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CABINET
Tuesday, 26th January, 2021

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S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K

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| 1. | MOUNT STREET INFANT SCHOOL, MOUNT STREET JUNIOR SCHOOL
AND CRADOC CP SCHOOL |
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To consider a report by County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property.

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**CABINET EXECUTIVE**26th January 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies
Portfolio Holder for Education and Property

REPORT TITLE: Mount Street Infant School, Mount Street Junior School
and Cradoc CP School – Proposal Paper

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1. On the 23rd December 2020, the Council's Cabinet considered a Proposal Paper in respect of Mount Street Infant School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, and approved the following recommendation:

That Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process on the following proposal:

Phase 1

- To amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School to create a new primary school that would operate from the current three sites
- The target date for establishing the new primary school is September 2022.

Phase 2

- To make a regulated alteration to transfer the school to a new school building on a new site in Brecon

- 1.2. Cabinet approved on 23rd December 2020 to proceed to consultation, however, additional information has been obtained from the three schools concerned. A Community Impact Assessment has been prepared based on this additional information. Cabinet are asked to re-consider whether or not to proceed with the recommendation approved on the 23rd December in light of the additional information contained in the Community Impact Assessment at Appendix C.
- 1.3 The report includes the following recommendations:
- i) To consider the Community Impact Assessment, and

- ii) To consider whether or not to proceed with the recommendation approved on the 23rd December in light of the Community Impact Assessment as follows:

‘That Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process on the following proposal

Phase 1

- *To amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School to create a new primary school that would operate from the current three sites*
- *The target date for establishing the new primary school is September 2022.*

Phase 2

To make a regulated alteration to transfer the school to a new school building on a new site in Brecon’

- 1.4 The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Options Appraisal – Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc

Appendix B – Integrated Impact Assessment

Appendix C – Community Impact Assessment

2. Background

Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys

- 2.1. On the 14th April 2020, a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved by the Leader via a delegated decision.
- 2.2. The Strategy was developed following extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders during two separate periods between October 2019 and March 2020.
- 2.3. The Strategy sets out a new vision for education in Powys, which is as follows:
- ‘All children and young people in Powys will experience a high quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.’*
- 2.3 The Strategy also sets out a number of guiding principles which will underpin the transformation of education in Powys. These are as follows:

- *A world class rural education system that has learner entitlement at its core*
 - *Schools that are fully inclusive, with a culture of deep collaboration in order to improve learner outcomes and experience*
 - *A broad choice and high quality of provision for 14 – 19 year old learners, that includes both academic and vocational provision, meeting the needs of all learners, communities and the Powys economy*
 - *Welsh-medium provision that is accessible and provides a full curriculum in Welsh from Meithrin to age 19 and beyond*
 - *Provision for learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) that is accessible as near to home as is practicably possible, with the appropriate specialist teaching, support and facilities that enables every learner to meet their potential*
 - *A digitally-rich schools sector that enables all learners and staff to enhance their teaching and learning experience*
 - *Community-focused schools that are the central point for multi-agency services to support children, young people, families and the community*
 - *Early years provision that is designed to meet the needs of all children, mindful of their particular circumstances, language requirements or any special or additional learning needs*
 - *Financially and environmentally sustainable schools*
 - *The highest priority is given to staff wellbeing and professional development*
- 2.4. The new Strategy sets out a number of Strategic Aims and Objectives, to shape the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. One of these Aims is to '*improve learner entitlement and experience*' and includes an objective to '*rationalise primary provision*'.

3. The Case for Change

3.1 The preferred way forward for the Mount Street schools and Cradoc CP School was outlined the Programme Business Case that was considered by Cabinet on the 29th September 2020. A number of options were considered and assessed, and further information was also included in the paper considered by Cabinet on the 23rd December 2020.

3.2 The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School:

3.3 Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors

i) Building condition

The current building condition of the two schools is as follows:

	Condition
Mount Street Infants School	C – Poor
Mount Street Junior School	C – Poor

There are issues with building condition in both schools, with the condition of both schools being rated as poor, with approximately £1.7m in backlog maintenance outstanding across the two sites.

ii) Last remaining infant and junior schools in Powys

School reorganisation in Powys has gradually moved to a model of ‘all-through’ provision in primary schools across the county. Mount Street Infant and Junior Schools represent the last remaining separate infant and junior schools within the County.

The advantages offered by single school provision for primary age pupils are well known and evidence based. Due in part to an increased critical mass of learners, ‘all-through’ primary schools are usually able to offer both enhanced continuity of provision and a curriculum which is more broad and balanced in content delivered in a continuous and coherent way from the Foundation Phase through to the end of Key Stage 2.

iii) Transition arrangements

Whilst the two schools work closely together to minimise disruption for pupils on transition from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 in order to ensure that they can effectively move from one school to the other, the current arrangement does mean that there is an additional transition for pupils during their educational careers, which can cause disruption to pupils and their families.

iv) Staff development opportunities

The current arrangement provides the opportunity for staff to specialise in a particular educational phase – either Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2. However, this does mean that it is more difficult for them to gain experience across the primary age range.

3.4 Cradoc C.P. School

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Cradoc C.P. School:

i) Decreasing pupil numbers¹

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Cradoc C.P. School	141	139	136	142	133	123	112

Pupil numbers have decreased significantly over the last five years. It has a capacity of 175 pupils² with 95 on roll, according to latest pupil data, although forecasting information suggests pupil numbers may increase.

ii) Building condition

The current building condition of the school is as follows:

	Condition
Cradoc C.P. School	C – Poor

There are issues with building condition at Cradoc C.P. School, with the condition of the school being rated as poor, with approximately £628k in backlog maintenance outstanding. The building is also not fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

iii) Building configuration

The configuration of the school is problematic and creates safeguarding concerns. The school also utilises three aging demountable buildings, only one of which has toilet facilities; therefore children have to leave the classroom to enter the main building in order to use the toilets.

4. Information about Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School

The following is a summary of key data relating to the three schools:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ³	Rural School? ⁴
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¹ PLASC

² Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

³ Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2011-22

⁴ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second->

Mount Street Infants School	Community Infants School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	43	No
Mount Street Junior School	Community Junior School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	43	No
Cradoc C.P. School	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	25	Yes

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁵

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Mount Street Infants School	39	33	41					113
Mount Street Junior School				47	49	38	39	173
Cradoc C.P. School	13	10	12	19	14	13	14	95
TOTAL	52	43	53	66	63	51	53	381

ii) Historical pupil numbers⁶

[edition.pdf](#) includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

⁵ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

⁶ PLASC 2020

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Mount Street Infants School	159	176	191	187	179	171	150
Mount Street Junior School	153	124	138	139	145	143	152
Cradoc C.P. School	141	139	136	142	133	123	112
TOTAL	453	439	465	478	457	437	414

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)⁷

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Mount Street Infants School	105	109	110	111	110
Mount Street Junior School	159	156	151	139	130
Cradoc C.P. School	98	98	99	99	94
TOTAL	362	363	360	349	334

iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)⁸

	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Mount Street Infants School	113	112	N/A	N/A
Mount Street Junior School	173	178	N/A	N/A
Cradoc C.P. School	95	94	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	381	384	N/A	N/A

⁷ Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates

⁸ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school – November 2020

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

The following table provides information about the current capacities of school and the capacity:

	Current Capacity⁹	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Mount Street Infants School	129	113 (87.6%)	16 (12.4%)
Mount Street Junior School	172	173 (100.6%)	-1 (0.5%)
Cradoc C.P. School	175	95 (54.3%)	80 (45.7%)

ii) Building condition

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Mount Street Infants School	C Poor	B/C Good/Poor	Yes
Mount Street Junior School	C Poor	A/B Excellent/Good	Yes
Cradoc C.P. School	C Poor	B/C Good/Poor	Yes

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Mount Street Infants School
Date of Inspection	January 2020

⁹ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Excellent
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Excellent
Leadership and management	Good
Follow Up	School will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

	Mount Street Junior School
Date of Inspection	March 2016
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support, and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
Follow Up	The school will draw up an action plan that shows how it is going to address the recommendations

	Cradoc C.P. School
Date of Inspection	May 2017

Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Adequate
Learning experiences	Adequate
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support, and guidance	Adequate
Learning environment	Adequate
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Adequate
Partnership working	Adequate
Resource management	Adequate
Follow Up	The school will draw up an action plan, which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will review the schools progress

ii) School Categorisation¹⁰

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Mount Street Infants School	N/A	A	Green
Mount Street Junior School	N/A	C	Amber
Cradoc C.P. School	N/A	B	Yellow

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil¹¹ (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)

¹⁰ 2019

¹¹ Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Mount Street Infants School	£526,000	£4,618	£44,000	£8,000
Mount Street Junior School	£558,000	£3,821	£67,000	£21,000
Cradoc C.P. School	£423,000	£4,226	£21,000	£5,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

5. Statutory Process for School Organisation Proposals

5.1 The process for school organisation proposals is set out by the Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code (2018). The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

Consultation would be carried out with stakeholders as required by the Code. This includes consultation with the pupils at both schools, to ensure that their views are taken into account, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Feedback from the consultation would be collated and summarised, and a report would be presented to the Cabinet. Cabinet will consider the report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal or to not proceed with the proposal.

If Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

ii) Statutory Notice

If Cabinet decides to proceed, a Statutory Notice would be published, which would give a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there were objections, the authority would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the authority's

response to them. A further report would be presented to the Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

iii) Implementation

If Cabinet approves the proposal, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the Statutory Notice or any subsequently modified date.

6. Presumption against closure of Rural Schools

The School Organisation Code (2018) includes special arrangements in regard to schools identified in Appendix F of the Code as rural schools, which require proposers to follow a more detailed set of procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.

As indicated in the Code:

‘This does not mean that a rural school will never close but the case for closure must be strong and all viable alternatives to closure must have been conscientiously considered by the proposer, including federation.’

The School Organisation Code includes a number of steps required to be taken when formulating a rural school proposal which relate to the following headings:

- Formulating the proposal
- Identifying reasonable alternatives
- Preparing a proposal paper for the decision maker

As the School Organisation Code identified Cradoc C.P. School as a rural school, the additional requirements for rural schools have been addressed when developing the proposal paper.

7. Advice

7.1 Officers have carried out an options appraisal on possible options for these schools. This is attached to this report as Appendix A.

7.2 The options appraisal includes the following:

- Consideration of key data relating to the two schools
- Identification of options
- SWOT analysis of each option
- Initial financial appraisal of each option

- Assessment of each option against a number of critical success factors
- Identification of an emerging preferred option
- Further consideration of the emerging preferred option against factors listed in the School Organisation Code (2018) as factors to be taken into account when developing school organisation proposals, including the additional steps to be undertaken in respect of proposals to close rural schools.

7.3 Based on the options appraisal carried out and further consideration against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code, the preferred option is as follows:

Merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school.

7.4 The reasons for this are:

- One new, larger school would be established which would offer enhanced opportunities for pupils
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range
- Fairer for staff – all staff at the three schools would have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school
- More flexibility and personal development opportunities for staff
- Parents of pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase
- Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 for pupils attending Mount Street Infants
- Potential to attract capital funding to provide a new building
- Would reduce the Council's surplus places in primary schools
- Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate
- Financial saving to the Council
- Meets all the Critical Success Factors

7.5 A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out on the preferred option, which considers the impact on the communities. This has been developed with input from the three affected schools. This is attached as Appendix C.

7.6 The Community Impact Assessment includes the following conclusion:

'It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at the three affected schools. Should the proposal be implemented, a new school would initially be established on the existing sites of the three schools. It is expected that a similar range of activities would be provided to pupils on the existing sites. It is also possible that an increased range of activities and opportunities could be offered to

pupils, through the ability to share staff expertise and the ability to offer joint activities to a larger group of pupils. During the first phase of implementation, it is anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be minimal.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to one new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School in Brecon, co-located with the PRU and a new community swimming pool. It is anticipated that the new building would have a range of community facilities, which would ensure that many of the activities which currently take place in the schools could continue, as well as providing the opportunity to offer new activities.

It is acknowledged, however that the move to one new building in Brecon would mean that there would be no school provision in the village of Cradoc. The information provided in section 4.3 of the Community Impact Assessment (Appendix C), indicates that there is currently extensive community use of the Cradoc building, and extensive links between the school and the local community. It is currently unclear where the facilities and services currently provided by the school could be provided should there be no school in Cradoc. However, should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would work with the community in Cradoc to identify a suitable alternative.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Cradoc is currently their closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy which is in operation at that time, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and there could be an impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.

The move to one new building would also have some impact on pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, as the new school building would be located approximately 0.6/0.7 miles from the current school buildings, and would be located up a hill, which could mean that parents would be more likely to drive their children to school rather than walk / cycle. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new school was previously a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre.'

- 7.7 It is advised that Cabinet approves a recommendation to commence the statutory process on the following proposal:

Phase 1

- To amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School to create a new primary school that would operate from the current three sites
- The target date for establishing the new primary school is September 2022.

Phase 2

- To make a regulated alteration to transfer the school to a new school building on a new site in Brecon

7.8 Should the recommendation to commence the statutory process be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in February 2021.

7.9 It must also be noted that implementation of this proposal does not preclude that school from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

8. Resource Implications

8.1 The amount of funding provided to schools is driven by the funding formula. Any change to the formula funding provided will impact on the Council's revenue budget. Based on the current formula, the phased approach would deliver the following estimated annual revenue savings to the Council:

Phase 1: £16,181. There would be no additional transport costs associated with this phase, although there would be some additional set-up costs.

Phase 2: The move to a new building would result in additional estimated revenue savings in delegated funding amounting to £184,306 per annum and £35,760 for catering functions. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transport costs as current bus routes can accommodate this model.

8.2 In line with the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, should a school be in a deficit budget position when closed the deficit is written off.

8.3 The Scheme for Financing Schools also states the following in section 3.7.2:

'In order to ensure effective stewardship of the resources available to schools, the Authority may impose additional restrictions on a school scheduled to close, including but not limited to:

- Restriction of expenditure to agreed plans
- Removal of powers of virement'

The Council will consider the use of these powers of intervention where appropriate.

- 8.4 Development and implementation of the proposal would require involvement from a number of service areas, including staff from the Schools Service, Finance, HR and ICT. These service areas will be kept informed of the development of the proposal throughout the statutory process.
- 8.5 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report. If approval to commence the statutory process is given today, feasibility and preparatory work for the development of the new school and community facilities (Phase 2) will begin and costs will be incurred from the existing Band B programme. This work is undertaken at risk and should the project not proceed these costs will be ineligible for Capital Funding and would fall on the Council's revenue budget.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 9.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

10. Comment from local member(s)

10.1

11. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 11.1 An initial impact assessment in respect of the recommendation is attached. The impact assessment considers the proposal's impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals, as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 11.2 The summary of the impact assessment is as follows:

This impact assessment suggests that the impact is generally positive with some negative aspects, such as the requirement for some pupils to travel further than they currently do to school, and loss of provision in the village of Cradoc. Whilst the intention is to initially establish the new school on the three existing sites, eventually the intention is that the school would move to a new building. This would provide much improved buildings and facilities for pupils compared with the current poor condition buildings, ensuring that future pupils would be taught in facilities that are fit-for-purpose, improving their learner entitlement and

experience. The new facilities would be fully DDA compliant, supporting learners with disabilities.

- 11.3 Should Cabinet approve the commencement of the statutory process in respect of the recommendation, the impact assessment would be updated throughout the process, to take account of feedback received.

12. Recommendation

- i) To consider the Community Impact Assessment, and
- ii) To consider whether or not to proceed with the recommendation approved on the 23rd December in light of the Community Impact Assessment as follows:

That Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process on the following proposal

Phase 1

- *To amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School to create a new primary school that would operate from the current three sites*
- *The target date for establishing the new primary school is September 2022.*

Phase 2

- *To make a regulated alteration to transfer the school to a new school building on a new site in Brecon'*

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Transforming Education in Powys

Options Appraisal

Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Junior Schools and Cradoc C.P. School

Version Control:

Version	Date	Brief Summary of Change	Author
0.1	20/08/20	Document created	RW
0.2	10/11/20	Draft for Programme Board	SA
0.3	20/11/20	Draft for EMT	ME
0.4	03/12/20	Version for Cabinet consideration	SA

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1. INTRODUCTION

On the 29th September 2020, the Council's Cabinet considered a Programme Business Case (PBC) in respect of primary provision in the Brecon catchment.

The PBC considered by Cabinet identified a preferred way forward for the Brecon catchment, which is as follows:

To invest in the development of:

- A new 360 place English-medium primary school in Brecon, to replace Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street juniors School and Cradoc C.P. School, with a co-located Pupil Referral Unit and a community swimming pool – to be built on the site of the old Brecon High School
- A new 180 place dual-stream primary school in Sennybridge, replacing the current poor accommodation at Sennybridge CP School – to be built on the current site of Sennybridge CP School.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 29th September, Cabinet approved the submission of the PBC for the Brecon catchment to Welsh Government, and also approved that officers bring back a further report to Cabinet outlining the implementation steps, including consultation, required to achieve the new facilities.

There are no consultation requirements in order to achieve the second point above.

The purpose of this paper is to identify a preferred option in respect of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Juniors School and Cradoc C.P. School, to prepare for a move to one new building in the future.

Pupil numbers¹ at the three schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Mount Street Infants School	39	33	41					113
Mount Street Junior School				47	49	38	39	173
Cradoc C.P. School	13	10	12	19	14	13	14	95

¹ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

Following the inspection of Powys Education Services carried out by Estyn in the summer of 2019, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. The Vision Statement is as follows:

All children and young people in Powys will experience a high-quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.

In addition, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives, which include an objective to 'Develop a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations' in order to improve overall learner entitlement and experience in Powys.

To take forward this objective, the Council is reviewing the smallest schools in Powys, with the aim of identifying solutions for these schools which will meet the objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', in order to ensure that education in Powys is delivered through an affordable, resilient infrastructure which provides the best possible opportunities to learners, now and in the future.

2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

Powys is a large, rural authority. Covering a quarter of the landmass of Wales, it contains only 4.2% of the population, making it the most sparsely populated county in Wales. Delivering services across such a large, sparsely populated area is challenging and expensive.

Whilst there has been some reorganisation activity in Powys over recent years, the county's schools' infrastructure largely remains similar to that which was in place 20 years ago.

The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 40% of the primary provision in the county. 21 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

ii) Decreasing pupil numbers

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 4% by 2025.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there was 18% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools. With pupil numbers across Powys projected to decrease overall over the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

iv) Building condition

Whilst the Council has invested in its school's estate through the 21st Century Schools Programme and the Asset Management Plan, building condition remains an issue across Powys, with associated maintenance costs.

v) Financial pressures

The Council is currently facing significant financial pressures in general. This is affecting all service areas, including the schools' sector. There are significant variations in the budget share per pupil across Powys schools, ranging from £3,276 to £11,912 in the primary sector.

vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the

last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

ix) Historical lack of political decision making

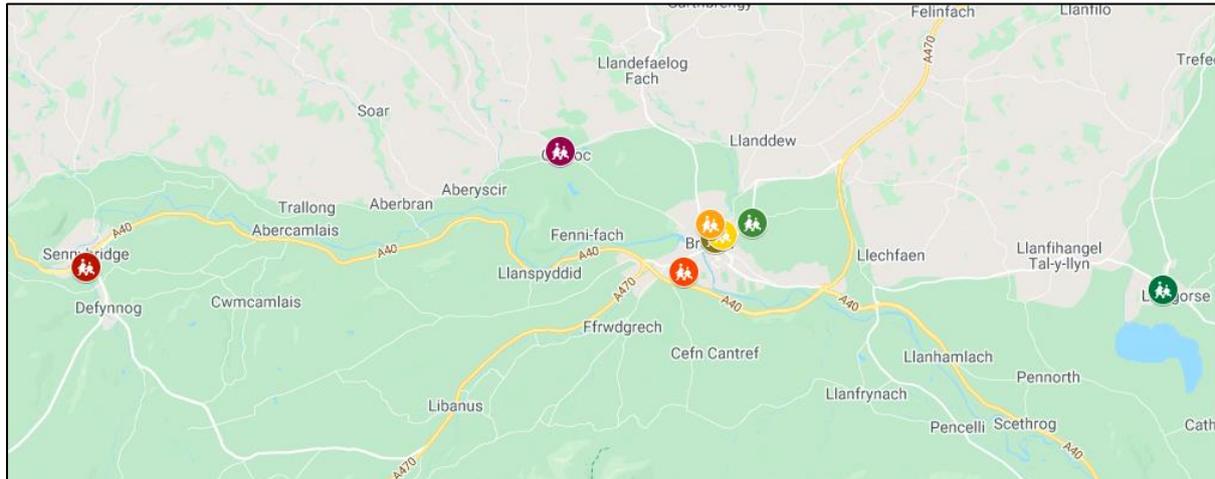
Although there have been some developments in terms of the schools' infrastructure over recent years, the Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the last few years has left a legacy in Powys, and there has been a reluctance to embark on large scale reorganisation of education provision since then.

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN BRECON

3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School are located in Brecon in South Powys. Cradoc C.P. School is located in the village of Cradoc, approximately 3 miles from Brecon.

The following map shows the location of all primary schools in the Brecon area:



	Sennybridge C.P. School		Cradoc C.P. School		Llanfaes C.P. School
	Priory C. in W. School		Mount Street Infants School		Mount Street Junior School
	Ysgol y Bannau		Llangors C. in W. School		

The following primary schools are located within 10 miles of the three schools²:

Mount Street Infant School Mount Street Junior School	Distance from schools by road (miles)
Ysgol Y Bannau	0.589 miles
Priory C. in W. School	0.673 miles
Llanfaes C.P. School	0.762 miles
Cradoc C.P. School	2.412 miles

² GIS mapping

Llangors C. in W. School	6.343 miles
Ysgol Mynydd Du	8.696 miles
Sennybridge C.P. School	9.164 miles
Archdeacon Griffiths C. in W. School	9.392 miles

Cradoc C.P School	Distance from schools by road (miles)
Priory C. in W. School	2.345 miles
Mount Street Infant School	2.412 miles
Mount Street Junior School	2.412 miles
Llanfaes C.P. School	2.59 miles
Ysgol Y Bannau	3.000 miles
Sennybridge C.P. School	7.074 miles
Llangors C. in W. School	8.498 miles

The following is a summary of key data relating to the three schools:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number³	Rural School?⁴
Mount Street Infants School	Community Infants School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	43	No
Mount Street Junior School	Community Junior School building owned by Powys County Council	English medium	43	No
Cradoc C.P. School	Community Primary	English medium	25	Yes

³ Powys Admissions Information and Arrangements 2021-22

⁴ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>) includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

	School building owned by Powys County Council			
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Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁵

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Mount Street Infants School	39	33	41					113
Mount Street Junior School				47	49	38	39	173
Cradoc C.P. School	13	10	12	19	14	13	14	95
TOTAL	52	43	53	66	63	51	53	381

ii) Historical pupil numbers⁶

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Mount Street Infants School	159	176	191	187	179	171	150
Mount Street Junior School	153	124	138	139	145	143	152
Cradoc C.P. School	141	139	136	142	133	123	112
TOTAL	453	439	465	478	457	437	414

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)⁷

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Mount Street Infants School	105	109	110	111	110

⁵ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

⁶ PLASC

⁷ Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates

Mount Street Junior School	159	156	151	139	130
Cradoc C.P. School	98	98	99	99	94
TOTAL	362	363	360	349	334

iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)⁸

	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Mount Street Infants School	113	112	N/A	N/A
Mount Street Junior School	173	178	N/A	N/A
Cradoc C.P. School	95	94	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	381	384	N/A	N/A

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

The following table provides information about the current capacities of school and the capacity:

	Current Capacity⁹	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Mount Street Infants School	129	113 (87.6%)	16 (12.4%)
Mount Street Junior School	172	173 (100.6%)	-1 (0.5%)
Cradoc C.P. School	175	95 (54.3%)	80 (45.7%)

ii) Building condition

⁸ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the schools – November 2020

⁹ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the schools.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Mount Street Infants School	C Poor	B/C Good/Poor	Yes
Mount Street Junior School	C Poor	A/B Excellent/Good	Yes
Cradoc C.P. School	C Poor	B/C Good/Poor	Yes

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Mount Street Infants School
Date of Inspection	January 2020
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Excellent
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Excellent
Leadership and management	Good
Follow Up	School will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

	Mount Street Junior School
Date of Inspection	March 2016

Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support, and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Good
Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Good
Follow Up	The school will draw up an action plan that shows how it is going to address the recommendations

	Cradoc C.P. School
Date of Inspection	May 2017
Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Adequate
Learning experiences	Adequate
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support, and guidance	Adequate
Learning environment	Adequate
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Adequate
Partnership working	Adequate

Resource management	Adequate
Follow Up	The school will draw up an action plan, which shows how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will review the schools progress

ii) School Categorisation¹⁰

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Mount Street Infants School	N/A	A	Green
Mount Street Junior School	N/A	C	Amber
Cradoc C.P. School	N/A	B	Yellow

Financial information

Cost per pupil¹¹

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Mount Street Infants School	£526,000	£4,618	£44,000	£8,000
Mount Street Junior School	£558,000	£3,821	£67,000	£21,000
Cradoc C.P. School	£423,000	£4,226	£21,000	£5,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

¹⁰ 2019

¹¹ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/21

i) Free School Meals¹²

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
Mount Street Infants School	9.3%
Mount Street Junior School	15.8%
Cradoc C.P. School	6.3%

ii) Pupils in care¹³

	Number of pupils in care
Mount Street Infants School	1.3%
Mount Street Junior School	0.7%
Cradoc C.P. School	1.8%

iii) English as an Additional Language¹⁴

	Number of EAL pupils
Mount Street Infants School	11.3%
Mount Street Junior School	13.8%
Cradoc C.P. School	2.7%

iv) SEN/ALN¹⁵

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Mount Street Infants School	13.3%	10%	0%
Mount Street Junior School	14.5%	19.7%	2%

¹² PLASC 2020

¹³ PLASC 2020

¹⁴ PLASC 2020

¹⁵ PLASC 2020

Cradoc C.P School	12.5%	3.6%	0%
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Early Years

There are maintained early years providers at Mount Street Infants School and Cradoc C.P. School.

Travel Assessments

Mount Street Infants School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 115 pupils that were attending Mount Street Infants School in January 2020¹⁶. The closest provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Mount Street Infants School
Cradoc C.P. School	2
Llanfaes C.P. School	10
Llangors C. in W. School	1
Mount Street Infants School	52
Priory C. in W. School	46
Ysgol y Mynydd Du	4

Based on this information, Mount Street Infants School is the closest school for 52 (45.2%) of pupils attending in January 2020.

Mount Street Junior School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 152 pupils that were attending Mount Street Junior School in January 2020¹⁷. The closest provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Mount Street Junior School
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¹⁶ PLASC 2020

¹⁷ PLASC 2020

Cradoc C.P. School	3
Llanfaes C.P. School	22
Llangors C. in W. School	2
Llangynidr C.P. School	5
Mount Street Junior School	68
Priory C. in W. School	47
Sennybridge C.P. School	3
Ysgol y Mynydd Du	2

Based on this information, Mount Street Junior School is the closest school for 68 (44.7%) of pupils attending in January 2020.

Cradoc C.P. School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 99 pupils that were attending Cradoc C.P. School in January 2020¹⁸. The closest provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Cradoc C.P. School
Builth C.P. School	3
Cradoc C.P. School	53
Llanfaes C.P. School	7
Mount Street Infants School	3
Mount Street Junior School	7
Priory C. in W. School	17
Sennybridge C.P. School	7
Ysgol Bro Tawe	2

Based on this information, Cradoc C.P. School is the closest school for 53 (53.5%) of pupils attending in January 2020.

¹⁸ PLASC 2020

3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN MOUNT STREET INFANTS, MOUNT STREET JUNIORS AND CRADOC

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School.

3.2.1 MOUNT STREET INFANTS AND MOUNT STREET JUNIORS

i) Building condition

The current building condition of the two schools is as follows:

	Condition
Mount Street Infants School	C – Poor
Mount Street Junior School	C – Poor

There are issues with building condition in both schools, with the condition of both schools being rated as poor, with approximately £1.7m in backlog maintenance outstanding across the two sites.

ii) Last remaining infant and junior schools in Powys

School reorganisation in Powys has gradually moved to a model of ‘all-through’ provision in primary schools across the county. Mount Street Infant and Junior Schools represent the last remaining separate infant and junior schools within the County.

The advantages offered by single school provision for primary age pupils are well known and evidence based. Due in part to an increased critical mass of learners, ‘all-through’ primary schools are usually able to offer both enhanced continuity of provision and a curriculum which is more broad and balanced in content delivered in a continuous and coherent way from the Foundation Phase through to the end of Key Stage 2.

iii) Transition arrangements

Whilst the two schools work closely together to minimise disruption for pupils on transition from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 in order to ensure that they can effectively move from one school to the other, the current arrangement does mean that there is an additional transition for pupils during their educational careers, which can cause disruption to pupils and their families.

iv) Staff development opportunities

The current arrangement provides the opportunity for staff to specialise in a particular educational phase – either Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2. However,

this does that it is more difficult for them to gain experience across the primary age range.

3.2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN CRADOC

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Cradoc C.P School:

i) Decreasing pupil numbers¹⁹

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Cradoc C.P. School	141	139	136	142	133	123	112

Pupil numbers have decreased significantly over the last five years. It has a capacity of 175 pupils with 95 on roll, according to latest pupil data, although forecasting information suggests pupil numbers may increase.

ii) Building condition

The current building condition of the two schools is as follows:

	Condition
Cradoc C.P. School	C – Poor

There are issues with building condition at Cradoc C.P. School, with the condition of the school being rated as poor, with approximately £628k in backlog maintenance outstanding. The building is also not fully compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

iii) Building configuration

The configuration of the school is problematic and creates safeguarding concerns. The school also utilises three aging demountable buildings, only one of which has toilet facilities; therefore children have to leave the classroom to enter the main building in order to use the toilets.

¹⁹ PLASC

PART B – OPTIONS FOR MOUNT STREET INFANTS, MOUNT STREET JUNIORS AND CRADOC

4. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The following options have been identified which could potentially provide a solution.

Option	Description
1	Status Quo – Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School continue to operate as separate schools
2a	Federation – Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School federate to create a federated primary school. Cradoc CP School continues to operate as a separate school
2b	Federation – Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School federate to create a federated primary school
3a	Merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School to create a new primary school. Cradoc CP School to continue to operate as a separate school
3b	Merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School to create a new primary school. Close Cradoc CP School, with pupils to attend alternative schools.
4	Merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school.
5	Close Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, pupils to attend alternative schools. Retain Cradoc CP School.
6	Close Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School. Pupils to attend alternative school.

5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

SWOT analyses for each of the four options are provided below.

Option 1: Status Quo – Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School continue to operate as separate schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Retains provision in all current locations	- Buildings are in poor condition

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Retains provision in the village of Cradoc - No additional transport costs - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No change for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would still need to maintain all three buildings - Would not lead to any financial efficiencies - Would not reduce surplus places - Unlikely to attract capital funding to improve the buildings - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Outdated infant / junior model would remain
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration between the schools and other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building condition would continue to deteriorate

Option 2a: Federation – Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School federate to create a federated primary school. Cradoc CP School continues to operate as a separate school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each school would retain its own character, ethos and identity - Improved opportunities for sharing staff expertise and good practice across the Mount Street schools - Improved transition links between the two Mount Street schools - Potential for the two Mount Street schools to run more efficiently through shared staffing and resources - One governing body for the two Mount Street schools which would have strategic overview of the two schools - Would be easier to dissolve a federation if the change was not working - Potential for one headteacher across the two Mount Street schools in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The two Mount Street schools would remain as two separate schools therefore there could be some tensions between the two schools - Federation is a less robust model than amalgamation - Parents of pupils at the Mount Street schools would still have to apply to admit their children to the junior phase - The buildings are in poor condition - Would still need to maintain all three buildings - Would not lead to any financial efficiencies - Would not reduce surplus places - Unlikely to attract capital funding to improve the buildings - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Outdated infant / junior model would remain

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in the village of Cradoc - No additional transport costs - No requirement for a school reorganisation process - No change for staff at Cradoc - No change for pupils at Cradoc 	
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for collaboration between the two Mount Street schools - Opportunity to secure shared leadership across the Mount Street schools in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building condition would continue to deteriorate

Option 2b: Federation – Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School federate to create a federated primary school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each school would retain its own character, ethos and identity - Improved opportunities for sharing staff expertise and good practice across the three schools - Improved transition links between the two Mount Street schools - Potential for the three schools to run more efficiently through shared staffing and resources - One governing body for the three schools which would have strategic overview of the two schools - Would be easier to dissolve a federation if the change was not working - Potential for one headteacher across the three schools in the future - Would retain provision in the village of Cradoc - No additional transport costs - No requirement for a school reorganisation process - Minimal impact on staff and pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The three schools would remain as separate schools therefore it would be more difficult to create a single school ethos - Federation is a less robust model than amalgamation - Parents of pupils at the Mount Street schools would still have to apply to admit their children to the junior phase - The buildings are in poor condition - Would still need to maintain all three buildings - Would not lead to any financial efficiencies - Would not reduce surplus places - Unlikely to attract capital funding to improve the buildings - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Outdated infant / junior model would remain
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for collaboration between the three schools - Opportunity to secure shared leadership across the three schools in the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building condition would continue to deteriorate
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Option 3a: Merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School to create a new primary school. Cradoc CP School to continue to operate as a separate school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More flexibility and opportunities for personal development for staff at the Mount Street Schools - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range - Parents would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase - One governing body and one leadership team across the Mount Street schools - More efficient model of governance and leadership at the Mount Street schools - Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 at the Mount Street schools - Potential to attract capital funding to replace the current Mount Streets building - Would retain provision in the village of Cradoc - No additional transport costs - No change for staff at Cradoc - No change for pupils at Cradoc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on staff at the Mount Street schools as management of change process would need to take place leading to potential job losses - Would still need to maintain three buildings in the short term, and at least two buildings in the long term - Unlikely to attract capital funding to improve the buildings at Cradoc - Would not address issues with building condition at Cradoc - Would not address surplus places at Cradoc
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to access 21st Century Schools funding for a replacement building for the Mount Street schools in the future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building condition would continue to deteriorate

Option 3b: Merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School to create a new primary school. Close Cradoc CP School, with pupils to attend alternative schools.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More flexibility and opportunities for personal development for staff at the Mount Street Schools - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range - Parents would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase - One governing body and one leadership team across the Mount Street schools - More efficient model of governance and leadership at the Mount Street schools - Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 at the Mount Street schools - Potential to attract capital funding to replace the current Mount Streets building - Would reduce the Council's surplus places in primary schools - Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate - Financial saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Cradoc C.P. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Cradoc C.P. School would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from Cradoc - Impact on the current staff of Cradoc C.P. School – would be in a redundancy situation, therefore would not be included in ringfencing arrangements as part of establishing the new Mount Street school. - Impact on the Cradoc community - May not be sufficient capacity at other schools to accommodate all current Cradoc pupils - Impact on staff at the Mount Street schools as management of change process would need to take place leading to potential job losses
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the surplus site(s) - Opportunity to access 21st Century Schools funding for a replacement building for the Mount Street schools in the future. - A new staffing structure would be developed for the new Mount Streets school, which would could provide new opportunities for current staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely to be unpopular in Cradoc

Option 4: Merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One new, larger school would be established which would offer enhanced opportunities for pupils - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range - Fairer for staff – all staff at the three schools would have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school - More flexibility and personal development opportunities for staff - Parents of pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase - Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 for pupils attending Mount Street Infants - Potential to attract capital funding to provide a new building - Would reduce the Council’s surplus places in primary schools - Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate - Financial saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Cradoc C.P. School is currently the closest school should the new school move to one site in Brecon - Potential loss of provision from Cradoc should the new school move to one site in Brecon - Impact on the Cradoc community should there eventually be no school in Cradoc
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of surplus sites - Opportunity to access 21st Century Schools funding for a replacement building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely to be unpopular in Cradoc

Option 5: Close Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, pupils to attend alternative schools. Retain Cradoc CP School.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council’s surplus places in primary schools - Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate - Financial saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be sufficient capacity at other schools to accommodate all current Mount Street pupils - Capital investment may be needed in other schools

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would attend primary schools rather than split infant/junior school - Would retain provision in the village of Cradoc - No additional transport costs - No change for staff at Cradoc - No change for pupils at Cradoc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors would need to transfer to alternative schools - Loss of provision from the area of Brecon currently served by the Mount Street schools - Possible additional travel for Mount Street pupils should there be no spaces in Brecon - Additional transport costs for the Council should there be a need to transport pupils from Brecon to primary schools in other locations - Impact on the staff of the two Mount Street schools – they would be in a redundancy situation - Would not address issues with the condition of the Cradoc building
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from the sale of surplus sites - Potential opportunity to access 21st Century Schools funding for a replacement building for Cradoc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely to be unpopular with the Mount Streets school communities

Option 6: Close Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School. Pupils to attend alternative schools.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce surplus capacity in primary schools - Revenue saving to the Council - Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlikely to be sufficient available capacity in other local schools to accommodate all pupils - Capital investment would be needed in other schools - All pupils would need to transfer to alternative schools - Loss of provision from Cradoc and the area of Brecon currently served by the Mount Street schools - Impact on the Cradoc community from loss of provision in Cradoc - Additional travel for pupils for whom Cradoc is currently the closest school

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional transport costs for the Council - Impact on the staff of all three schools – all staff would be in a redundancy situation
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of surplus sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely to be the least popular option locally - Job losses

6. IMPACT OF EACH OPTION

The likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements is considered below:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
Option 1: Status Quo – Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School continue to operate as separate schools	There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to attend either Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School or Cradoc CP School.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in the current Mount Street locations and Cradoc.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend either Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School or Cradoc CP School.
Option 2a: Federation – Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School federate to create a federated primary school. Cradoc CP School continues to operate as a separate school	The impact on quality and standards would be minimal – pupils would continue to attend their existing schools, however a federated governing body would be established to oversee the Mount Street Schools. This could provide additional opportunities for collaboration across the two schools, and an opportunity to appoint one headteacher for the federation in the longer term. There would also be additional	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in the current Mount Street locations and Cradoc. One joint governing body would be responsible for Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, however a separate governing body would continue to operate for Cradoc CP School.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend either Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School or Cradoc CP School.

	opportunities to share staff expertise across the federation.		
Option 2b: Federation – Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School federate to create a federated primary school	The impact on quality and standards would be minimal – pupils would continue to attend their existing schools, however a federated governing body would be established to oversee the three schools. This could provide additional opportunities for collaboration across the two schools, and an opportunity to appoint one headteacher for the federation in the longer term. There would also be additional opportunities to share staff expertise across the federation.	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in the current Mount Street locations and Cradoc. However, one joint governing body would be responsible for the three schools, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the federated governing body.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend either Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School or Cradoc CP School.
Option 3a: Merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School to create a new primary school. Cradoc CP School to continue to operate as a separate school	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards at the Mount Street schools through the establishment of one new primary school. This would mean that pupil progression would be monitored throughout pupils' time in primary school, from age 4 to 11, ensuring continuity in delivery and approach.	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available to the communities currently served by Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School at a new primary school located in Brecon. Cradoc CP School would continue to operate as a separate school in Cradoc, therefore there would be no impact on the Cradoc community.	One new school would be established in Brecon to replace the current Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School. This may result in an additional distance to school for some pupils, however provision would continue to be available within Brecon, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on travel would be significant.

	Cradoc CP School would continue to operate as a standalone school, therefore there would be no impact on quality and standards at Cradoc.		Cradoc CP School would continue to operate as a standalone school in Cradoc, therefore no additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Cradoc CP School.
Option 3b: Merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School to create a new primary school. Close Cradoc CP School, with pupils to attend alternative schools.	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards at the Mount Street schools through the establishment of one new primary school. This would mean that pupil progression would be monitored throughout pupils' time in primary school, from age 4 to 11, ensuring continuity in delivery and approach.</p> <p>This option would result in the closure of Cradoc CP School. The impact on quality and standards would depend on which school(s) pupils transferred to, however in general there are no concerns about the quality of provision at any of the schools in the Brecon catchment therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on quality and standards would be negative.</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Brecon, therefore the impact on the Brecon community would be minimal. Ultimately, there would be a positive impact on the community in Brecon through the provision of one new primary school with enhanced community facilities.</p> <p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would have a negative impact on the Cradoc community, and would result in the loss of primary provision in Cradoc, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village of Cradoc.</p>	<p>One new school would be established in Brecon to replace the current Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School. This may result in an additional distance to school for some pupils, however provision would continue to be available within Brecon, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on travel would be significant.</p> <p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would be no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Cradoc CP School is currently the closest school. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in</p>

			order to access school activities / events.
Option 4: Merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one new larger primary school. In respect of pupils currently attending the Mount Street Schools, this would mean that pupil progression would be monitored throughout pupils' time in primary school, from age 4 to 11, ensuring continuity in delivery and approach. As a larger school, the headteacher would be able to spend more time on leadership, enabling a greater focus on improving the quality of provision. In addition, there would be a larger team of staff, enabling expertise to be shared across the school and enabling more distributed leadership and professional development opportunities.	Provision would continue to be available in Brecon, therefore the impact on the Brecon community would be minimal. Ultimately, there would be a positive impact on the community in Brecon through the provision of one new primary school with enhanced community facilities. Implementation of this option would eventually mean that there would no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would have a negative impact on the Cradoc community, and would result in the loss of primary provision in Cradoc, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village of Cradoc.	One new school would be established in Brecon to replace the current Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School. This may result in an additional distance to school for some pupils, however provision would continue to be available within Brecon, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on travel would be significant. Implementation of this option would mean that there would be no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Cradoc CP School is currently the closest school. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.
Option 5:	This option would result in the closure of Mount Street Infants	Whilst implementation of this option would mean that Mount	Implementation of this option would mean that Mount Street

<p>Close Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, pupils to attend alternative schools. Retain Cradoc CP School.</p>	<p>School and Mount Street Junior School. The impact on quality and standards would depend on which school(s) pupils transferred to, however in general there are no concerns about the quality of provision at any of the schools in the Brecon catchment therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on quality and standards would be negative.</p> <p>Cradoc CP School would continue to operate as a standalone school, therefore there would be no impact on quality and standards at Cradoc.</p>	<p>Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School would no longer exist, it is likely that pupils would transfer to alternative provision in Brecon, although additional capacity may be required in Brecon in order to facilitate this.</p> <p>Whilst provision would continue to be available in the town of Brecon, there would be a loss of facilities in the locations where the two Mount Street Schools are currently located, which could impact on the community in this area of Brecon.</p> <p>Cradoc CP School would continue to operate as a separate school in Cradoc, therefore there would be no impact on the Cradoc community.</p>	<p>Infants School and Mount Street Junior School would no longer exist. It is likely that pupils would transfer to alternative provision in Brecon, however additional capacity may be required in Brecon in order to facilitate this. It is therefore anticipated that there would be no significant impact on travel arrangements.</p> <p>Cradoc CP School would continue to operate as a standalone school in Cradoc, therefore no additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Cradoc CP School.</p>
<p>Option 6: Close Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School. Pupils to attend alternative schools.</p>	<p>This option would result in the closure of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School. The impact on quality and standards would depend on which school(s) pupils transferred to, however in general there are no concerns about the quality of</p>	<p>Whilst implementation of this option would mean that Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School would no longer exist, it is likely that pupils would transfer to alternative provision in Brecon, although additional capacity may be</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School would no longer exist. It is likely that pupils would transfer to alternative provision in Brecon, however additional capacity may be required in Brecon in order to facilitate this. It</p>

	<p>provision at any of the schools in the Brecon catchment therefore it is not anticipated that the impact on quality and standards would be negative.</p>	<p>required in Brecon in order to facilitate this.</p> <p>Whilst provision would continue to be available in the town of Brecon, there would be a loss of facilities in the locations where the two Mount Street Schools are currently located, which could impact on the community in this area of Brecon.</p> <p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would have a negative impact on the Cradoc community, and would result in the loss of primary provision in Cradoc, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village of Cradoc.</p>	<p>is therefore anticipated that there would be no significant impact on travel arrangements.</p> <p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would be no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Cradoc CP School is currently the closest school. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>
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7. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the following Critical Success Factors:

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable • The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2a	Option 2b	Option 3a	Option 3b	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	?	✓	✓	?	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	?	✓	✓	?	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?	x
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	?	✓	✓	?	?
Total ✓	1	1	1	1	3	4	0	2
Total x	3	3	3	0	0	0	4	1
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Pref-erred	Discount	Discount

8. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the SWOT analyses carried out and the financial estimates received so far, the emerging preferred option for Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School is:

Option 4: Merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school

The reasons for this are:

- One new, larger school would be established which would offer enhanced opportunities for pupils
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range
- Fairer for staff – all staff at the three schools would have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school
- More flexibility and personal development opportunities for staff
- Parents of pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase
- Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 for pupils attending Mount Street Infants
- Potential to attract capital funding to provide a new building
- Would reduce the Council's surplus places in primary schools
- Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate
- Financial saving to the Council

- Meets all the Critical Success Factors

Further consideration of the emerging preferred option will now be carried out, to include consideration of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code. This will be based on implementation of the emerging preferred option on a phased basis:

- **Phase 1:** Establishment of a new school operating from the current three sites
- **Phase 2:** Moving to a new building located on the site of the former Brecon High School

PART C – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code outlines factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals. Consideration is given below to the impact of the preferred option, to merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school on the factors outlined in the Code.

As indicated in the previous section, this will be based on implementation of the emerging preferred option on a phased basis:

- **Phase 1:** Establishment of a new school operating from the current three sites
- **Phase 2:** Moving to a new building located on the site of the former Brecon High School

9. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

9.1 Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

Standards of education and progress at all three schools are currently good. The Council would expect amalgamating to further strengthen the current standards.

For pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, amalgamation of the schools would enable pupil progression to be monitored throughout pupils' time in primary school, from age 4 to age 11, ensuring continuity in delivery and approach. It is anticipated that this would have an overall positive impact on standards and progress overall.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Amalgamating the three schools would ensure that their progress could be monitored, supported and tracked over a longer period of time, and throughout their time in primary school.

It is also anticipated that amalgamating the two schools would have a positive impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT, through improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources across, and through improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

9.2 Likely impact on wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning are currently strong in all three schools. Amalgamating the schools would provide an opportunity to strengthen these further. For pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors, amalgamation would mean that pupils would attend one school throughout the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2, therefore providing continuity in progression and approach throughout the primary phase. It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact, particularly with regard to pupils' emotional health.

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupil wellbeing during transition to the new operating model, however the Council would work with the temporary governing body and the headteacher of the new school to minimise any negative impact.

In the longer term, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. It is possible that there would also be an impact on pupil wellbeing during the transition to the new building, in particular for pupils currently attending Cradoc CP School, who would need to travel further to school. However, all pupils would be attending a brand new building, which would provide significantly improved accommodation compared with the current accommodation of Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School, which should have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning.

9.3 Likely impact on teaching and learning experiences

9.3.1 Quality of teaching

Quality of teaching is currently good in both schools. It is anticipated that amalgamating the three schools would provide an opportunity to enhance this, by providing flexibility to share good practice and teaching experiences, resulting in positive benefits for staff and pupils.

For pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors, there would be enhanced opportunities to share Foundation Phase pedagogy with Key Stage 2 classes, which would enhance teaching approaches across the school, and vice versa. Being part of a larger primary school with a larger pool of teaching staff would also lead to enhanced opportunities for pupils currently attending Cradoc CP School.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

9.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Amalgamating the three schools would provide the opportunity to further strengthen the curriculum offered to pupils. The new school would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

9.3.3 The provision of skills

The provision of skills is strong in all three schools now, however, amalgamating the schools would provide an opportunity to strengthen this.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

9.4 Likely impact on care, support and guidance

9.4.1 Tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding

Amalgamating the three schools to establish one new school would provide an opportunity to further develop these aspects. In particular, there would be a positive impact for pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors, as pupils would attend a primary school rather than separate infants / junior schools, therefore the school would know the child for longer, and would monitor their development from 5 years old to 11 years old. For those children that need additional support, this continuity of approach would be beneficial. This is also the case in respect of personal development and safeguarding.

In the longer term, the Council intends to invest in a new building to replace the current buildings. Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future. Safeguarding arrangements would be a key consideration when planning the site, and when designing the new building, therefore it is likely that this would significantly improve safeguarding arrangements.

9.5 Likely impact on Leadership and Management

9.5.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self evaluation processes and improvement planning

Leadership is good at all three schools, however, amalgamating the three schools would provide an opportunity to further enhance this, and would increase the capacity for leadership, and sharing of good practice across the foundation phase and key stage 2.

The new school would be a larger school, which would provide the opportunity for a non-teaching headteacher and would enable increased focus on leadership. Amalgamating the three schools would also provide enhanced opportunities to develop leadership across the school, and would provide enhanced leadership opportunities for staff.

Amalgamating the three schools would provide enhanced opportunities to develop self-evaluation processes across the primary phase, enabling the development of consistency in processes for the benefit of a larger number of pupils. As a primary school, the new school to see each pupil's full development across the primary age range.

In addition, there would be enhanced opportunities for improvement planning across the primary phase. Pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors would attend the new school for longer, therefore the school would be better informed about the pupils, which would enable more effective target setting and improvement planning.

The intention is to initially establish a new school in the buildings currently occupied by Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School. It is acknowledged that operating across three sites could cause challenges for the school's leaders during this phase.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

In the longer term, the intention is for the new school to move to a new building. This would enable the new school to maximise the benefits in terms of leadership and management.

9.5.2 Professional learning

Amalgamating the three schools would provide improved professional learning opportunities for staff through greater opportunities for cross phase

working, opportunities to develop leaders more effectively and more opportunities to develop middle leaders. In addition, there would be improved opportunities to see the progression of learning across the primary age range and improve opportunities to apply the principles of the new curriculum.

Whilst it is expected that some improvements in professional learning opportunities would be realised immediately following the amalgamation of the three schools, this would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

9.5.3 Use of Resources

Should the three schools amalgamate to create one new school, the school would be funded as one school, with one budget, and would be run by one headteacher, one leadership team, and one governing body. This would eventually enable the school to operate more efficiently compared with the current arrangements, and should result in some efficiencies through shared staffing and the ability to share of other resources.

Initially, the new school would be established on the existing sites of the three schools. This would mean that there would be a need to maintain all three buildings in the short term, which would result in duplication of resources and could lead to inefficient use of resources in the short term.

9.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Amalgamating the two schools would provide enhanced opportunities to support pupils belonging to vulnerable groups, including children with SEN.

In respect of vulnerable pupils attending Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Juniors, the preferred option would result in establishing one new primary school, ensuring continuity in the support provided to pupils across the primary phase.

This would be further enhanced following the planned move to a brand new building on the site of the old Brecon High School.

There are currently specialist units at both Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Junior Schools.

9.7 Ability of the school/schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

Amalgamating the three schools would enable the provision of a full curriculum to pupils across the primary age range.

Initially, the new school would be established on the existing sites of the three schools. Whilst one headteacher and governing body would be responsible for all through sites during this period, the full curriculum would continue to be provided to pupils in the foundation phase and key stage 2. The provision available for pupils would be at least equivalent to the current provision, and there would be additional opportunities to provide enhanced opportunities to pupils across all three sites through shared staffing and the opportunity to hold all-school activities.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. This would provide enhanced opportunities to offer a full curriculum to all pupils across the primary age range in brand new facilities.

10 NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

10.1 Will the alternative provision have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality for existing and projected pupil numbers?

The intention is to initially establish the new school in the buildings currently occupied by Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School. This would provide the same capacity as is currently available, and would provide accommodation of equivalent quality.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. This would improve the quality of accommodation for pupils in the longer term. Existing and projected pupil numbers at Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors, Cradoc CP School and the wider Brecon catchment will be taken into consideration when determining the capacity of the new building.

10.2 Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and (if relevant) designated religious character?

The three affected schools are English-medium community schools. The intention is to establish a new English-medium community primary school, ensuring continued access to community primary provision of the same language category.

10.3 What will be the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils?

There would be no change in terms of the nature of journeys and journey times for pupils following the establishment of one new school on the existing sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Cradoc CP School is currently the closest school. The site of the old Brecon High School is approximately 3 miles from Cradoc CP School, therefore whilst there would be additional travel time for all pupils for whom Cradoc CP School is currently the closest school, including SEN pupils, the nature of journeys and journey times would not be unreasonable, and would not exceed 45 minutes.

10.4 Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?

The latest pupil projection figures for Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School suggest that pupil numbers at the three schools are not expected to increase over the coming years.

10.5 Will the proposals improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010?

The intention is to amalgamate the three schools in their existing accommodation initially, therefore there would be no change in terms of access for disabled pupils.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. This would provide improved access for disabled pupils.

11 RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?

The proposal is to establish the new school in the buildings currently occupied by the three existing schools, therefore there would be no impact on surplus places in the area.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. The size of the new building

would be planned based on the current and projected pupil numbers at the three affected schools, however it is anticipated that this would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the area.

11.2 Do the proposals form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

Plans to provide a new primary school in Brecon are included in the Council's SOP for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.

The Council intends to implement this change on a phased basis, and to initially establish a new school in the buildings currently occupied by Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School. This is not dependent on 21st Century Schools funding.

11.3 What are the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and is the necessary recurrent funding available?

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the increased rates charges for a new build which are currently estimated to be an additional £14,000. This has been included in the delegated revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

11.4 Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?

No additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of establishing a new school on the existing sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transports costs as current bus routes can accommodate this model.

11.5 What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?

There are no capital costs associated with the initial phase, which would see Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School amalgamating to establish a new primary school operating on the three current sites.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. It is estimated that the capital cost of this (including optimism bias) would be £9,187,993.

The intention is that this would be funded by the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. Plans to provide a new primary school in Brecon are included in the Council's SOP for Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme, however the Council would need to go through an extensive business case process in order to draw down funding. Should 21st Century Schools funding not be available, the Council could consider utilising alternative funding sources.

11.6 What is the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs)

The intention is to initially establish a new school on the current sites of Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School. It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of £16,181 per annum. There would be no additional transport costs associated with this phase, although there would be some additional set-up costs. Based on previous primary school mergers, this is estimated to be in the region of £50k.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High. It is estimated that the capital cost of this (including optimism bias) would be £9,187,993.

A move to one new building would also result in additional estimated revenue savings in delegated funding amounting to £184,306 per annum and £35,760 for catering functions. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transport costs as current bus routes can accommodate this model.

11.7 Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

Based on the latest information held by the Council's Finance Team²⁰, Mount Street Infants is projecting to be in a deficit budget position during 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23. Mount Street Juniors is projecting to be in a deficit budget position during 2020/21, however it is projected that this would be recovered by 2021/22 and 2022/23. Cradoc C.P. School are projecting to be in a surplus budget position during 2020/21, but to be in a deficit budget position during 2021/22 and 2022/23.

11.8 Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority's local schools budget?

²⁰ December 2020

Any savings would be reinvested into the schools' system.

11.9 Will the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places?

Initially there would be no redundant sites as the new school would be established on the current sites of the three schools.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School. This would result in three redundant sites, for which the Council would hope to realise a capital receipt. Any capital receipts received would be reinvested into the Schools Transformation programme in order to improve the educational provision across Powys.

12 OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

12.1 What impact will the proposals have on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds?

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School as they would transfer to the new, amalgamated school. Based on PLASC figures from January 2020, approximately 9% of pupils attending Mount Street Infants School, approximately 16% of pupils attending Mount Street Junior School and approximately 6% of pupils attending Cradoc CP School were eligible for Free School Meals, therefore it is acknowledged that the proposal would impact on some pupils from economically deprived backgrounds.

It is anticipated that amalgamation of the three schools would have a positive impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds. As a larger school, the new school would have a larger pupil deprivation grant, which could be used to support pupils consistently throughout their time in primary school.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High. This would mean that pupils attending the school would need to transfer to the new site. For pupils currently attending Cradoc CP School, this would require additional travel. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to

school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

12.2 Any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments

Amalgamating the schools would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the schools. However, it is anticipated that amalgamating the schools would have a positive impact on all pupils, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups.

12.3 Whether the school / schools involved are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land.

The schools involved are not subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals.

13. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

13.1 Whether the establishment of multi-site schools might be considered as a means of retaining buildings, or the reasons for not pursuing this option

A range of options have been considered in respect of the three schools , these include options considered in the Programme Business Case in respect of the Brecon catchment, and the options outlined in section 4 of this document. Assessments of each option have been carried out, which includes an assessment of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

13.2 Whether alternatives to closure, such as clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools, might be considered or the reasons for not pursuing these as an alternative

Federation options were considered in respect of the three schools, as outlined in section 4 of this document. Assessments of each option have been carried out, which includes an assessment of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

13.3 Whether the possibility of making fuller use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource could be explored

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc School. The

building condition of the current buildings is poor, making fuller use of the buildings would not address this.

13.4 The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that provision would continue to be available in Brecon, therefore the impact on the Brecon community would be minimal. Ultimately, there would be a positive impact on the community in Brecon through the provision of one new primary school with enhanced community facilities.

Implementation of this option would eventually mean that there would no longer be provision in Cradoc. This would have a negative impact on the Cradoc community, and would result in the loss of primary provision in Cradoc, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village of Cradoc.

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process in respect of the preferred option, a community impact assessment would be carried out, which would include input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community. This would be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received, and would be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

13.5 How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. As the preferred option would result in the establishment of one new school, initially operating over three sites, there would be opportunities for all parents and pupils involved with the three existing schools to be fully involved with the establishment of the new school, which would ensure full engagement by the time the school were to move to the planned new building.

14. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Based on the options appraisal carried out and further consideration of the preferred option against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code, the preferred option is as follows:

Option 4: Merge Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc CP School to create a new primary school

The reasons for this are:

- One new, larger school would be established which would offer enhanced opportunities for pupils
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary age range
- Fairer for staff – all staff at the three schools would have the opportunity to secure positions in the new school
- More flexibility and personal development opportunities for staff
- Parents of pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase
- Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 for pupils attending Mount Street Infants
- Potential to attract capital funding to provide a new building
- Would reduce the Council's surplus places in primary schools
- Would lead to rationalisation of the primary school estate
- Financial saving to the Council
- Meets all the Critical Success Factors

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on a proposal to merge Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, to create a new primary school in Brecon.

It is recommended that the consultation is based on implementation of the emerging preferred option on the following phased basis:

- **Phase 1:** Establishment of a new school operating from the current three sites
- **Phase 2:** Moving to a new building located on the site of the former Brecon High School

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Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.

This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit, incorporates a range of legislative requirements that support effective decision making and ensure compliance with all relevant legislation. **Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as “Draft” and retained for completeness. However, only the final version will be made publicly available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 7 years.**

Service Area	Schools Service	Head of Service	Lynette Lovell / Emma Palmer	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Phyl Davies
Proposal	Mount St Infants, Mount St Juniors and Cradoc CP School Proposal				
Outline Summary / Description of Proposal					
<p>On the 29th September 2020, the Council’s Cabinet considered a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) which included a range of options in order to address issues with schools in the Brecon catchment area.</p> <p>Without requiring Cabinet to make a decision on the future configuration of schools in the catchment, the SOC identified a preferred way forward, which is to invest in the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new 360 place English-medium primary school in Brecon, to replace Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Juniors School and Cradoc C.P. School, with a co-located Pupil Referral Unit and a community swimming pool – to be built on the site of the old Brecon High School. • A new 180 place dual-stream primary school in Sennybridge, replacing the current poor accommodation at Sennybridge CP School – to be built on the current site of Sennybridge CP School. <p>Cabinet approval is now requested to commence the statutory process on the following proposal in respect of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Juniors School and Cradoc C.P. School:</p> <p>Phase 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Juniors School and Cradoc C.P. School to create a new primary school that would operate from the current three sites • The target date for establishing the new primary school is September 2022. <p>Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make a regulated alteration to transfer the school to a new school building on a new site in Brecon • It is anticipated that the new school would be open by 2024/5, but this is dependent on the availability of capital funding and approval of business cases by the Welsh Government. 					

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1. Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
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1	Sarah Astley	Strategic Programme Manager – Schools Transformation	September 2020
2	Sarah Astley	Strategic Programme Manager – Schools Transformation	November 2020

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
£	£	£	£	£	£

3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	If approved by Cabinet, it is anticipated that consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code will commence in January and the consultation stage of the process will be concluded by the end of March 2021

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4. Impact on Other Service Areas

**Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Have you considered the implications on Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting?)
PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY**

Adult Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legal and Democratic Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children's Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Property, Planning and Public Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways, Transportation and Recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transformation and Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Digital Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Housing and Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workforce and OD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Data Protection Impact Assessment

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals? Yes No

Not currently, however should the Council proceed with statutory processes to change the provision in Brecon, this would involve processing the personal details of individuals

Is Powys County Council the data controller? Yes No N/A currently

If you have answered yes to either of the above you will be required to complete, as a minimum, the screening questions on the data protection impact assessment.
For further advice please contact the Data Compliance Team.

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4. Geographical Locations

What geographical area(s) will be impacted by the proposal? (Chose all those applicable)

Powys	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brecon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Llandrindod and Rhayader	<input type="checkbox"/>	Machynlleth	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Builth and Llanwrtyd	<input type="checkbox"/>	Llanfair Caereinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Newtown	<input type="checkbox"/>
North	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crickhowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Llanfyllin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welshpool and Montgomery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hay and Talgarth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Llanidloes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ystradgynlais	<input type="checkbox"/>
South	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knighton and Presteigne	<input type="checkbox"/>				

5. How does your proposal impact on Vision 2025?

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Council's Well-being Objective	How does the proposal impact on this Well-being Objective?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>The Economy We will develop a vibrant economy</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would result in the closure of Cradoc, Mount Street Infants and Mount Street Junior Schools to establish a new primary school. Whilst initially the new school would operate from the three current sites, eventually the school would move to a new building in Brecon, resulting in significant capital investment in the area. Community benefits to include opportunities for traineeships / apprenticeships are a key requirement of 21st Century Schools projects, therefore it is anticipated that these opportunities would be available as part of implementing the proposal.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal could have an impact on employment opportunities, as the staffing requirements for the new school could be lower than the current requirements, in particular following a move to one new building.</p> <p>Moving to one new building in Brecon would mean that there would no longer be a primary school in Brecon, which would impact on employment opportunities in the village of Cradoc. However, merging the three schools to establish one new school would ensure that staff currently employed at Cradoc CP School would have opportunities to secure employment in the new school.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Neutral</p>

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Council's Well-being Objective	How does the proposal impact on this Well-being Objective?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Health and Care We will lead the way in providing effective, integrated health and care in a rural environment	No impact	Neutral		Choose an item.
Learning and skills We will strengthen learning and skills	Implementation of the proposal would lead to merging Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc school to establish a new school, initially operating over the three current sites. It is possible that there would be some challenges in the short term whilst the school operates across three sites, particularly given the poor condition of the three existing buildings. However, there would also be enhanced opportunities for pupils, and an opportunity to strengthen learning and skills through the sharing of staff, and additional opportunities for staff development. In the longer term, the new school would move to a new building in Brecon. This would further improve the educational experience provided to learners, ensuring that the schools can provide education which fully meets the requirements of the new curriculum in 21 st century facilities.	Good		Choose an item.

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Council's Well-being Objective	How does the proposal impact on this Well-being Objective?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Residents and Communities We will support our residents and communities</p>	<p>The proposal would eventually provide access to new build, 21st Century Schools facilities, which would have a positive impact on residents and communities.</p> <p>Whilst initially the new school would operate across the three existing sites, eventually, implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no provision in Cradoc, therefore there would be a greater impact on residents living in Cradoc due to there being no school in the village.</p> <p>Whilst home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils living in Cradoc to their nearest alternative school, it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on pupils' ability to access after school activities, and there would also be an impact on families in terms of attending school activities.</p> <p>However, pupils traveling from Cradoc would be accessing a brand new building, which would be vastly improved from the current building at Cradoc.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

6. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Government’s well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<p>A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new build primary schools in Brecon. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings.</p> <p>Community benefits to include opportunities for traineeships / apprenticeships are a key requirement of 21st Century Schools projects, therefore it is anticipated that these opportunities would be available as part of implementing the proposal.</p>	Good		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would result in a new build primary school in the Brecon. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings.</p> <p>However, implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Cradoc School. This would have a negative environmental impact as more home to school transport would need to be provided to transport pupils to their nearest school. However, the number of pupils requiring additional transport would be relatively small as a proportion of the affected pupils.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A healthier Wales: A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017: Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to the establishment of one new, larger primary school. It is anticipated that this would provide additional opportunities for pupils to take part in a wide range of activities to improve their physical and mental well-being, including sports activities.</p> <p>Eventually, the proposal would lead to a new build primary school in Brecon. Moving to a brand new building from the current poor quality buildings would have a positive impact on the well-being and morale of both pupils and staff.</p> <p>The long term plans for a new building also include providing a new swimming pool in Brecon, which would improve the facilities available to the community in Brecon, therefore having a positive impact on their physical health.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would result in merging Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School to establish a new primary school, initially operating across the three existing sites but eventually moving to one new building in Brecon.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that eventually, this would mean that there would be no primary provision in Cradoc, which would impact on the community in Cradoc. However, by merging the three schools to create one new primary school, opportunities would be provided for the Cradoc community to be fully involved in the process of establishing the new school, ensuring improved cohesion within the new school and following the planned move to a new building.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</p> <p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The aim of implementing the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities to learners, enabling them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>If approved by Cabinet, the Council will carry out consultation on the proposal, which would include consultation with all pupils affected by the proposal, ensuring that all affected by the plans have the opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation. Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards				
<i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i>	All three schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	All three schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	Implementation of the proposal would lead to merging three existing schools in order to establish one larger primary school. It is anticipated that being part of a larger school would result in additional opportunities for pupils to take part in sport, art and other extra-curricular activities. Whilst it is expected that some of these benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, this would be further enhanced following the planned move to a new building located in Brecon.	Good		Choose an item.
A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).				
<i>Age</i>	The proposal would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<i>Disability</i>	<p>The proposal would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.</p> <p>Eventually, implementation of the proposal would lead to a new building in Brecon. This would significantly improve the accommodation for these learners, and would ensure full access for disabled pupils in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.</p>	Good		Choose an item.
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Race</i>	<p>The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups due to their race. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Religion or belief</i>	<p>The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School, regardless of their religion or belief.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<i>Sex</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School, regardless of their sex.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School, regardless of their sexual orientation.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Socio-economic duty</i>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School, including any eligible for Free School Meals.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would eventually be no school in Cradoc. This would mean that pupils currently attending Cradoc School would need to travel to their nearest alternative provision. Whilst home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils, it is possible that this would impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular / after school activities, and that this impact would be greater in respect of pupils from lower income households. There would also be an impact on the parents of these pupils in terms of accessing school activities.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

7. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				
<i>Long Term: Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</i>		Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<i>Collaboration: Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	Should the Cabinet agree to proceed, full consultation would be carried out, which would enable all interested parties to give their views. This would include an opportunity to suggest any alternative solutions for the catchment.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including:</i> Unpaid Carers: <i>Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</i></p>	<p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be required in accordance with the School Organisation Code in order to achieve this. This would that all interested parties would have an opportunity to give their views. The findings of this exercise would be reported to Cabinet and would be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. This impact assessment will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received.</p> <p>All stakeholders would have the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, this would include any unpaid carers in the area.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Prevention: <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</i> Safeguarding: <i>Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</i></p>	<p>The key issues relating to the schools affected by the preferred way forward have been identified as part of this work. The PBC prepared for the Brecon catchment and the options appraisal included with the Cabinet papers identifies challenges facing the affected schools and aims to identify a solution which would address these issues and prevent them occurring again.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal. The intention is that the proposal would improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Integration: Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<p>Powys County Council Workforce: What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would impact on all current staff at Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc CP School as a staffing process would be required in order to establish the new school. This could lead to a reduction in overall numbers of staff. However, the new school would be a larger school, which would lead to benefits for staff, including improved development opportunities from being part of a larger team of staff.</p> <p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. This process would be supported by relevant LA teams (e.g. HR). this would include consultation with staff, which would ensure that they had an opportunity to give their views.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal would eventually lead to a new building to replace the three current buildings. Working in these new buildings would have a positive impact on staff morale.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Payroll: How will this impact salary, any overtime/enhanced payments etc? Does this affect any particular group of employees? E.g. Male/Female dominated workforce. Does this proposal comply with the Councils Single Status Terms and Conditions?	Implementation of the preferred way forward could impact on salary arrangements for current staff at the affected schools.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Welsh Language impact on staff	All three schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh language impact on staff	Neutral		Choose an item.
Apprenticeships: Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?	No impact	Neutral		Choose an item.
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				

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8. What is the impact of this proposal on our communities?

Communities	How does the proposal impact on residents and community?	<u>IMPACT</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Brecon	<p>The proposal would lead to merging Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc Schools to establish one larger primary school, initially operating across the three existing sites, but eventually moving to a new building in Brecon.</p> <p>It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact on residents in Brecon.</p>	Minor		Choose an item.	
Cradoc	<p>The proposal would lead to merging Mount Street Infants, Mount Street Juniors and Cradoc Schools to establish one larger primary school, initially operating across the three existing sites, but eventually moving to a new building in Brecon.</p> <p>Whilst it is anticipated that being part of a larger school would have a positive impact on the opportunities available to Cradoc pupils, eventually implementation of the proposal would mean that there would no longer be a school in Cradoc, therefore there would be a negative impact on residents in Cradoc. However, pupils would attend a new build school, which would provide much improved accommodation compared to the current offer.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for primary aged pupils living in Cradoc. Whilst home to school transport would be provided for eligible pupils, it is acknowledged that this could have an impact on pupils' ability to access after school activities, and would impact on parents attendance at school events.</p>	Major	Full consideration of the impact on the Cradoc community to be considered as the process moves forward.	Major	

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9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Description of risks			
Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)
If there is no funding available to fund this project, either from the Welsh Government or the Council, then the project will not be able to proceed.	High	The funding to support this project will be considered as part of the overarching financial strategy for the delivery of the entire Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-30, which will be provided for Cabinet's consideration later this Autumn. An updated Strategic Outline Programme will be submitted to the Welsh Government requesting an increase in the Band B funding envelope.	High

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10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
This impact assessment suggests that the impact is generally positive with some negative aspects, such as the requirement for some pupils to travel further than they currently do to school, and loss of provision in the village of Cradoc. Whilst the intention is to initially establish the new school on the three existing sites, eventually the intention is that the school would move to a new building. This would provide much improved buildings and facilities for pupils compared with the current poor condition buildings, ensuring that future pupils would be taught in facilities that are fit-for-purpose, improving their learner entitlement and experience. The new facilities would be fully DDA compliant, supporting learners with disabilities.	

11. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
Full consultation will be required to implement this proposal, and this will enable the impact assessment to be further developed.

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?
The Transforming Education Programme Board will continue to monitor impact over time.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

The impact assessment will be reviewed at all stages of the development.

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Sarah Astley	Sarah Astley	14 th November 2020
Head of Service:	Lynette Lovell		
Portfolio Holder:	CLlr Phyl Davies		

14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Date required
Cabinet	15 th December 2020

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FORM ENDS



**Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior
School and Cradoc C.P. School**

Draft Community Impact Assessment

January 2021

Draft Community Impact Assessment

This initial community impact assessment has been developed with input from the three affected schools. If Cabinet approve commencing the statutory process, the community impact assessment will be updated throughout the process to reflect any additional information received.

4.1 Mount Street Infants School

i) Information on the proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

The closest provider for pupils attending the Mount Street Infants School in January 2020 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Cradoc C.P. School	1.7%
Llanfaes C.P. School	8.7%
Llangors C. in W. School	0.9%
Mount Street Infants School	45.2%
Priory C. in W. School	40.0%
Ysgol y Mynydd Du	3.5%

This suggests that 45.2% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 54.8% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools. Whilst a small proportion of pupils attending the school live closer to schools located outside the town, it is clear that the majority of pupils that attend the school live in the town of Brecon or the immediate surrounding area – schools in Brecon are the closest schools for 93.9% of pupils.

ii) After-school clubs and extra-curricular activities provided by the school

The school provides the following after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities:

- Breakfast Club
- After School Club
- Year 2 Sports Club

iii) Any other facilities or services the school accommodates or services the school provides

The school accommodates or provides the following other facilities or services:

- External clubs ran by external organisations e.g. Kiddy Cook, Powys Dance
- 3+ Early Years setting providing 10 hour education and Childcare Offer for Wales is based on the site within the school building and separate playground
- Specialist support class for the Brecon cluster – provision for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children with significant additional learning needs
- Parent and Toddler group meets at the school one morning a week, utilising the school hall and outdoor play areas
- Millennium Woodland – Joint Project between the school, the National Trust, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, PTA and pupils where pupils take part in outdoor woodland session every week
- Work experience for learners at NPTC Brecon to gain experience and develop skills towards completing Childcare and Sport qualifications

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

- The school building is used as the venue for staff training for the Millennium Woodland Joint Project for the entire Brecon cluster.
- Occasional use of the woodland by the Brecknock Wildlife Trust for holiday programmes

v) Other links between the school and the community

- Visits to the local community – pupils walk to a wide range of venues in Brecon e.g. library, fire station, shops. Year 2 pupils participate in Dementia Matters scheme at Kensington Church weekly
- Swimming – pupils walk to Brecon Leisure Centre each week for half hour swimming session
- School grounds provide the local community with a valuable green space in the centre of a busy town
- Fundraising events which involve the local community e.g. McMillan Coffee Mornings

vi) If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where would they be provided in the event of closure?

Should the proposal be implemented, a new primary school would initially be established on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, therefore the current Mount Street Infants School site would continue to be available.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. It is likely that the new building would have enhanced facilities compared with the current buildings, including community facilities, which could be utilised for the same activities and services currently provided, therefore it is not anticipated that moving to the new site would have a negative impact.

vii) Distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category

Should the proposal be implemented, a new primary school would initially be established on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, therefore pupils would be able to continue to access English-medium provision at the same locations. There would be no impact on distance and travelling time.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. This site is located approximately 0.6 miles from the current Mount Street Infants site. The additional distance is minimal, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a significant impact on distance and travelling time for pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School.

Whilst the distance from the current Mount Street Infants School building to the proposed location of the new school is relatively small, it is acknowledged that the proposed new location is up a hill, which could be less convenient for parents and pupils, and which could lead to an increase in parents choosing to drive their children to school. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new school was previously a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre.

viii) How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. As the preferred option would result in the establishment of one new school, initially operating over three sites, there would be opportunities for all parents and pupils involved with the three existing schools to be fully involved with the establishment of the new school, which would ensure full engagement by the time the school were to move to the planned new building.

ix) Any wider implications e.g. impact on public transport provision, wider community safety issues

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal to amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School would impact on public transport provision or community safety.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. As this site is a former school site, appropriate safe walking routes established for Brecon High School would remain. The site is also located near to Ysgol y Bannau which would have similar safe walking routes established.

Whilst the distance from the current Mount Street Infants School building to the proposed location of the new school is relatively small, it is acknowledged that the proposed new location is up a hill, which could be less convenient for parents and pupils, and which could lead to an increase in parents choosing to drive their children to school. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new school was previously a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre.

4.2 Mount Street Junior School

i) Information on the proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

The closest provider for pupils attending the Mount Street Junior School in January 2020 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Cradoc C.P. School	2.0%
Llanfaes C.P. School	14.5%
Llangors C. in W. School	1.3%
Llangynidr C.P. School	3.3%
Mount Street Junior School	44.7%
Priory C. in W. School	30.9%
Sennybridge C.P. School	2.0%
Ysgol y Mynydd Du	1.3%

This suggests that 44.7% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 55.3% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools. Whilst a small proportion of pupils attending the school live closer to schools located outside the town, it is clear that the majority of pupils that attend the school live in the town of Brecon or the immediate surrounding area – schools in Brecon are the closest schools for 90.1% of pupils.

ii) After-school clubs and extra-curricular activities provided by the school

The school provides the following after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities:

- Various sporting clubs e.g. Rugby, Football, Cricket
- Various academic and creative clubs e.g. French, Art, Music, Lego, Board games
- Music tuition via peripatetic music teachers – piano, violin, brass, flute, clarinet, guitar, singing. Run in conjunction with Mount Street Infants School

iii) Any other facilities or services the school accommodates or services the school provides

The school accommodates or provides the following other facilities or services:

- After School Club
- Opportunities for music tuition provided on site
- Local Farm produce business
- Top 100 books library project

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

The school building is used by the community to provide the following activities:

- Brownies
- Brecon Little Theatre

v) Other links between the school and the community

- Links with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Brecon Library
- Parental workshops
- School choir perform at Christingle, Remembrance at Plough Chapel, Brecon at Christmas
- Morrisons donations for EFSM pupils
- Brecon Rotary Club
- Community events, including the following:
 - Sports Day
 - Harvest festival
 - St David's Day
 - Eisteddfodau
 - Christmas concerts
 - Eco-events, including building a green house, clearing the wildlife pond, donation of items for safe risk play etc. These events are supported by families and wider members of the community including Brecon Beacons National Park
- Links with local police in managing traffic issues – visits from PCOs
- Curriculum links with the local community:
 - Pupils visit the local community in order to develop knowledge of all six learning areas:
 - Language Literacy Communication – study of languages around the town, especially Welsh. Pupils have developed a map of languages based on the diversity of the town of Brecon
 - Maths / Numeracy – Data handling tasks based on traffic, litter, street surveys

- Humanities – Studies of local human and physical geography, WW2 Museum, Brecon as a military town
 - Science / Technology – Habitats and plants of the local area, buildings and shapes
 - Health and Well-being – Walks around the town, cross country
 - Expressive Arts – Sketching of local features
- National Dementia Day
 - ALN Open Door
 - Parent Consultations
 - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
 - ALN Statementing Panel
 - Parental Numeracy / Literacy Workshop
 - Special Interest Day
 - Dashain
 - EWO visits
 - Siartr Iaithe
 - Broneirion – Residential trip
 - Mental Health Workshops
 - Christmas Fayre
 - Nepali Art Project

vi) If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where would they be provided in the event of closure?

Should the proposal be implemented, a new primary school would initially be established on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, therefore the current Mount Street Infants School site would continue to be available.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. It is likely that the new building would have enhanced facilities compared with the current buildings, including community facilities, which could be utilised for the same activities and services currently provided, therefore it is not anticipated that moving to the new site would have a negative impact.

vii) Distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category

Should the proposal be implemented, a new primary school would initially be established on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, therefore pupils would be able to continue to access English-medium provision at

the same locations. There would be no impact on distance and travelling time.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. This site is located approximately 0.7 miles from the current Mount Street Juniors site. The additional distance is minimal, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a significant impact on distance and travelling time for pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School.

Whilst the distance from the current Mount Street Juniors School building to the proposed location of the new school is relatively small, it is acknowledged that the proposed new location is up a hill, which could be less convenient for parents and pupils, and which could lead to an increase in parents choosing to drive their children to school. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new school was previously a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre.

viii) How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. As the preferred option would result in the establishment of one new school, initially operating over three sites, there would be opportunities for all parents and pupils involved with the three existing schools to be fully involved with the establishment of the new school, which would ensure full engagement by the time the school were to move to the planned new building.

ix) Any wider implications e.g. impact on public transport provision, wider community safety issues

Transport issues are currently a concern at the school – the main driveway up to the school is very narrow which can cause congestion. However, as the intention is to initially establish a new school on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, it is not anticipated that there would be impact on public transport provision or community safety during this phase.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3

9SR. This would address the issues relating to transport and access at the current site of Mount Street Junior School. As the proposed site of the new school is a former school site, appropriate safe walking routes established for Brecon High School would remain. The site is also located near to Ysgol y Bannau which would have similar safe walking routes established.

Whilst the distance from the current Mount Street Infants School building to the proposed location of the new school is relatively small, it is acknowledged that the proposed new location is up a hill, which could be less convenient for parents and pupils, and which could lead to an increase in parents choosing to drive their children to school. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new school was previously a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre.

4.3 Cradoc C.P. School

i) Information on the proportion of pupils from the catchment area that attend the school

The closest provider for pupils attending Cradoc C.P. School in January 2020 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Builth C.P. School	3.0%
Cradoc C.P. School	53.5%
Llanfaes C.P. School	7.1%
Mount Street Infants School	3.0%
Mount Street Junior School	7.1%
Priory C. in W. School	17.2%
Sennybridge C.P. School	7.1%
Ysgol Bro Tawe	2.0%

This suggests that 53.5% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 46.5% of pupils attending the school

live closer to other primary schools. 34.4% of pupils attending Cradoc C.P. School live closer to schools located in the town of Brecon.

ii) After-school clubs and extra-curricular activities provided by the school

The school provides the following after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities including the following:

- Various sports clubs e.g. Football, Cricket, Rugby, Tennis, Netball, Athletics
- Various academic clubs e.g. Maths Club, Homework Club
- Watch (nature), ECO, Sewing, Gardening, Cinema, Lego Club
- Choir and Orchestra
- Opportunities for music tuition via peripatetic music teachers including piano, violin, brass, flute, clarinet, singing

Whilst some of these clubs are run by staff and governors, a large number are run by community volunteers / parents.

iii) Any other facilities or services the school accommodates or services the school provides

The school accommodates or provides the following other facilities or services:

- Cool Kids @ Cradoc – breakfast club, after school and holiday club
- 3@Cradoc Early Years private provider utilises the school premises and provides Early Years provision including the Childcare Offer for Wales
- Combined these two entities provide wrap around care from 7.45am to 6pm daily for children aged 3-13
- Rural play pod – provided in 2018 following a grant application – provides children with an opportunity to use the equipment outside school hours
- Ongoing permanent book exchange for children and adults
- Community ‘swap shop’ for plants, produce, eggs at various times throughout the year
- Opportunities for music tuition provided on site
- Work with the three community councils from which the majority of pupils come e.g. installation of a sensory and butterfly garden by the Yscir Community Council
- Provides storage and parking facilities for the local play network

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

The school building is used by the community to provide the following activities:

- Book Exchange
- Community Swap Shop
- Music Tuition
- The school premises a 'rural play pod', one of only 3 across Powys, providing children with free, unsupervised play area for the community
- Regular work with the three community councils located in the area e.g. sensory and butterfly garden, Woodland Trust Charter
- The school provides storage and parking facilities for the local play network
- Periodically provide a venue for competitions, events and quizzes for the Brecon cluster and local schools

The school is the only remaining public building in the Yscir ward – meeting hall and facilities are made available to local organisations when possible, e.g.:

- Shake, Rattle & Roll music group
- Parent and toddler group
- Committee meetings / AGM of the local Play Network
- Periodic meetings of the local Church, including some Dan yr Epynt services
- Periodic community celebratory parties/events, including but not limited to:
 - Royal Wedding (and other) street parties
 - YFC Carol Singing (use of car park, toilet facilities etc)
 - Community Summer Sports competition
 - Honddu Rural Community Association Easter Egg hunts
 - Community Summer Fete, Eisteddfodau, Halloween party/disco
 - Local anniversary events eg 50@ celebration – outdoor event attended by over 300
 - Friends of Cradoc community events
 - Use by Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees to hold Refugee Away Day
- Periodic community training courses, including:
 - First aid course (open to full community)
 - Internet safety course (open to full community)
 - Financial awareness course (open to full community)
 - Substance misuse course (open to full community)
- Election counting station
- Training events / meetings held by outside organisations e.g.
 - PCC Early Years training

- ERW NQT support meetings
- NHS use e.g. South Powys Mental Health In-reach courses

v) Other links between the school and the community

- High levels of support from parents, grandparents and the wider community
- The school holds regular events which the community attend, which include the following:
 - Sports Day
 - Community bingo
 - Family/community picnics
 - Harvest festival – including where older members of the community were invited to school for celebration and tea
 - St David’s Day events and Eisteddfodau – wider community are invited
 - Whole school Christmas concerts
 - Eco-events, including maintenance and improvement of the school grounds, wildlife pond, erection of bird and bat boxes, placing of hedgehog homes, building bug hotels etc
- Work with the community to ensure continued use and maintenance of non-school facilities, including:
 - Local history/geography/science visits within walking distance to The Crug, The Gaer, Roman Fort, Old Railway line and Cradoc Holt
 - Visits to Aberyscir church for Easter services and educational events eg FP baptism service
 - Use of Golf club for fundraising events
 - Visits to garden of local wildlife expert to gain expert hands on knowledge and expertise – this is in walking distance of the school
 - Visits to local rural businesses, to enhance learning about rural crafts and rural economy, supporting the Powys Local Development Strategy
 - People with expertise related to learning come to school to speak to children on a range of subjects e.g. mountain rescue, health matters, Sikhism, dog handlers, rural crafts
 - Sessions in the Driving range at the golf club which is in walking distance
 - Building on the rural and agricultural culture of the school, the school participates in the NFU Farmvention programme
- Active ‘Friends of Cradoc School’ who run events approximately half termly or more frequently
- School and community work together to participate in ‘Cradoc in Bloom’

- The school has worked with the Rural Dean and other partners to access support for children with issues around mental health in farming families
- The school's community events eg Harvest Festivals, Social evening, provide increasing opportunities for farmers and communities to connect and enable the strengthening of social networks
- Listening to the children playing helps the well-being of those locals who may be limited in their contact with the outside world
- Support other local organisations and work with them to develop understanding for the children – Cradoc School became the first primary school in Wales to become a School of Sanctuary.
- School Choir visits to local hospitals and care homes
- Involvement in local shows e.g. Lower Chapel
- Link with the Cathedral choir – participation in the Cathedral Carol Concert
- Involvement with the local church
- Links with Police surrounding speed awareness and traffic calming
- School car park used by local residents

vi) If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where would they be provided in the event of closure?

Should the proposal be implemented, a new primary school would initially be established on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, therefore the current Cradoc C.P. School site would continue to be available to the community.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. It is likely that the new building would have enhanced facilities compared with the current buildings, including community facilities. However, it is acknowledged that a move to a new school site in Brecon would mean that there would no longer be a school located in Cradoc, therefore potentially the community facilities provided by the school may no longer be available. It is currently unclear where the facilities and services currently provided by the school could be provided should there be no school located in Cradoc.

vii) Distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category

Should the proposal be implemented, a new primary school would initially be established on the current sites of Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School, therefore

pupils would be able to continue to access English-medium provision at the same locations. There would be no impact on distance and travelling time during this phase.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School, Penlan, Brecon, LD3 9SR. This site is located approximately 3 miles from the current Cradoc C.P. School site.

Following a move to the new building, there would be an impact on distance and travelling time for pupils currently attending Cradoc C.P. School for whom Cradoc is currently the closest school. An analysis of pupils attending Cradoc C.P. School in January 2020 suggests that the furthest distance to the new school for pupils for whom Cradoc C.P. School is currently the closest school would be 8.8 miles.

A significant proportion of pupils that currently attend Cradoc C.P. School live closer to alternative schools in Brecon. For these pupils, it is likely that there would be a reduction in distance / travel time.

Following the move to a new building in Brecon, home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport which is in operation at that time. Whilst free transport would be provided to eligible pupils, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.

viii) How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. As the preferred option would result in the establishment of one new school, initially operating over three sites, there would be opportunities for all parents and pupils involved with the three existing schools to be fully involved with the establishment of the new school, which would ensure full engagement by the time the school were to move to the planned new building.

ix) Any wider implications e.g. impact on public transport provision, wider community safety issues

- There is no public transport to Cradoc

- Because of the school's location, there is currently a speed restriction through the village of Cradoc and gritting of rural roads up to the school. This ensures the safety of all residents.
- Due to the rural nature of the school, there are no safe play facilities for local children other than the school
- The roads around Cradoc are extremely dangerous with a lot of large agricultural and delivery traffic on narrow roads. Local children learn to ride their bikes on the school playground
- The school car park is used by local residents due to the lack of safe parking facilities in the village – if the car park was not available on road parking narrows the main road through the village which would cause difficulties for agricultural and delivery traffic and the Emergency services

x) Additional considerations for rural schools

The School Organisation Code includes a number of additional considerations that are likely to be relevant when carrying out a community impact assessment for a rural school closure. As Cradoc C.P. School is identified as a rural school, these factors are considered below:

- **Whether closure would encourage families with school-age children to leave the community or discourage young families from moving to the community**

Information received from the school suggests that a wide range of services and activities are provided by the school, including some facilities which could be attractive to families, such as wraparound childcare provision which is run by the school. Should there be no school in Cradoc, it is likely that there would be an impact on the other associated facilities available in the village, which could have an impact on families with school-age children, and which could encourage these families to leave the community or discourage young families from moving to the community.

- **What impact closure might have on other services provided locally, for instance if the school is the only remaining public building in a community**

Information received from the school suggests that a wide range of services are provided in the school, and that this is the only remaining public building in the area. It is currently unclear where these services would be provided should there be no school in Cradoc. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would endeavour to work with the community in Cradoc to identify a suitable alternative.

- **Whether, or not, the school is a real hub of community life, used for other purpose – such as public meetings, local events, fetes surgeries, and other get togethers – which would either cease or be diminished by being required to move elsewhere**

Information received from the school suggests that a wide range of events take place in the community events and activities take place in the school, as indicated in sections (iii), (iv) and (v) above. It is currently unclear where these events and activities could take place should there be no school in Cradoc, and therefore it is unclear whether they would be able to continue, or whether they would cease or be diminished. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would endeavour to work with the community in Cradoc to identify a suitable alternative.

- **Whether or not the loss of the school, and potentially families, will have a detrimental effect on the wider economy of the community**

It is possible that the loss of the school, and the loss of families from Cradoc could have some impact on local business in Cradoc and the surrounding area should there be less people in the area. Implementation of the proposal would eventually lead to a reduction in employment opportunities in the village of Cradoc, as the intention is that the new school would move to a new building in Brecon. However, as the proposal is to merge the three existing schools in order to establish one new school, opportunities would be provided to staff currently employed at Cradoc C.P. School to secure employment in the new school.

- **How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported (e.g. how pupils, (particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities)**

As indicated in section (viii) above, should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. As the preferred option would result in the establishment of one new school, initially operating over three sites, there would be opportunities for all parents and pupils involved with the three existing schools to be fully involved with the establishment of the new school, which would ensure full engagement by the time the school were to move to the planned new building.

Following a move to a new building in Brecon, it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on pupils' ability to participate in after school activities. The new school would be encouraged to ensure that a wide range of activities

are available to pupils within the school day to ensure that they are able to take part in activities.

- **The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)**

The information received from the school indicates that there is currently extensive community use of the Cradoc building, and extensive links between the school and the local community. It is therefore likely that the proposal to remove school provision from the village of Cradoc would have a significant effect on the local community.

Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it is currently unclear where the facilities and services currently provided by the school could be provided. However, the Council would endeavour to work with the community in Cradoc to identify a suitable alternative.

4.4 Conclusion

It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at the three affected schools. Should the proposal be implemented, a new school would initially be established on the existing sites of the three schools. It is expected that a similar range of activities would be provided to pupils on the existing sites. It is also possible that an increased range of activities and opportunities could be offered to pupils, through the ability to share staff expertise and the ability to offer joint activities to a larger group of pupils. During the first phase of implementation, it is anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be minimal.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to one new building located on the site of the old Brecon High School in Brecon, co-located with the PRU and a new community swimming pool. It is anticipated that the new building would have a range of community facilities, which would ensure that many of the activities which currently take place in the schools could continue, as well as providing the opportunity to offer new activities.

It is acknowledged, however that the move to one new building in Brecon would mean that there would be no school provision in the village of Cradoc. The information provided in section 4.3 above indicates that there is currently extensive community use of the Cradoc building, and extensive links between the school and the local community. It is currently unclear where the facilities and services currently provided by the school could be provided should there be no school in Cradoc. However, should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would endeavour to work with the community in Cradoc to identify a suitable alternative.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Cradoc is currently their closest school. Whilst

free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy which is in operation at that time, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and there could be an impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.

The move to one new building would also have some impact on pupils currently attending Mount Street Infants School and Mount Street Junior School, as the new school building would be located approximately 0.6/0.7 miles from the current school buildings, and would be located up a hill, which could mean that parents would be more likely to drive their children to school rather than walk / cycle. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new school was previously a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre.

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