluctuates to varying degrees in all schools. It would be unfair to compare attainment in terms of percentages when comparing schools that have over 100 pupils with schools that have under 30 pupils. In addition, standards in schools are judged on data over a three year period, rather than then one set of data.
1.4.12	Pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would inevitably receive education of a lower standard than they currently receive – contrary to Welsh Government guidelines of ‘securing better outcomes for learners’	The authority is satisfied that the standard of education provided at the named receiving school is equivalent to that provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.4.13	Query about the attainment of pupils who have been moved from a closing school – would be interesting to find out if they achieve the target they were set at the end of KS2 after they have moved schools	The authority would always ensure that all pupil performance data is shared between closing schools and receiving schools. In circumstances where pupils have moved schools following a school closure, staff in the closing school and the receiving school have worked closely to ensure seamless transition and effective sharing of individual pupil data. There is no evidence to show that pupils do not attain as well as they should.
1.4.14	Reference to recommendations in the Donaldson review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales	The authority notes this point in relation to the recommendations of the Donaldson review, however there is no reason to believe that equivalent opportunities would not be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
1.5 Lack of equal opportunity		
1.5.1	Closing the school would fail the children their right to be taught in their local school / community	The authority notes that should the school close, pupils would have to attend a different school which is not their local school. However, the aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure. The authority’s view is that high-quality education would still be available to children who currently attend Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School within a reasonable distance.
1.5.2	Fundamental right of the child is that	The authority agrees that every child has a right to education. However, the authority has

	of education and to be educated at a school of choice	a duty to ensure the sustainability of high-quality education within a reasonable distance to a child's home. The authority's view is that high-quality education would still be available to children who currently attend Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School within a reasonable distance.
1.5.3	None of the children actively wish to move from the school	The authority notes this comment.
1.5.4	Concern that children living in the area won't get the same opportunities as pupils who went to Llanfihangel Rhydithon School	The authority notes this comment. The One Powys Plan states the authority's aspiration to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority is satisfied that appropriate opportunities would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school to ensure that pupils are able to achieve their potential.
1.5.5	Reference to article 3 and article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	The authority fully respects the rights of children, and is committed to ensuring that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority's view is that Crossgates C.P. School can provide education of the highest-quality education to the children currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.5.6	Don't our children have human rights to go to a rural school?	Crossgates C.P. School, the named receiving school in respect of this proposal, serves a rural catchment area rather than an urban catchment area, therefore there is no reason to believe that the school would be unable to meet the needs of pupils from a rural background.
1.5.7	UN Convention on the Rights of a Child states that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration	<p>This is also the authority's primary consideration.</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)'. The authority's view is that Crossgates C.P. School can provide high quality education to the children currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.5.8	Why shouldn't our children have the same opportunities as children in other areas of Wales?	The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School faces a number of issues which impact upon its sustainability and Crossgates C.P. School will provide pupils with the same opportunities as pupils in other areas of Wales. 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.'
1.5.9	Request that the Council respects the rights of children, as embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	The authority fully respects the rights of children, and is committed to ensuring that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority's view is that Crossgates C.P. School can provide high quality education to the children currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
1.5.10	Article 3 Part 1 of UN Convention on Rights of the Child: 'In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration'	<p>The authority fully respects the rights of children and all actions are taken in the best interest of children. The authority is committed to ensuring that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The authority's view is that Crossgates C.P. School can provide high quality education to the children currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</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)'. 		
1.6 Impact of moving to a larger school		
1.6.1	In a big school, children won't be taught as individuals	The authority accepts that should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, pupils would have to go to bigger schools. However, the named receiving school or any other school pupils may wish to transfer to would be expected to treat each child as an individual and to address their individual needs.
1.7 Separation from the community		
1.7.1	Closure of the school would remove opportunities for pupils to make friends with their neighbours	The authority notes this concern. Should the school close, Crossgates C.P. School would be the closest school for the vast majority of pupils, therefore it is likely that pupils would still go to the same school as their neighbours and would continue to be able to make friends with them.
1.8 Other		
1.8.1	Does the council realise it is dealing with children not sheep?	The authority is fully aware that it is dealing with children and not sheep.
1.8.2	Children are not the priority in this matter, and they should be	<p>The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible opportunities for all Powys pupils. 'Transforming Learning and Skills' is one of the priorities within the One Powys Plan, and within this priority, the plan states the authority's aspiration to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve 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)'.

2 IMPACT ON PUPILS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS / VULNERABLE PUPILS

2.1 Pupils with Additional Needs

2.1.1	In small schools, teachers can give extra support to children with varying needs, and can spend more time with children who need extra support	The authority recognises that there are children who need more support, and this is accounted for in the ALN delegated budget as well as access to the graduated response to need e.g. top up funding. The ALN budget currently provided to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is small due to the school's size and demography, the ALN budget in the named receiving school is significantly larger.
2.1.2	Pupils with dyslexia able to get on well in smaller school – pushed by teaching staff to learn to read and write. Would not have had the same preparation for high school in a larger school	Identification of a 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 so there is no reason why a pupil with a specific learning difficulty will not have those needs recognised and responded to in the alternative schools.
2.1.3	Pupils that previously needed additional needs support no longer need this thanks to the support provided at the school	The authority is pleased to note this. There is no reason to think that pupils would not be similarly well supported in the named receiving school.
2.1.4	The environment at Dolau is a good environment for children with special needs of all sorts	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to think that pupils with special needs would not be similarly well supported in the named receiving school.
2.1.5	Pupils with additional needs have been supported very well at Dolau	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to think that pupils with additional needs would not be similarly well supported in the named receiving school.
2.1.6	At Dolau school, additional support is provided for children without the need for special classes which have a	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to think that pupils with special needs would not be similarly well supported in the named receiving school.

	danger of giving children a label / undermining their confidence	
2.1.7	Concern that pupils with additional needs would not get as much time with specialists in a bigger school	The authority recognises that there are children who need more support, and this is accounted for in the ALN delegated budget as well as access to the graduated response to need e.g. top up funding. The ALN budget currently provided to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is small due to the school's size and demography, the ALN budget in the named receiving school is significantly larger.
2.1.8	Concern about the impact of additional travel on pupils with additional needs	The authority would undertake a needs assessment in respect of any pupils with additional needs that required home to school transport.
2.2 Vulnerable Pupils		
2.2.1	The Child Poverty Act 2010 creates a duty for local authorities to reduce child poverty	<p>The needs of families on low incomes were considered in the Equality Impact Assessment in respect of this proposal which was included in the consultation document. According to PLASC 2015, there were no pupils eligible for free school meals at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. PLASC 2016 indicates that 6% of the school population are eligible for free school meals. The Equality Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect the 2016 PLASC data and views received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. However, the PLASC data suggests that the level of poverty in the area is relatively low.</p> <p>Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. 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 all pupils would be fully supported to achieve their potential, regardless of their socio-economic background.</p>
2.2.2	A report by the Commission for Rural Communities states that 'If poverty is to be tackled effectively, it must be a priority to identify and consult with those families who don't know about or are prevented from accessing	Consultation took place with all parents of pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and a wide range of other stakeholders in accordance with the School Organisation Code.

	services'	
2.2.3	The consultation document states that there are no pupils at the school who are eligible for free school meals – this is incorrect	The authority notes this comment. The information provided in the consultation document referred to the PLASC information from January 2015, which stated that no pupils were eligible for free school meals. An updated equality impact assessment will be produced to take account of the information received during the consultation, and will also include the updated PLASC information from January 2016.
3 TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS		
3.1 Additional travel time / distance for pupils		
3.1.1	Concern about additional travel for pupils	The authority notes this concern.
3.1.2	Concern that a child's day would be 10-12 hours long due to the additional travel	The authority accepts that closure of the school would increase the length of time the children were travelling to / from school, but the estimated travel times are within the Welsh Governments guidelines.
3.1.3	Closure of the school would mean that children as young as 4 would have to travel approximately 8 miles to school	The authority accepts that should the school close, the length of journey to school would increase for some children, but the travel times required will be within the Welsh Government and Authority's guidelines.
3.1.4	Concern about pupils having to travel 20 minutes to get to school	The authority notes this concern. The authority's current policy for primary aged pupils states that children will not normally travel more than 30 minutes each way, therefore pupils travelling 20 minutes to get to school would be within the authority's maximum travel time.
3.1.5	Concern about pupils putting in longer hours than most of their teachers	The authority notes this comment.
3.1.6	Why should children have to travel miles and miles on a bus to get educated?	Powys is a large rural authority and the majority of children will access their education through the use of Home to School transport at some stage of their education career. The time that the children would be required to travel is within both Welsh Government and the

		authority's guidelines.
3.1.7	Concern about longer days for pupils – from 7am – 4.30pm	The authority accepts that closure of the school would increase the length of time the children are travelling to / from school and therefore the length of their school day, but the estimated travel times are within the Welsh Governments guidelines. The authority does not accept that a child will be leaving home at 7am and returning home at 4.30pm should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close.
3.1.8	How long would each trip take each morning and afternoon?	The length and time of the transport to the named receiving school will be dependent on the required routes based on the pick-up points for the children. It is expected that the route to and from school would be under 30 minutes each way.
3.1.9	What is the total mileage involved in collecting and transporting each of the current pupils from their doorstep to Crossgates?	The actual additional mileage to transport the pupils from their home to the proposed school in Crossgates would be dependent on the number of transport routes required and the actual routes used. The maximum additional mileage per child is the distance of 5.4 miles between Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and Crossgates C.P. School, which would amount to 54 miles per week and 2,052 miles for the 380 journeys required for the 190 pupil days. For some children who live closer to the named receiving school than Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School the actual mileage travelled would reduce.
3.1.10	Concern about little children travelling many more miles – 38,000 more miles for Dolau	The authority notes this comment. As stated above the maximum additional mileage per child is 2,052 mile per annum
3.1.11	Concern about pupils travelling in bad weather	The authority, schools and appointed contractors have policies and procedures in place in respect of home to school transport provision in periods of adverse weather.
3.1.12	Concern about how additional travel will affect how the children learn in the classroom	The authority transport a significant percentage of the overall schools population on Home to School transport with most of the Primary aged children travelling on routes that take less than 30 minutes.
3.1.13	Pupils will have to travel over 100 miles extra a week to get to school	The distance from Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School has been measured using a GIS system as 5.4 miles with 10 journeys per week the maximum additional mileage would be 54 miles per week, this would be reduced for those learners who live in the area between the two schools and the Llandegley areas.

3.1.14	Would not want to put 4 year old children on a bus	The authority notes this comment.
3.1.15	Concern that children could be travelling up to 1 hour on school transport	The authority does not accept that any child living in the current catchment area of Llanfihangel Rhydithon would be required to travel an hour per journey on school transport, with the majority of children being transported to the named receiving school in under 30 minutes.
3.1.16	Have calculated that there would additional annual mileage of 32,456 for pupils if they were transferred from Llanfihangel Rhydithon to Crossgates	The authority notes this comment, as stated above the maximum additional mileage per child is 2,052 mile per annum.
3.1.17	Some children already travel considerable distances to Dolau, this will be exacerbated by any closure	An analysis of the home addresses of the current pupils against the authority's GIS system gives a current maximum travel distance of approximately 6 miles, which is not considered considerable by the authority. The closure of the school would extend this to around 11 miles.
3.1.18	If Dolau school closed all but one child would be transported to Crossgates, with substantially longer journeys than at present	The authority accepts that there would be an increase in journey times to school should pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School transfer to Crossgates C.P. School.
3.2 Cost of additional travel		
3.2.1	Concern about transport costs	The authority notes this comment, and 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.
3.2.2	Concern that transport routes are inefficient – the council stopped the one high school bus which did the route a few years ago, now there are 5 buses / mini buses covering what	The authority notes this comment and is investigating this statement.

	one bus was doing before	
3.2.3	Any savings will be negated by extra transport to get the children to Crossgates	The authority notes this comment, and 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.
3.2.4	Fuel costs are set to rise, so transporting to other schools is not a sustainable option for the future	The cost of fuel is one of several costs that are accounted for in any transport tender process and the future costs of both transport and the current school structure will be considered as part of the final determination of the proposals.
3.2.5	It cannot be cost effective to transport all these children	The authority acknowledges 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	Have you thought about how much it is going to cost the council to transport children from door to door	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.
3.2.7	Environmental cost of additional transport – will add to the council's carbon footprint	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 a reduction in parental transport.
3.2.8	Would the council prefer to spend this substantial sum of money transporting our children around the countryside than to spend it on them in our excellent educational facilities at Dolau?	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.
3.3 Impact on access to after school activities		
3.3.1	Concern about additional travel to after school clubs	The authority notes this comment and accepts that parents will have increased travel to allow their children to access after school clubs. The authority will work with and support the receiving school to maximise the access to extra-curricular opportunities for all pupils.

3.3.2	Will the council be paying for transport to enable pupils from Dolau to attend after school clubs?	The Authority does not and will not provide separate transport for children to access clubs before or after school, however it will work with the receiving school to ensure that pupils from the Dolau area are provided with as equitable access to clubs as the other children that are currently transported to the named receiving school.
3.3.3	Nuffield Foundation states that 'Those who attend after-school clubs one day per week had, on average a 1.7 point higher actual key stage 2 score than predicated, while those who attended two days had on average a three point higher actual total point than predicated' – extra-curricular activities enable children to have fun without realising they are learning.	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close, the authority would work with the receiving school to ensure that pupils from the Dolau area are provided with as equitable access to clubs as the other children that are currently transported to the named receiving school.
3.4 Additional transport requirements for pupils who currently make their own way to school		
3.4.1	Many parents now transport their children here for free	The authority notes this comment.
3.4.2	Only 5 children presently have school transport	The authority notes this comment.
3.4.3	Under 25% of pupils currently have transport paid for, this would increase to all but 3 pupils	The authority notes this comment.
3.4.4	Most children currently get to school under parental supervision at their own cost	The authority notes this comment.
3.5 Concerns about the transport that will be provided		
3.5.1	Concern about possibility that pupils	The authority's transport policy provides for joint transport where possible, and a

	could be put on high school transport that comes from Dolau – doesn't this go against the Council's safeguarding and child protection policies?	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.
3.5.2	Concern about pupils having to travel on the service bus e.g. children from Llandegley have to get on the service bus from Kington	The authority does not transport primary aged pupils on busses that are operating as a public service, there are some occasions where the authority uses an off-service service bus to run a home to school transport route.
3.5.3	Would there be an escort on the school bus to support the driver?	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	Concern about unaccompanied children as young as four travelling to school alone	The authority notes this concern. The authority's current provision does not normally include the provision of an escort on mainstream routes.
3.5.5	How will a bus driver reassure parents their child will be OK if young children are upset about having to go to school and travel on a school bus?	The authority would work with the school, transport provider and parents to ensure that the transition to the new transport arrangements are undertaken as smoothly as possible. Parents from other small schools that have closed raised similar issues prior to the school closure, but the authority has had no significant issues raised with it following the subsequent closure of the school.
3.5.6	Concern about the well-being and safety of children whilst travelling – children with medical/behavioural issues will need supervision and support	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 what will happen to pupils with medical conditions e.g. epi pen – what will happen if these are needed on school transport – how will a bus driver deal with this?	Pupils that have medical conditions already travel on authority provided home to school transport. The authority and transport providers have a process in place to undertake and regularly review risk assessments and travel health care plans for children with medical needs, which would include details of the actions to be followed in cases of emergency.

3.5.8	Is there a protocol in place in relation to shared transport with secondary school children and journey times?	The authority does operate shared Primary / Secondary Transport in some areas of the authority, but mainly when children are being transported into the town where the Secondary School is located. Under such arrangements there is no provision for an escort on the transport. It is however unlikely that children will be transport to the named receiving school on joint transport, unless the opening and closing time of the two schools allowed such an arrangement
3.5.9	The school buses will need supervision	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.
3.5.10	Safety issues with transporting large numbers of primary pupils	The authority transport a significant percentage of Primary aged pupils on provided Home to School transport and has a very good safety record in respect to this provision.
3.5.11	The safety burden on drivers of school transport is heavy – an accident waiting to happen	The authority transport a significant percentage of Primary aged pupils on provided Home to School transport and has a very good safety record in respect to this provision.
3.6 Other		
3.6.1	Concern about pupil well-being when on school transport	The well-being of pupils is prioritised as part of any school reorganisation process. If the school were to close the authority would provide support to ensure a smooth transition to the named receiving school, which would include the transport arrangements.
3.6.2	Concern that pupils could get upset on the bus	The well-being of pupils is prioritised as part of any school reorganisation process. If the school were to close the authority would provide support to ensure a smooth transition to the named receiving school, which would include the transport arrangements.
3.6.3	Parents would lose contact with the school and teachers would lose the ability to discuss issues at the start or end of the day	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.

3.6.4	Having to supervise journeys would create a substantial increase in transport costs for the council	The authority notes this comment, however the council does not normally include the provision of an escort on mainstream routes.
3.6.5	Statistics on RAC Foundation website – ‘60% of road fatalities occur on country roads. People killed on country roads is 10 times higher than on motorways. In 2014 there were 1040 fatalities and 9051 serious injuries on country roads.’	The authority notes this comment.
4 IMPACT ON STAFF		
4.1	Concern about the impact on staff	The authority acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for staff working in any school affected by the proposal
4.2	Concern that staff will lose their jobs	The authority acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for staff working in any school affected by the proposal
4.3	If the Cabinet decides to close the school, how would that affect the staff from the 31 st December 2016?	Should a decision be taken to close the school then consultation would be entered into with all of the relevant staff and Trades Unions.
4.4	How do teachers know that the next school will ensure pupils achieve the targets set by teachers here?	The authority would always ensure that all pupil performance data is shared between closing schools and receiving schools. In circumstances where pupils have moved schools following a school closure, staff in the closing school and the receiving school have worked closely to ensure seamless transition and effective sharing of individual pupil data. There is no evidence to show that pupils do not attain as well as they should.
4.5	If the school closes, what are the options for staff?	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. In the event that a suitable alternative position is not identified then staff would be made redundant and compensated accordingly in line with the Council's policies and procedures. If staff choose to then they can volunteer for

		redundancy or early retirement (depending upon their personal circumstances).
4.6	Would staff need to pay back redundancy pay if they were re-employed by the authority within 12 months?	Powys County Council's policy is to not re-employ any employee who has received a redundancy payment for a period of 12 months, so staff would not be considered for a role with Powys County Council for a period of 12 months following any payment being made.
4.7	Is there enough capacity within HR to deal with the redundancy process if the school closes?	Should a decision be made to proceed with closure of the school, there is capacity available within HR to deal with the redundancy process.
4.8	Extra staff would be needed at Crossgates School to cope with the extra children – these may not necessarily be the staff from the closed schools	<p>The employment of staff at the receiving school is at the discretion of the governing body in collaboration with senior leaders.</p> <p>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 CP School it may be possible to agree with the Governing Body of Crossgates CP School to give priority to staff who would otherwise be at risk of compulsory redundancy.</p>
5 IMPACT ON PARENTS / FAMILIES		
5.1 Removing choice for families		
5.1.1	There are many young people in the community who are planning to have children and want their children to go to this school	The authority notes this comment. However the current pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low. Whilst the community has provided information which suggests that pupil numbers may increase, the school would continue to be a small school. The One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'

5.1.2	Couples have moved back to the area after university so that their children can go to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	The authority notes this comment. However the current pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low. Whilst the community has provided information which suggests that pupil numbers may increase, the school would continue to be a small school. The One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
5.1.3	Parents consciously chose this school for the richness and distinctive approach to education within the community which it offers	The authority notes this comment. However the current pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low. Whilst the community has provided information which suggests that pupil numbers may increase, the school would continue to be a small school. The One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
5.1.4	Should the school close there would be no choice for families – it would be Crossgates or nothing	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close, parents would be able to apply for a place in any other school, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what type of school they wished their children to go to. However, it is acknowledged that there may be less schools in the local area, depending on the outcomes of proposals relating to other schools.
5.1.5	Choice is being taken away from parents	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close, parents would be able to apply for a place in any other school, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what type of school they wished their children to go to. However, it is acknowledged that there may be less schools in the local area, depending on the outcomes of proposals relating to other schools.
5.1.6	Concern about removing choice for future generations	The authority notes this comment. However the current pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low. Whilst the community has provided information which suggests that pupil numbers may increase, the school would continue to be a small school. The One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.' The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure.
5.1.7	Parents choose Dolau although	The authority notes this comment. However the current pupil numbers at Llanfihangel

	Crossgates is currently their closest school and they would get transport there	Rhydithon C.P. School are low. Whilst the community has provided information which suggests that pupil numbers may increase, the school would continue to be a small school. The One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post-16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.'
5.1.8	There is only one choice of alternative school which is Crossgates, we should have a second choice which is preferably a village school with a higher standard than we already have	The authority notes this comment.
5.1.9	I was under the impression that education was all about choice	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure. Should the school close, parents would be able to apply for a place in any other school, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what type of school they wished their children to go to. However, it is acknowledged that there may be less schools in the local area, depending on the outcomes of proposals relating to other schools.
5.1.10	Parents living in urban areas may be located within reasonable travel distance of several schools – this is a luxury that is being taken away from us in rural areas	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close, parents would be able to apply for a place in any other school, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what type of school they wished their children to go to. However, it is acknowledged that there may be less schools in the local area, depending on the outcomes of proposals relating to other schools.
5.1.11	Concerned about the lack of alternative options for parents	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close, parents would be able to apply for a place in any other school, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what type of school they wished their children to go to. However, it is acknowledged that there may be less schools in the local area, depending on the outcomes of proposals relating to other schools.
5.1.12	Parents travel 24 miles a day to take their children to Dolau School although this is not their closest school	The authority notes this comment.

5.1.13	Parents should have some choice about where their children are educated – different schools suit different children and trying to make one size fit all is removing parental choice	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close, parents would be able to apply for a place in any other school, therefore parents would still have freedom of choice about what type of school they wished their children to go to. However, it is acknowledged that there may be less schools in the local area, depending on the outcomes of proposals relating to other schools.
5.2 No choice of rural school		
5.2.1	Powys has closed all the local rural schools, so there is no choice for parents	The authority notes this concern. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure taking account of the challenges faced by the county in terms of pupil numbers, leadership and finances.
5.2.2	Parents should be offered choice of educational setting for their children, small schools should be part of this choice	The authority notes this concern. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure taking account of the challenges faced by the county in terms of pupil numbers, leadership and finances.
5.2.3	There would be no other rural option for parents	The authority notes this concern. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure taking account of the challenges faced by the county in terms of pupil numbers, leadership and finances.
5.2.4	If Dolau School closed, there would be no other small, rural schools for parents to look at	The authority notes this concern. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure taking account of the challenges faced by the county in terms of pupil numbers, leadership and finances.
5.2.5	If the school closes, this community will not have the choice to send their children to a small, rural school – that is not fair when other communities do have the choice	The authority notes this concern. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure taking account of the challenges faced by the county in terms of pupil numbers, leadership and finances.
5.2.6	Unfair that I can make a choice for my child to be taught either Welsh	The authority has a statutory duty to provide Welsh-medium education for pupils who choose it, there is no statutory requirement for the authority to provide access to a small /

	medium or English medium but I cannot have a choice between a large primary school or a small / rural primary school	rural primary school.
5.2.7	Powys needs to provide rural schools to encourage people seeking the lifestyle choices that Powys offers to move to the country	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term sustainability of a high-quality education infrastructure taking account of the challenges faced by the county in terms of pupil numbers, leadership and finances.
5.3 Impact on families		
5.3.1	In Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, parents who are farmers can pop over and pick their children up from school in between jobs	The authority notes this comment.
5.3.2	The school is a hub for the parents to meet	The authority notes this comment.
5.3.3	Through the school, young families can build lifelong connections which make them want to remain in the area	The authority notes this comment.
5.3.4	Concern that parents could have children going to more than one school if Crossgates was full	The authority notes this concern.
5.3.5	Parents are worried about the education their children will receive	The authority notes this concern. Whilst the named receiving school is larger than Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, the authority's view is that the standard of education provided is at least equivalent to the standard of education currently provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
5.3.6	Parents will have to take children out of the community to have fun	The authority notes this concern.

5.4 Other		
5.4.1	Some pupils from out of the catchment area come to this school as some parents prefer smaller schools to big schools	The authority notes this comment. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the authority would continue to support the right of parents to apply for a place in any school, and places would be allocated, as long as there are places available.
5.4.2	Families living both locally and further afield apply to Dolau	The authority notes this comment. Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the authority would continue to support the right of parents to apply for a place in any school, and places would be allocated, as long as there are places available.
5.4.3	What would your advice be to individual parents if they have a concern about the receiving school?	Parents who have concerns about the receiving school would be advised to visit the school and meet with the headteacher to discuss any questions or concerns they have.
5.4.4	Concern that there would be no primary school between Crossgates and Presteigne	The authority notes this comment.
5.4.5	We would consider home tutoring our children if the school closed	The authority notes this comment.
5.4.6	Many of the families here are from farming backgrounds – they don't have the option to move away to seek better education and opportunities for their children	The authority notes this comment.
6 IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY		
6.1 Community hall		
6.1.1	The community hall will suffer if the school closes	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.
6.1.2	Closure of the school would affect the community hall in terms of running costs, which would mean that many community events would not take place, and other groups would cease to exist	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.
6.1.3	Continuing to support the Community Hall is no substitute for closing the school	The authority acknowledges 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 village hall is used by the school during weekdays in school terms, and by parents and other adults in the evenings, weekends and school holidays	The authority notes this comment.
6.1.5	The school regularly uses the community hall	The authority notes this comment.
6.1.6	Concern that the community hall may end up as an empty building	The authority notes this comment.
6.1.7	The community hall is the centre of our community, clubs are hosted most nights of the week	The authority notes this comment.
6.1.8	The school has priority over use of the community hall during the day, but works with the community when necessary e.g. funeral teas, election days	The authority notes this comment.

6.1.9	What would happen about parking for the community hall if the school building is disposed of?	If the school were to close the authority would consider transferring / leasing part of the site to the community centre management committee for use as a car park. This could be as an extension of the lease referred to in 6.1.13 below.
6.1.10	The school and the community hall work in harmony with each other – the hall is used by the school for breakfast club, playgroup, lunch times, assemblies, wet weather playtimes and for some extra-curricular activities e.g. piano, brass, singing lessons	The authority notes this comment.
6.1.11	Closure of the school would lead to significant financial loss to the community hall – the school contributes £3700 per annum to the hall	The authority acknowledges this concern, and acknowledges 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.
6.1.12	Reference to partnership with Powys County Council to provide a new community centre on the school site to provide statutory school hall provision	The authority funds the hall through the schools delegated budget for the school use of the hall for assemblies and other activities.
6.1.13	When the community hall opened in 1998, a 99 year lease was granted by the Council for use of all playground area as a car park when the school is not in use – this would limit the council's ability to sell the school buildings for development, leaving a derelict building	The authority notes this comment.

6.2 Provision for pre-school aged children		
6.2.1	The mothers and toddlers group meet weekly in the hall	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.2	The playgroup at Dolau enables local mothers and children to get to know each other	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.3	Mother and toddler group and playgroup bring people together	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.4	The mother and toddler group is thriving and the playgroup is popular	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.5	Dolau playgroup provides seamless progression from parent and toddler group to playgroup and then into school, for parents as well as children	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.6	Important to have local pre-school provision due to the lack of public transport	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.7	Pre-school provision offers friendship and peer support to avoid feelings of isolation which can lead to mental health problems like depression	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.8	There is seamless transition from parent and toddlers group to playgroup then on to school	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.9	Parent and toddler group arranges trips which provide support to parents	The authority notes this comment.

	at difficult times	
6.2.10	Closure of the school would impact on the parent and toddler group as people would not feel the same allegiance to the community	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.11	Continuity provided from Mothers and Toddlers, Playgroup, Preschool and school all on one site – an unusual situation which has huge emotional and developmental benefits for small children	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.12	When the change in the age of admission is implemented in 2017, the numbers in the playschool would rise, as in the few remaining settings in the area	The authority is, under a separate management of change process, currently developing tender documentation for the recommissioning of early years education. This recommissioning is expected to be completed by the end of the Autumn term.
6.2.13	There have been peaks and troughs in numbers in the playgroup – was once down to 2 and threatened with closure, now thriving with 15 members	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.14	Setting now at capacity with a waiting list, attracting children from up to 15 miles away	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.15	Concern about what would happen to the playgroup if the school were to close?	The authority is, under a separate management of change process, currently developing tender documentation for the recommissioning of early years education. This recommissioning is expected to be completed by the end of the Autumn term.
6.2.16	The mother and toddler group is the	The authority notes this comment.

	main point of interaction with other mothers in the area when new mums move to the area and makes it easier for them to settle in the area	
6.2.17	CSSIW inspection of Dolau playgroup in January 2015 had good findings	This authority accepts that this is a true statement.
6.2.18	Estyn inspection of Dolau playgroup in 2011 – outcome was ‘good’	This authority accepts that this is a true statement.
6.2.19	Playgroup is beneficial to the mental health and well-being of people in this rural community	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.20	Playgroup is currently running at a profit	The authority notes this comment.
6.2.21	Concern about the jobs of those that work in the playgroup – would alternative employment be provided in the next nearest setting?	If the early years setting were to close at the same time as the school the authority would look to seek alternative employment for the staff in accordance with the same management of change process used for the staff funded through the schools delegated budget.
6.2.22	Pre-school groups would not be viable on their own if pre-school funding were not available	The authority is, under a separate management of change process, currently developing tender documentation for the recommissioning of early years education. This recommissioning is expected to be completed by the end of the Autumn term.
6.3 Other community organisations and activities		
6.3.1	Concern about impact on the youth club, which has been in existence for nearly 20 years, and meets twice a week for young people to take part in a range of activities and learn many skills	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the youth club. 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	Concern about impact on the YFC	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the local YFC. 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 a seeding ground for other groups such as the youth club and the YFC – without the school, these groups will not exist	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on other groups in the area. 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	Concern about impact on the bowls club, which has been running for over 15 years	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the local bowls club. 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.
6.3.5	Where will the community groups who use the school's facilities go?	As part of the closure process, the authority would consider the impact of the closure on the community and in particular those groups that use the school facilities. The school is co-located with the community hall and it is the authority's understanding that many of the community groups also use this facility. The impact of closing the school on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.3.6	Concern that if the school closes, many activities would cease to continue	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on activities in the area. 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	Groups such as the YFC, WI, short mat bowls bring people together	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on other groups in the area. 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.
6.3.8	The youth club has seen numbers drop in recent years but is once again thriving	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the local youth club. 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	Dolau YFC gives many opportunities to meet other young people from surrounding local areas	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.
6.3.10	Children would not travel to youth club in Llandrindod if the youth club in Dolau ended. There is no youth club in Crossgates.	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the local youth club. 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	Dolau Mixture choir meets in the community hall – concern about the impact on the choir	The authority notes this comment in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the Dolau Mixture choir. 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	Organisations pay a fee for hire of the hall. Closure of the school would mean less use of the hall during the day, which would lead to increased hire fees for users, which would mean that it would no longer be affordable and would lead to the disbandment of the choir	As part of the closure process the authority would consider the impact of the closure on the community. The payment from the school's budget to the hall is for the costs incurred by the hall during the school's use. These costs would not be incurred if the school closed, although the authority recognises that the current payment also supports some other ongoing costs such as R & M.
6.3.13	The school feeds the Youth Club, the	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term

	local YFC and brings new members to the WI	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	Children that have been to the school go on to the Youth Club then to other youth organisations in the 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.
6.3.15	Concern about how the youth club will survive if there is no school	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the local youth club. 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	If the school closes, membership of community groups is likely to dwindle as parents will be attracted to groups linked to the new school	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on community groups. 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	The community has organised 'one off' celebrations and events such as the Queens Diamond Jubilee, Royal Wedding, annual village walk, Nights Out Scheme	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.
6.3.18	Without collaboration with the school, events would be less well attended, possibly less frequent	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on local events. 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	In Dolau, links with the community start with the toddler group, then the	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

	playgroup then the school, then the local youth club, young farmers club, WI, bowls club etc, which are all based on the school site	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	Concern about impact on Dolau Recreation Association	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the Dolau Recreation Association. 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	Concern about impact on Football Club	The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School on the Football Club. 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 Concern about impact of closing a school on the community / village		
6.4.1	For a rural community to be bereft of a primary school is a travesty	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	Community schools shouldn't be closed as this would damage the 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.
6.4.3	The school is the heart of the community / 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.

6.4.4	Closing the school would be failing the 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.
6.4.5	Closing the school will kill the community / 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.
6.4.6	The school is a vital facility in a rural 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	Failure to consider the impact on the wider community is short-sighted in the extreme	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	There would be nothing for children to do around the 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.
6.4.9	The impact on the well-being of the community would be enormous	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	Closure of the school would have an adverse effect on the cohesiveness of the surrounding communities	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	The school is the hub of the 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.
6.4.12	The close knit community will lose its 'centre' – 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.
6.4.13	Closing the school would force families to scatter, and to travel in their car more often – this goes against country and PCC policy	If Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School closes, analysis of pupils' home postcodes suggests that Crossgates C.P. School would be the closest school for the majority of pupils, therefore families would not scatter. In accordance with the authority's Home-to-School transport policy, free transport would be provided to pupils who live further than 2 miles from their closest school. The Authority acknowledges that there may be some additional travel involved for families to access school related activities, however the distances involved are not excessive.
6.4.14	Closure of the school would have a detrimental impact on the whole community, not just families with young children	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.
6.4.15	Closure of the school would be another nail in the coffin of this small 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.
6.4.16	Closure would cause rural isolation, lack of social activities, will turn the village into a retirement hub	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.
6.4.17	The school is essential for the people who live and work in this part of	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

	Powys	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.
6.4.18	Schools are the nucleus of a 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.
6.4.19	The village would suffer a huge blow in terms of status and pride if the school 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.
6.4.20	A report by the Commission for Rural Communities states that: 'Small village schools are in close contact with families and have a track record for providing good outcomes for children. Based in isolated communities, small schools may hold the key to engaging the most disadvantaged families, but their numbers are decreasing.'	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.
6.4.21	Closure of a school is a choice to worsen the lives and chances of people in that 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.
6.4.22	Closure of the school could lead to isolation	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.
6.4.23	Reference to detrimental impact of	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term

	closure of Llangunllo school on the community	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.
6.4.24	Community impact assessment compiled on behalf of the community shows what would happen to the 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.
6.4.25	Closure of the school would cause a negative impact on the artistic, social, cultural and social life of the area and could lead to loss of many sports, fitness and social activities, which appears opposite to the intentions of Welsh and National Governments	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.
6.4.26	Research has found that closure of small schools not only creates divisions between communities, also leads to reduction in parental and community involvement in school 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.
6.4.27	Reference to work of Robinson and Whittaker (2012) on the effect of small school closures on rural communities – found that closures not only creates division between communities but also leads to a reduction in parental and community involvement in school 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.
6.5 Closure of the school would mean that people would not want to live in Dolau		
6.5.1	Would have a detrimental impact on	The authority notes this comment. The aim of the Proposal is to ensure the long-term

	university graduates or young professionals returning to the area for a more community orientated education provision	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	Taking away the school will leave an elderly generation	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	A village school is a draw to young couples looking to set up home	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	A village with a shuttered up school always looks as if it's resigned to housing only the retired	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	Closure of the school would affect the demographics of the area – will lead to a loss of families with young children who want their children to go to a smaller country 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.
6.5.6	Small schools such as Llanfihangel Rhydithon are important in bringing people to our 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.
6.5.7	There is little to bring me back to the area from London without the opportunity for my children to have the same upbringing and small 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.

	experience that I had	
6.5.8	Closure would set Dolau on course to becoming a museum, 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.
6.5.9	People have settled down in the area in order for their children to go to Dolau 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.
6.5.10	With no school, no local early years provision and reduced community activity, the area would have less to attract people	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.
6.5.11	The village and surrounding area would lose its appeal to many young families	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.
6.5.12	There will be nothing to encourage young families to move into the area because there will be no places for children in the schools	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.
6.5.13	Powys needs more vision to get younger people into the area – if you close the schools how are you going to attract younger people?	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority’s aspiration is to ensure that ‘all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential’, and this is the primary consideration when reorganising schools. The School Organisation Code states that ‘the primary purpose of schools is the provision of education’. During the last five years, pupil numbers at the school have reduced from 34 to 29 which does not support the claim that a local school attracts young people or families into an area.
6.5.14	The Council needs to offer this	The authority notes this comment.

	community something better – a vision and a future where young people want to stay and work	
6.6 Impact on the local economy		
6.6.1	Will have a huge impact on the local economy as we will lose out on skills and professional individuals	It is acknowledged that the school plays a part in the local community. Community links can be maintained in the receiving school, which is five miles away from Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. 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.
6.6.2	A community needs people with other skills, not just those who want to farm the land	It is acknowledged that the school plays a part in the local community. 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.
6.6.3	The school employs local people, closure would impact on incomes	The authority notes this comment. If a decision is made to proceed with the closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, a staff redundancy process would be necessary. This would be conducted in line with the School's Redundancy Policies for teaching and support staff.
6.6.4	Concern that houses would lose value if there were no school in the village	It is acknowledged that the school plays a part in the local community. 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.
6.6.5	Lack of rural employment will be exacerbated by the closure	It is acknowledged that the school plays a part in the local community. 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.
6.6.6	The school is part of the rural economy that pays for Powys County Council	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.
6.6.7	The Council hasn't fully thought through the implication of the loss of	The Authority has published a draft community impact assessment, this will be updated to take account of views received during the consultation period, and will be considered by

	the school for the rural economy	Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
6.7 Reference to the One Powys Plant / Powys County Council's Vision – 'Stronger Communities in the Green Heart of Wales'		
6.7.1	We are led to believe that supporting community well-being is one of the paramount aims of Powys County Council, however this is not reflected by this proposal	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.'
6.7.2	The Council's slogan is 'Strong Communities in the Green Heart of Wales' – by taking away the school you will be killing the community in Dolau	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.'
6.7.3	Motto is laughable – closing the school will contribute to weak communities in the green desert 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.'
6.7.4	The One Powys Plan for Stronger Communities states that by the end of 2017 'our towns and villages are more community focused, self-reliant and resilient' – how can this be if our children are bussed to schools further away and out of our community?	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.'
6.7.5	Closure of the school will weaken the strong bonds in our community and act against the objectives of the One Powys Plan for Stronger	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

	Communities	leadership capacity.'
6.7.6	Older people help our children by listening to them read – this contributes to the One Powys Plan's objective to support old people in the community	The authority notes that the One Powys Plan includes an aspiration that 'Older people will be supported to lead fulfilled lives within their communities'. 'Transforming learning and skills' is another of the priorities within the One Powys Plan, with the aspiration that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. 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.'
6.7.7	The One Powys Plan talks of protecting and promoting sustainable communities – we already have that in Dolau, we need to ensure that this is not jeopardised	It is true that one of the priorities within the One Powys Plan is 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities'. 'Transforming learning and skills' is another of the priorities within the One Powys Plan, and 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.'
6.7.8	The recommendations are contrary to council policy and would undermine the core values the council is trying to promote of stronger communities	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.'
6.7.9	One Powys Plan states that 'In strong communities people are in touch, talk to and help each other out. They are more likely to feel that they belong and have a sense of pride about where they live. With reduced public sector funding, it is important we work together to develop resilient sustainable communities both in rural and urban areas' – closing the school would be against this	The notes this comment in relation to the content of the One Powys Plan with regard to Stronger Communities. 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.'
6.8 Issues relating to rural isolation		

6.8.1	The challenges of rural isolation will be exacerbated by closure of 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.
6.8.2	It is widely recognised that people living in rural areas can suffer from social isolation or deprivation	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	Closure would exacerbate loneliness and isolation 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.
6.9 Other		
6.9.1	What will happen to the school buildings if the Council goes ahead with closure?	If the school were to shut the Schools Service would declare the building surplus to its requirements. If no other service wished to take over the building, the building and land would be disposed of in accordance with the authority's asset disposal policy.
6.9.2	In Penybont the Public House is the centre of the community – would councillors rather a pub or a school be the centre of a community?	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority's aspiration is to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential', and this is the primary consideration when reorganising schools. The School Organisation Code states that 'the primary purpose of schools is the provision of education'. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.
6.9.3	What weighting is given to the impact on the community of a school's closure? – according to Welsh Government guidelines, weighting should be applied	The Community Impact Assessment is one of a number of considerations to be taken into account by Cabinet when determining how to proceed. There is no weighting to any of the considerations.
6.9.4	There is a lack of facilities in the local	The authority notes this comment.

	area – no play parks, swimming facilities, leisure centres, soft play	
6.9.5	The Community Impact Assessment recognises the high level of community activity and support provided	The Community Impact Assessment is one of a number of considerations to be taken into account by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
6.9.6	Reference to impact of closure of Llangunllo School on that 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.
6.9.7	Presence of a school is one element that makes for a sustainable 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.
7 ISSUES RELATING TO PUPIL NUMBERS / SURPLUS PLACES		
7.1 Expected increase in pupil numbers		
7.1.1	There are lots of young families in the area who want their children to go to the school	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.2	On the day of the proposed closure, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School will be over capacity	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.3	The early years setting at the school is growing weekly – there are 15 children on the books and more are showing an interest in joining	The authority notes this comment.

7.1.4	The numbers that attend the mother and toddlers group are also growing	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.5	Pupil numbers are set to increase not decrease	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.6	Play school numbers currently stand at 17 which is a good indication of future school numbers	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.7	Dolau is having another baby boom	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.8	New properties are being built in the area, which will encourage people to move to the area	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.9	Pupil numbers have dropped recently but the population is increasing	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.10	A list of prospective pupils is available and has been shared with the council	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.11	There are a number of children on the list to come to this school next term and in the future, the same is true for the early years setting	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.12	In January 2017 there will be 36 pupils in the school including nursery, meaning that the school will be full to capacity	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.13	Numbers are forecast to increase due to good attendance at the playgroup which has 15 children and mother	The authority notes this comment.

	and toddler group which has 20 children	
7.1.14	Surplus capacity at Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Crossgates will be required to accommodate pupils	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.15	Local Health Board has recently spent considerable money on the maternity unit in Llandrindod hospital, anticipating the birth rate will not drop	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.16	In terms of pupil numbers and surplus places, the school is moving in a positive direction and will soon meet the Council's criteria. Should one more pupil move to the school it would reduce the current surplus places to less than 15%	Surplus places is only one of the criteria considered by the authority when reviewing schools. Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, and whilst they are expected to increase in the coming years, they are expected to remain below 50.
7.1.17	Closure of small schools is irreversible – should the population increase, there would be no school to accommodate the children	The authority notes this comment.
7.1.18	The Council can't afford to be building more school extensions to accommodate the forthcoming surge in pupil numbers when it already has good functional buildings strategically placed that are performing well	The authority notes this comment.
7.2 Fluctuations in pupil numbers		
7.2.1	Pupils numbers at the school have	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current

	fluctuated – 36 years ago pupil numbers were below 20	pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.2.2	Presumption in the consultation document that pupil numbers will continue to be below 50, however pupil numbers fluctuate – have previously gone down to 11 and risen to over 60 in a few years	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.2.3	Pupil numbers fluctuate depending on the generation	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.2.4	The numbers attending the playgroup in Dolau went down to two children at one point, however they have since increased significantly	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.2.5	There is currently a natural dip in numbers in schools in the area and currently there are fewer children	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.2.6	The proposal is ‘short termist’ – there will be dips in the population but numbers will rise	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’

7.2.7	Only 3 years ago, there were 43 children in the school – we are being targeted for closure now because we are short of numbers	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.2.8	Hope the council will put full weight behind the potential pupil numbers that will need to be accommodated in its rural schools, which will fluctuate year on year	The authority accepts that pupil numbers in small rural schools fluctuate. However, current pupil numbers are low, and whilst information has been received from the community which suggests that pupil numbers may grow, the school would remain small. The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’
7.3 Decline in pupil numbers		
7.3.1	Numbers at the school would increase if our schools future could be safeguarded	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges that any school reorganisation process will lead to a period of uncertainty for the schools affected. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty.
7.3.2	Where have Powys’ figures that say pupil numbers will go down come from?	The projected pupil numbers provided in the consultation document show that pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are expected to increase in the coming years.
7.3.3	The estimated transport costs are based on 28 pupils, predicted numbers by January 2017 are higher, which would raise the costs to £29,640	The majority of the cost of running transport is linked to the provision of the bus, additional pupils may impact on the marginal cost of the additional transport.
7.4 Housing developments in the local area		
7.4.1	130 new houses are going to be built in Crossgates, and a development of affordable housing is also planned for	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.

	Llanddewi	
7.4.2	You have to accept that pupil numbers could increase in a few years if more houses are built and there are more jobs	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.
7.4.3	Development plans are underway to develop new housing in Dolau which would make the school even more viable	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.
7.4.4	There is planning for more houses in Dolau and the local area, including in the catchment area of the school e.g. Llandewi, Llandegley and Penybont – where will the children go?	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.
7.4.5	18 houses currently being built in Llanddewi	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.
7.4.6	High level of planning permission in Llandrindod, Crossgates, Llanddewi, Dolau and Penybont – where do you propose the additional children be educated?	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.
7.4.7	64 new homes have been approved in Crossgates	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.
7.4.8	Powys 2011-2026 Written Statement says that from January 2015, 398 housing units are in the planning	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and is aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers.

	process in the Llandrindod area.	
7.4.9	With the roll out of faster broadband and more house building in the area, there will be a migration of younger, family aged people who can homework	The authority notes this comment.
7.5 Issues relating to other schools		
7.5.1	Short term thinking to close a school to fill a larger school which is under 30% short of capacity	The Council is not proposing closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School in order to fill another school.
7.5.2	Closure of rural schools will leave the council short of school places	The authority is required to plan future school places as part of their Asset Management Plan. It is aware of the pressures on pupil places in some areas of the Llandrindod catchment area.
7.5.3	Has any research been done to discover if parents at other recently closed schools would like places at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School?	The Council has not asked parents at other recently closed schools whether they would like places at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, however parents are entitled to apply for a place at any school they choose, and places would be allocated as long as there were places available.
7.5.4	Original planned size of Trefonnen was cut down, and the school cannot now accommodate all pupils within its catchment area	Trefonnen School was built at its planned size of 240 pupils, there has been some pressure for places in Llandrindod, partly caused by the turbulent nature of family movement in the area.
7.6 Pupil numbers / capacity at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School		
7.6.1	The school is viable despite being below the 50 required	Small schools are provided additional funding to ensure that they can function with a staffing level that meets statutory class size requirements, this funding results in the smaller schools having a higher than average funding when measured on a per pupil basis.

7.6.2	The full capacity of Dolau would only be 36, it seems to me that the school is already fairly full	The school has three class bases of 40, 47 and 50 sq m including the mobile classroom. If all three spaces were included in the capacity calculation the total number of available spaces would be 70.
7.6.3	The fact that there are less than 50 children is neither here nor there, this is a purely arbitrary number used to suit the council's purposes	The authority notes this comment.
7.6.4	There is no evidence that children attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are suffering educationally because there are fewer than 50 children in the school	The standard of education provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why the authority is proposing closure of the school. However, the authority's view is that education that is at least of an equivalent standard would be provided at the named receiving school.
7.6.5	If pupil numbers were falling below 15-20 children with numbers predicted to fall below 10, could understand a review taking place, but our school is thriving – numbers are way above 20	The authority notes this comment. One of the criteria for reviewing schools as stated in the School Transformation Policy (2014) is 'a primary school has fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the three previous years'. Pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are below 50, and whilst pupil numbers are projected to increase, they are not expected to increase to above 50.
7.6.6	The capacity of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is currently 36. With negligible expense and by utilising the end room, this could be increased to 61. With the inclusion of the temporary classroom, the school could accommodate 80 plus children in the future if needed	The school has three class bases of 40, 47 and 50 sq m including the mobile classroom. If all three spaces were included in the capacity calculation the total number of available spaces would be 70.
7.7 Other		
7.7.1	The refugee crisis could be turned to our advantage	The authority notes this comment.

7.7.2	There is no direct association between school numbers and success	The authority acknowledges that there are good examples of small schools and of larger schools.
7.7.3	The authority is biased against small schools – this is shown by the fact that numbers being below 50 is one of the main reasons for closure	The authority acknowledges that there are good examples of small schools and of larger schools. However, the One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’ Pupil numbers below 50 was one of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014) for ranking schools, and this is why it is one of the reasons listed for proposing to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
7.7.4	Claimed that the council can work out how many children would be entering a school until 2030, however there have already been mistakes in calculations such as Trefonnen and Newbridge, which are full in many year groups	The authority through the Welsh Government’s statistical department has high level population data forecasts for the next 2 decades, these projections give the authority the general trend in population growth etc. The authority has seen some pressure for pupil places in some areas of the Llandrindod catchment.
8 POSITIVES ABOUT LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON C.P. SCHOOL		
8.1 Standards / educational provision		
8.1.1	Pupils benefit from the excellent education provided at the school	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.2	The school provides outstanding education to children	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.3	Educational standards in Dolau are	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P.

	exceptional	School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.4	Dolau is a tremendous school, it achieves top level marks	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.5	High standards of work are expected of pupils	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.6	The high standard of education at the school gives children the foundation knowledge they need	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.7	Standard of education received at the school encourages pupils to stay in education	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.8	The school is categorised as a yellow school with 100% attainment at foundation phase and KS2 – it is in the top 11% of pupils in Powys	All schools in Wales are categorised annually by the four consortia in line with Welsh Government guidelines. This data is accurate for 2015. However, in 2014 at key stage 2, the school performed in the bottom 25% of similar schools in all subjects.
8.1.9	The school does very well in league tables	There are no league tables for schools in Wales. All schools in Wales are categorised annually by the four consortia in line with Welsh Government guidelines.
8.1.10	The school is in the top 15% of achievement in both Key Stages 1 & 2 in Powys	Key Stage 1 no longer exists in Wales. Pupils are assessed against Foundation Phase outcomes at the end of Year 2. This data is accurate for 2015. However, in 2014 at key stage 2, the school performed in the bottom 25% of similar schools in all subjects.

8.1.11	It is an effective and well performing school	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.12	The education provided at Dolau is far better than the education at Crossgates	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.13	Children have had an excellent, well rounded education at the school	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.14	We have high standards of attainment at this school	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed. However, should the school close, the authority is satisfied that education of an equivalent standard would be provided to pupils at the named receiving school.
8.1.15	Teaching and leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon School are not in question	The authority notes this comment. The standard of teaching and leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not one of the reasons why closure of the school is being proposed.
8.1.16	The school is categorised as yellow, this means that less support is needed from the local authority	The authority notes this comment. The named receiving school is also categorised as yellow.
8.2 Class Sizes		
8.2.1	The smaller class sizes at the school allow for individual and personal help in specific areas	The authority notes this comment. Pupils achieve well in larger classes and in smaller classes. 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.

8.2.2	The smaller class sizes at the school mean that pupils can be challenged further in areas they are better at	The authority notes this comment. All schools would be expected to provide an appropriate level of challenge to pupils, regardless of class size.
8.2.3	As the class sizes are small, children get the opportunity to do work aimed at older children if they are ready – they would not get this help and support in classes of 32 plus	All teachers differentiate and target work for pupils, whatever their age or ability. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
8.2.4	The smaller class sizes in the school mean that pupils can have more one to one support	The authority notes this comment. All schools would be expected to provide an appropriate level of support to each child in order to meet their needs.
8.2.5	The smaller class sizes in the school are beneficial to pupils education, behaviour and motivation	There is no evidence to substantiate this comment. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
8.2.6	The pupil-teacher ratio is very good, at a level many people around the country would choose to pay for in an independent school – it is perverse that anyone would seek to remove from a community such as Dolau the kind of provision that would be privately paid for in other parts of the country	The authority notes this comment. However, class sizes in Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are very small. 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’.
8.3 Behaviour and Attendance		
8.3.1	High standard of behaviour is expected of pupils	The authority notes this comment. However, a high standard of behaviour is expected of pupils at all Powys schools.
8.3.2	Children in the school are always enthusiastic and their behaviour is	The authority notes this comment.

	impeccable	
8.3.3	Dolau children are always a credit to their school and their parents	The authority notes this comment.
8.3.4	High attendance proves the children enjoy being in this school and don't pretend to be ill	All schools make an effort to ensure that pupils are genuinely ill when they are absent from school. If a pupil is absent for other reasons this would be investigated and the correct support would be put in place.
8.3.5	The school is top of Powys' own league table for attendance	The authority acknowledges that attendance figures at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are high. The latest provisional attendance report for 2015-16 places the school in equal 4 th . However, attendance can vary year on year.
8.3.6	Children are polite and well-mannered and cause no problems or concerns	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that the pupils would not be polite and well-mannered if they attended a different school.
8.3.7	Children are always complimented on their behaviour	The authority note this comment.
8.3.8	Pupils are taught good behaviour and manners from an early age in this small rural school where staff have time to spend with pupils	The authority notes this comment. The authority would expect pupils at all Powys schools to be taught good behaviour and manners.
8.3.9	Pupils demonstrate a tremendous sense of pride and belonging	The authority notes this comment.
8.4 Buildings and Facilities		
8.4.1	The school provides a great learning environment	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.2	The school has wonderful buildings and a hall	The authority notes this comment.

8.4.3	The school has a good solid building which has many years left in it	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.4	The school has a sound building and outdoor areas	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.5	The school is in good repair and would be left empty	The authority notes this comment. Should the school close the Schools Service would declare it surplus to its requirement and the authority would implement its asset management transfer and disposal policy.
8.4.6	The school has excellent facilities, particularly when taken into consideration with the community hall	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.7	The children can learn and play whilst observing the farming culture they are a part of – these sights cannot be observed at Crossgates as they are at Llanfihangel Rhydithon	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.8	The children are currently in a solid, low maintenance buildings, where they have space to learn effectively and develop as lifelong learners	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.9	May be an old building, but it functions without the ongoing snagging lists of other schools built in the last few years	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.10	The condition of the school building is good and there is room to expand	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.11	The building is more than 80 years	The authority notes this comment.

	old but is in very good repair inside and out	
8.4.12	The school has excellent ICT facilities	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.13	The school is modern on the inside and has a good play area outside	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.14	Lovely outdoor area has been enhanced by covered area, agility trail, conservation area, play house etc.	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.15	The school only needs double glazing and minor tweaking to bring it up to standard	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.16	Building condition score is C, but the only work identified is repointing a chimney breast and some double glazing – priority score of 3	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.17	In 80 years, the building has had an extension and some cosmetic repairs. In this time, Trefonnen has been replaced at least twice and Crossgates which only opened 40 years ago has been almost totally rebuilt	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.18	There is plenty of room in the classrooms	The authority notes this comment.
8.4.19	Can you confirm the last time any general maintenance work was	The last job undertaken at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School was work to repair an issue with emergency lighting in June. The job does not have a final cost, but has an estimated

	carried out on Dolau School along with the cost?	cost of £82.
8.5 Opportunities for pupils		
8.5.1	As the number of pupils is small, all pupils had to take part in sports opportunities, which is good for children's health	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that the small number of pupils at the school means that all pupils can take part in activities.
8.5.2	Pupils can take part in many activities e.g. football coaching after school, visit to the theatre	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.3	Musical nativity play held at the Albert Hall, Llandrindod at Christmas to a packed auditorium. All pupils had a speaking part.	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that the small number of pupils at the school means that all pupils can take part in activities.
8.5.4	The school has taken part in the Llandrindod Children's Eisteddfod for the last three years – the smallest school taking part, but have continued to be consistent in the quality of their work and gained prizes in all categories	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.5	Pupils play a key role alongside teachers in guiding new pupils and young children	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.6	Range of extra-curricular clubs and lessons are available for children e.g. breakfast club, piano lessons, trumpet lessons, eco club, eisteddfod club,	The authority notes this comment.

	football club, gardening club	
8.5.7	Extra-curricular opportunities offered at the school are beneficial to pupils	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.8	Children are happy at the school and support each other	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that children would not be happy at an alternative school.
8.5.9	All children are able to take part in everything – all activities and lessons	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that the small number of pupils at the school means that all pupils can take part in activities.
8.5.10	Lots of opportunities provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon School e.g. trips, swimming galas, cross country, singing carols, harvest, Christmas plays	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.11	Pupils in other schools don't have the same opportunities to take part in activities	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.12	Extra-curricular activities are better at Dolau	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.13	Breakfast club is very popular, attended by over half of pupils regularly	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.14	Mylocalschool.com provides information about the % of pupils who enjoy PE lessons – Llanfihangel Rhydithon – 87.5%, Powys average – 65.7%, Wales average – 60.1%	The authority notes this comment.
8.5.15	The school regularly enters and	The authority notes this comment.

	competes in district wide events and is always commended for its efforts	
8.6 Staff		
8.6.1	As the number of pupils is small, teachers have the time to give pupils all the help they needed	The authority notes this comment. All teachers are expected to give pupils all the help they need, regardless of how many pupils there are.
8.6.2	Teachers at Dolau always taught to a high standard despite them teaching a wide age range	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.3	As it is a small school, teachers can give extra support to children that need it	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that extra support would not be provided to children that need it in an alternative school.
8.6.4	The teaching staff are excellent / amazing	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.5	The teaching staff are very committed	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.6	The staff are committed to helping the children in any way they can and are always approachable	The authority notes this comment. The authority would expect staff in all schools to be committed to helping the children in any way they can and to be approachable.
8.6.7	The school has a superb team of teachers led by a shared Headteacher	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.8	There are young, dedicated teachers at the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.9	There is an experienced, popular, approachable Headteacher at the	The authority notes this comment.

	school	
8.6.10	Teachers at the school are dedicated and make a lot of effort with each child	The authority notes this comment. The authority would expect teachers in all schools to be dedicated and to make an effort with each child.
8.6.11	Teachers choose termly topics that spark the children's interest	The authority notes this comment.
8.6.12	The school has a strong team of staff and governors who are constantly driving educational standards up towards the green band	The authority notes this comment.
8.7 Support provided to the school		
8.7.1	The school is well supported by parents, grandparents and community members	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school.
8.7.2	'Friends of Dolau School' PTA group raise large sums of money to provide funds for extras such as swimming bus and educational visits away from the village	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school by the PTA.
8.7.3	'Friends of Dolau School' have raised nearly £29,000 for the children of the school in the last 5 years	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school by the Friends of Dolau School.
8.7.4	£11,000 more has been raised this year, with £8,000 raised in a single night through a promise aucation	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school by the Friends of Dolau School.
8.7.5	There is good local support for the	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school.

	school e.g. fund raising to provide equipment for the school e.g. laptops, shelter and climbing frame, items for the eco garden	
8.7.6	Volunteers from the community help out in the school e.g. listening to children reading, after school football and other activities, rugby, provide money for swimming bus and school outings	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school by members of the community.
8.7.7	The community has always supported the school	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school by members of the community.
8.7.8	Friends of Dolau School events are lovely social gatherings that bring the community together	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges that social events arranged by the Friends of Dolau School help to bring the community together.
8.7.9	Friends of Dolau School have raised £28K over a number of years to finance play equipment and to subsidise school trips and swimming. Larger primary schools struggle to form a committee.	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges the support provided to the school by the Friends of Dolau School.
8.7.10	Would be ill judged to think that the support provided to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would automatically be transferred to Crossgates	The authority notes this comment.
8.7.11	Fund raising occasions for the school are enjoyable with a variety of themes and are lots of fun so nobody minds	The authority notes this comment.

	giving	
8.7.12	Breakfast club is a valuable addition to the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8 Friendly nature of the school		
8.8.1	It is a community and a family as well as a school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.2	Dolau is a very friendly school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.3	The community feel of the school has allowed friendships to form and be maintained for a lifetime	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.4	There is a strong sense of family at this school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.5	If a child is upset in the playground, others will come to their aid immediately – this rarely happens in large schools where there are hundreds of children in the playground	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.6	Many pupils have been accepted into the school over the years who have not been accepted in other schools	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.7	There is a friendly, community atmosphere in the school which encourages children in all aspects of their development	The authority notes this comment.

8.8.8	There is a genuine warmth and passion about the school	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.9	There is a caring environment	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.10	Bullying is rare and resolved immediately in those rare instances	<p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is a very small school, and therefore it is possible that there are fewer incidents of bullying at this school than at larger schools. However, bullying occurs 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.</p> <p>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>
8.8.11	Older children look after younger ones, each new child has a buddy to help them settle in	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.12	There is no bullying in Dolau, unlike other nearby schools	<p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is a very small school, and therefore it is possible that there are fewer incidents of bullying at this school than at larger schools. However, bullying occurs 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.</p> <p>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>
8.8.13	Pupils are friends with pupils in other years	The authority notes this comment.
8.8.14	Children from all backgrounds are welcomed at the school	The authority notes this comment. All schools are expected to welcome children from all backgrounds.
8.8.15	Everyone knows each other	The authority notes this comment.

8.8.16	Pupils of all ages play together	The authority notes this comment.
8.9 Success of previous pupils		
8.9.1	Former pupils feel that they wouldn't be where they are today without the 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 be successful should they attend a different school.
8.9.2	Pupils achieved better than expected because of the 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.
8.9.3	Previous pupils gained many life skills from attending Dolau School	The authority notes this comment. The authority would expect pupils to continue to have the opportunity to gain a wide range of life skills should they attend a different school.
8.9.4	The school has produced high level scholars	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	Past pupils have gone into many walks of life – this will not happen if the school closes	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.
8.9.6	The school produces year 7 pupils that are ready and prepared to learn at high school, well-rounded young people	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 be ready and prepared to learn at high school should they attend a different school.
8.9.7	The excellent start provided to pupils at the school is evidenced by pupils' achievements at Llandrindod High School – the school produced many head boys and girls and sports captains	The authority is pleased to note the success of previous pupils of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect pupils to have the same success should they attend a different school.

8.9.8	Children from Dolau have always done better than children from Crossgates	Both Crossgates C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. were classified as 2B Yellow in the National Classification of Schools in 2015-2016.
8.9.9	Dolau has an outstanding record of high achievers	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.
8.9.10	School enabled pupils to achieve their full potentially academically as well as being encouraged as community members	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.
8.9.11	A child who might have been labelled a disruptive child had they gone to a different school left the school on target thanks to the hard work and excellent staff at Dolau	The authority is pleased to note the success of previous pupils. There is no reason to believe that the child would not have left the school on target had they attended a different school.
8.9.12	Many pupils from Dolau have gone on to achieve wonderful results at GCSE, AS and A Level, and many have gone on to higher education and have had high power roles in society	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.
8.9.13	Pupil attending Dolau School has changed from a shy toddler to being confident, happy and well spoken	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that the child would not also have gained confidence in this way had they attended a different school.
8.10 The school's place in the community		
8.10.1	The school is a place where families in isolated homes come together and support each other	The authority notes this comment.

8.10.2	The school gate is an important meeting place and reduces isolation	The authority notes this comment.
8.10.3	There is community spirit and enthusiasm at Llanfihangel Rhydithon School which is not seen in Crossgates	The authority notes this comment.
8.10.4	The school and the community work hand in hand at Dolau	The authority notes this comment.
8.10.5	The school takes part in many village functions	The authority notes this comment.
8.11 Financial issues		
8.11.1	The school budget is in the black	This statement is true. The school ended the 2015/16 financial year with a surplus of £13,359.
8.11.2	Having a non-teaching shared head has saved some money, and the school has two recently qualified excellent young teachers who are under the average cost bracket	The authority notes this comment. The saving in relation to the shared head position is a saving for the individual schools, as the funding is delegated.
8.11.3	The governing body have maintained good financial control	The school ended the 2015/16 financial year with a surplus of £13,359, and have a planned cumulative surplus of £3,832 for the year ended 31st March 2017.
8.11.4	The school is good value for money	The school's cost per pupil for 2016/17 is £4410, which is 125% of the council's average cost per pupil.
8.12 Support provided to pupils		
8.12.1	Children get the care and support they need and learn the key skills	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that children would not receive the same care and support at an alternative school.

	they need to support them throughout their academic lives	
8.12.2	At this school, a child is not merely a number, and can be supported as an individual to achieve their potential – not simply their academic potential	The authority notes this comment. All schools are expected to support all pupils as individuals to achieve their potential.
8.12.3	The school provides educational and emotional support to pupils	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that similar educational and emotional support would be provided to pupils at an alternative school.
8.12.4	Level of attention given in the school is astonishing, can only be received in a small school	The authority notes this comment. All schools are expected to provide an appropriate level of support to pupils to ensure that they can achieve their potential.
8.12.5	The school is able to meet the needs of a wide range of pupils e.g. pupils with dyslexia benefit from the additional support provided, gifted and talented children can take advantage of the wide range of extra-curricular activities available, middle of the road children are pushed	The authority works hard with schools to ensure that they can meet the needs of all pupils. There is no reason to believe that Crossgates C.P. School is unable to meet the needs of a wide range of pupils.
8.12.6	Dolau school treats each child individually and caters for their individual needs	The authority notes this comment. All schools are expect to treat pupils as individuals and to cater for their individual needs.
8.13 Other		
8.13.1	Dolau is a school the village can be proud of	The authority notes this comment.
8.13.2	The school is the embodiment of a successful and thriving place of	The authority notes this comment.

education for our children		
8.13.3	The school is proud of its history and ready to take on the challenges of the modern world	The authority notes this comment. However, pupil numbers at the school are small. 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'.
8.13.4	Latest inspection report stated that 'This is a good school, an excellent ethos of care, guidance and support. It is a highly valued member of its local community, with which there are excellent links benefiting pupils. On leaving Dolau, pupils are confident, independent and self-assured young people. They possess excellent social skills which contribute to their outstanding behaviour and positive attitudes to others.' Also rates the school in the effectiveness of its care, guidance, leadership and support for pupils.	This statement does not appear in the report of the Estyn inspection of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School carried out in May 2012. During this inspection, standards were judged to be Adequate and the school's prospects for improvement were also judged as Adequate.
8.13.5	Any small problems are resolved immediately	The authority notes this comment.
8.13.6	The school is strategically located and already acts as an area school	The authority notes this comment. However, pupil numbers at the school are small. 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'.
8.13.7	The classes aren't too noisy so they can concentrate	The authority notes this comment. However class sizes at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are very small. 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'.
9 POSITIVES ABOUT SMALL / RURAL SCHOOLS		

9.1 Benefits of small schools		
9.1.1	In small schools, everyone knows each other, so pupils know that they can go to anyone if they have a problem	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that in small schools, everyone knows each other. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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.'
9.1.2	In small schools, pupils have a good base of friends for when they move to high school	The authority notes this comment.
9.1.3	In small schools, everyone wants to be each other's friend, so there is no bullying	<p>The authority notes this comment. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is a very small school, and therefore it is possible that there are fewer incidents of bullying at this school than at larger schools. However, bullying occurs 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.</p> <p>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>
9.1.4	A wide range of extra-curricular activities are offered at smaller schools	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that in smaller schools, all pupils can take part in activities. However in some cases, a wider range of activities can be offered at larger schools due to the increased number of pupils and staff.
9.1.5	There is a greater sense of community in smaller schools	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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'.
9.1.6	Being taught in a small rural school is beneficial to pupils' education	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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’.
9.1.7	In a small environment all children are included, in larger schools some children can get lost	The authority notes this comment, however the authority would expect all schools to ensure that all children are included and don't get 'lost' regardless of the school's size.
9.1.8	Small primary schools give the best possible opportunity for pupils to have the best start in the learning process	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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'. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect pupils to continue to have the best possible opportunities should they attend a different school.
9.1.9	Low numbers mean more individual attention for pupils, a more caring environment and a greater sense of community	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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'. Effective teaching would ensure that all pupils are taught effectively, regardless of the number of pupils in the class.
9.1.10	Small schools foster confidence, co-operation and a strong sense of community which cannot flourish in larger schools	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools would be expected to support pupils to foster confidence and co-operation, regardless of the size of the school.
9.1.11	The values of a small school cannot be measured in monetary terms	The authority notes this comment.
9.1.12	Small schools provide a safe environment to nurture a child's well-being	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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'. All schools are expected to provide a safe environment and ensure pupil well-being, regardless of size.
9.1.13	Small schools work very effectively	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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.'
9.1.14	More opportunities for pupils in smaller schools	The authority notes this comment. However in general, more opportunities are provided in larger schools as the greater number of pupils and staff mean that a wider range of opportunities can be provided to pupils.
9.1.15	Studies have shown the effectiveness of small schools in forming positive relationships with parents	The authority acknowledges that it is true that staff in small schools would know all of the parents, however the authority would expect all schools to form positive relationships with parents.
9.1.16	Estyn study – Small Primary Schools in Wales, 2006 – ‘The quality and extent of parents’ contribution to school life is best in the smallest schools. Often a special closeness develops between the schools and parents, which contributes positively to school life’.	The authority notes the comments made by Estyn.
9.1.17	Small schools that have multiple year groups in a class can be used to absorb any extras and are more versatile in reacting to demand and lack of it as numbers rise and fall	The authority notes this comment. However pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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’. Effective teaching would ensure that all pupils are taught effectively, regardless of the number of pupils in the class.
9.1.18	The buildings which house small schools are often in better repair than newer buildings	The authority notes this comment, buildings are given three assessments in respect of their quality in terms of Condition, Suitability and Sustainability. The authority does have some significant building issues with schools that were built in the 30 years following the Second World War.
9.1.19	Small schools should be seen as centres of excellence	The authority expects all schools to aspire to be centres of excellence, regardless of their size.
9.1.20	In small schools, educational	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that there are good examples of

	standards are high	small schools and larger schools. The authority is committed to ensuring the best possible education for all pupils in Powys, and would expect education of a high standard to be provided to pupils should they attend a different school.
9.1.21	In small schools, the emotional well-being of pupils and staff is good, and they are more effective at ensuring the wellbeing of pupils and that their emotional needs are being met	The authority notes this comment. All schools, regardless of size, are expected to ensure the emotional well-being of pupils and staff, and to ensure that pupils' emotional needs are being met.
9.1.22	Children achieve well in small schools and having been members of a small community they are encouraged to aspire to greater things	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that pupils would not continue to be encouraged to aspire to greater things should they attend a larger school.
9.1.23	A high proportion of pupils from small schools go on to 6 th form and higher education	There is no statistical evidence to support this claim.
9.1.24	Pupils from small schools have a higher representation at high school prize-giving ceremonies and many go on to higher education and take up high power roles in society	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that pupils would not continue to be successful should they attend a larger school.
9.1.25	Being a member of a small school can give more opportunities to children who might be overlooked in a larger class or setting	The authority acknowledges that the small number of pupils at the school means that all pupils can take part in activities. However, all schools are expected to ensure that appropriate opportunities are provided to all children, regardless of the school / class size.
9.1.26	The positives of small schools far outweigh the minimal savings you may achieve	The authority notes this comment.
9.1.27	A small school and its associated	The authority notes this comment.

	clubs are important to a community to bring people together	
9.1.28	In a small school, it isn't possible for children to 'fall through the net'	The authority notes this comment. However, the authority would expect all schools, regardless of size, to ensure that all pupils are encouraged to meet their potential, to avoid any pupils 'falling through the net'.
9.2 Benefits of small classes		
9.2.1	In smaller classes, if a child needs extra help this is spotted straight away – this would not be the case in larger classes	All schools would be expected to identify any pupils in need of extra help and to respond appropriately.
9.2.2	Larger classes have greater variation of educational levels, and therefore requires differentiation of work for several levels of ability within one class – cannot see how children with differing abilities will be supported appropriately, therefore pupils' education will be compromised	All teachers differentiate and target work for pupils, whatever their age or ability. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
9.2.3	Smaller class sizes provide more of a one-to-one approach to learning, meaning that children of all abilities are catered for	All teachers differentiate and target work for pupils, whatever their age or ability. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
9.2.4	Being taught in smaller class sizes has been beneficial to pupils' education	The authority acknowledges that there are good examples in small and larger classes.
9.2.5	Education and support cannot possibly be as good in larger class sizes	There is no evidence to substantiate this comment. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.

9.2.6	It would be impossible for teachers to spread themselves between a class of over 30 children	The authority does not agree with this comment. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
9.2.7	Children are doing well thanks to the extra help and support they get in small classes	The authority notes this comment. There is no reason to believe that pupils would not continue to do well in an alternative school.
9.2.8	Small class sizes mean that teachers have more time to spend with pupils and can have more personal interaction	The authority notes this comment. However, pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
9.2.9	Some children can only cope with a smaller number in the class – the education system will fail these children if there are no small schools	The authority acknowledges that some pupils might be happier in a small class, however all schools are expected to ensure that pupils are happy in their learning environment, and should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the receiving school would be expected to provide full support to pupils to aid their transition.
9.2.10	How will the County Council ensure standards of education are maintained if children are in bigger classes?	School size varies significantly across the authority. All schools are monitored, supported and challenged in line with the ERW consortium's Ladder of Support. This is delivered via a designated Challenge Adviser for each school.
9.2.11	The more pupils there are, the harder and less sufficient the teachers can do their job	The authority does not agree with this comment.
9.2.12	Smaller class sizes would provide a better standard of education and a friendly environment	There is no evidence to substantiate this comment. Pupils achieve well in larger classes as well as in smaller classes.
9.2.13	In larger classes, any child that needs more one-to-one support will get overlooked, and test results and	All schools are expected to support all pupils to achieve their potential and to provide additional support where necessary.

	standards would plummet	
9.2.14	In smaller classes, teachers know every child and can ensure that their needs are met	All teachers are expected to know every child and to ensure that their needs are met, regardless of the size of the class.
9.2.15	The Council has a legal obligation to ensure class sizes are no larger than 30 pupils	<p>The legal requirement for classes of no more than 30 is only statutory in the Foundation Phase. 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>
9.2.16	The Welsh Government proposes that the 30 pupil class size maximum should be continued throughout the junior class and has provided funding to LAs so as to achieve junior classes of 30 or less	<p>The legal requirement for classes of no more than 30 is only statutory in the Foundation Phase. 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>
9.3 Benefits of rural / village schools		
9.3.1	The UK government has made it clear that rural schools play an important role in maintaining the viability of the countryside, and has made clear that the case for closing them has to be strong	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority's aspiration is to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential', and this is the primary consideration when reorganising schools. The School Organisation Code states that 'the primary purpose of schools is the provision of education'. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.

9.3.2	Pupils in rural schools form stronger bonds with their peers	The authority notes this comment. The authority accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for pupils, however 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 to ensure the pupils settle into their new school.
9.3.3	A family environment is provided by going to a rural school which addresses each child as an individual	The authority notes this comment, however all schools are expected to treat pupils as individuals, regardless of their size or whether or not they are a rural school.
9.3.4	In rural communities, parents come together to raise money for the children, this is more difficult in larger schools	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.5	Village schools have a critical role in supporting individual families in needs	The authority notes this comment. However, pupil numbers in Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are small. 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'.
9.3.6	Village schools have a critical role as a hub for activities that will promote learning, economic well-being and social cohesion	The authority notes this comment. The proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
9.3.7	Maintaining small village schools would help tackle problems of poverty, aspiration and lack of economic opportunities in those areas	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority's aspiration is to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential', and this is the primary consideration when reorganising schools. The School Organisation Code states that 'the primary purpose of schools is the provision of education'. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.
9.3.8	Local primary schools bring mothers and children together	The authority notes this comment.
9.3.9	When children are attending a local	The authority notes this comment, however all schools are expected to ensure that

	school, parents can take them, make sure they are settled, meet the teachers and have a good relationship with the school	teachers have a good relationship with parents, regardless of the size and location of the school.
9.3.10	Rural schools are a focal point for the community	The authority notes this comment. The proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
9.3.11	The bond between school and community is vital if rural communities are to be sustained	The authority notes this comment. The proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
9.3.12	Schools in rural Radnorshire are strategically important	The authority notes this comment. The proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
9.3.13	Closure of rural schools is not seen as a problem for those with private transport and steady employment, but contradicts the statutory responsibilities of local education authorities in relation to child poverty	<p>The needs of families on low incomes were considered in the Equality Impact Assessment in respect of this proposal which was included in the consultation document. In this assessment, the authority acknowledged that it might be more difficult for the parents of pupils from low income families, due to the additional travel required of parents.</p> <p>According to PLASC 2015, there were no pupils eligible for free school meals at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. PLASC 2016 indicates that 6% of the school population are eligible for free school meals. The Equality Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect the 2016 PLASC data and views received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. However, the PLASC data suggests that the level of poverty in the area is relatively low.</p> <p>Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. 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 all pupils would be fully supported to achieve their potential, regardless of their socio-economic background.</p>

9.4 Concern about bigger schools / classes		
9.4.1	Big schools don't have the same community feel	The authority does not agree with this comment. All schools have links within their community, whether this is within a single community or as area schools.
9.4.2	Concern about bullying in bigger schools	The authority notes this comment. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is a very small school, and therefore it is possible that there are fewer incidents of bullying at this school than at larger schools. However, bullying occurs 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.
9.4.3	What evidence is there that bigger schools are better?	The authority acknowledges that there are good examples of small schools and larger schools.
9.4.4	Larger schools have no sense of community	The authority does not agree with this comment. All schools have links within their community, whether this is within a single community or as area schools.
9.4.5	Concern that larger class sizes could mean that the school would not notice if a child wasn't settled in	All school are responsible for ensuring the highest standards of achievement, attainment and pupil wellbeing for all pupils, regardless of the size of the class. The authority accepts that should the 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School. Pupils would 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.
9.4.6	Making schools bigger does not make them better either financially or educationally	The authority notes this comment. However, Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School faces a number of challenges with regard to its sustainability.
9.4.7	Mega primaries have not been shown to serve the children any better	There are examples of high-performing small schools and high-performing large school across Powys and Wales. However, is essential that there is a viable model of education for the pupils of Dolau and surrounding areas in future.
9.5 Other		

9.5.1	Parents will travel to take their children to rural schools	The authority notes this comment.
9.5.2	Maintenance of small primary schools is essential for the future of the children and communities in which they and their families live	The authority notes this comment. The proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
9.5.3	Shutting schools should be a last resort – we should be celebrating rural schools	The authority notes this comment. However 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'.
9.5.4	Rural schools may be more expensive to run but that ignores economies of scale that benefit schools in larger communities and the fact that rural schools provide a hub for a wide range of activities	The authority notes this comment.
9.5.5	Only confident, thick skinned people thrive among large numbers. In small groups every individual is special, and it is easy for those who are shy or struggling to excel	All schools are responsible for ensuring the highest standards of achievement, attainment and pupil wellbeing for all pupils, regardless of the size of the school or the class.
9.5.6	Reference to inquiry into reorganisation of Rural Schools in Wales in November 2008 – found no convincing evidence that small schools are underperforming, no evidence that small schools are an inferior option	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that there are good examples of small schools and larger schools. However 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.'
10 ISSUES RELATING TO THE NAMED RECEIVING SCHOOL		

10.1 Capacity		
10.1.1	Concern about ability of receiving school to accommodate all of the displaced pupils	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
10.1.2	Ask that capacity of Crossgates is thoroughly investigated	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
10.1.3	Concern about the capacity of Crossgates C.P. School – the capacity figure seems to change to suit the question asked and from one day to the next	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
10.1.4	According to the planning permission approved when the school was extended, the capacity of the school was to be 160 – 179 children plus staff – this would be exceeded if Dolau and Llanbister children are added – isn't this going against Powys' own planning laws?	The authority has reviewed the planning permission and there were no restrictions placed on the authority in respect of the number of children educated at the school. The capacity of the school is based on the use of the physical rooms in the school. Crossgates C.P. School has 8 classrooms (including the mobile), each of which can accommodate 28 to 30 pupils using the Welsh Government's assessment basis.
10.1.5	Will all the children realistically fit into the receiving school?	The authority has a duty to ensure that a place is available in the named receiving school for all pupils that is affected by a school's closure. Pupil admissions is a fluid process and the authority monitors the numbers in Crossgates C.P. School on a regular basis.
10.1.6	What total number on roll did the council receive planning permission for at Crossgates? Would the proposed closure mean that this figure would be exceeded?	The authority has reviewed the planning permission and there were no restrictions placed on the authority in respect of the number of children educated at the school. The capacity of the school is based on the use of the physical rooms in the school. Crossgates C.P. School has 8 classrooms (including the mobile), each of which can accommodate 28 to 30 pupils using the Welsh Government's assessment basis.

10.1.7	Crossgates doesn't have the capacity to cater for the influx of children, so where will the children be taught?	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
10.1.8	Concern that Crossgates C.P. School doesn't have the capacity to take all the extra children	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
10.1.9	Can you put more than 179 children in Crossgates without breaking your own planning rules?	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
10.1.10	What is the capacity of Crossgates C.P. School excluding the mobile classroom?	The named receiving school at Crossgates has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site. The capacity of the school excluding the mobile would be 210.
10.1.11	How many pupils are there in Crossgates C.P. School?	There were 150 on Crossgates C.P. School roll at the PLASC census date in January 2016.
10.1.12	What will happen to the capacity of Crossgates if pupils continue to come from Llandrindod to Crossgates School?	Admissions to schools are managed by the authority, but if a school has a place available when parents apply for a place at a school, the authority must offer that place. Only when all places in a year group have been allocated would the authority refuse a place. If Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School closed the catchment area of Crossgates would be expanded to include the current catchment area of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and pupils living in the enlarged catchment area would be given priority for places in Crossgates C.P. School over those children who live in Llandrindod or other neighbouring areas.
10.1.13	Isn't it good practice for schools to have 10% surplus capacity? There will be no surplus capacity at Crossgates	The Welsh Government's aim is for all schools to function at between 85% and 105% of the calculated capacity.
10.1.14	You are sacrificing two schools to build up the numbers at Crossgates	Crossgates is a viable school. The proposal around Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is based on factors relating to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and is not based on

C.P. School	factors relating to Crossgates C.P. School. The authority does however have a duty to ensure it has sufficient pupil places for all pupils displaced by a school closure.
10.1.15 Planning for the extension and remodelling of Crossgates C.P. School was granted based on a capacity of 162 – 179, 6 kitchen staff and 30 – 40 school staff – does your planning consent allow you to increase the capacity of the school?	The authority has reviewed the planning permission and there were no restrictions placed on the authority in respect of the number of children educated in the school. The capacity of the school is based on the use of the physical rooms in the school. Crossgates C.P. School has 8 classrooms (including the mobile), each of which can accommodate 28 to 30 pupils using the Welsh Government’s assessment basis.
10.1.16 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is being sacrificed because Crossgates C.P. School is currently under capacity	Crossgates is a viable school. The proposal around Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is based on factors relating to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and is not based on factors relating to Crossgates C.P. School. The authority does however have a duty to ensure it has sufficient pupil places for all pupils displaced by a school closure.
10.1.17 Crossgates has had a rapid rise in pupil numbers due to the schools in Llandrindod being full	Some children have been placed in Crossgates C.P. School due to the authority not having available places in the relevant school year in Llandrindod, however other parents have chosen Crossgates C.P. School as their preferred school.
10.1.18 Two demountable classrooms still occupy the Crossgates site, yet it was a condition of planning approval for Crossgates’ extension that they be removed on completion of the new construction works – it would appear that there is a breach of planning conditions and the county council is now using this breach as a contingency measure	The authority has reviewed the planning permission and there were no restrictions placed on the authority in respect of the number of children educated in the school. The capacity of the school is based on the use of the physical rooms in the school. Crossgates C.P. School has 8 classrooms (including the mobile), each of which can accommodate 28 to 30 pupils using the Welsh Government’s assessment basis.
10.1.19 Query re capacity of Crossgates C.P. School – 210 in the Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Llanbister consultation documents, 162 in the Builth Wells	Crossgates C.P. School has 7 classrooms in the main building, each with a capacity of 30 pupils (210 in total). The actual number on roll is less than 200 and therefore the school is using one or more of the classrooms as a resource base which is then removed from the capacity calculation, resulting in the lower capacity given in the secondary school

	and Llandrindod High School consultation document – are both figures used to suit whichever outcome Powys desires?	consultation.
10.1.20	Pupils are already travelling from Llandrindod Wells to Crossgates C.P. School due to lack of space in the town	Some children have been placed in Crossgates C.P. School due to the authority not having available places available in the relevant school year in Llandrindod, other parents have chosen Crossgates C.P. School as their preferred school.
10.1.21	How many children get transported from Llandrindod to Crossgates because the Llandrindod schools are deemed to be full? Where will the overflow go, if the two Llandrindod schools are full?	Approximately 5 children are being transported to Crossgates C.P. School from Llandrindod by the authority. The authority reviews its pupil places on a regular basis as part of its asset management planning, if places are not available in the parents first choice school, the authority has a duty to place a child in another local school.
10.1.22	Concern about the school's capacity to accommodate children from Llanbister, Dolau and possibly Nantmel	There is sufficient capacity in Crossgates C.P. School to accommodate all the pupils from Llanbister C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and some of the pupils from Nantmel C. in W. School. The change in the age of admission from September 2017 will allow the authority more flexibility in the use of the school space as it is expected that the early years provision will continue in the co-located early years centre.
10.2 Concern about use of mobile classroom		
10.2.1	Concern about pupils being taught in a portacabin	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the number of children taught in mobile classrooms. A condition assessment has shown that following some works to the roof of the mobile, the mobile classroom on the site of Crossgates C.P. School will be a "B" school in terms of its physical condition. There is also a mobile classroom at Dolau that has been used to teach children in in previous years when the pupil numbers were higher in that school.
10.2.2	Current portacabin used for after school club is not a fit/healthy environment to be taught in	The authority is undertaking some repair to the building, following which property services have confirmed that it would be assessed to be in a good condition (B).

10.2.3	Children will be leaving well equipped schools to be herded into inadequate sheds	The mobile classroom is not a "shed" it is a building which, following some minor works, will be assessed as a condition B building.
10.2.4	Can you confirm that pupils won't be taught in portacabins that aren't fit for use?	Yes, 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).
10.2.5	How old is the portacabin at Crossgates?	The portacabin at Crossgates C.P. School is 13 years old.
10.2.6	Is the portacabin on site at Crossgates?	Yes, the portacabin is on site at Crossgates C.P. School.
10.2.7	What is the usual life of a temporary portacabin?	The lifespan of mobile classrooms on school sites is normally 20 – 30 years.
10.2.8	Concern about the use of temporary classrooms	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).
10.2.9	Transporting pupils to Crossgates would not be in accordance with the School Transformation Policy aim of minimising dependency on temporary accommodation	The mobile classroom is 1 of 8 teaching spaces on the site of Crossgates C.P. School. The authority does have a long term aim to reduce dependency on temporary accommodation within its Asset Management Plan. With the change to the age of admission from September 2017 the school may not need to utilise the mobile classroom from that date.
10.2.10	Proposal to educate children in portable buildings in Crossgates is totally inadequate for our children	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the number of children taught in mobile classrooms. A condition assessment has shown that following some works to the roof of the mobile, the mobile classroom on the Crossgates site will be a "B" school in terms of its physical condition. There is also a mobile classroom at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School that has been used to teach children in in previous years when the pupil numbers were higher in that school.

10.2.11	How can you condone moving children from a solid structure into temporary, mobile accommodation that was supposed to have been removed by now and is therefore in breach of original planning conditions?	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the number of children taught in mobile classrooms. A condition assessment has shown that following some works to the roof of the mobile, the mobile classroom on the Crossgates site will be a "B" school in terms of its physical condition. There is also a mobile classroom at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School that has been used to teach children in in previous years when the pupil numbers were higher in that school.
10.2.12	Powys Transformation Policy states that children should be taught in a permanent structure.	The mobile classroom is 1 of 8 teaching spaces on the site of Crossgates C.P. School. The authority does have a long term aim to reduce the dependency on temporary accommodation within its Asset Management Plan. With the change to the age of admission from September 2017, the school may not need to utilise the mobile classroom from that date.
10.2.13	Concern about moving pupils from a good building to a mobile classroom	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the number of children taught in mobile classrooms. A condition assessment has shown that following some works to the roof of the mobile, the mobile classroom on the site of Crossgates C.P. School will be a "B" school in terms of its physical condition. There is also a mobile classroom at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School that has been used to teach children in in previous years when the pupil numbers were higher in that school.
10.2.14	Concern about whether the mobile would be warm enough	The mobile classroom has adequate heating.
10.2.15	The transformation document says that children should not be moved from a permanent structure to a temporary classroom	The mobile classroom is 1 of 8 teaching spaces on the site of Crossgates C.P. School. The authority does have a long term aim to reduce the dependency on temporary accommodation within its Asset Management Plan. With the change to the age of admission from September 2017 the school may not need to utilise the mobile classroom from that date.
10.2.16	Mobile classrooms should not be used as a permanent solution	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the number of children taught in mobile classrooms. A condition assessment has shown that following some works to the roof of the mobile, the mobile classroom on the site of Crossgates C.P. School will be a "B" school in terms of its physical condition. There is also a mobile classroom at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School that has been used to teach children in in previous years when the

		pupil numbers were higher in that school.
10.2.17	In a Cabinet meeting in 2005, members asked that mobile classrooms should not be regarded as permanent fixtures	The authority's long term strategy is to reduce the number of children taught in mobile classrooms. A condition assessment has shown that following some works to the roof of the mobile, the mobile classroom on the site of Crossgates C.P. School will be a "B" school in terms of its physical condition. There is also a mobile classroom at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School that has been used to teach children in in previous years when the pupil numbers were higher in that school.
10.2.18	The portacabin is basically a shed	The mobile classroom is not a "shed" it is a building which following some minor works will be assessed as a condition B building.
10.3 Class sizes and the impact on classes		
10.3.1	The impact of closing three schools would be felt in every class at Crossgates C.P. School	<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	Crossgates C.P. School will need classes of over 30 to accommodate all pupils – is this allowed?	<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	Children are currently taught in classes of 16, in Crossgates they would be in classes of well over 30,	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. There

	how can this be good for their education?	is no evidence that larger class sizes are detrimental to pupils' education.
10.3.4	Class sizes will be bigger than Dolau School	<p>It is true that class sizes in Crossgates C.P. School are likely to be similar to the total size of Dolau School. The authority's view is that the current class sizes at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are not sustainable.</p> <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>
10.3.5	Concern that class sizes will increase to 34 when children move to 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>
10.3.6	How will the classrooms at Crossgates manage the proposed increase in numbers?	<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>
10.3.7	Class sizes at Crossgates C.P.	The authority notes this comment. Crossgates C.P. School is funded in accordance with

	School have risen dramatically due to an influx of pupils from Llandrindod Wells	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.
10.3.8	What would the class sizes be at Crossgates should Llanbister and Llanfihangel Rhydithon close?	<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. The actual class sizes would depend on the number of pupils transferring to Crossgates C.P. School and on the internal arrangements made by the governing body.</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>
10.3.9	How do the proposed class sizes equate to the room sizes mapped out by the authority when rebuilding the school a few years ago?	<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. The actual class sizes would depend on the number of pupils transferring to Crossgates C.P. School and on the internal arrangements made by the governing body.</p> <p>The classes at Crossgates C.P. School would accommodate up to 30 pupils in line with the capacity of the room.</p>
10.3.10	Anticipate that class sizes in Crossgates will be in excess of 30 children, so personal interaction will be lost	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. The actual class sizes would depend on the number of pupils transferring to Crossgates C.P. School and on the internal arrangements made by the governing body. Regardless of class size, all schools are expected to ensure that the needs of each individual pupil continue to be met.
10.3.11	Concern that the increase to class sizes at Crossgates will place additional pressure on over stretched	The authority notes this comment.

	teachers	
10.3.12	Class sizes at Crossgates will be well above the Powys, Welsh and National average	<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>
10.3.13	There could be 39 children from Dolau, Llanbister and Crossgates nursery going into a classroom in January 2017.	<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>
10.3.14	You cannot fit any more than 30 pupils in a classroom	<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. The actual class sizes would depend on the number of pupils transferring to Crossgates C.P. School and on the internal arrangements made by the governing body.</p> <p>The classes at Crossgates C.P. School would accommodate up to 30 pupils in line with the capacity of the room.</p>
10.3.15	Proposed classroom size will be 34, will not meet Powys County Council's policy of 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</p>

		the school continues to conform with statutory guidance, which could include pupils being taught in other foundation phase classes.
10.3.16	Crossgates has an average of 30 pupils to one teacher, Dolau has 30 pupils over 2 classes to 2 teachers – you can see who is getting more attention and one to one help	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools are expected to ensure that the needs of each individual pupil continue to be met, regardless of class size. There is no evidence that larger class sizes are detrimental to pupils' education.
10.3.17	The Council will need to ensure that they are complying with class size legislation in the N/R class at Crossgates and whether their consultation will have an impact on this compliance	<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>
10.3.18	Concern about overcrowding – classes filled to the max might be good for efficiency but aren't good for the children	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools are expected to ensure that the needs of each individual pupil continue to be met, regardless of class size. There is no evidence that larger class sizes are detrimental to pupils' education.
10.3.19	Concern that pupils could get lost in the abundance of children in one class	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools are expected to ensure that the needs of each individual pupil continue to be met, regardless of class size. There is no evidence that larger class sizes are detrimental to pupils' education.
10.3.20	The bigger classes will be noisy so it will be harder for pupils to concentrate	The authority notes this comment. However, all schools are expected to ensure that pupils achieve to the best of their ability, regardless of class size. There is no evidence that larger class sizes are detrimental to pupils' education.
10.4 Access and car parking		
10.4.1	Health and safety concerns in relation to the parking at Crossgates C.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

<p>School</p>	<p>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 incidences in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
<p>10.4.2 Cars are already parked everywhere in Crossgates School, before adding any additional cars</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 incidences in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
<p>10.4.3 Management of the petrol station have expressed concerns regarding the safety of pupils at drop off and pick up times as many parents are parking at the petrol station</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. The children from the Dolau catchment area will be transported on funded home to school transport and will be dropped off / picked up from the school site, which will be subject to the school and authority's risk assessment criteria and policies.</p>
<p>10.4.4 The area around Crossgates C.P. School is already congested at the start and end of the school day – there is not enough space to cope with all the extra vehicles involved</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 incidences in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.5	Issues with access and parking at Crossgates School at drop off and collection time	<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 incidences in the car parking area at Crossgates C.P. School since the school was remodelled and extended.</p>
10.4.6	Parents have to park in the Service Station and walk their child to school	<p>The authority notes this comment, the children from the Dolau area will be transported on funded Home to School transport and will be dropped off / picked up from the school site. Although not ideal there is a safe walking route from the service station to the school. The authority's Schools Health and Safety officer provides schools advice and support on these issues.</p>
10.4.7	Increasing pupil numbers by a third is only going to exacerbate an already dangerous problem	<p>If the authority's proposals go forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and other schools, the affected pupils will mainly be transported to the named receiving schools through funded Home to School transport and will be subject to the authority's risk assessment criteria.</p>
10.4.8	Concern about parking at Crossgates, particularly on days where there are school events taking place	<p>The authority accepts that a larger school will have more parking requirements especially around the larger social / school events. The service will work with the school to ensure all relevant risk assessments are in place.</p>

10.4.9	Where will all the extra cars park safely, particularly on days when there are school events taking place?	The authority accepts that a larger school will have more parking requirements especially around the larger social / school events. The service will work with the school to ensure all relevant risk assessments are in place.
10.4.10	Children often seen running around the petrol forecourt at Crossgates to get to their lift – this is a health and safety issue	The authority notes this issue and will work with the school and relevant road safety and health and safety officers to provide awareness training to children
10.5 Building and facilities		
10.5.1	There is no guarantee of an equivalent learning environment for pupils in alternative schools	The named receiving school is a recently remodelled / constructed school with a large external area and provides a suitable learning environment.
10.5.2	Children currently attending Crossgates are happy in a permanent structure that was designed to teach children in, not a shed outside	The mobile classroom is not a "shed" it is a building which following some minor works will be assessed as a condition B building.
10.5.3	Concern about current pupils being thrown out of their classes to benefit others	The organisation of the class structure of a school is a decision for the headteacher and the governing body. Schools reorganise class structures on a regular basis which is dependent on the year group numbers, funding etc. It is the authority's view that after any initial class restructure following the transfer of children from the closing schools the class structure at Crossgates should be more robust with mainly single age classes.
10.5.4	Extra children at Crossgates would add to the already overcrowded playground area which has less than halved since the building work at the school	There are guidelines for the size of external areas, both hard and soft areas. Those schools with insufficient hard play areas will be included in the service's long term capital strategy.
10.5.5	The children are currently taught in a good building which is structurally	Yes, Crossgates C.P. School is a recently remodelled school that is in good condition with a mobile classroom that following some minor works will be a "B" school in terms of

	sound, can you ensure that this will continue?	condition.
10.5.6	Concern that the play equipment at the school may not be as good as it is at Dolau, and that everyone won't get a chance to use it	The authority notes this comment.
10.5.7	Concern that pupils will have to queue for ages to get their dinner	The authority notes this comment.
10.5.8	'When was the last time any general maintenance work was carried out at Crossgates School and what was the cost?'	The last job undertaken at Crossgates C.P. School was work to repair an issue with the heating system in July. The job does not have a final cost, but it has an estimated cost of £75.
10.6 Quality of education and standards		
10.6.1	Concern that pressure of accommodating displaced pupils will further compromise the quality of the educational provision at Crossgates	The authority notes this comment.
10.6.2	Closure of 3 schools would have a massive impact on standards at Crossgates C.P. School	The authority notes this comment, however there is no evidence to suggest that this would be the case.
10.6.3	It is only 10 minutes from Llanbister C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School, and if these pupils travelled this distance they would receive better education than they are receiving now – this isn't the case for pupils currently attending Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	The authority notes this comment.

10.6.4	Crossgates C.P. School hasn't had an Estyn inspection for nearly 6 years	As stated in the consultation document, it is true that Estyn's last inspection of Crossgates C.P. School was in 2011.
10.6.5	Surely an Estyn inspection of Crossgates C.P. School should be carried out before pushing our children to a school where we have no idea of how good the level of teaching is?	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.
10.6.6	Crossgates C.P. School hasn't been inspected under the new Estyn regime so standards cannot be easily compared	School performance is analysed annually through the Welsh Government's National Categorisation of Schools in Wales. In 2015, both Crossgates C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rydithon C.P. School were awarded 2 for standards.
10.6.7	Current standards in Crossgates C.P. School will deteriorate due to increase in class sizes	There is no evidence to suggest that this would be the case.
10.6.8	Logical thing to do is to ensure that Crossgates has an Estyn inspection before any decision is made on Llanfihangel Rhydithon.	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.
10.6.9	Need to ensure that the classification of Crossgates has not deteriorated and is still of sufficient standard to accept pupils from Llanfihangel Rhydithon	The authority notes this comment. School performance is analysed annually through the Welsh Government's National Categorisation of Schools in Wales. In 2015, both Crossgates C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rydithon C.P. School were awarded 2 for standards.
10.6.10	Grave concern about whether Crossgates C.P. School can maintain its educational standards	The National Classification of Schools in 2015 awarded Crossgates C.P. School's capacity to improve further as B, therefore there is no evidence that Crossgates C.P. School cannot maintain its current educational standards.

10.6.11	What would happen if standards fell at Crossgates C.P. School?	Standards at all schools are monitored by Challenge Advisers on a regular basis. If standards at any school deteriorate, intervention powers could be used by the LA.
10.6.12	Not proven that Crossgates is the answer to the educational needs of children who currently attend Dolau School	The authority notes this comment.
10.6.13	Crossgates has a whole new set of pupils and has had a big change of staff since the last inspection	The authority notes this comment.
10.6.14	There is no evidence that making Crossgates bigger will make it better – it may have the opposite effect	The authority notes this comment.
10.6.15	Although Crossgates and Dolau are both 'yellow', information on mylocalschool shows that Dolau is outperforming Crossgates at every level	Pupil performance fluctuates to varying degrees in all schools. It would be unfair to compare attainment in terms of percentages when comparing schools that have more than 100 pupils with schools that have under 30 pupils. In addition, standards in schools are judged on data over a three year period, rather than then one set of data.
10.6.16	Are you pushing to close the small schools so quickly due to the fact that you feel the Estyn status of Crossgates School may change following an imminent inspection?	This is not the case.
10.6.17	Need an inspection of Crossgates to provide a baseline to measure what effect the additional pupils from Llanfihangel Rhydithon would have on the stable school structure at Crossgates	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.

10.7 Pre-school provision		
10.7.1	The pre-school setting in Crossgates is not directly associated with the school	The pre-school setting at Crossgates and the school have close links and liaise over pre-school / early years transition arrangements. The early years provision is currently being recommissioned across the county.
10.7.2	Does the setting in Crossgates have capacity for an additional 15 children?	Yes, the setting in Crossgates does have capacity.
10.7.3	If the playgroup portacabin is to be used as a classroom, what happens to the playgroup setting that has no affiliation to the school?	The mobile classroom that is being considered as a teaching space is the mobile next to the school. The early years provision will remain in the current buildings.
10.7.4	There is no mother & toddler or playgroup setting at Crossgates so younger children would miss out	The early years setting at Crossgates C.P. School is a new setting and the authority understands that the management committee is considering providing extended services.
10.7.5	What will happen to the pre-school aged children, with the change to the age of admission?	Under the age of admission proposals the provision of pre-school provision is to be increased from 10 hours per week to 12.5 hours per week and for the period from the term after the child's third birthday to the end of the summer term before they start school full time at the start of the reception age group.
10.7.6	Moving children to Crossgates would have an effect on the early years setting there	The authority is currently in the process of recommissioning the early years provision and any proposed school changes will be factored into this work program.
10.7.7	There won't be enough capacity for the children coming into the early years setting from all the other early years settings if Dolau and other schools in the area close	This issue has been considered as part of the wider planning of school places in the area.
10.8 Opportunities for pupils		

10.8.1	Pupils won't be able to take part in as many extra-curricular activities	The authority notes this comment.
10.8.2	Pupils wouldn't have as many opportunities at Crossgates C.P. School as there are more pupils	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.
10.8.3	Crossgates School do not compete in the Eisteddfod	The authority notes this comment.
10.8.4	Pupils would not have the same chance to represent the school in a bigger school as there would be more children	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.
10.8.5	Concern about lack of extracurricular activities at Crossgates	The authority notes this comment.
10.8.6	Extracurricular activities and links with the community in Crossgates are in no way positively comparable with those at Dolau	The authority notes this comment.
10.8.7	There isn't the same connection between the school and the community in Crossgates	The authority notes this comment.
10.9 Other issues		
10.9.1	Crossgates C.P. School has a new headteacher who is still finding her feet	The National Classification of Schools in 2015 awarded Crossgates C.P. School's capacity to improve further as B.
10.9.2	Concern about impact of 90 children	The authority notes this comment. No final decisions have yet been made on this proposal

	joining the school next January	or the proposals relating to other schools in the local area.
10.9.3	Concern that several shifts will be required for lunch unless the eating area is enlarged	Crossgates C.P. School has a large hall, and large schools are used to having two or more sittings for lunch, with infants normally eating first followed by the juniors.
10.9.4	The receiving school will not give pupils the individual attention currently provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School	All school are responsible for ensuring the highest standards of achievement, attainment pupil wellbeing, and to ensure that the needs of each individual pupil are met.
10.9.5	Crossgates is no longer a village primary school due to the influx of pupils from Llandrindod Wells	Many village schools attract children from local towns through parental choice. The majority of the pupils in Crossgates C.P. School are still from the village and surrounding smaller communities.
10.9.6	Crossgates C.P. School should not be an acceptable alternative for the children of this community	The authority notes this comment.
10.9.7	Crossgates is a much bigger school	The authority acknowledges that Crossgates C.P. School is bigger than Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. 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’.
10.9.8	There will be an additional workload and impact on the personal wellbeing of Crossgates teachers	The authority notes this comment.
10.9.9	There is a new headteacher at Crossgates C.P. School who will have had relatively little experience in dealing with a school with a large number of pupils	The National Classification of Schools in 2015 awarded the school's capacity to improve further as B.
10.9.10	You are planning on staggering	The provision and timing of school meals is agreed by the school and the catering service,

	dinner times – that is wrong in every sense as the children should all eat together	the school has a large hall but in a school of 200 pupils it would be normal practice that the early years children eat at the first sitting with the juniors eating at a second sitting.
10.9.11	If there were capacity in Trefonnen and Cefnlllys, Crossgates would be well under capacity and its price per head would be well above what Dolau's is	The delegated funding per pupil for Llanfihangel Rhydithon for the 2016-17 school year is £4,410, with the equivalent figure for Crossgates being £3,556. Although the funding per pupil would increase at Crossgates C.P. School if the children from Llandrindod were not in the school this increase would not amount to the £850 current differential.
10.9.12	Concern that Crossgates C.P. School is being investigated for health reasons due to its proximity to the petrol station	This issue has been fully investigated and there are no issues that have been raised.
10.9.13	There may be more arguing at Crossgates C.P. School as pupils won't know each other	The authority notes this concern and accepts that any school reorganisation proposal creates a period of uncertainty for the pupils involved. Should the school close, the receiving school would provide support to pupils to aid their transition.
11 CONCERNS ABOUT OTHER SCHOOLS PUPILS MIGHT WISH TO TRANSFER TO		
11.1	The nature and quality of the educational alternatives proposed will be different, and in many ways inferior to that which the children currently experience	The authority notes this comment. Crossgates C.P. School is the named receiving school in respect of this proposal, and the authority is satisfied that the quality of education provided at this school is equivalent to the education provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
11.2	Issues with the other alternative schools listed in the document other than Crossgates C.P. School – Llanbister is also proposed to close, Knighton is 10.49 miles from Dolau and is currently under Estyn monitoring and Amber, Cefnlllys is also listed as Amber – why would the	The authority notes this comment. Crossgates C.P. School is the named receiving school in respect of this proposal, and the authority is satisfied that the quality of education provided at this school is equivalent to the education provided at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.

	authority assume that parents would be willing to leave a school considered 'good' and attend schools that are rated in need of improvement?	
11.3	Concern about current standards at Knighton	In the national classification of schools in 2015, Welsh Government placed Knighton School in Standards Group 2 (1 being the highest). In addition, the school was monitored by a team of Estyn inspectors in summer 2016 and was judged to have made good progress in respect of the key issues for action following the Estyn visit in June 2016. The school was consequently removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring. There will be no further Estyn monitoring visits.
12 ISSUES RELATING TO OTHER PROPOSALS		
12.1	Closure of 3 schools will limit choice and will affect children who don't get on in a particular school and need an alternative	The authority notes this comment.
12.2	One of the rural schools in this area should remain available to give parents the choice of a small rural school	The authority notes this comment.
12.3	The capacity of Crossgates School will be exceeded if you proceed with the closure of Dolau and Llanbister	The authority notes this comment. The capacity of Crossgates C.P. School will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to the proposals in respect of both Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and Llanbister C.P. School.
12.4	If Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School closes along with Llanbister and Nantmel, where are all the children that may move into the area with all the building that is going on going to	The authority as part of its Schools Asset Management Plan has identified all significant proposed developments contained within the LDP and are aware of the potential impact these developments will have on future pupil numbers

	go to school?	
12.5	Concern that there will be no primary schools between Llandrindod and Newtown except Crossgates, and children are already being bussed out from Llandrindod due to lack of space	The authority is aware of the 20 mile distance between Crossgates and Newtown and Cabinet will take this into consideration when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
12.6	There were far fewer pupils in Llangurig C.P. School when that school closed – we can't believe this is happening here.	The authority acknowledges that there were less pupils in Llangurig C.P. School when that school closed. However, pupil numbers in Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low. 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'.
12.7	Of the three schools under review, Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is the cheapest to run and has excellent standards	<p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School was identified for review as it met a number of the criteria outlined in the Schools Transformation Policy (2014).</p> <p>As stated in the consultation document, the authority is proposing to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school has had fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the three previous years and numbers are not projected to increase to above 50 - The funding per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average.
12.8	Concern that there is no facility for schools to work together as part of this consultation	The authority notes this comment.
12.9	It's not fair to compare this proposal with school reorganisation in Ystradgynlais – the proposals in Ystradgynlais worked because the community was offered something better	The authority notes this comment.
12.10	If you close Dolau and the two other	This proposal is only about Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. No final decisions have

	schools you will have engineered a demographic change which is totally unnecessary	yet been made on the future of this school or the other schools referred to.
12.11	Reference to closure of Llangunllo, Whitton and John Beddoes schools – is the council trying to wipe out our history?	The council is not trying to wipe out the area’s history. However, pupil numbers in Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are low. 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’.
12.12	Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School has the highest educational standards of the 3 small schools currently up for closure	The authority notes this comment. The authority has no concern about standards at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, this is not one of the reasons why the school is currently being reviewed.
12.13	Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School has the lowest cost per pupil of the 3 small schools currently up for closure	<p>The authority notes that this statement is true. The 2016/17 cost per pupil for each school was as follows:</p> <p>Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School: £4410 Nantmel C. in W. School: £4471 Llanbister C.P. School: £4327</p> <p>However, the cost per pupil for all three schools exceeds 120% of the average cost per pupil, therefore all three schools meet this criteria as outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014).</p>
12.14	If the 3 small schools close and high school reorganisation also happens in 5 years time it will be the same children affected during both phases of their education	The authority notes this concern. The recent consultation in relation to high school provision does not propose any change to the current location of secondary provision in the area.
12.15	Reference to success of John Beddoes High School merging with Newtown High School	The authority is pleased to note the success of the merger of John Beddoes High School with Newtown High School.

12.16	One of the schools near here has been assessed as being in the 'red' category	It is true that one of Llanfihangel Rhydithon's neighbouring schools is in the 'red' category, this is noted in the consultation document.
13 ISSUES RELATING TO FINANCE		
13.1 Average cost per pupil / funding per pupil		
13.1.1	The school will be virtually full in the next few years, which will reduce the per pupil cost	The authority notes this comment.
13.1.2	If you had a big school of over 500 pupils funded at £5268 per pupil would you say that was an expensive school?	This would be above the current average cost per pupil for Powys primary schools, which is £3535.
13.1.3	What is the cost per pupil for the federated schools in the north of the county?	The 2016/17 cost per pupil for the three schools within the federation is as follows: Ysgol Gynradd Carno: £4568 Ysgol Llanbrynmair: £4090 Ysgol Glantwymyn: £3802
13.1.4	Why have different figures been used for average per pupil funding in different reports – the average per pupil funding quoted in the report on Welshpool primary schools review was different to that in the report for Cabinet in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School even though the reports were considered by Cabinet on the same day	This was an error in respect of the Welshpool report.
13.1.5	Will the children receive less funding	Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, the receiving school will receive the per

	per pupil if the school closes and they transfer to the receiving school?	pupil element delegated through the authority's fair funding formula.
13.1.6	Request for clarification in relation to the delegated budget for pupils transferring	Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, £51,243 of the £136,704 delegated to the school for the 2016/17 financial year would transfer in order to support the funding for the pupils transferred to other schools.
13.1.7	Are the four new primary schools in Ystradgynlais as cost effective as you had hoped as all exceed the cost per pupil average?	The 2016/17 cost per pupil for the four new primary schools in Ystradgynlais is £3282, £3586, £3605 and £3837. The Powys average for 2016/17 is £3535.
13.1.8	Only just true that the cost per pupil is more than 120% of the Council's average – the authority is nit picking!	The authority notes this comment. The criteria in the School Transformation Policy (2014) is 'The cost per pupil is more than 120% of the Council's average for the sector.' Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School meets this criteria.
13.1.9	The cost per pupil will decrease with the predicted rise in numbers	The authority notes this comment.
13.2 Queries about estimated savings		
13.2.1	Real concerns about whether the savings the Council predict are going to be as much as expected	The estimated savings as stated at the time of consultation were £69,078 based on the 2015/16 financial year formula. The figures have been rerun using the formula for 2016/17 and updated actual costs for canteen costs and the estimated savings are £91,464. This increase is due to the requirement to provide an additional small schools allowance to the school due to numbers increasing from 29 on the PLASC counting date in January 2015 to 31 on the PLASC counting date in January 2016.
13.2.2	Request to see the cost saving plan you seem so confident you can achieve	The figures have been rerun based on the 2016/17 financial year and are broken down as follows: Delegated Funding that would not transfer: £85,462 Headteacher savings (L12-UPS3): £16,288 Reduction in Canteen Subsidy: £12,514 (Actual Costs 2015-16) Less Estimated Additional Transport Costs: (£22,800)

Total Estimated Savings: £91,464		
13.2.3	The projected savings don't add up	The projected savings were included in the consultation document. These figures have been rerun using the formula for 2016/17 and the estimated savings are now £91,464. This increase is due to the requirement to provide an additional small schools allowance to the school due to numbers increasing from 29 on the PLASC counting date in January 2015 to 31 on the PLASC counting date in January 2016.
13.2.4	Closure of Dolau School would lead to a small saving in education costs but a massive overspend in transport costs	The estimated additional transport costs were included in the estimated saving calculation provided in the consultation document.
13.2.5	The claim that the council will save £70K is rubbish – it will cost an additional £20K to move the children to Crossgates	The estimated savings for the 2016/17 financial year are £91,464.
13.2.6	A re-working of the figures for costs saved has been promised – is this now available?	<p>The figures have been rerun based on the 2016/17 financial year and are broken down as follows:</p> <p>Delegated Funding that would not transfer: £85,462 Headteacher savings (L12-UPS3): £16,288 Reduction in Canteen Subsidy: £12,514 (Actual Costs 2015-16) Less Estimated Additional Transport Costs: (£22,800)</p> <p>Total Estimated Savings: £91,464</p>
13.2.7	The cost of additional transport has been underestimated	The additional transport costs have been estimated by the authority at a net additional £120 per day
13.2.8	The amount of money you will save is small	The authority notes this comment.

13.2.9	Figures presented by a parent at the consultation meeting painted a picture of very little saving	The savings have been updated using the 2016/17 formula and have increased to an estimated £91,464.
13.2.10	Unbelievable that you can save money from this	The estimated savings at the time of consultation were included in the consultation document. The figures have been updated for 2016/17 and are now estimated at £91,464
13.2.11	Have you included in your calculated savings the additional costs that will be needed to offer additional support to children?	<p>The savings include delegated budget savings, canteen and Headteacher savings. The receiving school will receive additional delegated monies for the pupils transferring to them, which has been factored in when considering the estimated net savings.</p> <p>The authority recognises that there are children who need more support, and this is accounted for in the ALN delegated budget as well as access to the graduated response to need e.g. top up funding. The ALN budget currently provided to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is small due to the school's size and demography, the ALN budget in the named receiving school is significantly larger.</p>
13.2.12	Other costs will undoubtedly be incurred – transport costs, staff redundancy payments	The estimated additional transport costs were included in the calculation provided in the consultation document. The consultation document also made clear that redundancy payments were not included in the estimated saving. Redundancy costs are a one-off cost.
13.2.13	Any financial savings identified are insignificant compared to the increase in annual transport costs	The estimated savings provided in the consultation document took the estimated increase in transport costs into account.
13.2.14	The positives of small schools far outweigh the minimal savings you may achieve	The authority notes this comment.
13.2.15	The Council is not taking the additional travel costs into account	The estimated savings provided in the consultation document took the estimated increase in transport costs into account.
13.2.16	Additional children in Crossgates will cost the Council money	The delegated funding that would transfer to support the pupils in the receiving schools has been taken into consideration when calculating the estimated savings.

13.2.17	We have had independent quotes which indicate that additional transport costs will be £58,000	The additional transport costs have been estimated by the authority at a net additional £120 per day and are included in the net saving within the consultation document.
13.2.18	Questioned the estimated saving of £66,298	The estimated saving of £66,298 is based on 29 funded pupils for the 2015/16 financial year, for 2016/17 this has increased to £85,462 based on 31 funded pupils. The increase in saving is due to the additional small schools allowance delegated to the school, which would not transfer if the school closed.
13.2.19	Questioned the saving of £15,580 for the Headteacher post	The saving of £15k in the report is the difference between the bottom point of the Leadership scale for the school (Leadership point 12) and the top of the teachers scale upper threshold three, including oncosts for the 2015/16 financial year.
13.2.20	Questioned the canteen subsidy of £10,000 – there is no canteen at Dolau, all meals are cooked in Crossgates and are transferred to Dolau	<p>Canteen Savings have been updated following the finalisation of the 2015/16 accounts and are broken down as follows:</p> <p>Cashiers: £2,458 Cook Preparation: £1,784 Driver & Serving: £5,422 Van Costs: £1,693 Provisions/General Costs: £1,157</p> <p>Total: £12,514</p>
13.2.21	Question the estimated cost of transport which is £22800 – we estimate that it would be £84234 over the school year	The additional transport costs have been estimated by the authority at a net additional £120 per day and are included in the net saving within the consultation document.
13.2.22	If you transfer pupils from Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School to Crossgates C.P. School, it will cost an additional £15,798.50	The additional transport costs have been estimated by the authority at a net additional £120 per day and are included in the net saving within the consultation document.

13.2.23	£10,000 saving on canteen facilities – Dolau dinners are cooked in Crossgates and transported to Dolau, so the only saving would be the cost of transporting the food to Dolau	<p>Canteen Savings have been updated following the finalisation of the 2015/16 accounts and are broken down as follows:</p> <p>Cashiers: £2,458 Cook Preperation: £1,784 Driver & Serving: £5,422 Van Costs: £1,693 Provisions/General Costs: £1,157</p> <p>Total: £12,514</p>
13.2.24	Looks like the savings figures are being inflated to make it look like closing the school will bring a greater saving than it will in reality	The estimated savings figures have been calculated using the funding formula currently in place.
13.2.25	Many figures don't match up with Dolau school's profit and loss sheet	The figures are based on the delegated funding the school receives each year.
13.2.26	You have used estimated costs rather than actual ones, especially where teaching salaries are concerned	The costs are estimated and will only become actual costs in the year in which a school closes.
13.2.27	The estimated transport costs are based on 28 pupils, predicted numbers by January 2017 are higher, which would raise the costs to £29,640	Estimated savings were calculated based on the pupils within the school at the time, this is always subject to change for pupil movement.
13.2.28	Do the estimated savings include the cost of the consultation process and subsequent costs when we contest the Cabinet's decision?	No, the estimated savings do not include the cost of the consultation process or any subsequent costs.
13.2.29	Have the actual savings in the two	No, the actual savings are recalculated using the current formula in place in the financial

	years following recent school closures been as stated in the consultation documents?	year which the school closes, as well as being updated for actual pupil movements once schools have closed in relation to transport costs. In respect of the last 2 schools to close both savings has been more than stated in the consultation documents
13.2.30	The cost of travel has not been calculated on real children and real routes, and on investigation it may not give the expected saving	The estimated additional costs for transport were based on a review of current routes operating to the school.
13.3 Fair Funding Formula		
13.3.1	The funding formula should be changed to be fair to federated schools and fair to the council	The authority notes this comment. Under current legislation, local authorities are required to determine an individual delegated budget for each school within a federation arrangement.
13.3.2	A fairer funding formula which does not discriminate against rural schools is vital to keeping small rural schools viable	The authority notes this comment.
13.3.3	We need a more sophisticated approach to funding pupil places	The authority notes this comment.
13.3.4	If the cost per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average, this is due to the authority's funding formula and should not be blamed on the school	The authority notes this comment. However, one of the criteria within the authority's School Transformation Policy (2014) for reviewing a school was 'The cost per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average for the sector'. The school met this criteria, therefore this is one of the reasons why the school is being reviewed.
13.3.5	Concern that schools are entitled to extra money for children that are entitled to free school meals – confused as to why the council are spending less on my children's education than those entitled to free	The additional monies schools receive for Free School Meal pupils is in the form of the Pupil Deprivation Grant, which is a Welsh Government initiative.

	school meals – this is discriminating against children from hard working families and works against Dolau's favour	
13.4 Issues relating to the Council's financial strategy		
13.4.1	Saving money at the cost of destroying a community is unacceptable	The authority notes this comment.
13.4.2	The population of younger children in Powys is below the Wales average, but this doesn't mean we should be making cuts to education	The authority notes this comment.
13.4.3	More effort should be spent on trying to address budget management at other schools rather than closing this achieving school	The authority notes this comment and continues to work will schools to ensure that all schools comply with the Scheme for Financing Schools.
13.4.4	This proposal has nothing to do with 'school modernisation' and has everything to do with finances	The authority notes this comment. However, one of the criteria within the authority's School Transformation Policy (2014) for reviewing a school was 'The cost per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average for the sector'. The school met this criteria, therefore this is one of the reasons why the school is being reviewed.
13.4.5	Welsh Government policy is that schools should not be closed for financial reasons	As included in the consultation document the authority is proposing to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school has had fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the three previous years and numbers are not projected to increase to above 50 - The funding per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average
13.4.6	Public money should not be wasted making jobs for the boys / girls	The authority notes this comment.

13.4.7	There are no significant financial savings to be made from closing the school, but there would be a great loss to the community in terms of community cohesion	The authority notes this comment.
13.4.8	The council is wasting tax payers money and councillors time on this consultation	The authority notes this comment.
13.4.9	How much does the consultation process cost from initial research, document creation, meetings, school modernisation team's wages, cabinet members time, outside consultants through to the next Cabinet meeting when the school's fate will be decided?	The authority is required to go through a statutory consultation process in accordance with the School Organisation Code in respect of any proposal to close a school. This is part of the work of the authority's School Modernisation Team and other officers, and is part of the role of Cabinet members, therefore there is no additional cost to the authority. There was a cost of £936 for the consultants who facilitated the public meeting, as well as a cost of £50 for the hire of translation equipment.
13.4.10	Closing the school would put further pressure on Council resources by having to have help from the One Powys Plan and community champions	The authority notes this comment.
13.4.11	A large school performing badly will cost the authority more than a small school in total	All schools must comply with the scheme for financing schools.
13.4.12	The sole reason for proposing to close the school is financial, and the reason used to justify this is the school's low pupil numbers	The school was identified for review based on the criteria outlined in the authority's School Transformation Policy (2014).

13.5 Issues relating to funding received from Welsh Government		
13.5.1	The Council should ask the Welsh assembly for more money to spend on local schools	Officers and Members actively seek to influence funding levels for Powys whenever possible. Lobbying together with MPs and AMs successfully gained additional funding for Powys as part of the 2016/17 financial settlement from Welsh Government. An additional £1.2m was delegated to all schools via the fair funding formula during the 2016/17 budget round.
13.5.2	I understand that the Welsh Assembly has awarded more funding for education in Powys and hope some of this might be used to support the retention of smaller schools	Lobbying together with MPs and AMs successfully gained additional funding for Powys as part of the 2016/17 financial settlement from Welsh Government. An additional £1.2m was delegated to all schools via the fair funding formula during the 2016/17 budget round.
13.6 Other		
13.6.1	Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School offers 'value for money'	The cost per pupil for 2016/17 is £4410, which is 125% of the council's average.
13.6.2	The building at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School doesn't cost you anything	The school is funded for property costs in accordance with the Fair Funding Formula, and although there has not been significant capital expenditure recently, the authority is required to maintain the property to the required standards.
13.6.3	Dolau School is deemed to be running its budget in the red through a calculation drawn on average teacher costs	The school ended the 2015/16 financial year with a surplus of £13,359, and have a planned cumulative surplus of £3,832 for the year ended 31st March 2017
14 ISSUES RELATING TO LEADERSHIP AT LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON C.P. SCHOOL		
14.1	The current acting headteacher has brought in new ideas and encouragement to staff, governors and pupils	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.

14.2	The school has benefitted due to sharing the services and experience of a headteacher with Llanelwedd which is a result of effective deployment of resources	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
14.3	There is an excellent permanent headteacher at the school	The current arrangement in relation to leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not a permanent arrangement.
14.4	The school has continued to support Powys County Council in the idea of shared headship which has been working efficiently and cost effectively	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
14.5	The present solution of a shared head is working very well – enables sharing of resources, teaching ideas and expertise and helps to reduce costs	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
14.6	We have a permanent leadership arrangement at this school	The current arrangement in relation to leadership at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is not a permanent arrangement.
14.7	We have tried to work with you in the past to arrive at a more permanent leadership arrangement	The authority notes this comment.
14.8	Current shared arrangement with Llanelwedd works fantastically well	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
14.9	Current shared head means that children enjoy shared days out on trips, shared resources	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
14.10	Current shared head arrangement saves you money – should be	The current shared head arrangement is a saving to the school, as the authority funds a full time headteacher post in each school, however there is no saving to the authority.

	championed in other smaller primary schools	There are shared Headteacher arrangements in place across Powys, however in most cases, these are temporary arrangements.
14.11	Dolau found its own solution to a lack of a headteacher by working with Llanelwedd and sharing a headteacher	The authority notes this comment. However, this is a temporary arrangement.
14.12	The current arrangement is working effectively and efficiently	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
14.13	The current headteacher is doing a very successful job and is well liked by parents and children	The authority is pleased to note that the current shared head arrangement has been a success.
15 CRITICISM OF THE AUTHORITY		
15.1 General criticism of the council		
15.1.1	Ironic that the Council is thinking about closing the school when it is on the up	The authority notes this comment. The authority is currently reviewing the school as it met a number of the criteria for school review outlined in the authority's School Transformation Policy (2014).
15.1.2	Guessing that not one of those making the decisions have little grandchildren so they can't understand where we're coming from	The authority does not accept this comment. 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', and this is the authority's primary aim when developing school reorganisation proposals.
15.1.3	In Powys, children are treated as commodities to be bussed around	This is not true. The One Powys Plan states the authority's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The plan also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.1.4	Many in the community are losing their belief in Powys County Council	The authority notes this comment.

15.1.5	Shouldn't the Council be spending time looking at ways to improve schools that are struggling academically?	All schools are monitored, supported and challenged in line with the ERW consortium's Ladder of Support. This approach aligns with the National Categorisation of Schools.
15.1.6	It is the wrong time for the Council to have carried out consultation on changing the age of school admission	The authority notes this comment.
15.1.7	The message from Powys' Education Department is that 'We don't back you, we don't believe in you, we don't share your aspirations, we don't understand your ambitions'	The One Powys Plan states the authority's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The plan also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.1.8	There is a lack of vision from Powys Education Department, closure of rural schools has been a quick and easy fix to fill surplus places in larger local primary schools	The One Powys Plan states the authority's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The plan also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.1.9	Powys County Council cannot sit back and accept long term population trends as inevitable when this would mean an unsustainable future	The authority note this comment.
15.1.10	Too many bad judgements are made under the heading of 'Progress' or 'Modernisation'	The authority notes this comment.
15.1.11	The education department is failing the schools, the staff, the parents, the wider community and the children	The One Powys Plan states the authority's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The plan also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.

15.1.12	Closure of the school would be an inhumane act by the Council	The authority notes this comment.
15.1.13	The Council has not fully thought out the full implications of shutting this school	The authority notes this comment. All issues raised during the consultation will be taken into consideration by the council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
15.1.14	Wouldn't the Council's time be better spent on Ysgol Bro Hyddgen which is failing educationally and financially?	All schools are monitored, supported and challenged in line with the ERW consortium's Ladder of Support. This approach aligns with the National Categorisation of Schools.
15.2 Criticism of the Cabinet		
15.2.1	Request for Cabinet members to visit the school	Cabinet members have visited the school.
15.2.2	Councillors and the Cabinet need to take heed of who elected them and who they serve	The authority notes this comment.
15.2.3	Is there any local representation on the Cabinet?	Two of the nine current Cabinet members are from Radnorshire.
15.2.4	In a press release, Barry Thomas said the consultation was not simply about money, but what other reason do you have to close the school?	The reasons why the authority is proposing closure of the school were listed in the consultation document, and are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school has had fewer than 50 pupils on roll for the three previous years and numbers are not projected to increase to above 50 - The funding per pupil is more than 120% of the council's average
15.2.5	Cabinet have admitted that it is not the standard of education that is in question, that this is because of pupil numbers and because the school is	The authority notes this comment.

	under capacity, however the school will be at capacity at Christmas	
15.3 Criticism of officers		
15.3.1	Powys officers feed inaccuracies and untruths to councillors	This comment is refuted.
15.3.2	Officers are fooling the cabinet members with incorrect information time and time again	This comment is refuted.
15.3.3	Officers do not seem to be able to produce or listen to the facts and figures continually given to them by the Head, governors, parents and wider community	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges the additional information that have been received. The consultation documentation is based on the latest verified information that was available to the authority at the time.
15.3.4	Surely someone is accountable for the inaccuracies in the documentation?	The consultation documentation is based on the latest verified information that was available to the authority at the time.
15.4 Criticism of Council's money saving plans		
15.4.1	The Council should reduce costs in other ways – why do we need a Powys building at the RWAS?	The authority notes this comment.
15.4.2	Closing small schools is an easy target	The authority notes this comment. However, the One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'. Schools were identified for review in accordance with the criteria in the authority's School Transformation Policy (2014).
15.4.3	There are plenty of savings that could be made to the Education budget	The Authority notes this comment. The Schools Service has identified £4.5m of savings over the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years, which is part of the Authority's

Medium Term Financial Strategy.		
15.4.4	Children are not a column in a profit and loss account – their education is important and worth investing in	The authority notes this comment. The One Powys Plan states the authority's aim to ensure that 'All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential'. The plan also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.4.5	Schools will be against the proposal to change the school admission age if it lowers their pupil numbers	The authority notes this comment and the impact the change to the age of admission will have on school pupil numbers.
15.4.6	You will have to increase funding for pre-school settings if the school admission age changes	This will be considered as part of the Change of Admission Age project.
15.5 Criticism of Council policy		
15.5.1	Powys County Council does not work hard enough to find alternative methods of delivery to address the needs of its residents	The authority notes this comment. A range of options were considered in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, these are listed in the consultation document.
15.5.2	Powys should keep as many schools open as possible	The authority notes this comment. However, the One Powys Plan states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.5.3	Urge the Education Department and County Councillors to give serious consideration to re-thinking the school modernisation programme which promotes school closures	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.4	Unacceptable that the Council is planning to close 8 more schools	The authority notes this comment.

15.5.5	Powys County Council's education department needs to modernise its thinking in relation to keeping thriving communities alive rather than killing them	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.6	Feel that Powys County Council are doing too much too quickly with regard to the reorganisation of schools in Powys, with the closure of high schools and primary schools	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.7	The One Powys Plan states that 'In strong communities people are in touch, talk to and help each other out. They are more likely to feel that they belong and have a sense of pride about where they live. With reduced public sector funding, it is important we work together to develop resilient sustainable communities both in rural and urban areas' – closing the school would be against the Council's own policy	The authority notes this comment, and acknowledges that this is stated in the One Powys Plan. However, the One Powys Plan also states that 'we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity'.
15.5.8	Once you start closing schools you will never open them again	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.9	The Council's Transport Policy could be legally challenged – it is illegal to make parents travel a mile with their children to catch a bus – parents do that to be helpful	The authority notes this comment.
15.5.10	The Council needs to work on a long	The authority notes this comment.

	term plan to attract families with children – working up proposals that will attract the wealth-creating sectors of the future and lobbying Welsh and Westminster Governments for support e.g. energy generation and other environmental technologies, sustainable agriculture	
15.5.11	PCC could ask parents to pay for school transport, as happens with school dinners	Free home to school transport is currently provided to pupils in accordance with the authority's home to school transport policy.
15.5.12	Why are the authority obsessed with reducing surplus places?	In 2012, the Welsh Government set targets for all authorities to reduce surplus places in schools. Further to this, Estyn published a report entitled 'How do surplus places affect the resources available for expenditure on improving outcomes for pupils' in May 2012, which concluded that 'where there is a higher than necessary level of school places, resources are being deployed inefficiently that could be better used to improve the quality of education for all learners.'
15.6 Criticism of the Council's treatment of rural communities		
15.6.1	Shortsighted approach by the Council which does little to address the needs of rural communities	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.2	Powys County Council does not take its responsibilities to rural communities robustly enough	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.

15.6.3	Local Government has an obligation to the communities they serve	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.4	Understand the issues and problems that face Powys, but also understand the value to Powys of the community in which we live	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.5	Closing so many rural schools will inevitably lead to the decline of those communities	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.6	Closure would be another step towards making Mid Wales a social, cultural and economic wilderness	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.7	Decisions made by councillors will decimate the communities they serve	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.

15.6.8	The council should be bringing communities together, not removing its heart	The authority is committed to addressing the needs of rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.9	Unfair to the people of rural Radnorshire to be penalised in this way because of the geography of where they choose to live	As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority's aspiration is to ensure that 'all children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential', and this is the primary consideration when reorganising schools. The authority's view is that high quality education can be provided to the current pupils of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School at Crossgates C.P. School, and that this school is within a reasonable travel distance.
15.6.10	Rural nature of Powys causes unique challenges which require unique local solutions	The authority is fully aware of the challenges caused by the rural nature of Powys. A number of options were considered in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, these are listed in the consultation document.
15.6.11	Rural communities want to expand but are not allowed to by local authorities	The authority note this comment.
15.6.12	Powys need to recognise the importance of ensuring that rural communities thrive, benefit from and contribute to economic growth	The authority is committed to supporting rural communities. This is reflected in the One Powys Plan, which includes 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities' as one of its priorities. However, 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
15.6.13	Rural tax payers get little or nothing for their taxation other than the school – all that would be left would be rubbish collections	Should the school close, education would continue to be provided to children living in Dolau at an alternative school, and free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils.
15.6.14	The Council should have a more	The authority notes this comment. As stated in the One Powys Plan, the authority is

	positive outlook on the role of local schools	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'.
15.6.15	In 2011 an estimated 58.7% of Powys residents lived in villages, hamlets and isolated dwellings' – this shows that there is a need for rural schools as such a large percentage of people live in rural places	The authority is fully aware that a large percentage of Powys residents live in rural areas.
15.6.16	If the Council continues with its policy of wholesale closure of rural schools, particularly in Brecon and Radnorshire, the future rural workforce will simply not exist	The authority notes this comment.
15.6.17	If the proposal goes ahead, it will be seen in the future to have been as short-sighted as the Beeching proposals for the closure of the Heart of Wales railway line	The authority notes this comment.
15.6.18	Equality Act 2010 – there to eliminate discrimination against people for any reason. We are being discriminated against because we are a small community, as are Llanbister and Nantmel	The review of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School was triggered by a process which considered a number of criteria. Ultimately, the primary consideration for the Authority when reorganising schools is the interests of the child. The School Organisation Code states that 'the primary purpose of schools is the provision of education'. The requirements of the Equality Act 2010 were taken into consideration through the production of an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of this proposal, which was included in the consultation document. This Assessment will be updated to reflect views received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
15.6.29	How can Powys make towns and	The authority notes this comment. 'Stronger, safer and economically viable communities'

	villages 'more community focussed, self reliant and resilient' by closing our rural school?	is one of the priorities in the One Powys Plan. 'Transformation Learning and Skills' is another priority within the Plan, and 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'.
16 QUESTIONS ABOUT / ISSUES WITH THE PROCESS		
16.1 Consultation meetings		
16.1.1	Disappointed that points put to the panel in the consultation meeting weren't answered	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	Disappointed that I was only allowed 5 minutes to talk through my financial analysis at the consultation meeting, this was nowhere near long enough	The authority notes this comment. The purpose of the consultation meeting was to hear the views of a wide range of stakeholders, therefore the amount of time allocated for each individual to speak had to be restricted.
16.1.3	I am awaiting answers to questions that were asked at the consultation meeting	Information was provided in response to specific requests.
16.1.4	The public consultation meeting showed the integrity and compassion and commitment of the community	The authority notes this comment.
16.1.5	Over 200 members of the local community attended the public meeting, where we were subjected to out of date information, inaccuracies, estimates and lies from Powys officials	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.
16.1.6	People left the meeting frustrated and exasperated by the attitude of the	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,

	officials	including those raised in the consultation meetings, are provided in this report.
16.1.7	The meeting raised more questions than it gave answers	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.
16.1.8	A disgrace that none of you had prepared answers to many of the questions asked by concerned parents at the consultation meeting	Officers were unable to prepare answers to the questions as they were unaware of the questions that would be 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.
16.1.9	Not good enough that officers were unable to answer questions on the impact of school closures on communities	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.
16.1.10	You only need to look at the number of people that attended the public meeting to know how well supported the school is	The authority notes this comment.
16.1.11	The panel did not want some of the facts and figures that had been gathered to be displayed on the projector, however this was not a problem at one of the other schools	At the public Consultation Meeting held at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, following a request from a member of the public, a short presentation was provided by the community.
16.1.12	The meeting in one of the other schools continued well beyond the allotted time until every question had been asked	The authority notes this comment. The authority's view is that two hours is sufficient for a meeting of this type, however there can be a level of flexibility with this.
16.1.13	It was unfair that the schools did not have a level playing field at the	The authority planned all consultation meetings in the same way in order to ensure consistency, however the audiences at each meeting participated in different ways.

consultation meetings		
16.2 SORP process		
16.2.1	How many of the criteria for review of a school have to be met in order to trigger a review?	There is no minimum number of criteria that have to be met in order to trigger a review. Any school that met one or more of the criteria could have been reviewed.
16.2.2	Crossgates C.P. School has surplus capacity – why has that not triggered a review of Crossgates?	Crossgates C.P. School only met one of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014). The schools currently being reviewed met more than one of the criteria.
16.2.3	The condition of the Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School building is not urgent enough to trigger a review	The authority notes this comment. However, the building condition met the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014).
16.2.4	Concern that the SORP process has been created with the sole aim of closing rural schools	The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’ The SORP process was established to review schools based on a range of criteria which are common to all schools, regardless of size and area.
16.2.5	The SORP process is not at all independent and unbiased, and is not acting in the best interests of our children or community	The One Powys Plan states that ‘we need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.’ The SORP process was established to review schools based on a range of criteria which are common to all schools, regardless of size and area.
16.2.6	The main criteria should be educational standards	The authority notes this comment. Educational standards is one of the criteria for review listed in the School Transformation Policy. Where schools are reviewed, the Council is committed to ensuring that education of an equivalent standard is provided at the named receiving school.
16.2.7	There are many other schools in the county that have a higher cost per pupil, and it is unfair that this school is being ‘picked on’ in this way	All schools were ranked against the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy, and the SORP determined which schools to review based on this exercise. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School met a number of the criteria, and this is the reason why the school is being reviewed. It is not true that the school is being ‘picked on’.

16.2.8	There are other schools in Powys whose cost per pupil is far greater than Dolau and where standards are not as high, yet these are not being reviewed	All schools were ranked against the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy, and the SORP determined which schools to review based on this exercise. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School met a number of the criteria, and this is the reason why the school is being reviewed.
16.2.9	Feel that Dolau should not have been put into consultation in the first place as the figures are not current	Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is under review as a result of meeting a number of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014).
16.2.10	Size is not a determining factor in terms of how good a school is – there are good schools of all sizes	The authority acknowledges that there are good examples of small schools and larger schools. However, pupil numbers was one of the criteria outlined in the School Transformation Policy (2014) to be used to identify schools to be reviewed, and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School met this criteria.
16.3 View that a final decision has already been made		
16.3.1	Have no expectation that the consultation exercise will change the decision doubtless already made to close the school	No decision has been made on the future of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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	Suspect the consultation exercise is being undertaken simply to fulfil statutory obligations	No decision has been made on the future of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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.
16.3.3	Hope that the council will honour its promise to give due regard to the wishes of the local people they have been elected to represent	The decision on how to proceed in relation to this proposal will be made by the Council's Cabinet. Cabinet members will receive the consultation report which lists all issues raised during the consultation period, and will take this into consideration when determining how to proceed in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
16.3.4	If funding in Powys is so short, no one will have time to read through the	All consultation responses received will be read.

responses		
16.4 Other		
16.4.1	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.
16.4.2	If only one school in the local area is to close, the reason should be educational standards	The authority notes this comment.
16.4.3	The School Organisation Code requires authorities to assess the full impact of closure of a school on the local community	A community impact assessment was carried out in line with the guidance provided in the School Organisation Code. All issues raised during the consultation relating to the proposal's impact on the community will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.
16.4.4	Angry that so much money is being wasted on the consultation procedure – staff hours will negate any savings that might have been made	The authority notes this comment.
16.4.5	Waste of tax payers and councillors time on consultation – can only be described as a farce	The authority notes this comment.
16.4.6	Has Powys informed Estyn of the proposals?	Yes, Powys has informed Estyn of the proposal. Their response to the consultation is provided in this consultation report.
16.4.7	Parents at Crossgates C.P. School feel like they have been totally overlooked	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.

16.4.8	Why was the playgroup not consulted?	Copies of the consultation document were provided to the school for distribution to the playgroup.
16.4.9	Request for assurance that the inaccuracies of the whole process and the way in which the consultation was handled and the way the education department deals with schools, governing bodies and staff is looked into thoroughly?	The consultation process has been carried out in compliance with the School Organisation Code and the Schools Transformation Policy 2014. Issues raised in respect of inaccuracies with data have been addressed in this consultation report.
16.4.10	Have the governors and parents at Crossgates been involved in this consultation?	The governors and parents at Crossgates C.P. School have been informed of the consultation.
17 QUESTIONS ABOUT / ISSUES WITH THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION		
17.1 Aspects which aren't included in the documentation		
17.1.1	Has the Council looked at pre-school aged activity?	Reference is made to pre-school activity in the Community Impact Assessment on page 33 of the consultation document. The Community Impact Assessment will be updated to take account of view received 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 has failed to identify the social costs of closing a well-established and successful community school in a sparsely populated but socially active area	The consultation document included a community impact assessment, which was based on the guidance in the School Organisation Code, which considered the proposal's impact on the community. This community 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.
17.1.3	The proposer has not commented on end of key stage outcomes for each school when compared with similar schools based on entitlement to free school meals	This statement is true. Information on the quality current provision is provided on pages 18 – 20 of the consultation document, and includes details of the latest Estyn inspections of each affected school, and details of the latest categorisation of each school as part of the National School Categorisation System.

17.1.4	A lack of information has been given on the impacts of school closure on other more recently closed schools	The authority notes this comment.
17.1.5	The playgroup is not mentioned in the consultation document	Reference is made to the playgroup in relation to community use of the school building in the Community Impact Assessment on page 33 of the consultation document. The Community Impact Assessment will be updated to take account of view received during the consultation period and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.1.6	School Organisation Code requires authorities to assess the full impact of closure on the local community	The consultation document included a community impact assessment, which was based on the guidance in the School Organisation Code, which considered the proposal's impact on the community. This community 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.
17.1.7	Surely you should have carried out full investigations into possible impacts on the community before going to consultation – this was clearly not the case	The consultation document included a community impact assessment, which was based on the guidance in the School Organisation Code, which considered the proposal's impact on the community. The information included in this assessment was provided by Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and the named receiving school. This community 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.
17.1.8	The document doesn't highlight the nature of the cost of additional transport to the children in terms of lost time, environmental impact	The authority notes this comment.
17.1.9	School Organisation Code – 'When considering whether a closure is appropriate, special attention should be given to the following: the overall effect of a closure on the local	The consultation document included a community impact assessment, which was based on the guidance in the School Organisation Code, which considered the proposal's impact on the community. The information included in this assessment was provided by Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and the named receiving school. This community impact assessment will be updated to take account of issues raised during the

	community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community), particularly in rural areas or those receiving funding as part of regeneration activity'	consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.1.10	The council has not carried out a full investigation into the social and economic impact of closure on the local community – there is no indication of the scale and nature of the impact, whether this will be in the short, medium or long term	The authority has carried out a Community Impact Assessment in-line with the guidance in the School Organisation Code. This will be updated to take account of views expressed during the consultation period and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. Whilst the Council acknowledges that closure of a school will have an impact on the local community, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.
17.1.11	There is no evidence that the council has considered the wider impact of rural school closures on the rural economy	The authority has carried out a Community Impact Assessment in-line with the guidance in the School Organisation Code. This will be updated to take account of views expressed during the consultation period and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. Whilst the Council acknowledges that closure of a school will have an impact on the local community, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.
17.1.12	There is no evidence that any account has been given to the long term future of the substantially rural nature of our county	The authority has carried out a Community Impact Assessment in-line with the guidance in the School Organisation Code. This will be updated to take account of views expressed during the consultation period and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. Whilst the Council acknowledges that closure of a school will have an impact on the local community, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.
17.1.13	There is no reference to 'disruption to children' in Appendix A – Benefits and Outcomes	This is true. 'Disruption to children' is not a benefit of this proposal, therefore would not be included in this section.

17.1.14	The consultation document does not refer to research or consultation with other education authorities that have championed rural education, which is disappointing	The authority notes this comment.
17.1.15	The proposals presented by Powys County Council lacked an assessment of the potential impact of closing the school on the community	The authority has carried out a Community Impact Assessment in-line with the guidance in the School Organisation Code. This will be updated to take account of views expressed during the consultation period and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. Whilst the Council acknowledges that closure of a school will have an impact on the local community, economic and social factors are non-educational issues and they should not be allowed to compromise the education of children.
17.1.16	The proposals do not fulfil the requirements of the Wales Wellbeing Act	A Single Integrated Impact Assessment, which takes account of the requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, will be considered 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 figures in the consultation document have been called into question	The authority notes this comment. The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.2.2	There are inaccuracies and estimates by the officers in the consultation document	The authority notes this comment. The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.2.3	The consultation document minimises the impact of the school's closure by reference to the continued provision of the community hall	The authority is not proposing any change to the community hall.
17.2.4	The table on p12 re financial savings shows a complete lack of details and	The authority notes this comment.

	transparency	
17.2.5	If estimates are to be used, any assumptions used must be clearly stated to allow critical analysis	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.6	In your weaknesses of closure, you have not listed the impact on the children – shouldn't they be our priority?	The authority notes this comment. The weaknesses do refer to the impact of additional travel for pupils.
17.2.7	The consultation paper is full of inaccuracies, in particular pupil numbers	As stated in the consultation document, the data includes pupils from Reception to Year 6 based on the latest verified PLASC information that was available at the time.
17.2.8	The transport costs are inaccurate in the consultation paper	The additional transport costs have been estimated by the authority at a net additional £120 per day.
17.2.9	Confusion around the figures provided for capacity of Crossgates C.P. School	Crossgates C.P. School has 7 classrooms in the main building, each with a capacity of 30 pupils (210 in total). The school has a maximum capacity to accommodate 238 pupils which would include the use of the mobile classroom on the site.
17.2.10	There were 31 pupils, including early years, in the school in January 2015, but in the consultation document it says there were 29	As stated in the consultation document, the data includes pupils from Reception to Year 6 based on the latest verified PLASC information that was available at the time.
17.2.11	There are two pupils at the school that receive free school meals	As stated in the consultation document, the data is based on the latest verified PLASC information that was available at the time. At this time, no pupils were eligible for free school meals. The equality impact assessment will be updated to include the most recent data, and this will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
17.2.12	On what basis do you project that pupil numbers in the future will be as low as they are now?	The information provided in the consultation document states that pupil numbers at Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School are expected to increase.

17.2.13	No great account is taken of population change in the area	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.14	Consultation document contains wrong information – pupil numbers are wrong, additional transport cost is wrong, canteen cost is wrong	The authority notes this comment. The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation document is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.2.15	Document uses historical rather than current information in a few places	The authority notes this comment. The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation document is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.2.16	Free school meals – just because a child doesn't have free school meals doesn't mean that they are not eligible	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.17	Closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon, Llanbister and Nantmel schools would mean that the impact on Crossgates would be much more than 'not have a significant impact'	The authority notes this comment. Reference is made to the fact that closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, Llanbister C.P. School and Nantmel C in W School would have a more significant impact on Crossgates C.P. School in sections (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) on pages 9 and 10 of the consultation document.
17.2.18	Challenge the presumption in the consultation document that 'pupil numbers on the Dolau site would continue to be below 50' in all scenarios	The authority notes this comment. The projected pupil numbers provided on page 17 of the consultation document show that pupil numbers are proposed to remain well below 50 over the next 5 years. Although information has been received which suggests that there may be a greater increase in pupil numbers, it is unlikely that pupil numbers would rise to be above 50.
17.2.19	Challenge to the strengths and weaknesses outlined for the various options in the consultation document	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.20	Challenge to the advantages and	The authority notes this comment.

	disadvantages of the proposal listed in the consultation document	
17.2.21	Challenge to the risks associated with the proposal listed in the consultation document	The authority notes this comment.
17.3 General criticism of the consultation document		
17.3.1	The case for closure as outlined in the consultation document left me totally unconvinced	The authority notes this comment.
17.3.2	The reasoning lacks substance	The authority notes this comment.
17.3.3	The endless tables in the consultation document feel computer generated rather than being the result of intelligent reasoning	The authority notes this comment. The consultation document has been produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which requires the inclusion of a significant amount of data.
17.3.4	Not convinced that information was available in a child-friendly form	A pupil version of the consultation document was produced, which was in line with the pupil versions produced for previous proposals, which were developed with input from the authority's Children and Young People's Partnership. In addition, officers met with the School Council of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School to discuss the proposal with them.
17.3.5	Surely a decision to close a school should at least be based on accurate and up to date information	The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.3.6	The Council should be consulting with the correct figures, not incorrect figures	The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.3.7	You said that the consultation document was a work in progress – it	The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when

	should not be a work in progress. The document you consult on has to be accurate	the document was produced.
17.3.8	How can anyone have confidence in the council when the veracity of the consultation document is in such obvious doubt?	The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.4 Other		
17.4.1	Kirsty Williams advised in the consultation meeting that the consultation document should have been factual in the first place	The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
17.4.2	Hope the council response to the consultation will clearly indicate the degree to which children have been consulted, been responsive and had their views properly considered, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	The issues raised by pupils are outlined on page 4 – 6 of this report, and responses to the issues raised are provided in the main body of the report. Issues raised by pupils will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
17.4.3	How can you have a valid consultation when it is based on wrong information issued by the council?	The authority is satisfied that the information contained in the consultation is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date verified information that was available to the authority when the document was produced.
18 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS		
18.1 Federation / Split Site School		
18.1.1	Why not have one headteacher for Dolau and Llanbister?	The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of amalgamating or federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be

		<p>considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.1.2	Federation with another school would be a good idea as the school already shares a headteacher with another school	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.1.3	Federation would mean no upheaval for pupils and would keep the community growing	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.1.4	Dolau school is already semi-federated with a school head from another school	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p>

		All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.1.5	What about federation?	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.1.6	Why hasn't the option of federation been included in the consultation document?	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, and this option is listed on page 6 of the consultation document. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.1.7	Federation would be appropriate – reference to successful models such as the Wye Forest Federation	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet</p>

		when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.1.8	Federation or sharing headteachers would lead to the advantage of sharing teacher expertise and makes the use of specialist teachers an easier option	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.1.9	Urge you to consider federation as a cost saving which would allow for flexibility in the future	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of federating with another school when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. The school currently shares a headteacher with Llanelwedd C. in W. School, and as the Welsh Government's Federation Regulations do not allow federation between a Church school and a C.P. school, federation between these two schools is not possible.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.2 Status Quo		
18.2.1	The Council should pursue the option of keeping the school open in its present form	The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of maintaining the Status Quo when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However this was not considered to be a

		<p>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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.2.2	There is nothing to stop the Council choosing to keep a thriving small school open as there is no significant evidence to suggest that schools the size of this one cannot be successful	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of maintaining the Status Quo when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.2.3	Why doesn't the authority keep Dolau open to accept children from the 2 other schools, or at least children from Llanbister?	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of maintaining the Status Quo when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.2.4	The Council could use our school as a rural option, which would enable local people to educate their children here and would free up spaces at bigger, more centrally placed primary schools	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of maintaining the Status Quo when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.2.5	The school could fly the 'rural option' flag for Powys	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered the option of maintaining the Status Quo when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon 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</p>

when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.		
18.3 Shared Headship		
18.3.1	The Council should consider the benefits of the current shared headship arrangement	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	One head could be shared by three smaller schools, resulting in even less cost	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.
18.3.3	Urge you to consider sharing headteachers as a cost saving which would allow for flexibility in the future	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	Joint management of staff and resources across several schools	The authority notes this comment.
18.4.2	Closer working with other local schools	The authority notes this comment.
18.4.3	Pooling resources would be a good place to start – keeping costs down but broadening horizons	The authority notes this comment. Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School is already part of a shared headteacher arrangement with Llanelwedd C. in W. which has allowed for some pooling of resources, however this is not a permanent arrangement.
18.4.4	Have you looked at methods of joint	The authority uses video conferencing in the secondary sector to deliver specific subjects

	working with other schools e.g. video conferencing, other IT ideas – these are used elsewhere in public and private education	where there are small classes in one or more schools. In most cases, the video conferencing at secondary level is used for post-16 or 14-16 provision, where pupils are able to supervise themselves. However, the authority does not believe this an appropriate or acceptable delivery method for primary education.
18.4.5	Shared teaching via skype and video conferencing	The authority uses video conferencing in the secondary sector to deliver specific subjects where there are small classes in one or more schools. In most cases, the video conferencing at secondary level is used for post-16 or 14-16 provision, where pupils are able to supervise themselves. However, the authority does not believe this is an appropriate or acceptable delivery method for primary education.
18.4.6	The council should develop new collaborative models of education delivery that ensure that children are educated in the community	The authority notes this comment.
18.4.7	Collaborative model is already successfully delivering a quality educational experience via the collaborative arrangements between Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Llanelwedd	The authority notes this comment and is pleased to note the success of the current collaborative arrangements between Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and Llanelwedd C. in W. School. However, this is not a permanent arrangement.
18.4.8	There is no evidence to suggest that the council has made any effort to deal with issues in relation to collaboration between C.P. and Church in Wales Schools	The authority notes this comment. However, the current shared headteacher arrangement between Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and Llanelwedd C in W School is an example of successful collaboration between C.P. and Church in Wales schools.
18.4.9	Collaboration model between the two schools should be pursued further rather than looking at closure as the first option	The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered a range of options when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However these options were not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet

		when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.4.10	Llanbister C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School should be working together to make sure we have the most viable primary school system we can get.	<p>The authority notes this comment. The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered a range of options when deciding on the draft recommendations to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School and Llanbister C.P. School, which included federation or amalgamation with other schools. However these options were 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.4.11	The school has formed relationships with Nantmel and now Llanelwedd which works well, this should be encouraged to ensure pupils can continue to be educated in their community	The authority notes this comment.
18.5 Examples of successful arrangements elsewhere		
18.5.1	In England, local involvement and management has led to small schools filling up and being rated outstanding E.g. Almeley and Dilwyn in Herefordshire	The authority notes this comment.
18.5.2	Have Cabinet members been in contact with or visited small schools that have remained open by various means? Will they?	No, Cabinet members have not been in contact with or visited small school that have remained open and there are no current plans for them to do so. However, the authority regularly has discussions with various authorities within Wales through networks arranged by the regional consortium and the Welsh Government.
18.5.3	In England, small schools have saved themselves from closure by becoming free schools – parents like this approach and pupil numbers and	The authority notes this comment.

	standards have gone up	
18.5.4	English primary schools are investing in primary education and diversifying into academies, so taking control from local authorities	The authority notes this comment.
18.5.5	Have you looked at other areas where there are small rural schools?	The authority regularly has discussions with various authorities within Wales through networks arranged by the regional consortium and the Welsh Government.
18.5.6	Reference to Wye Forest federation in Gloucestershire – their Ofsted reportsd have improved since federation	The authority notes this comment.
18.5.7	Has the Portfolio Holder done any research into solutions for saving small schools e.g. Dilwyn and Almeley schools in Herefordshire where pupil numbers are less?	No, the Portfolio Holder has not done any research of this kind. However, the authority regularly has discussions with various authorities within Wales through networks arranged by the regional consortium and the Welsh Government.
18.5.8	Have you spoken to Governors and Cabinet members in other rural counties?	The authority regularly has discussions with various authorities within Wales through networks arranged by the regional consortium and the Welsh Government.
18.5.9	If the school was in England and was closed, it would become a thriving free school, however that is not an option in Wales	The authority notes this comment.
18.6 Other Comments		
18.6.1	Dolau can work to provide an alternative method of teaching delivery – you should be ensuring that	The authority notes this comment.

	the community and the Council works together to make this happen	
18.6.2	The Council should lobby the Welsh Government to allow Free Schools as in England	The authority notes this comment.
18.6.3	The Council should pursue options that would enable continued education at this school	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered a range of options when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However these options were 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.6.4	The rural nature of Powys causes unique challenges which require unique local solutions	The authority notes this comment.
18.6.5	There is an opportunity here to make improvements instead of insignificant savings	The authority notes this comment.
18.6.6	Has the Council thought of school twinning?	<p>The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered a range of options when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However these options were 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 Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.</p>
18.6.7	Urge you to consider all options before making any decisions	The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered a range of options when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However these options were not considered to be a suitable solution at that time.

		All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.6.8	The school has made enquiries about becoming a Church in Wales school	The authority notes this comment.
18.6.9	You have a responsibility to have a vision for the future and to look at new ways of working so that small schools can be viable and there is career progression for teachers	The authority notes this comment.
18.6.10	There are other options which would mean that the children could stay in their community – the community wants to work with you to achieve this	The School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) considered a range of options when deciding on the draft recommendation to be considered by Cabinet in respect of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. However these options were not considered to be a suitable solution at that time. All alternative options suggested during this consultation will be considered by Cabinet when determining the way forward in relation to Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.6.11	Sometimes it is better to find a solution that works for communities and not budgets	The authority notes this comment.
18.6.12	Powys could take a more imaginative approach to the future development of schooling and educational provision	The authority notes this comment.
19 OTHER QUESTIONS / COMMENTS		
19.1	Concern about Llandrindod High School closing and pupils having to travel another 11 miles to get to Builth	This consultation is about the future of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School. Possible changes to secondary provision are being considered as part of a separate exercise, however the current proposal for the reorganisation of secondary schools includes

	Wells	retaining the provision on the Llandrindod High School site.
19.2	Closing the school would be a backward slide, pushing us into being a third world country	The authority does not agree that closure of Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School would push us into being a third world country.
19.3	People living in Dolau pay the same council tax as people living in towns where there are more things for children to do	The authority notes this comment.
19.4	If the school closes, would council tax go down for the people of Dolau?	Should Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School close, there would not be a reduction in council tax for the people of Dolau. Education would continue to be provided to children living in Dolau in an alternative school.
19.5	Reference to BBC Question Time on the 19 th April 2016 – politicians confirm that there are over 100 schools in Wales without a headteacher	The authority is fully aware of the difficulties with recruiting headteachers currently being faced in Wales.
20 COMMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSAL		
20.1	Understand the financial benefits of closing small schools and grouping pupils in one larger school	The authority notes this comment.
20.2	The proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area	The authority notes this comment.
20.3	Pupils would be able to make more friends, so they would know more people when they went to high school	The authority notes this comment.

20.4	There will be more time for teachers to explain the lessons because they will only have to explain a lesson for 1 year and not 3 or 4 years	The authority notes this comment.
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