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## CABINET

Thursday, 18th March, 2021

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

1.	<b>LLANGEDWYN CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL, LLANFECHAIN CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND LLANSANTFFRAID CIW PRIMARY SCHOOL - PROPOSAL PAPER</b>
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To consider a report by County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property.

(Pages 3 - 148)

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**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.****CABINET EXECUTIVE****18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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

**REPORT TITLE:** Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School – Proposal Paper

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 This report requests Cabinet approval to commence the statutory process on the following proposals:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools
- To close Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools
- To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

1.2 The report also requests approval for the following:

- To develop a Business Justification Case (BJC) for submission to Welsh Government to develop an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- To release £50,000 from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools 'Other Projects' line in the capital programme, to support the initial feasibility and design stages of the new extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. school.

1.3 The report is supported by the following appendices:

- Appendix A – Pre-consultation response from the Diocese of St Asaph
- Appendix B – Options Appraisal
- Appendix C – Community Impact Assessment
- Appendix D – 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.’*
- 2.4 The Strategy also sets out a number of guiding principles which will underpin the transformation of education in Powys.
- 2.5 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’*.

### **Llanfyllin / North Welshpool Programme Business Case**

- 2.6 Following approval of the new Strategy, a Programme Business Case (PBC) was developed for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment. The PBC was considered by Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 2.7 Without requiring Cabinet to make a decision on the future configuration of schools in the catchment, the PBC identified a preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area as follows:
  - A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4 – 18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the current poor condition buildings of Ysgol Llanfyllin – to be built on the current Ysgol Llanfyllin site.
  - To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School – this could also potentially include neighbouring schools in the Welshpool catchment as well. Site to be confirmed.
  - To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing both Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
  - To provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School.

- Possible closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

2.8 The intention is to take forward the Transformation Programme in the Llanfyllin/North Welshpool catchment area on a phased basis as follows:

- Phase 1 – the development and consideration of options for Llangedwyn CIW Primary School and Llanfechain CIW Primary School, along with plans for capital investment in Llansantffraid CIW Primary School.
- Phase 2 – the development and consideration of options for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Ysgol Gynradd Pennant and Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant – it is expected that this exercise will be concluded shortly after Easter 2021.
- Phase 3 – the development and consideration of options for Llandysilio CiW Primary School, Carreghofa CP School, Arddleen CP School and Brynhafren CP School, which is expected to be undertaken in the autumn term 2021.

2.9 This paper relates to Phase 1 above and does not refer to Phases 2 or 3 which will be subject to separate papers presented to Cabinet.

### 3. The Case for Change

#### Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School

3.1 Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School currently operate as a formal federation – Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon. The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the two schools:

#### 3.2 Llangedwyn C. in W. School

##### i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers<sup>1</sup> at Llangedwyn C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with fewer than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this and are expected to decrease further to 16 by January 2021. Whilst pupil numbers are projected to increase over the following couple of years, they are expected to remain low.

<sup>1</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

The school's low pupil numbers have also resulted in a high number of surplus places at the school. Based on current pupil numbers, there is currently 56% surplus capacity at the school.

**ii) High budget per pupil**

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school's budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £11,912. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Llangedwyn is ranked the highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.

**iii) Issues with the building**

Despite the findings of the Welsh Government's condition survey carried out in 2009, which found that the condition of the building was 'B – Good' and its suitability was 'B – Good', there are still concerns about the school's condition and suitability, in particular its suitability to deliver the new curriculum.

The school was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the design and configuration reflects the nature of school buildings at that time. There is limited access for seamless outdoor learning, which is a particular issue in respect of the foundation phase curriculum, as well as no access to a hall on site. In addition, there is poor office and staffroom provision. The backlog maintenance cost is estimated to be approximately £84k.

The current accommodation at Llangedwyn constrains the school's ability to fully meet the requirements of the new curriculum, and does not meet the Council's vision statement for education, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys

**iv) Leadership arrangements**

Current leadership arrangements at the school are temporary, with an acting headteacher working across both schools in the Federation Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

Whilst the school's recent Estyn inspection notes that 'The acting headteacher has managed a period of significant change competently...', the report also identified concerns regarding leadership arrangements, and includes a recommendation to 'Put in place clear arrangements to cover leadership in the absence of the headteacher.'

The inspection report also includes a recommendation in respect of the governing body, which is to 'Ensure that the governing body hold the school to account for standards and progress of pupils.'

**v) Need to improve quality of provision**

Whilst Estyn’s inspection of Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2020 identified a number of positives in respect of the school’s provision, a number of areas were identified which require improvement. In particular, Estyn’s overall judgement on Standards was ‘Adequate and needs improvement’, and the inspection report includes recommendations to ‘improve standards of reading in the foundation phase’ and to ‘improve provision to develop pupils’ information and communication technology (ICT) skills’.

**vi) High proportion of pupils are from other catchment areas**

Of the 18 pupils attending the school in January 2020, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is only the closest school for 7 of them. This means that 61% of pupils attending the school do not live in the school’s natural catchment area.

**3.3 Llanfechain C. in W. School**

**i) Low pupil numbers**

Current pupil numbers<sup>2</sup> at Llanfechain C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and are projected to remain fairly stable over the coming years.

**ii) High budget per pupil**

Based on the Council’s Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school’s budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £5,427. This is higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Llanfechain is ranked the 15<sup>th</sup> highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.

**iii) Building condition and suitability**

The Welsh Government’s survey of school buildings carried out in 2009 identified issues with the building condition of the Llanfechain building, with the building being assessed to be condition C – Poor. The school is a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century school and estimated backlog maintenance costs are approximately £431k.

<sup>2</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

#### iv) Leadership

Current leadership arrangements at the school are temporary, with an acting headteacher working across Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

### 3.4 Llansantffraid C. in W. School

The main challenges facing the school relate to the capacity of the school building, particularly in light of the Council's preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment, as outlined in the PBC considered by Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The challenges facing the school are as follows:

#### i) Capacity

As indicated in the PBC relating to the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area which was considered by Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, Llansantffraid C. in W. School 'is currently unique amongst the schools in the Llanfyllin catchment, being the only one that is operating above capacity, and has been doing so consistently for the past six years.' The current capacity of the school is 105 and there are currently 103 pupils on roll. As a voluntary aided school, the school is responsible for its own admissions, and demand for places is increasing. The school also operates a pre-school setting within the main school building.

#### ii) Backlog Maintenance

Whilst Llansantffraid C. in W. School is a fairly new building compared with other school buildings in the area, the school does have some outstanding backlog maintenance costs, currently estimated at £312,951.

### 4. Information about Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School

The following primary schools are located within approximately 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School:

School	Distance from Llangedwyn C. in W. School by road (miles)	Distance from Llanfechain C. in W. School by road (miles)
Ysgol Llanfyllin	4.8 miles	3.5 miles
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4.5 miles	2.3 miles



Ysgol Meifod	9.5 miles	6.2 miles
Ysgol Pontrobert	10.4 miles	8.4 miles
Ysgol Pennant	6.5 miles	8.1 miles
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3.6 miles	7.0 miles
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	N/A	4.4 miles
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	3.7 miles	6.7 miles
Trefonen CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	6.0 miles	7.5 miles
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.0 miles	6.6 miles
Ardleen C.P. School	9.1 miles	6.9 miles
Carreghofa C.P. School	7.8 miles	5.6 miles
Guilsfield C.P. School	12.0 miles	8.7 miles
Llandysilio C. in W. School	8.2 miles	6.0 miles
Llanfechain C. in W. School	4.4 miles	N/A
Ysgol Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog (Wrexham)	8.4 miles	12.7 miles
Woodside Primary School (Shropshire)	8.7 miles	12.0 miles
Selattyn CofE Primary School	8.9 miles	12.1 miles

(Shropshire)		
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The following is a summary of key data relating to the Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School:

	<b>School Type</b>	<b>Language Category</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>	<b>Rural School?<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Controlled Primary Church in Wales  School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	6	Yes
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Controlled Primary Church in Wales  School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	7	Yes
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Aided Primary Church in Wales  School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English medium	15	No

### **Pupil Numbers**

<sup>3</sup> 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.

i) **Current pupil numbers<sup>4</sup>**

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	12	16	15	12	25	10	13	103

ii) **Historical pupil numbers<sup>5</sup>**

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	32	30	31	26	28	31	18
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	30	35	40	44	39	39	44
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	120	114	119	108	100	118	120

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>6</sup>**

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	20	17	18	21	21
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	43	48	53	50	45

<sup>4</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

<sup>5</sup> PLASC 2020

<sup>6</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections (R – Yr6) based on PLASC 2020 & Birth Rates

<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	105	100	96	87	87

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>7</sup>**

	<b>Jan. 2022</b>	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>Jan. 2024</b>	<b>Jan. 2025</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	22	20	N/A	N/A
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	43	44	N/A	N/A
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	105	110	N/A	N/A

**Building Capacity and Condition**

i) **Capacity**

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

	<b>Current Capacity<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Currently Filled</b>	<b>Surplus Capacity</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	47	22 (47%)	19 (53%)
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	47	43 (91%)	4 (9%)
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	105	103 (98.1%)	2 (1.9%)

ii) **Building condition**

<sup>7</sup> Powys Finance Projections based on actual pupil numbers – November 2020

<sup>8</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

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

	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Access to hall on site</b>	<b>Estimated backlog maintenance</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	B Good	B Good	No	£84,291
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	C Poor	B Good	Yes	£431,250
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	B Good	C Poor	Yes	£312,951

### Standards of Education

i) **Estyn**

	<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	January 2020
<b>Standards</b>	Adequate and needs improvement
<b>Wellbeing and attitudes to learning</b>	Good
<b>Teaching and learning experiences</b>	Adequate and needs improvement
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Leadership and management</b>	Adequate and needs improvement
<b>Follow up activity</b>	School will draw up an action plan and Estyn will review the school's progress.

	<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	April 2015
<b>Standards</b>	Good
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Adequate
<b>Learning experiences</b>	Good
<b>Teaching</b>	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Adequate
<b>Improving quality</b>	Adequate
<b>Partnership working</b>	Good
<b>Resource management</b>	Adequate
<b>Follow Up</b>	School to draw up action plan. Estyn to monitor progress.

	<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	March 2014
<b>Standards</b>	Good
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Good
<b>Learning Experiences</b>	Good
<b>Teaching</b>	Good

<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning Environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Good
<b>Improving Quality</b>	Good
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Good
<b>Resource Management</b>	Good
<b>Follow up activity</b>	The school will draw up an action plan that shows how it is going to address the recommendations

ii) **School Categorisation<sup>9</sup>**

	<b>Standards Group</b>	<b>Improvement Capacity</b>	<b>Support Capacity</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	N/A	B	Yellow
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	N/A	B	Yellow
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	N/A	B	Yellow

**Financial information**

i) **Cost per pupil<sup>10</sup> (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)**

	<b>Budget share per school</b>	<b>Budget share per pupil</b>	<b>Notional SEN budget</b>	<b>Non ISB funds devolved</b>

<sup>9</sup> 2019

<sup>10</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

				<b>to the school</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	£191,000	£11,912	£21,000	£7,000
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	£239,000	£5,427	£15,000	£3,000
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	£425,000	£3,758	£26,000	£7,000
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

## **5. Options Appraisal exercise**

5.1 An options appraisal exercise has been carried out, which has included the following steps:

- Consideration of key data relating to Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School
- Identification of options
- SWOT analysis of each option
- Assessment of each option against a number of critical success factors
- Identification of an initial emerging preferred option
- Consultation with the Diocese of St Asaph on the emerging preferred option
- Review of the options appraisal to take account of the consultation response received from the Diocese of St Asaph
- Consideration of key data relating to Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Consideration of implementation options
- 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.

5.2 The initial options appraisal carried out in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School considered a range of options for the two schools. This exercise identified an emerging preferred option to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.



- 5.3 As Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School have a religious character, the School Organisation Code includes the following requirements:

*'In the case of proposals to reorganise schools for which land and/or buildings are held on trust or which have a designated religious character, the proposer **must** conduct consultation with the trustees and/or appropriate religious body before the consultation document is published. The proposer **must** allow 28 days for the receipt of comments and **must** have due regard to those comments before any decision is made to proceed to general consultation.'*

- 5.4 To meet the requirements of the School Organisation Code, consultation was carried out with the Diocese of St Asaph during November / December 2020 on the emerging preferred option, to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. The Consultation Response received from the Diocese raised concerns about the emerging preferred option for the two schools, and in particular on access to Church in Wales places in the area currently served by Llangedwyn C in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.
- 5.5 The options appraisal was reviewed and updated to address the concerns expressed by the Diocese in respect of access to Church in Wales places, by linking the plans for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School more closely with the planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which was outlined in the PBC for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool area. In addition, the updated options appraisal considered a range of implementation options which would ensure access to additional Church in Wales places until the completion of the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- 5.6 The updated options appraisal identified the following preferred option:
- Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
  - Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the planned extension to Llansantffraid is complete.
- 5.7 A second period of consultation was subsequently carried out with the Diocese of St Asaph on the amended preferred option as outlined in 5.6 above. The response received from the Diocese in respect of this option is attached as Appendix A.
- 5.8 Whilst supportive of the Council's intention to provide an extension to Llansantffraid, the response raised concern that some pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School may need to move schools twice in order to continue to access Church

in Wales provision, and suggested that both schools should remain open until the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School is complete.

5.9 Having considered the response received from the Diocese of St Asaph, the Council has acknowledged the need to minimise disruption for those pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, and the need to minimise disruption for Llansantffraid C. in W. School. As suggested by the Diocese, the Council has further revised the proposal to be taken forward in respect of these three schools. The amended preferred option is as follows:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

5.10 The options appraisal document in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School has been further amended to reflect the amended preferred option. The options appraisal also includes consideration of the impact of the preferred option on the factors to be taken into account when developing school organisation proposals. The full options appraisal is attached to this paper as Appendix B.

5.9 Based on the options appraisal carried out, the consultation response received from the Diocese of St Asaph, and further consideration against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code, the preferred option is as follows:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**
- **To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.**

5.10 The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Delaying implementation of the proposal would not impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area throughout the implementation period
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

## **6. Presumption against closure of Rural Schools**

6.1 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.

6.2 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.'*

6.3 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

6.4 As the School Organisation Code identifies Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School as rural schools, the additional requirements for rural schools have been addressed when developing the proposal paper.

6.5 A draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out on the preferred option, which considers the impact of closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School on the community. This has been developed with input from the schools. This is attached as Appendix C.

- 6.6 The draft Community Impact Assessment includes the following conclusion:

*'A range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, and there are links between both schools and their respective communities.*

*Should there be no schools in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, it is acknowledged that this would impact on both communities. However, there is a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, and a Village Hall in Llanfechain, both of which would continue to be available should there be no schools in the two villages, and where community activities and events could be held.*

*Should there be no schools in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, additional travel would be required for those pupils for whom these are currently the closest schools. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy, 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. However, the majority of pupils at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools. For these pupils, transferring to their closest schools would lead to a reduction in travel distance / time.'*

## **7. Extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School**

- 7.1 The Programme Business Case (PBC) included an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School based on the school's limited available capacity.
- 7.2 Whilst developing the preferred option for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School as outlined above, it became apparent that the extension in Llansantffraid was a key requirement to provide an appropriate number of Church in Wales places in the area due to the proposed closure of two other Church in Wales schools.
- 7.3 Initial feasibility work has taken place to establish whether a 90-place extension can be provided. This has indicated that this is possible, however there may potentially be a need to decant pupils from the current Llansantffraid building during the construction stage in order to secure the safety of pupils. Further work is being carried out to identify possible site options. It is not expected that the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be in place until September 2023 at the earliest.
- 7.4 The Consultation Response received from the Diocese of St Asaph (Appendix A) raises a number of queries in respect of the planned

extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, and also requests that the building programme commences at the earliest opportunity. To enable this work to move forward as quickly as possible, officers will develop a Business Justification Case (BJC) for submission to Welsh Government to develop an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School

## **8. Advice**

8.1 It is advised that Cabinet approves a recommendation to commence the statutory process on the following proposals:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- To close Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

8.2 The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Delaying implementation of the proposal would not impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area throughout the implementation period
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

8.3 Should the recommendation to commence the statutory process be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in the summer of 2021 at the earliest.

- 8.4 It must also be noted that implementation of this proposal does not preclude schools from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.
- 8.5 It is also advised that officers proceed with the developments of a Business Justification Case (BJC) for submission to Welsh Government to develop an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School.
- 8.6 It is also advised that Cabinet approves the release of £50,000 from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools 'Other Projects' line in the capital programme, to support the initial feasibility and design stages for a new extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

## 9. **Resource Implications**

### **Revenue**

- 9.1 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, it is estimated that this proposal would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £66,000 per annum. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on schools' delegated funding of £117,000, estimated additional transport costs of £46,000, potential loss of funding for pupils that may move to out of county schools of £11,000 and savings on catering costs of around £6,000.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.

- 9.4 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.

### **Capital**

- 9.5 It is estimated that the amount of capital funding required for this project is £3 million, which includes both costs of the extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. school and potential decanting costs. The project will be funded through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, and as a voluntary aided school, the Welsh Government's contribution is 85%, with the Diocese / school governing body responsible for the remaining 15%. A Business Justification Case would need to be submitted to the Welsh Government to draw down this funding.
- 9.6 Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools. Neither school site is owned by the local authority, therefore the proceeds of any sale of either site would not be available to the local authority.
- 9.7 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report and the resource implications above. Funding is available and £50,000 can be released to support the initial design stage of the new extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. School. This expenditure will be incurred at risk, if the project does not proceed these costs could not be recovered through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools programme and would fall on the Council's Revenue budget.

## **10. Legal implications**

- 10.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view (Locum Education Lawyer).
- 10.2 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".

## **11. Comment from local member(s)**

- 11.1 To follow.

## **12. Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 The summary of the impact assessment is as follows:

*'The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners. However, whilst this impact assessment has identified some positive aspects, in particular relating to learning and skills and ensuring the best strategic management of the Powys schools estate, and the provision of sufficient Church in Wales school places in the area, the assessment has also identified some negative aspects.'*

*These primarily relate to the impact on the communities of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain due to loss of educational provision from the villages, and the associated additional travel requirements for pupils, however most pupils that currently attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools.'*

12.3 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.

### **13. Recommendation**

13.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process on the following proposals:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative school;
- To close Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative school;
- To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

13.2 It is recommended that officers proceed with the development of a Business Justification Case (BJC) for submission to Welsh Government to develop an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School

13.3 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the release of £50,000 from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools 'Other Projects' line in the capital programme, to support the initial feasibility and design stages of the new extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

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Lynette Lovell  
Interim Chief Education Officer  
Powys County Council

Dear Lynette

## **Transforming Education in Powys – Pre-Consultation Response to Options for Llangedwyn and Llanfechain Church in Wales Primary Schools**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the amended options appraisal in respect of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain Primary Schools and now including Llansantffraid as a new consideration. Can I say again that the Diocese of St Asaph fully appreciates the need to review the pattern of schooling provision in Powys and the opportunity that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme presents to enable all children to access high quality education.

As we have also stated previously, we remain committed to working with you through this process to ensure that the final proposals are in the best interests of children and sustainable in the longer term.

In making this response, we acknowledge that the Council has taken cognisance of our earlier concerns relating to Church in Wales school places but there remain a number of questions and uncertainties which could call into question the Council's ability to deliver the number of Church in Wales places that we believe need to be provided to ensure parents have parity of choice. I would again quote the School Organisation Code which states that organisations should consider "whether the alternative school-based provision is sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same.....designated religious character". Whilst Llansantffraid is a Church in Wales school, our concern will be to preserve the number of places in the area so that parents have the same opportunity to access Church in Wales places.

Turning to the specifics of the proposals:

### **Closure of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain**

We are clearly disappointed that the proposal put forward by the Diocese to create a larger school on the Llangedwyn site is not being pursued. This presented an opportunity to utilise a site which is geographically well placed to serve the needs of the area and to bring two schools together whilst at the same time relieving the pressure on Llansantffraid. It could also have supported the Council with its plans regarding Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr.

### **Expansion of Llansantffraid**

We would support the proposal to create 3 extra classrooms at Llansantffraid as this would address the current shortfall, create provision for those pupils moving to this school from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and provide permanent capacity overall for 200 pupils in the future. However, we need assurances from the Council that the commitment to create three extra class bases of 30 pupils per class is guaranteed.

We are particularly concerned that the Options Appraisal provides no timescale for the completion of the expansion programme although there is reference to it taking 'several years'.



We also have no assurances that the plans thus far are able to confirm that an extension of this size is viable. We are aware of the physical constraints on the current site, and it would be prudent to have certainty about being able to deliver the three classroom extension before proceeding to formal consultation. It would certainly be a matter of grave concern if the Authority consulted on proposals which it was subsequently unable to deliver. This would generate even more concern and anxiety for parents and would damage the reputation of the Council regarding its ability to manage and implement their Transforming Education Strategy. The document needs to state very clearly how far the plans have been developed and when they will be completed. Parents and communities should not be consulted on possibilities that cannot be confirmed at the time statutory consultation is published.

On the assumption that the extension could proceed, the matter of timing will be critical. This will be a major building programme on a restricted site and disruption to the school will be considerable. This means that scheduling of work to take place during summer holidays will need to be planned accordingly. In addition, the closure of Llangedwyn, with pupils relocating to Llanfechain on a temporary basis, will necessitate the siting of a demountable on the Llanfechain site. This will add to the cost and will create considerable inconvenience for parents whilst the Llansantffraid build is being completed. Some pupils will therefore have to move schools twice and this will undoubtedly create instability in their education at a time when they have already experienced turmoil in their education because of Covid. This might also persuade parents to seek alternative, less disruptive, school places which would be a concern for the Diocese, as it would, in effect, be forcing parents to choose non church schools in order to look after the well-being of their children. It will also involve additional transport costs which could be avoided.

At the very least, we would want assurances that the building programme could start at the earliest opportunity so that these temporary arrangements are in place for the minimum amount of time. Our preferred position is that the Council retains the Llangedwyn site as well as the Llanfechain site until the completion of works at Llansantffraid (as per option 1 "Delay implementation" in the pre-consultation 2 document), and only then would the closure of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain be implemented, thus reducing the difficulty for all schools involved in this proposal. Whilst the cost to the Council in keeping these schools open would continue, these costs would be offset against the alternative proposal of providing demountables and school transport.

We are aware of a piece of land adjacent to Llansantffraid School which is currently in the ownership of The Representative Body of the Church in Wales. In order to create the extra capacity needed in terms of permanent build and outdoor space, we would propose that the Council seriously explores the purchase of this land to create an extension to the main building. This option for the new classrooms could also significantly reduce the disruption for staff and pupils during the build.

In addition, the school currently has access to the Community building on that site. It may be that this could be incorporated into the school for teaching purposes and alternative arrangements offered to the community. Clearly, this would require negotiation with Llansantffraid Recreation Association who have a 99 year lease (which started on 28 November 2007) on the building and surrounding area, but it would enable the utilisation of much needed space by the school.

It is critical before proceeding to formal consultation that the proposals are supported by sufficient detail to give stakeholders a clear understanding of exactly what is being proposed, as well as the confidence that the option under consideration is viable. Failure to provide this could result in proposals being abandoned and communities losing faith in the process.

The Statutory Code states that,

*“In the case of all proposals, the consultation document **must** contain the following information:*

- *A detailed description of the proposal or proposals..., the projected timetable for statutory procedures and for implementation of the proposals and any proposed interim arrangements which might be necessary for their implementation.*

*Where proposals involve the closure of a school, the following information **must** be included in the consultation document:*

- *Information on any building works necessary to ensure the transferred children can be accommodated at the alternative provision.”*

We would urge the Authority to reconsider the timing of the statutory consultation to enable the more detailed information as required by the Statutory Code highlighted above to be included in the Options Appraisal.

In addition, we would suggest that it would be useful to explore further the opportunity to purchase additional land in the ownership of The Representative Body in Wales which we have been informed would be open for negotiation.

In addition to the points above, we want to make it clear that our preferred option is for:

- Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools to remain open for the interim period to enable stability for children during this challenging time until the Llansantffraid expansion programme is completed and,
- Llansantffraid to be the alternative designated school for pupils in those two schools to retain provision of Church in Wales places.

This is a very worrying and uncertain time for staff and children, coming as it does hard on the heels of the challenges presented over the last year by Covid. As these proposals progress, the wellbeing of staff and all those involved will most certainly be affected. We are keen to work with you to ensure they are supported through the months ahead and that early consideration can be given to alternative opportunities for staff in terms of redeployment. We would be happy to discuss this with you at the appropriate time.

I hope you feel that the points we have raised in this response are worthy of further detailed consideration and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

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## Transforming Education in Powys

# Options Appraisal

### Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, Llanfechain Church in Wales School and Llansantffraid Church in Wales School

#### Version Control:

Version	Date	Brief Summary of Change	Author
0.1	10/11/20	Initial draft	RW/AM
0.2	29/11/20	Draft for consideration by WS1 / Programme Board	SA
0.3	09/02/21	Updated following initial pre-consultation response from Diocese	SA
0.4	12/03/21	Updated following second consultation response from Diocese for Cabinet consideration	SA

# CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	4
<b>Part A – The Case for Change</b>		<b>6</b>
2.	Strategic Context	6
2.1	Policy context	6
2.2	Why change is needed in Powys	6
3.	Why Change is needed in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain	9
3.1	The Current Situation	9
3.2	Why Change is needed in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain	19
<b>Part B – Options for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>		<b>23</b>
4.	Available options	23
5.	SWOT Analysis of each option	25
6.	Impact of each option	41
7.	Critical Success Factors	53
8.	Emerging preferred option	54
<b>Part C – Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>		<b>56</b>
9.	The current situation at Llansantffraid C. in W. School	56
<b>Part D – Implementation Options</b>		<b>62</b>
10.	Available implementation options	62
11.	SWOT analysis of each implementation option	62
12.	Impact of each implementation option	66
13.	Critical Success Factors	70
14.	Emerging preferred option	70
15.	Conclusion	71

<b>Part E – Further Consideration of Preferred Option</b>	<b>73</b>
16. Quality and standards in education	73
17. Need for places and impact on accessibility of schools	77
18. Resourcing of education and other financial implications	80
19. Other general factors	83
20. Specific factors in the consideration of school closures	84
21. Conclusion and next steps	85

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

- A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4 – 18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the current poor condition buildings of Ysgol Llanfyllin – to be built on the current Ysgol Llanfyllin site.
- To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School – this could also potentially include neighbouring schools in the Welshpool catchment as well. Site to be confirmed.
- To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing both Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
- To provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School.
- Possible closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> September, Cabinet approved the submission of the PBC for the Llanfyllin 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.

The purpose of this paper is to consider options for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Current pupil numbers<sup>1</sup> at the two schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43
<b>Total</b>	9	4	17	10	5	10	10	65

<sup>1</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)



An earlier version of this options appraisal was shared with the Diocese of St Asaph as part of 'pre-consultation' on proposals for the two schools during November / December 2020.

A response was received from the Diocese which raised a number of concerns about the emerging preferred option and, in particular, on access to Church in Wales school places. The options appraisal was updated to take account of this feedback, and a second 'pre-consultation' was carried out with the Diocese of St Asaph on an amended preferred option during February / March 2021. This amended preferred option included the temporary retention of the Llanfechain site until a planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School was complete.

A further response was then received from the Diocese on the amended preferred option, which raised concern that some pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School may need to move schools twice in order to continue to access Church in Wales provision, and suggested that both schools could remain open until the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School is complete.

As a result, the options appraisal has been amended again to take account of the response received from the Diocese of St Asaph. In particular, the Council's consideration of implementation options in Section D of this document has been amended, which has led to identifying a different preferred implementation option.

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> century Wales.***

In addition, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives, which include an objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision' 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 LLANGEDWYN & LLANFECHAIN

#### 3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are located in the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys. Since October 2018 the two schools have operated as part of a federation, Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon, meaning that they operate under one governing body and one headteacher.

The following primary schools are located within approximately 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School:

School	Distance from Llangedwyn C. in W. School by road (miles)	Distance from Llanfechain C. in W. School by road (miles)
Ysgol Llanfyllin	4.8 miles	3.5 miles
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4.5 miles	2.3 miles
Ysgol Meifod	9.5 miles	6.2 miles
Ysgol Pontrobert	10.4 miles	8.4 miles
Ysgol Pennant	6.5 miles	8.1 miles
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3.6 miles	7.0 miles
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	N/A	4.4 miles
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	3.7 miles	6.7 miles
Trefonen CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	6.0 miles	7.5 miles
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.0 miles	6.6 miles
Ardleen C.P. School	9.1 miles	6.9 miles
Carreghofa C.P. School	7.8 miles	5.6 miles
Guilsfield C.P. School	12.0 miles	8.7 miles

Llandysilio C. in W. School	8.2 miles	6.0 miles
Llanfechain C. in W. School	4.4 miles	N/A
Ysgol Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog (Wrexham)	8.4 miles	12.7 miles
Woodside Primary School (Shropshire)	8.7 miles	12.0 miles
Selattyn CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.9 miles	12.1 miles

The following is a summary of key data relating to Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. Schools

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number <sup>2</sup>	Rural School? <sup>3</sup>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Controlled Primary Church in Wales  School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	6	Yes
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales  School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	6	Yes

## Pupil Numbers

### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>4</sup>

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22

<sup>2</sup> Powys County Council 'Admissions Information and Arrangements 2021-22'

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43
<b>Total</b>	9	4	17	10	5	10	10	65

ii) **Historical pupil numbers<sup>5</sup>**

	<b>Jan. 2014</b>	<b>Jan. 2015</b>	<b>Jan. 2016</b>	<b>Jan. 2017</b>	<b>Jan. 2018</b>	<b>Jan. 2019</b>	<b>Jan. 2020</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	32	30	31	26	28	31	18
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	30	35	40	44	39	39	44
<b>Total</b>	62	65	71	70	67	70	62

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>6</sup>**

	<b>Jan. 2021<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Jan. 2022</b>	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>Jan. 2024</b>	<b>Jan. 2025</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	20	17	18	21	21
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	43	48	53	50	45
<b>Total</b>	63	65	71	71	66

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>8</sup>**

	<b>Jan. 2021</b>	<b>Jan. 2022</b>	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>Jan. 2024</b>	<b>Jan. 2025</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	22	20	20	N/A	N/A
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	43	44	43	N/A	N/A

<sup>5</sup> PLASC 2020

<sup>6</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates, R-Yr6

<sup>7</sup> These are the projected figures based on PLASC 2020 information, therefore include a projection for January 2021. PLASC 2021 information and projected pupil numbers based on PLASC 2021 are not yet available.

<sup>8</sup> Powys Finance Projections – January 2021

<b>Total</b>	65	64	63	N/A	N/A
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### **Building Capacity and Condition**

#### **i) Capacity**

The following table provides information about the current capacities of the two schools:

	<b>Current Capacity<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>Currently Filled</b>	<b>Surplus Capacity</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	47	22 (47%)	25 (53%)
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	47	43 (91%)	4 (9%)

#### **ii) Building condition<sup>10</sup>**

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

	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Access to hall on site</b>	<b>Estimated backlog maintenance</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	B Good	B Good	No	£84,291
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	C Poor	B Good	Yes	£431,250

### **Standards of Education**

#### **i) Estyn**

	<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	January 2020

<sup>9</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

<sup>10</sup> Premises Data Return to Welsh Government – 2020



<b>Standards</b>	Adequate and needs improvement
<b>Wellbeing and attitudes to learning</b>	Good
<b>Teaching and learning experiences</b>	Adequate and needs improvement
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Leadership and management</b>	Adequate and needs improvement
<b>Follow up activity</b>	School will draw up an action plan and Estyn will review the school's progress.

	<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	April 2015
<b>Standards</b>	Good
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Adequate
<b>Learning experiences</b>	Good
<b>Teaching</b>	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Adequate
<b>Improving quality</b>	Adequate
<b>Partnership working</b>	Good
<b>Resource management</b>	Adequate
<b>Follow Up</b>	School to draw up action plan. Estyn to monitor progress.

ii) **School Categorisation<sup>11</sup>**

	<b>Standards Group</b>	<b>Improvement Capacity</b>	<b>Support Capacity</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	N/A	B	Yellow
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	N/A	B	Yellow

**Financial information**

i) **Cost per pupil<sup>12</sup> (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)**

	<b>Budget share per school</b>	<b>Budget share per pupil</b>	<b>Notional SEN budget</b>	<b>Non ISB funds devolved to the school</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	£191,000	£11,912	£21,000	£7,000
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	£239,000	£5,427	£15,000	£3,000
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

**Home to school travel**

i) **Current pupil travel patterns**

**Llangedwyn C. in W. School**

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 18 pupils that were attending Llangedwyn in January 2020. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

	<b>Pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>
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<sup>11</sup> 2019. Categorisations were not carried out in 2020 due to Covid-19.

<sup>12</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/21

Llangedwyn C. in W. School	7
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochant C.P. School	4
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3
Ysgol Llanfyllin	2
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	1

Based on this information, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the closest school for 7 (39%) of the current pupils.

If there was no school in Llangedwyn, the closest school for all of the current pupils would be as follows:

	<b>Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llangedwyn</b>
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	7
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant C.P. School	5
Llanfechain C. in W. School	2
Ysgol Llanfyllin	2
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1

### **Llanfechain C. in W. School**

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 44 pupils that were attending Llanfechain in January 2020. The closest provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	<b>Pupils attending Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>
Llanfechain C. in W. School	17

Ysgol Llanfyllin	11
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Ysgol Meifod	2
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Guilsfield C.P. School	1
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	1
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	1

Based on this information, Llanfechain C. in W. School is the closest school for 17 (39%) of the current pupils.

If there was no school in Llanfechain, the closest school for all of the current pupils would be as follows:

	<b>Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llanfechain C.I.W</b>
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	17
Ysgol Llanfyllin	15
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4
Ysgol Meifod	2
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	1
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	1
Guilsfield C.P. School	1

**Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School**

If there was no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn, the closest school for all of the current pupils currently attending the two schools would be as follows:

	<b>Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn</b>
Ysgol Llanfyllin	20
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	19
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	8
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant C.P. School	6
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	2
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Ysgol Meifod	2
Guilsfield C.P. School	1
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	1
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	1

ii) **Average travel distance**

**Llangedwyn C. in W. School**

The current average travel distance for pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2020 is 3.8 miles.

If there was no school in Llangedwyn, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2020 to attend their nearest alternative provision would be 2 miles.

**Llanfechain C. in W. School**

The current average travel distance for pupils attending Llanfechain C. in W. School in January 2020 is 3.2 miles.

If there was no school in Llanfechain, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2020 to attend their nearest alternative provision would be 2.0 miles.

### **Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School**

The current average travel distance for all pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School is 3.44 miles.

If there was no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn, the average travel distance for all current pupils to attend their nearest alternative provision would be 2.02 miles.

#### **iii) Furthest travel distance**

### **Llangedwyn C. in W. School**

Of the pupils that currently attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School, the furthest travel distance to school for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the closest provider is 1.7 miles.

If there was no school in Llangedwyn, the furthest travel distance to school for pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school would be 3.5 miles.

### **Llanfechain C. in W. School**

Of the pupils that currently attend Llanfechain C. in W. School, the furthest travel distance to school for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is the closest provider is 1.4 miles.

If there was no school in Llanfechain, the furthest travel distance to school for pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school would be 3.1 miles.

### **Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School**

If there was no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn, the furthest travel distance to school to pupils' nearest school would be 4.0 miles.

## **Equalities Information**

### **i) Free School Meals<sup>13</sup>**

	<b>% of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day</b>
<b>Llangedwyn C. in W. School</b>	22.2%

<sup>13</sup> PLASC 2020

Llanfechain C. in W. School	20.5%
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ii) Pupils in care<sup>14</sup>

	% of pupils in care
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	5.6%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0%

iii) SEN/ALN<sup>15</sup>

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	11.1%	5.6%	0%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0%	11.4%	0%

**Early Years**

School run setting on both the school sites.

**3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN LLANGEDWYN AND LLANFECHAIN**

**3.2.1 LLANGEDWYN C. IN W. SCHOOL**

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llangedwyn C. in W. School:

i) **Low pupil numbers**

Current pupil numbers<sup>16</sup> at Llangedwyn C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22

<sup>14</sup> Teacher Centre June 2020.

<sup>15</sup> PLASC 2020

<sup>16</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with fewer than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

The school’s low pupil numbers have also resulted in a high number of surplus places at the school. Based on current pupil numbers, there is currently 53% surplus capacity at the school.

## **ii) High budget per pupil**

Based on the Council’s Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school’s budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £11,912. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Llangedwyn is ranked the highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.<sup>17</sup>

## **iii) Issues with the building**

Despite the findings of the Welsh Government’s condition survey carried out in 2009, which found that the condition of the building was ‘B – Good’ and its suitability was ‘B – Good’, there are still concerns about the school’s condition and suitability, in particular its suitability to deliver the new curriculum.

The school was built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the design and configuration reflects the nature of school buildings at that time. There is limited access for seamless outdoor learning, which is a particular issue in respect of the foundation phase curriculum, as well as no access to a hall on site. In addition, there is poor office and staffroom provision. The backlog maintenance cost is estimated to be approximately £84k.

The current accommodation at Llangedwyn constrains the school’s ability to fully meet the requirements of the new curriculum, and does not meet the Council’s vision statement for education, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

## **iv) Leadership arrangements**

Current leadership arrangements at the school are temporary, with an acting headteacher working across Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

Whilst the school’s recent Estyn inspection notes that ‘The acting headteacher has managed a period of significant change competently...’, the report also identified concerns regarding leadership arrangements, and includes a recommendation to ‘Put in place clear arrangements to cover leadership in the absence of the headteacher.’

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<sup>17</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021



The inspection report also includes a recommendation in respect of the governing body, which is to ‘Ensure that the governing body hold the school to account for standards and progress of pupils.’

**v) Need to improve quality of provision**

Whilst Estyn’s inspection of Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2020 identified a number of positives in respect of the school’s provision, a number of areas were identified which require improvement. In particular, Estyn’s overall judgement on Standards was ‘Adequate and needs improvement’, and the inspection report includes recommendations to ‘improve standards of reading in the foundation phase’ and to ‘improve provision to develop pupils’ information and communication technology (ICT) skills’.

**vi) High proportion of pupils are from other catchment areas**

Of the 18 pupils attending the school in January 2020, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is only the closest school for 7 of them. This means that 61% of pupils attending the school do not live in the school’s natural catchment area.

**3.2.2 LLANFECHAIN C. IN W. SCHOOL**

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llanfechain C. in W. School:

**i) Low pupil numbers**

Current pupil numbers<sup>18</sup> at Llanfechain C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and are projected to remain fairly stable over the coming years.

**ii) High budget per pupil**

Based on the Council’s Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school’s budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £5,427. This is significantly higher than

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<sup>18</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

the Powys average of £4,264. Llanfechain is ranked the 15<sup>th</sup> highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.<sup>19</sup>

**iii) Building condition and suitability**

The Welsh Government's survey of school buildings carried out in 2009 identified issues with the building condition of the Llanfechain building, with the building being assessed to be condition C – Poor. The school is a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century school and estimated backlog maintenance costs are approximately £431k.

**iv) Leadership**

Current leadership arrangements at the school are temporary, with an acting headteacher working across Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

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<sup>19</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

## PART B – OPTIONS FOR LLANGEDWYN C. IN W. SCHOOL AND LLANFECHAIN C. IN W. SCHOOL

### 4. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

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

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue with the current federation between Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School
2	Expand federation – expand the current federation to include Llansantffraid Church in Wales School
<b><u>3 – Two sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</u></b>	
3a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on two sites
3b	Close Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain Church in Wales School
3c	Close Llanfechain Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llangedwyn Church in Wales School
<b><u>4 – One sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</u></b>	
4a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on the Llangedwyn site
4b	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on the Llanfechain site
<b><u>5 – Three sited school option – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</u></b>	
5	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on three sites

**6 – Two sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School**

6a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.
6b	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn.
6c	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.

**7 – One sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School**

7a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llangedwyn.
7b	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llanfechain.
7c	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid.

**8 – Closure options**

8a	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
8b	Close Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
8c	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

## 5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

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

### Option 1: Status quo – continue with the current federation between Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- No requirement for a reorganisation process</li> <li>- No change for staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at both schools would continue to be low</li> <li>- Pupils at the two schools would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still be running two buildings</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the building condition</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Would not improve quality of provision</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> <li>- Opportunities to address leadership arrangements by utilising staff over both sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site</li> </ul>

### Option 2: Expand federation – expand the current federation to include Llansantffraid Church in Wales School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain would continue to be low</li> <li>- Pupils at the three schools would still be taught separately</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would still be required to maintain the three buildings</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not address issues with building condition</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Possible additional transport costs to enable pupils to take part in joint activities during the school day</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> <li>- May not be attractive / acceptable to Llansantffraid C in W. School</li> <li>- Would need to restructure leadership across all of the schools. Currently permanent leadership in Llansantffraid and acting headship arrangement across Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</li> <li>- Possible impact on staff at all three schools</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> <li>- Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- The three schools have worked together in the past with a shared headship – they may not want to enter this arrangement again.</li> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>

**Option 3a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on two sites**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in both locations</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Pupils at both schools would continue to attend school at the location they currently attend</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- The two schools already work together as part of a federation, with one federated governing body responsible for both schools. Merging the two schools would be a natural next step.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain on both sites</li> <li>- Pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still be running two buildings</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn school building</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> <li>- Possible additional transport costs to enable pupils to take part in joint activities during the school day</li> <li>- Would affect staff at both schools</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> <li>- Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site</li> </ul>

**Option 3b: Close Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain Church in Wales School**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in both locations</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain on both sites</li> <li>- Pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the two buildings</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not address issues with building condition</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The two schools already work together as part of a federation, with one federated governing body responsible for both schools. Merging the two schools would be a natural next step.</li> <li>- Llanfechain is the larger of the two schools therefore may be more acceptable to retain the Llanfechain school name</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llangedwyn School would lose its own identity</li> <li>- May not be attractive to the Llangedwyn community</li> <li>- Possible greater impact on Llangedwyn staff</li> <li>- Need to address the issues around leadership</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> </ul>

**Option 3c: Close Llanfechain Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llangedwyn Church in Wales School**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in both locations</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- The two schools already work together as part of a federation, with one federated governing body responsible for both schools. Merging the two schools would be a natural next step.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain on both sites</li> <li>- Pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the two buildings</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not address issues with building condition</li> <li>- Llanfechain School would lose its own identity</li> <li>- May not be attractive to the Llanfechain community</li> <li>- Possible greater impact on Llanfechain staff</li> <li>- Need to address the issues around leadership</li> <li>- Llangedwyn is the smaller of the two schools therefore it may be less acceptable to retain the Llangedwyn school name</li> </ul>



<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> </ul>

**Option 4a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llangedwyn site**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Would ensure a larger number of pupils in Llangedwyn</li> <li>- Pupils would all be taught in one location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Llangedwyn is not the nearest alternative school for most current Llanfechain pupils</li> <li>- More inconvenient for a higher number of pupils</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain would be expected to transfer to a building with inferior facilities</li> <li>- Would not address the issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- No access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Llanfechain</li> <li>- Impact on the Llanfechain community</li> <li>- Would impact on staff at both Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Unlikely that the Llangedwyn building would be suitable to provide opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unlikely that the Llangedwyn building would be able to accommodate the additional pupils.</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain would be expected to transfer to a building with inferior facilities</li> </ul>
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**Option 4b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llanfechain site**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Would ensure a larger number of pupils in Llanfechain</li> <li>- Pupils would all be taught in one location</li> <li>- Would address the issues with the Llangedwyn school building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School would have to transfer to a new location</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Llangedwyn</li> <li>- Impact on the Llangedwyn community</li> <li>- Would impact on Llanfechain staff as well as Llangedwyn staff</li> <li>- Potential reduction in staffing requirements</li> <li>- Current capacity of Llanfechain school would not accommodate all Llangedwyn pupils</li> <li>- Llanfechain is not the nearest school for most current Llangedwyn pupils</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to reorganise teaching provision within Llanfechain to increase school capacity</li> <li>- Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would need to review the capacity of the current Llanfechain C. in W. School – additional capacity may be required</li> </ul>

**Option 5: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on three sites**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</li> <li>- Pupils at all three schools would continue to attend school on their current site</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils at all current schools</li> <li>- There would be no additional home to school transport costs</li> <li>- Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>- All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school</li> <li>- Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</li> <li>- Llangedwyn and Llanfechain pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain three buildings</li> <li>- Would not address building condition issues</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- All schools would lose their identities</li> <li>- Possible additional transport costs during the school day to enable pupils to access joint activities</li> <li>- Would impact on staff at all three current schools</li> <li>- Possible reduction in job opportunities</li> <li>- The new school would have two very small sites</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> <li>- May not be attractive / acceptable to Llansantffraid C in W. School</li> <li>- Need to restructure leadership across all of the schools. Currently permanent leadership in Llansantffraid and acting headship arrangement across Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> <li>- Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- The three schools have worked together in the past with a shared headship – they may not want to enter this arrangement again.</li> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out</li> </ul>

	previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.
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**Option 6a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn</li> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation</li> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School would have to transfer to alternative provision</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Llangedwyn community</li> <li>- Impact on the Llangedwyn community</li> <li>- Would impact on staff at all 3 schools</li> <li>- Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process</li> <li>- Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>

**Option 6b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llanfechain building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain School would have to transfer to a different location</li> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llanfechain community</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- May not be sufficient capacity at Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn to accommodate all pupils</li> <li>- Impact on the Llanfechain community</li> <li>- Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process</li> <li>- Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>

**Option 6c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llansantffraid building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llansantffraid C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llansantffraid School would have to transfer to a different location</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llansantffraid community</li> <li>- Impact on the Llansantffraid community</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not be sufficient capacity at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain to accommodate all pupils</li> <li>- Significant capital investment would be required to accommodate all pupils</li> <li>- Unlikely to be acceptable to the Llansantffraid community</li> <li>- Would be less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process</li> <li>- Would destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>

**Option 7a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llangedwyn.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid buildings</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School are currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would increase pupil numbers at Llangedwyn</li> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school</li> </ul>	<p>Llansantffraid C. in W. School would have to transfer to a different location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid communities</li> <li>- Impact on the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid communities</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Would not be sufficient capacity at Llangedwyn to accommodate all pupils</li> <li>- Significant capital investment would be needed</li> <li>- Less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Llangedwyn is currently the smallest of the three schools, therefore this option would result in significant disruption for pupils and their families</li> <li>- Would be a significant reduction in church school places in the area</li> <li>- Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W School would be part of a restructure process</li> <li>- Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional capacity would be required at Llangedwyn to ensure sufficient church school places are available</li> <li>- Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese</li> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>

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**Option 7b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llanfechain.**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would reduce the Council’s overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid buildings</li> <li>- Would remove the issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain</li> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School are currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School would have to transfer to a different location</li> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid communities</li> <li>- Impact on the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid communities</li> <li>- Would not be sufficient capacity at Llanfechain to accommodate all pupils</li> <li>- Significant capital investment would be needed</li> <li>- Less convenient for the majority of pupils</li> <li>- Would be a significant reduction in church school places in the area</li> <li>- Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process</li> <li>- Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional capacity would be required at Llanfechain to ensure sufficient church school places are available</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese</li> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>
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**Option 7c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llansantffraid.**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings</li> <li>- Would remove the issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- Would increase pupil numbers at Llansantffraid</li> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school</li> <li>- Llansantffraid is the larger of the three schools therefore this option would be most convenient for the majority of pupils currently attending the three schools</li> <li>- Minimal disruption for pupils / families currently attending Llansantffraid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would have to transfer to a different location</li> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities</li> <li>- Impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities</li> <li>- Some capital investment may be needed to increase capacity at Llansantffraid</li> <li>- Reduction in church school places in the area</li> <li>- Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process</li> <li>- Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional capacity would be required at Llangedwyn to ensure</li> </ul>

	<p>sufficient church school places are available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese</li> <li>- Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.</li> </ul>
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**Option 8a: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn</li> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation</li> <li>- Minimal impact on any other schools</li> <li>- Potential reduction in travel for pupils if they transfer to their closest school</li> <li>- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School would have to transfer to alternative provision</li> <li>- Loss of provision from Llangedwyn community</li> <li>- Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn C. in W. School</li> <li>- Impact on the Llangedwyn community</li> <li>- Pupils may not continue to attend C. in W. provision</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May not be sufficient available capacity in nearby schools</li> <li>- Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese</li> </ul>

**Option 8b: Close Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanfechain</li> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llanfechain building</li> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>- Minimal impact on any other schools</li> <li>- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain School would have to transfer to alternative provision</li> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llanfechain community</li> <li>- Impact on the current staff of Llanfechain C. in W. School</li> <li>- Impact on the Llanfechain community</li> <li>- Pupils may not continue to attend C. in W. provision</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May not be sufficient available capacity in nearby schools</li> <li>- Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese</li> </ul>

**Option 8c: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</li> <li>- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation</li> <li>- Minimal impact on any other schools</li> <li>- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school</li> <li>- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have to transfer to alternative provision</li> <li>- Loss of provision from the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities</li> <li>- Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools</li> <li>- Impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities</li> <li>- Reduction in C. in W. places in the area</li> <li>- Pupils may not continue to attend C. in W. provision</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May not be sufficient available capacity in nearby schools</li> <li>- Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese</li> </ul>

## 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
<b>Option 1: Status quo – continue with the current federation between Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</b>	There would be no impact on quality and standards – the current provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, with the two schools continuing to operate as part of a federation.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.
<b>Option 2: Expand federation – expand the current federation to include Llansantffraid Church in Wales School</b>	The impact on quality and standards would be minimal – the current federation would be expanded to include Llansantffraid, which could result in some additional opportunities for sharing staff / resources, and to ensure permanent leadership across the three schools.	The impact on the community would be minimal – whilst the current federation of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would be expanded to include Llansantffraid C. in W. School, provision would continue in all three locations.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend either Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School or Llansantffraid C. in W. School.
<b>Option 3a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in</b>	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Whilst the two schools currently operate as part of a federation, merging the schools to establish one new	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and the current site of Llanfechain C. in W.

<b>Wales school on two sites</b>	school would provide further opportunities to improve the provision through collaboration of staff to share expertise across the school. However, pupils would continue to attend school in two different locations.		School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.
<b>Option 3b: Close Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain Church in Wales School</b>	Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is not anticipated that this option would have a negative impact on quality and standards. The option would result in a larger school at Llanfechain, which could have a positive impact on quality and standards, as it would enable learners to benefit from greater opportunities and experiences as part of larger cohorts.	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, although the provision on the two sites would be managed by Llanfechain C. in W. School.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and the current site of Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.
<b>Option 3c: Close Llanfechain Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of</b>	Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and the current

<p><b>Llangedwyn Church in Wales School</b></p>	<p>Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is not anticipated that this option would have a negative impact on quality and standards. The option would result in a larger school at Llangedwyn, which could have a positive impact on quality and standards, as it would enable learners to benefit from being in larger cohorts of pupils. However there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils.</p>	<p>Llanfechain C. in W. School, although the provision on the two sites would be managed by Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p>	<p>site of Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.</p>
<p><b>Option 4a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llangedwyn site</b></p>	<p>Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Whilst the two schools currently operate as part of a federation, merging the schools to establish one new school would provide further opportunities to improve the provision through bringing the</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. 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>

	<p>strengths of each current school together. Having all pupils located on one site would provide further opportunities for pupils by being part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p> <p>However there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.</p>		
<p><b>Option 4b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llanfechain site</b></p>	<p>Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Whilst the two schools currently operate as part of a federation, merging the schools to establish one new school would provide further opportunities to improve the provision through bringing the strengths of each current school</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. 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>



	together. Having all pupils located on one site would provide further opportunities for pupils by being part of larger cohorts of pupils.		
<b>Option 5: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on three sites</b>	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. Whilst the school would operate over three sites, the school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources across the three sites, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.
<b>Option 6a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.</b>	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llangedwyn.	There would be no provision in Llangedwyn, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. 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

	<p>The school would operate across two sites, therefore although not all pupils would be taught together, there would be an opportunity to increase the number of pupils on the smallest site, providing an opportunity for pupils to be part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>		<p>to access school activities / events.</p>
<p><b>Option 6b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn.</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.</p> <p>The school would operate across two sites, therefore although not all pupils would be taught together, there would be an opportunity to increase the number of pupils on the smallest site, providing an opportunity for pupils to be part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. 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>

	<p>However there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.</p>		
<p><b>Option 6c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</b></p>	<p>In general, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.</p> <p>The school would operate across two sites, therefore although not all pupils would be taught together, there would be an opportunity to increase the number of pupils on the smallest site, providing an opportunity for pupils to be part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p> <p>However the current sites of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llansantffraid. This would have a negative impact on the Llansantffraid community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llansantffraid, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llansantffraid.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. 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>

	would not be suitable to accommodate all pupils currently attending the three schools. In particular, there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.		
<b>Option 7a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llangedwyn.</b>	Whilst this would result in establishing one new, larger, school, locating the new school on the current Llangedwyn site would have a negative impact on quality and standards due to concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llanfechain or Llansantffraid. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain and Llansantffraid, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llanfechain and Llansantffraid.	There would be no provision in Llanfechain or Llansantffraid, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. 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.
<b>Option 7b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and</b>	Whilst this would result in establishing one new, larger, school, the Llanfechain site does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate all current pupils,	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llansantffraid. This would have a negative	There would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llansantffraid, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W.

<p><b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llanfechain.</b></p>	<p>therefore although it is anticipated that merging the three schools to establish one new school on one site would have a positive impact on quality and standards, this is unlikely to be the case should the new school be located on the current Llanfechain site due to concerns about the building's capacity to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.</p>	<p>impact on the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid.</p>	<p>School and Llansantffraid C. in W. 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>
<p><b>Option 7c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llansantffraid.</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have an overall positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school on the largest of the three current sites. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils. All pupils would attend the same location, meaning that pupils would benefit from being part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. 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>

	Whilst the current Llansantffraid site may not currently be able to accommodate all pupils currently attending the three schools, consideration has previously given to extending the site, therefore there is scope to increase the accommodation available on the site.		
<b>Option 8a: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</b>	Implementation of this option would mean that pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant CP School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llangedwyn.	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llangedwyn.	There would be no provision in Llangedwyn, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. 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.
<b>Option 8b: Close Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to</b>	Implementation of this option would mean that pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W.	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in	There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for

<p><b>attend nearest alternative schools</b></p>	<p>School would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Ysgol Llanfyllin. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llanfechain.</p>	<p>Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llanfechain.</p>	<p>pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. 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>
<p><b>Option 8c: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</b></p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Ysgol Llanfyllin, Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. 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>

	quality as that provided at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.		
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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"> <li>• 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"> <li>- Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> <li>- Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> <li>- Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme</li> </ul>
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning</li> <li>• The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning</li> </ul>
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must be achievable within current legislation</li> <li>• The option must be operationally achievable</li> <li>• The option must be physically achievable</li> </ul>
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue</li> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council</li> </ul>

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 2	Option 3a	Option 3b	Option 3c	Option 4a	Option 4b	Option 5	Option 6a	Option 6b	Option 6c	Option 7a	Option 7b	Option 7c	Option 8a	Option 8b	Option 8c
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	?	?	x	x	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	?	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	?	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Total ✓</b>	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	4
<b>Total x</b>	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	0
<b>Outcome</b>	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	<b>Possible</b>	Discount	Discount	<b>Preferred</b>

## 8. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the assessments carried out so far, the emerging preferred option for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is:

**Option 8c: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Meets all of the Critical Success Factors

Pre-consultation with the Diocese of St Asaph was carried out on this option during December / January 2021. In the consultation response received from the Diocese, concern was expressed about the impact of the emerging preferred option on access to Church in Wales places in the area currently served by Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

Alongside the emerging preferred option, the Council has committed to providing an extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would ensure that sufficient Church in Wales places would continue to be available in the area. However, whilst plans to provide a 3-class extension to the Llansantffraid building are currently being developed, the timescale for completion of this development is unclear.

To address the concerns raised by the Diocese of St Asaph in respect of access to Church in Wales places until the extension to the Llansantffraid building is complete, consideration will be given to possible implementation options, in order to provide access to sufficient Church in Wales places in the interim period.

Data in respect of Llansantffraid C. in W. School and possible implementation options are considered in the next section.

## PART C – LLANSANTFFRAID C. IN W. SCHOOL

### 9. THE CURRENT SITUATION AT LLANSANTFFRAID C. IN W. SCHOOL

Llansantffraid C. in W. School is located in the village of Llansantffraid in the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys. It is a voluntary aided school.

The following schools are located within 10 miles of Llansantffraid C. in W. School:

School	Distance from Llansantffraid C. in W. School (miles)
Llanfechain C. in W. School	2.3 miles
Carreghofa C.P. School	3.4 miles
Llandysilio C.I.W School	3.8 miles
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	4.4 miles
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4.5 miles
Arddleen C.P. School	4.7 miles
Ysgol Llanfyllin	5.4 miles
Trefonen CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	5.6 miles
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	6.4 miles
Ysgol Meifod	6.6 miles
Guilsfied C.P. School	7.6 miles
Brynhafren C.P. School	8.0 miles
Kinnerley CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.1 miles
Llanrhaedr Ym Mochant C.P. School	8.2 miles

The following is a summary of key data relating to Llansantffraid C. in W. School:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number <sup>20</sup>	Rural School? <sup>21</sup>
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	Voluntary Aided Primary Church in Wales  School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English medium	15	No

### Pupil Numbers

#### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>22</sup>

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr 6
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	12	16	15	12	25	10	13	103

#### ii) Historical pupil numbers<sup>23</sup>

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	120	114	119	108	100	118	120

#### iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>24</sup>

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	105	100	96	87	87

#### iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>25</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Powys County Council 'Admissions Information and Arrangements 2021-22

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

<sup>23</sup> PLASC (R-Yr6)

<sup>24</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates

<sup>25</sup> Powys Finance Projections January 2021

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	103	105	110

### **Building Capacity and Condition**

#### **i) Capacity**

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity:

	Current Capacity <sup>26</sup>	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	103 (98.1%)	2 (1.9%)

#### **ii) Building condition<sup>27</sup>**

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

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	B Good	C Poor	Yes

### **Standards of Education**

#### **i) Estyn**

	Llansantffraid C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	March 2014
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning Experiences	Good

<sup>26</sup> Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

<sup>27</sup> Premises Data Return to Welsh Government – 2020

<b>Teaching</b>	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good
<b>Learning Environment</b>	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Good
<b>Improving Quality</b>	Good
<b>Partnership Working</b>	Good
<b>Resource Management</b>	Good
<b>Follow up activity</b>	The school will draw up an action plan that shows how it is going to address the recommendations

ii) **School Categorisation<sup>28</sup>**

	<b>Standards Group</b>	<b>Improvement Capacity</b>	<b>Support Capacity</b>
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	N/A	B	Yellow

**Financial information**

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

	<b>Budget share per school</b>	<b>Budget share per pupil</b>	<b>Notional SEN budget</b>	<b>Non ISB funds devolved to the school</b>
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	£425,000	£3,758	£26,000	£7,000
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

**Home to school travel**

<sup>28</sup> 2019. Categorisations were not carried out in 2020 due to Covid-19.

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 109 pupils that were attending Llansantffraid C. in W. School in January 2020. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

	<b>Percentage of pupils attending Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	74.3%
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4.6%
Trefonen Primary (Out of County)	3.7%
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2.8%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	2.8%
Morda CofE Primary School (Out of County)	1.8%
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	1.8%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0.9%
Arddleen C.P. School	0.9%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0.9%
Bryn Offa Primary (Out of County)	0.9%
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Out of County)	0.9%
Ysgol Meifod	0.9%
Abermule C.P. School	0.9%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	0.9%
Carreghofa C.P. School	0.9%

Based on this information, Llansantffraid C. in W. School is the closest school for 81 (74.3%) of the current pupils.

The current average travel distance for pupils attending Llansantffraid C. in W. School in January 2020 is 2.17 miles.



Of the pupils that currently attend Llansantffraid C. in W. School, the furthest travel distance to school for those pupils for whom Llansantffraid C. in W. School is the closest provider is 2.83 miles.

### **Equalities Information**

#### **i) Free School Meals<sup>29</sup>**

	<b>% of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day</b>
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	15.8%

#### **ii) Pupils in care<sup>30</sup>**

	<b>% of pupils in care</b>
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	0%

#### **iii) SEN/ALN<sup>31</sup>**

	<b>School Action</b>	<b>School Action Plus</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>Llansantffraid C. in W. School</b>	13.3%	0.8%	0.8%

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<sup>29</sup> PLASC 2020

<sup>30</sup> Teacher Centre June 2020

<sup>31</sup> PLASC 2020

## PART D – IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

### 10. POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

The following possible implementation options have been identified in respect of the preferred way forward for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, which would provide continued access to additional Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School is complete.

Option	Description
<b><u>Delay implementation</u></b>	
1	Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.
<b><u>Temporary two sited options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</u></b>	
2a	Retain the Llangedwyn site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.
2b	Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.
<b><u>Temporary three sited school option – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</u></b>	
3	Retain the Llangedwyn site and the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.

### 11. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified above are provided below:

**Option 1 – Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales throughout the implementation period.</li> <li>- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice</li> <li>- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not lead to rationalisation of the Powys schools infrastructure in the short term</li> <li>- The Council would need to maintain the three buildings in the short term</li> <li>- Would not enable the Council to realise any financial savings in the short term</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possible reduction in pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain during the transition period if parents choose for pupils to attend different schools</li> </ul>

**Option 2a – Retain the Llangedwyn site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete</li> <li>- Would retain provision in Llangedwyn in the short term</li> <li>- Would enable some rationalisation of the Council's school estate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School – would be responsible for a second site in the short term</li> <li>- The Llangedwyn site is located further away from Llansantffraid than Llanfechain, therefore this option would have a greater impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School</li> <li>- The Llangedwyn site is less suitable to accommodate pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</li> <li>- Additional travel would be required for a greater number of pupils</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llanfechain may not choose to transfer to the Llangedwyn site</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not accommodate all pupils currently accessing Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building in the short term</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> <li>- Significant investment would be needed to accommodate pupils in the short term</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential negative impact on Llansantffraid</li> </ul>

**Option 2b – Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete</li> <li>- Would retain provision in Llanfechain in the short term</li> <li>- Would enable some rationalisation of the Council's school estate in the short term</li> <li>- The Llanfechain building is more suitable than the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- The Llanfechain site is closer to Llansantffraid, therefore there would be less impact on Llansantffraid.</li> <li>- More pupils currently attend the Llanfechain site, therefore retaining this site would be more convenient for the majority of pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School – would be responsible for a second site in the short term</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn may not choose to transfer to the Llanfechain site</li> <li>- Would not accommodate all pupils currently accessing Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools – some additional capacity may be required in order to accommodate pupils, which would have additional cost implications for the Council</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn would need to move schools twice during the transition period in order to continue to access Church in Wales provision</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential negative impact on Llansantffraid</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School would need to move schools twice in order</li> </ul>

	to continue to access Church in Wales provision
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**Option 3 – Retain the Llangedwyn site and the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete</li> <li>- Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain in the short term</li> <li>- No additional transport would be required in the short term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Greater impact on Llansantffraid School – would be responsible for three sites in the short term</li> <li>- Would not enable any rationalisation of the Powys schools estate in the short term</li> <li>- Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building</li> <li>- Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential negative impact on Llansantffraid</li> </ul>

## 12. IMPACT OF EACH IMPLEMENTATION OPTION

The likely impact of each implementation 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
<p><b>Option 1 – Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.</b></p>	<p>There would be no impact on quality and standards in the short term – the current provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, with the two schools continuing to operate as part of a federation.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, the anticipated impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the community in the short term – provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements in the short term – pupils would continue to attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>
<p><b>Option 2a – Retain the Llangedwyn site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Provision would continue to be available on the Llangedwyn site in the short term, however this would be under the management of</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llangedwyn site, however no provision would be available on the current Llanfechain site.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llangedwyn site, however there would be no provision on the Llanfechain site, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently</p>

<p><b>Llansantffraid is complete.</b></p>	<p>Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Pupils would be part of a larger school, would enable them to benefit from sharing expertise and resources across the sites.</p> <p>However, there is some concern about the suitability of the Llangedwyn school building to accommodate provision in the short term.</p> <p>In addition, there would be some impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the short term as the school would be responsible for management of the Llangedwyn site. This would be an additional requirement for current Llansantffraid staff.</p> <p>In the longer term, the likely impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>attending Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>
<p><b>Option 2b – Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Provision would continue to be available on the Llanfechain site in the short term, however this would</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llanfechain, however no provision would be available on the current Llangedwyn site.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llanfechain site, however there would be no provision on the Llangedwyn site, therefore additional travel would be</p>

<p><b>extension to Llansantffraid is complete.</b></p>	<p>be under the management of Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Pupils would be part of a larger school, would enable them to benefit from sharing expertise and resources across the sites.</p> <p>There would be some impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the short term as the school would be responsible for management of the Llanfechain site. This would be an additional requirement for current Llansantffraid staff. However the distance between Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is minimal, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact would be significant.</p> <p>In the longer term, the likely impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p> <p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>
<p><b>Option 3 – Retain the Llangedwyn site and the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in</b></p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain sites in the short term, however this would be under the management of Llansantffraid C. in W. School.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llanfechain and Llangedwyn sites therefore the impact on the community would be minimal.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llangedwyn and Llanfechain sites, therefore the impact on travel arrangements would be minimal.</p>



<p><b>W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.</b></p>	<p>Pupils would be part of a larger school, would enable them to benefit from sharing expertise and resources across the sites.</p> <p>However, there is a risk that this option would have a negative impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the short term as the school would be responsible for management of two additional sites. This would be an additional requirement for current Llansantffraid staff.</p> <p>In the longer term, the likely impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>
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## 13. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The implementation options have also been assessed against the Critical Success Factors listed in section 7 above, 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 3
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	?	x	?	x
2 – Value for money	?	x	?	?
3 – Potential achievability	✓	x	?	x
5 – Potential affordability	?	x	?	?
<b>Total ✓</b>	1	0	0	0
<b>Total x</b>	0	4	4	2
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Preferred</b>	Discount	<b>Possible</b>	Discount

## 14. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on these assessments, the preferred implementation option is as follows:

**Option 1 – Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.**

The reasons for this are:

- No impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales throughout the implementation period.
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

## 15. CONCLUSION

Having combined the outcomes of the two options appraisal exercises carried out, the overall preferred option in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is as follows:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, with pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**
- **To delay implementation of the preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Delaying implementation of the proposal would not impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area throughout the implementation period
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

Further consideration of this option will now be carried out based on the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code.

Should the Council proceed with the preferred option outlined above, there would also be a need to carry out a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School following the planned extension to the school.

Further consideration of the preferred option will therefore be carried out based on the following proposal:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023
- To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

## **PART E – 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, which is as follows:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**
- **To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.**

### **16. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

#### **16.1 Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall, and in some cases, this would have a positive impact on standards and progress.

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. The number of affected pupils belonging to these specific groups is small, however it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

This is also the case in respect of the impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT. In most cases, pupils would transfer to larger schools, which provide improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources, and which have an improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

#### **16.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning**

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupil wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to alternative schools. It is possible that pupils could choose to transfer to different schools, which could have a further impact on their wellbeing during this time. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However alternative primary provision would be available at a number of other schools located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative provision would be excessive.

In the longer term, the intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning as they would transfer to larger schools with larger cohorts of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

### **16.3 Teaching and learning experiences**

#### **16.3.1 Quality of teaching**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at any of these schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

#### **16.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. In the majority of cases, pupils would transfer to larger schools, therefore the expectation would be that there would

be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils, and that the alternative schools would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools, which impacts on some aspects of the curriculum. Alternative Church in Wales provision is available in the catchment at Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School, ensuring that denominational provision would continue to be available to those pupils who wished to access it. The preferred option also includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would provide continued access to denominational provision.

### **16.3.3 The provision of skills**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at any of these schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

## **16.4 Care, support and guidance**

### **16.4.1 Tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

## **16.5 Leadership and Management**

### **16.5.1 Quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self evaluation processes and improvement planning**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School currently operate under an acting headteacher. Permanent leadership arrangements are in place in all of the alternative pupils may transfer to, with the exception of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School. The Council's view is that this would ensure improved leadership and management. In addition, Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School are significantly larger than Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore the headteachers of these schools would have more time available to them to focus on leadership and management.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on self-evaluation processes and improvement planning.

#### **16.5.2 Professional learning**

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on professional learning opportunities. Staff currently employed at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would be subject to a management of change process.

#### **16.5.3 Use of Resources**

Both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are projecting to be in a surplus budget position over the coming years. Whilst there are no concerns about the use of resources within these two schools, there are concerns about use of resources overall within the Powys schools' infrastructure. As indicated on page 5 above, one of the main challenges facing the Powys schools' infrastructure is the high proportion of small schools in the county. Both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are among the smallest schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil at both schools is higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

Closure of the two schools would reduce the number of schools in Powys, and would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

### **16.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**



Implementation of the preferred option would result in the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on any pupils belonging to vulnerable groups currently attending the two schools, including any pupils with SEN, and that in the short term, these pupils would need to transfer to alternative schools. The Council would work with Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School and the receiving schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with SEN, and their families.

In the longer term, the Council's view is that the provision available to pupils belonging to vulnerable groups, including children with SEN, would be at least equivalent to the provision available at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

**16.7 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**

Implementation of the preferred option would result in the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore these schools would no longer need to deliver the curriculum at the foundation phase or key stage 2.

Pupils currently attending these two schools would transfer to alternative schools. It is anticipated that receiving additional pupils would improve the receiving schools' ability to deliver the full curriculum in the foundation phase and key stage 2.

The preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School, following completion of the planned extension to the building of Llansantffraid C. in W. School. It is anticipated that this would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which could mean that they would need to review their class structure, however it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, or on the quality of delivery.

## **17 NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS**

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

The following table shows the number of spaces available and the building condition of Powys schools providing English-medium education located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School:

School	Capacity	Current pupil numbers	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Llanfyllin	1080	705	375	34.7%	C	B/C
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	103	2	1.9%	B	C
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	48	24	24	50.0%	B	B
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School	108	73	35	32.4%	A	A
Ysgol Meifod	77	81	-4	-5.2%	B	C
Ardleen C.P. School	110	96	14	12.7%	C	B
Carreghofa C.P School	115	91	24	20.9%	B	B
Llandysilio C. in W. School	116	62	54	46.6%	B	C
Guilfield C.P. School	157	137	20	12.7%	B	B

This suggests that there are sufficient places within 10 miles to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst the majority of the neighbouring schools are community primary schools, the two C. in W. schools situated within the area are Llansantffraid C. in W. school and Llandysilio C. in W. school. It is recognised that the number of available places at Llansantffraid is currently limited due to the school being close to capacity, but there are places available at Llandysilio C. in W. School.

The preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places following the completion of a three class extension to the building. This would provide sufficient places to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is anticipated that the extension would be ready by September 2023.

In addition, a number of out of county schools are located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, including schools located both in Shropshire and in Wrexham County Borough Council's area. Should there be no school in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, it is

possible that some pupils would choose to attend provision that is out of county / country.

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

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools. Alternative Church in Wales provision is available in the area at Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School.

The current accommodation at Llansantffraid would not be sufficient to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, however the preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places following the completion of a three class extension to the building. This would provide sufficient places to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is anticipated that the extension would be ready by September 2023.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both English-medium schools. There are a number of other English-medium providers in the local area.

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

Should there be no provision at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, alternative primary provision would be available at a number of other schools located within 10 miles of these schools. Should the schools close, additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending the two schools, however it is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

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

The latest pupil projection figures for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School suggest that pupil numbers at the two schools are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

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

Llangedwyn C. in W. School meets the requirements of the Equality Act whilst Llanfechain C. in W. School does not meet the requirements of the Equality Act.

Whether or not the proposals would improve access for disabled pupils would depend on the schools to which pupils transferred. The position in respect of the schools located within 10 miles of the two schools is as follows:

School	Compliant with Equality Act?
Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School	Partially
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	Partially
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School	Yes
Ysgol Meifod	Partially
Ardleen C.P. School	Partially
Carreghofa C.P School	Partially
Llandysilio C. in W. School	Partially
Guilsfield C.P. School	Partially

This suggests that there would be an improvement for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School, however this may not be the case for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

Providing an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. school provides an opportunity to ensure that the school is compliant with the Equality Act.

## 18 RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

The intention is that the proposal would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the area through the closure of two buildings.

The preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places following the completion of a three class extension to the building in order to provide continued access to Church in Wales places, however overall, the intention is that the proposals would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the area.

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

The review of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is linked to plans for capital investment in the Llanfyllin catchment as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Investment Programme.

The Council has recently developed a Programme Business Case (PBC) in respect of primary provision in the Llanfyllin catchment. The PBC identifies a preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment, which is as follows:

To invest in the development of:

- A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4 – 18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the current poor condition buildings of Ysgol Llanfyllin – to be built on the current Ysgol Llanfyllin site.
- To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School – this could also potentially include neighbouring schools in the Welshpool catchment as well. Site to be confirmed.
- To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing both Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
- To provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School.
- Possible closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

**18.3 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 transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £46,000 per annum as detailed in 18.4. 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.

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

It is estimated there will be additional transport costs of £46,000 annually, this is based on pupil's current location and assuming the pupils will go to the next nearest school. There would potentially be a need to decant pupils from Llansantffraid C. in W. school whilst the school was being extended, however this has not yet been confirmed. There may be additional transport costs due to this dependent on whether decanting is actually required and, if so, the location of the site.

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

There are no direct capital costs associated with the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, which is the preferred option, with pupils to transfer to alternative schools.

Alongside this proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, the Council intends to provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would provide additional Church in Wales places in the area. Initial feasibilities are currently being prepared.

It is estimated that the capital funding requirement for both the extension and any potential costs of decanting pupils from Llansantffraid, if required, would be approximately £3 million. This would be funded from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme. Welsh Government provides 85% capital grant for investment in voluntary aided Church in Wales Schools, with the remaining 15% being provided by the Diocese / Governing Body of the school.

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

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £66,000 per annum. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of £117,000, estimated additional transport costs of £46,000, potential loss of funding for pupils that may move to out of county of £11,000 and savings on catering costs of around £6,000.

**18.7 Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?**

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School is projected to be in a surplus budget position over the coming years. Llanfechain C. in W. School is projected to be in a deficit for the same timeframe.

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

Any savings would be reinvested in the Council's corporate budget and any reinvestment in the schools' system would be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

**18.9 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?**

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools. Neither school site is owned by the local authority, therefore the proceeds of any sale of either site would not be available to the local authority.

## 19 OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

### 19.1 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 Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School as they would need to transfer to alternative schools. Based on PLASC figures from January 2020, approximately 22% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and approximately 20% of pupils at Llanfechain C. in W. School were eligible for Free School Meals, therefore it is acknowledged that implementation of this option would impact on some pupils from economically deprived backgrounds.

The intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Implementation of this option would result in additional travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School for whom these are their closest schools. 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.

### 19.2 Any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments

Closing the two schools would impact on any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the schools. However, the intention is that the proposal would have a positive impact on all pupils, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups.

An initial review of PLASC data does not identify any particular equality issues, however a full equality impact assessment will be carried out as the process moves forward, which will be reviewed and updated throughout the process to take account of any feedback received relating to any equality issues.

### 19.3 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 all Church in Wales schools, therefore the land and buildings are owned by the Diocese of St Asaph.

## **20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES**

### **20.1 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 Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, these are outlined in section 4 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. school are already formally federated. However, pupil numbers at both schools are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years, with a high cost per pupil. Establishing a multi-sited school would not address this issue.

### **20.2 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**

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School already operate as part of a federation. Continuing with the current arrangement is one of the options considered in section 4 of this document, and consideration was also given to an extended federation also including Llansantffraid C. in W. School. As assessment of these options has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

However, pupil numbers at both schools are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years, with a high cost per pupil. Continuing with the current federation or extending the federation to include Llansantffraid C. in W. School would not address this issue.

### **20.3 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 Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Pupil numbers at both schools are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years, with a high cost per pupil.

### **20.4 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 there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities, including the loss of primary provision from the villages of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from these villages.

An initial community impact assessment has been carried out with input from Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, which identified the potential impact of the preferred option 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.

## **20.5 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. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils, however this could include transition meetings with new teachers and headteachers.

## **21. 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:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**
- **To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Delaying implementation of the proposal would not impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area throughout the implementation period
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on the preferred option outlined above.



**Proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and  
Llanfechain C. in W. School**

**Draft Community Impact Assessment**

**March 2021**

## 1.1 Llangedwyn C. in W. School

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

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

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Llanfyllin	11.1%
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	38.9%
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	22.2%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	16.7%
Bryn Offa Primary School (Out of County)	5.6%
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Out of County)	5.6%

This suggests that 38.9% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 77.8% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools.

### 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:

- Coding Club
- Sports Clubs
- Knitting Club
- Chess Club
- Breakfast Club
- After School Club

The current provision is limited because of COVID – there have been discussions to offer a greater number of clubs in the future, to include eco-club, music club, gardening club and craft 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:

- Mother and Toddler Group – Little Hedgehogs
- After School Club – 5 nights a week
- Welsh for Parents sessions

There are also plans to run a digital skills drop in sessions following parental demand during the COVID lockdown.

**iv) Other use by the community of the school building and grounds**

The school building and grounds are used by the community to provide the following activities:

- Church meetings
- Community events for local businesses
- Fortnightly car boot sales during the summer months
- School grounds used for community summer fair

**v) Other links between the school and the community**

The school has close links with Llangedwyn Church, with the school holding its annual nativity play there and making crafts for the Church's annual Harvest Festival.

**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, then the intention is that all existing Llangedwyn C. in W. pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school, and Llangedwyn C. in W. School would close.

As a Church in Wales School, the Llangedwyn School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and whether or not facilities would remain in Llangedwyn.

It is acknowledged that there would be a significant impact on the community of Llangedwyn were the school to close. There would be a potential loss of community facilities and services provided by the school.

Llangedwyn Memorial Hall is situated in the centre of Llangedwyn village, and is used for events, meetings, concerts, classes and most

other types of functions. The Hall is not linked to the school and therefore would continue to be available for community events should there be no school in Llangedwyn.

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

Closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School would result in additional travel and travelling time for pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school. However, as indicated in (i) above, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the closest school for only 38.9% of current pupils. For the remainder of pupils, there would be a reduction in travel distance and time for those pupils should they transfer to their closest schools.

For those pupils, for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school, there are a number of other schools located within 5 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School. These are:

<b>School</b>	<b>Distance from Llangedwyn C. in W. School by road (miles)</b>
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3.6 miles
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School	3.7 miles
Llanfechain C. in W. School	4.4 miles
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4.5 miles
Ysgol Llanfyllin	4.8 miles

Should Llangedwyn C. in W. School close, the additional travel distance and time for pupils for whom Llangedwyn is currently the closest school would be minimal.

**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. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents/pupils, however this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by the headteacher and class teachers.

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

Should the school close, although the Local Authority would provide transport for pupils, if a parent needed to attend the new school they would struggle to get there in a timely manner if relying on current public transport options.

#### **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 Llangedwyn C. in W. 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**

The majority of pupils that attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore it does not appear that the school is primarily serving the Llangedwyn community.

Should there be no school in Llangedwyn, it is possible that some families would be discouraged from moving to the village, however there are a number of other schools located within a few miles of Llangedwyn, which offer more services for families, which would continue to be available to any families moving to the area.

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

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school. However, there is also a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, which would continue to be available to hold community activities should there be no school in Llangedwyn.

- **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**

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school, in particular the school grounds. There is also a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, which would continue to be available to hold community activities should there be no school in Llangedwyn, however it is unclear whether outdoor events could be accommodated at the Hall.

- **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 could impact on the local economy. In particular, there would be a reduction in employment opportunities in the village, and there could be an impact on local businesses in the village of Llangedwyn and the surrounding area.

- **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)**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils. However, this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by headteacher and class teachers.

It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on some pupils' ability to participate in after school activities as there would be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events. However, the majority of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore there would be a reduction in travel time / distance for them, should they transfer to their closest schools.

- **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 some community use of the Llangedwyn C. in W. building and school grounds, and links between the school and the local community. It is therefore likely that the proposal to remove school provision from the village of Llangedwyn would impact on the local community.

There is a community hall in Llangedwyn – Llangedwyn Memorial Hall. This would continue to be available should there be no school in Llangedwyn, and community events could be held here.



## 1.2 Llanfechain C. in W. School

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

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

School	% of Pupils
Guilsfield C.P. School	2.3%
Llandysilio C. in W. School	4.5%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	2.3%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	38.6%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	25.0%
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	9.1%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	9.1%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	2.3%
Ysgol Meifod	4.5%
Bryn Offa Primary School (Out of County)	2.3%

This suggests that 38.6% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 61.4% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools.

### 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:

- Music Club
- Coding Club
- Gardening Club
- Sports Clubs
- Gymnastics Club

- Dance Club
- Ball Skills Club
- Breakfast Club
- After School 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:

- Mother and Toddler Group – Little Stars
- After School Club – 5 nights a week
- Friday Night Football – community football club run in conjunction with the school

**iv) Other use by the community of the school building**

There are plans to run a digital and Welsh skills drop in sessions in response to parental demand during Covid lockdowns, and this would entail use of the school building.

**v) Other links between the school and the community**

The school has links with St Garmon’s Church, Llanfechain. For example, pupils attend the annual Harvest Service, and other activities at St Garmon’s Church.

The school also has links with Llanfechain village hall, and the school’s Christmas play is held there.

**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, then the intention is that all existing Llanfechain C. in W. pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school, and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close.

As a Church in Wales School, the Llanfechain School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building’s future use, and whether or not facilities would remain in Llanfechain.

It is acknowledged that there would be a significant impact on the community of Llanfechain were the school to close. There would be a potential loss of community facilities and services provided by the

school. However, there is a village hall in Llanfechain, which would continue to be available should there be no school in the village.

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

Closure of Llanfechain C. in W. School would result in additional travel and travelling time for pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school. However, as indicated in (i) above, Llanfechain C. in W. School is the closest school for only 38.6% of current pupils. For the remainder of pupils, there would be a reduction in travel distance and time for those pupils should they transfer to their closest schools.

For those pupils, for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school, there are a number of other schools located within 5 miles of Llanfechain C. in W. School. These are:

<b>School</b>	<b>Distance from Llanfechain C. in W. School by road (miles)</b>
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	2.3 miles
Ysgol Llanfyllin	3.5 miles
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4.4 miles

Should there be no school in Llanfechain, the additional travel distance and time for pupils for whom Llanfechain is currently the closest school would be minimal.

**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. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents/pupils, however this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by the headteacher and class teachers.

The Council's preferred option is to initially retain the Llanfechain site as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until an extension to the Llansantffraid building has been completed. This would provide a period of transition for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School.

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

Should the school close, although the Local Authority would provide transport for pupils, if a parent needed to attend the new school they would struggle to get there in a timely manner if relying on current public transport options.

**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 Llanfechain C. in W. 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**

The majority of pupils that attend Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore it does not appear that the school is primarily serving the Llanfechain community.

Should there be no school in Llanfechain, it is possible that some families would be discouraged from moving to the village, however there are other schools located within a few miles of Llanfechain, which offer more services for families, which would continue to be available to any families moving to the area.

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

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school. However, there is also a Village Hall in Llanfechain, which would continue to be available to hold community activities should there be no school in Llanfechain.

- **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**

The information received from the school suggests that some local activities take place in the school. There is also a Village Hall in Llanfechain, which would continue to be available to hold some community activities should there be no school in Llanfechain.

- **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 could impact on the local economy. In particular, there would be a reduction in employment opportunities in the village, and there could be an impact on local businesses in the village of Llanfechain and the surrounding area.

- **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)**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils. However, this could include provision for effective transition to the receiving school by headteacher and class teachers. The Council's preferred option is to initially retain the Llanfechain site as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until an extension to the Llansantffraid building has been completed. This would provide a period of transition for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School.

It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on some pupils' ability to participate in after school activities as there would be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events. However, the majority of pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore there would be a reduction in travel time / distance for them, should they transfer to their closest schools.

- **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 community use of the Llanfechain C. in W. building and school grounds, and links between the school and the local community. It is therefore likely that the proposal to remove school provision from the village of Llanfechain would impact on the local community.

There is a Village Hall in Llanfechain which would continue to be available should there be no school in Llanfechain, and community events could be held here. There is also a village playing field, which would also continue to be available for the community.

### **1.3 Conclusion**

A range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, and there are links between both schools and their respective communities.

Should there be no schools in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, it is acknowledged that this would impact on both communities. However, there is a Memorial Hall in Llangedwyn, and a Village Hall in Llanfechain, both of which would continue to be available should there be no schools in the two villages, and where community activities and events could be held.

Should there be no schools in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, additional travel would be required for those pupils for whom these are currently the closest schools. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy, 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. However, the majority of pupils at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools. For these pupils, transferring to their closest schools would lead to a reduction in travel distance / time.

**Note: This draft Community Impact Assessment does not include information relating to Llansantffraid C. in W. school as it is not proposed to close the school.**

**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.**

<b>Service Area</b>	Schools Service	<b>Head of Service</b>	Lynette Lovell / Emma Palmer	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr Phyl Davies
<b>Proposal</b>	Proposals for Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School				
<b>Outline Summary / Description of Proposal</b>					
In April 2020, the Leader approved a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which sets a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years. One of the objectives is to ‘Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision’.					
Cabinet approval is requested to commence the statutory process on the following:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023</li> <li>To close Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023</li> <li>To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.</li> </ul>					

Page 127

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

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Sarah Astley	Strategic Programme Manager	March 2021

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
£	£	£38,558.33	£27,541.67	£	£66,100

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 the Summer of 2021.

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



### 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 checked="" 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, 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.

Page 128

### 4a Geographical Locations

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

Powys	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brecon	<input 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 checked="" 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?



**Cyngor Sir Powys County Council**  
**Impact Assessment (IA)**

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Council's Well-being Objective	How does the proposal impact on this Well-being Objective?	<b>IMPACT</b> 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?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>The Economy</b> <b>We will develop a vibrant economy</b>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would have an impact on employment opportunities in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain as there would eventually no longer be a school in either village. It is also possible that there could be an impact on any local businesses in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p> <p>The proposal could create additional employment opportunities in Llansantffraid as the school would eventually be a larger school.</p>	<p>Poor</p>		<p>Poor</p>
<b>Health and Care</b> <b>We will lead the way in providing effective, integrated health and care in a rural environment</b>	<p>No impact</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

Page 129

**Learning and skills**  
**We will strengthen learning and skills**

The proposal would result in closure of both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall, and in some cases, this would have a positive impact on standards and progress. The overall aim of the proposal is to improve learning opportunities for pupils.

There are also a number of out of county schools which are located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, including schools located in Shropshire and schools located in Wrexham. Should there be no school in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, it is possible that some pupils will choose to attend provision out of county / country.

The majority of the alternative schools which pupils may attend are larger schools, and it is anticipated that they would provide additional opportunities for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities.

The proposal also includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area currently served by Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Church places are also

Good

Choose an item.

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Council's Well-being Objective	How does the proposal impact on this Well-being Objective?	<b>IMPACT</b> 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?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
	available in the catchment at Llandysilio C. in W. School.			
<p><b>Residents and Communities</b> <b>We will support our residents and communities</b></p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the communities of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain as there would be no provision in the two villages, and therefore potential loss of any community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending the two schools. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events. However, analysis of pupils' travel patterns suggest that a significant number of pupils attending both these schools are already travelling in from other areas, and live closer to other schools.</p> <p>A separate draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the schools, this will be updated as the process moves forward.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>As both schools are Church in Wales School, the school buildings are owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p> <p>There are community halls in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain which are located on separate sites to the schools. These would continue to be available should there be no schools in the villages.</p>	<p>Poor</p>
<p><b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b></p>				

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



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

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> 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?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A prosperous Wales:</b> 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>No impact</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales:</b> 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 require additional travel for pupils currently attending both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School for whom this is their closest 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 alternative school. However, a number of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools, therefore there would be a reduction in travel for these pupils should they transfer to their closest schools.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

Page 132

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><b>A healthier Wales:</b>                      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><b>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017:</b>                      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 proposal would result in closure of both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, with pupils transferring to alternative schools. It is acknowledged that this could have a negative impact on the mental well-being of pupils, staff and other stakeholders associated with the school during the transition period, however the long term aim is to provide improved learning opportunities for all learners.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, it is likely that pupils would attend larger schools which would provide more opportunities for involvement in sporting activities.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Support will be provided to pupils during the transition period to enable pupils to transfer effectively to their new schools.</p> <p>Process to be concluded as quickly as possible to minimise the period of uncertainty for pupils, staff and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

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><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b>                      Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the communities of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain as there would be no provision in the villages of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and therefore potential loss of any community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to 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. However, analysis of pupils' travel patterns suggest that a significant number of pupils attending both these schools are already travelling in from other areas, and live closer to other schools.</p> <p>A separate draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the school, this will be updated as the process moves forward.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>As both schools are Church in Wales School, the school buildings are owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p> <p>There are community halls in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain which are located on separate sites to the schools. These would continue to be available should there be no schools in the villages.</p>	<p>Poor</p>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Page 135

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> 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?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales:</b>                      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><b>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</b></p> <p><b>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b>                      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>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:</b> 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.  <i>Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards</i></p>				
<p><b>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</b></p>	<p>Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School are all 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 favourably than the English language.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</b></p>	<p>Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School are all English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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
People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.	Implementation of the proposal would lead to the closure of both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, with pupils transferring to their nearest alternative schools.  The majority of alternative schools are larger schools, and 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.  The proposal would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at Llansantffraid C. in W. School which would enable more opportunities for pupils to take part in sport, art and other extra-curricular activities.	Good		Choose an item.
<b>A more equal Wales:</b> 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).				
Age	The proposal would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.



**Cyngor Sir Powys County Council**  
**Impact Assessment (IA)**

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> 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?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Disability</i>	The proposal would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.	Neutral	The Council would work with Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School and the receiving schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with SEN, and their families. The extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. school provides an opportunity to ensure that the school is compliant with the Equality Act.	Neutral
<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>	The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C in W. School, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups due to their race. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.

Page 137

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> 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?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Religion or belief</i>	<p>The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, regardless of their religion or belief.</p> <p>All three schools are church schools. The proposal ensures that there are sufficient Church in Wales places available in the area by increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C in W School by 90 places following an extension to the school. Pupils wishing to continue to access denominational provision would be able to do so at Llansantffraid C. in W. school. Additional church places are also available in the catchment at Llandysilio C in W School.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sex</i>	<p>The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School, and Llansantffraid C. in W. school.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	<p>The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending both Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, regardless of their sexual orientation.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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
Socio-economic duty	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, including any eligible for Free School Meals. Based on PLASC 2020 information, 22.2% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School, 20.5% of 9 pupils at Llanfechain C. in W. School and 15.8% of pupils at Llansantffraid C. in W. School are eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no school in the villages of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain. This would mean that pupils currently attending both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. 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. However, analysis of pupils' travel patterns suggest that a significant number of pupils attending both these schools are already travelling in from other areas, and live closer to other schools.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
PLASC

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
<b>Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)</b>				
Page 140  <b>Long Term:</b> Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	Pupil numbers at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are low and are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years. The aim of the proposal to close the schools is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.  Providing an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. school would enable the school's capacity to be increased to provide enough school places for the area, and would create a school of a sustainable size.	Good		Choose an item.

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><b>Collaboration:</b> Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</p>	<p>Two separate consultations have been carried out with the Diocese of St Asaph whilst developing the proposals for Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Following each period of consultation, the Council has amended the preferred option to address concerns raised by the Diocese about access to Church in Wales places and disruption to pupils.</p> <p>Should Cabinet decide 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 options for the schools.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b> Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including:  <b>Unpaid Carers:</b> Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</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>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Page 142

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><b>Prevention:</b> Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b> Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</p>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal. The intention is that the proposal would maintain or improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p>	Good		Choose an item.
<p><b>Integration:</b> Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</p>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<p><b>Powys County Council Workforce:</b> What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would impact on all current staff at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School as there would no longer be a school in the villages of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, therefore staff would be subject to a Management of Change process.</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>	Poor	Work with the governors of Llansantffraid C. in W. School to encourage them to ringfence any positions / additional hours that become available at the school as a result of the transformation process to staff at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.	Poor

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



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
<b>Payroll:</b> 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?	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would impact on salary arrangements for current staff at both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>There would be a need to review the ISR of Llansantffraid C in W. School to reflect the new arrangements, which could impact on the salaries of the school's leadership team.</p>	Neutral	<p>Work with the governors of Llansantffraid C. in W. School to encourage them to ringfence any positions / additional hours that become available at the school as a result of the transformation process to staff at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p>	Neutral
<b>Welsh Language impact on staff</b>	<p>Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. schools are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh language impact on staff</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Apprenticeships:</b> Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?	No impact	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				

Page 143

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
Llangedwyn	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llangedwyn as there would be no provision in the village of Llangedwyn, and therefore potential loss of any community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School for whom this is currently the closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to 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> <p>A separate draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the school, this will be updated as the process moves forward.</p>	Major	<p>As a Church in Wales School, the Llangedwyn School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llangedwyn</p> <p>There is a community hall in Llangedwyn which is located on a separate site to the school. This would continue to be available should there be no school in the village.</p>	Major	



Llanfechain	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llanfechain as there would be no provision in the village of Llanfechain, and therefore potential loss of any community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School for whom this is currently the closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to 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> <p>A separate draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the school, this will be updated as the process moves forward.</p>	Major	<p>As a Church in Wales School, the Llanfechain School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llanfechain.</p> <p>There is a community hall in Llanfechain which is located on a separate site to the school. This would continue to be available should there be no school in the village.</p>	Major	
Llansantffraid	<p>There would be a positive impact on the community of Llansantffraid as an extension would be provided to the school leading to an increase in pupil numbers.</p>	Minor			

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)

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Delay to the completion of the extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. School due to unforeseen issues.	Medium	Ensure that there is a clear programme for the development of the school and an identification of all risks and dependencies at a very early stage in the process.	Medium
Period of uncertainty for the affected schools which could have a negative effect on standards	Medium	The Council to provide advice and support to the schools and governing bodies to ensure that standards and performance do not deteriorate during this period.	Medium
Uncertainty for staff during any transition period which might result in some staff leaving	Medium	Engagement with staff to take place throughout the process and staff to be kept informed of developments	Medium

### 10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

<b>Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)</b>	<b>Cabinet Report Reference:</b>	
<p>The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners. However, whilst this impact assessment has identified some positive aspects, in particular relating to learning and skills and ensuring the best strategic management of the Powys schools estate, and the provision of sufficient Church in Wales school places in the area, the assessment has also identified some negative aspects. These primarily relate to the impact on the communities of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain due to loss of educational provision from the villages, and the associated additional travel requirements for pupils, however most pupils that currently attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School live closer to other schools.</p>		

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

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

### 12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

<b>What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?</b>
The Transforming Education Programme Board will continue to monitor impact over time.
<b>Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.</b>
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	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Cyngor Sir Powys County Council**  
**Impact Assessment (IA)**

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Head of Service:	Lynette Lovell		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Phyl Davies		

14. Governance

<b>Decision to be made by</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date required</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
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**FORM ENDS**

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