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CABINET
Tuesday, 7th May, 2024
S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K

1.	YSGOL CALON Y DDERWEN AND TROWEN C.P. SCHOOL - CONSULTATION REPORT
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To consider a report by County Councillor Pete Roberts, Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys.

(Pages 3 - 320)

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

7 May 2024

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Pete Roberts
Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys

REPORT TITLE: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School –
Consultation Report

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on 24th of October 2023, the Council has carried out consultation on the following proposal:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1st September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet members of the responses received to the consultation and to determine whether or not to proceed with the statutory processes to continue with the proposal.

1.3 The report is supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix A** – Consultation Document
- **Appendix B** – Consultation Report
- **Appendix C** – Minutes of meeting with Staff and Governors
- **Appendix D** – Updated Impact Assessments

2. Background

2.1 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are two English-medium primary schools located in the town of Newtown, in North Powys.

2.2 Current pupil numbers at the two schools are as follows¹:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total

¹ Teacher Centre, 5th of April 2024

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	39	35	45	26	33	38	35	251
Treowen C.P. School	10	15	15	9	17	15	27	108

- 2.3 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was established in September 2021 following the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, and currently operates from the buildings of the two previous schools. The intention was that eventually a replacement building would be provided on the site, to be co-located with the new Health and Well-being Campus being developed as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme.
- 2.4 Since the establishment of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, the Council has been developing plans for the new school building. A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been developed and approved by the Council's Cabinet and Welsh Government and plans for the new building had been developed to the end of RIBA Stage 2.
- 2.5 Following consideration of these plans by the Council's Cabinet, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.
- 2.6 In the summer of 2023, an engagement exercise took place with the three school communities, to understand the views of stakeholders at the three schools on the plan to potentially increase the scope of the new building to include additional schools. This included meetings with staff and governors at the three schools, as well as an online questionnaire.
- 2.7 An options appraisal was also carried out which considered options for the three schools. This identified the following preferred option:
- New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School
 - The expansion of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to incorporate the Treowen C.P. School site from September 2025
 - All pupils to transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen when this is ready.
- 2.8 On the 24th of October 2023, Cabinet considered the findings of the engagement exercise and the options appraisal, and agreed to commence the statutory process on the following proposals:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site

from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

The Consultation Period

- 2.9 Consultation on the proposal commenced on the 15th of January 2024 and ended on the 26th of February 2024.
- 2.10 The consultation document was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period. The document was also distributed to stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code (2018). The consultation document that was issued is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.11 Consultees were asked to respond to the consultation by either completing the online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the Transforming Education Team, or writing to the Transforming Education Team.
- 2.12 During the consultation period, meetings were held with pupils, staff and governors of both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The minutes of all these meetings are attached as Appendix C, and the issues raised in the meetings are included in the Consultation Report (Appendix B).

Consultation Responses

- 2.13 104 respondents completed the online response form which was available on the Council's website. In addition, 15 respondents completed and sent the response form by email. 5 other written responses were received, including a response from Estyn.
- 2.14 Estyn's response to the consultation is provided on page 15 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B).
- 2.15 42 letters were also received from members of the Treowen community before the start of the consultation. The comments raised in these letters are summarised in the consultation report.

Consultation Findings

- 2.16 The findings of the consultation are provided in full in the Consultation Report (Appendix B) and are summarised below.
- 2.17 Of the 119 respondents who completed the online survey or the response form, 23.53% indicated they were associated with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and 64.71% indicated that they were associated with Treowen C.P. School.

- 2.18 The issues received in response to the consultation are listed in the Consultation Report (Appendix B), from page 20 onwards, along with the Council's responses to those issues.
- 2.19 The issues raised relate to the following headings:
1. Comments about the current schools
 - 1.1 Comments about Treowen C.P. School
 - 1.2 Comments about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen
 2. Comments about Phase 1 of the Proposals
 - 2.1 Comments about the impact on pupils
 - 2.2 Concerns about the impact on staff
 - 2.3 Concerns about loss of school identity
 - 2.4 Comments about the impact on families
 - 2.5 Concerns about impact on the community
 - 2.6 Queries about Phase 1
 - 2.7 Comments in favour of Phase 1
 3. Comments about Phase 2 of the Proposals
 - 3.1 Concern about the impact on pupils
 - 3.2 Concern about the size of the school
 - 3.3 Comments about the location of the school
 - 3.4 Comments about the new building
 - 3.5 Comments about the North Powys Wellbeing Programme
 - 3.6 Comments about the impact on the community
 - 3.7 Comments about the impact on staff
 - 3.8 Comments about Early Years provision
 - 3.9 Other comments not in support of Phase 2
 - 3.10 Comments in support of Phase 2
 4. Other comments
 - 4.1 General comments not in support of the Proposals
 - 4.2 General comments about the impact on staff
 - 4.3 Comments about the impact on Protected Characteristic Groups
 - 4.4 Comments about the impact on Welsh
 - 4.5 Comments about the consultation process
 - 4.6 Comments about the consultation documentation
 - 4.7 Alternative options

3. Advice

- 3.1 Based on the findings of the consultation, the advice of officers is that the Council should proceed with the proposals in respect of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School by publishing a Statutory Notice.
- 3.2 The reasons for this proposal are:
- Provides the opportunity for all learners from Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment
 - A larger school provides a more efficient model of education
 - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals – this would enable a positive transition process
 - Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools – estimated backlog maintenance at Treowen C.P. School is currently £455,286, and estimated backlog maintenance at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is currently £620,510.
 - The new school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act
 - The new building is planned to be energy efficient, and the school would meet the Welsh Government's net zero targets
 - Reduces surplus places in Newtown, but places remain available at other schools to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers
 - Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
 - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
 - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
 - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
 - Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
 - Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the Statutory Notice would be published in May 2024, and that a further report, summarising any objections received, will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in July 2024.
- 3.4 It must be noted that implementation of this proposal would not preclude the schools from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 The intention initially is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site. No savings to the Council would be identified at this stage in terms of delegated funding, however the school would be able to combine resources and potentially reduce management costs for the school, as there would be one senior leadership team.
- 4.2 There would be no additional transport costs associated with this proposal, however there may be some additional costs associated with extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, such as new signage. This is estimated to be in the region of £15k and would be funded by the Council's Corporate Transformation budget.
- 4.3 It may also be possible that some repairs and maintenance costs could be incurred on the current buildings before the new build is ready, particularly given the scale of the estimated backlog maintenance cost. Any works identified would need to be assessed against the Major Improvements Programme's criteria and prioritised accordingly.
- 4.4 Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is estimated that the capital cost of this (excluding optimism bias, risk, client costs and fees) would be £16m at today's prices, however this would be reviewed and updated as the design process moves forward.
- 4.5 The move to one new building would result in estimated revenue savings in delegated funding amounting to £107.3k per annum (after taking account of the estimated increase in business rates of £14.0k). In addition, there may be some minimal savings for catering functions. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transport costs as the new building is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building. The school itself is also anticipated to realise savings to its budget as they will be able to pool resources as well as put more cost-effective class structures and a single leadership team in place, however it is expected utility costs would increase by approximately £20.0k for the new school.
- 4.6 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.

- 4.7 Implementation of the proposal would require involvement from various 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.
- 4.8 The Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) notes the contents of this report and supports the recommendation.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 5.2 The Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer has commented as follows: I note the legal view and support the recommendations.

6. Climate Change & Nature Implications

- 6.1 Powys County Council has declared a nature emergency which commits the authority to protecting our biodiversity and landscape. The new building has been located on the existing school playing field to minimise disturbance to valuable habitat located at the fringes of the site, and the school's landscaping will be designed to develop a forest school ethos. We recognise the importance of the mature trees to learners who have grown up and appreciated the very special landscape on this site and request care is taken by construction workers.
- 6.2 Implementation of the proposal would lead to the creation of a new-build primary school in Newtown. The new school building would be built to achieve net-zero carbon emissions in operation, with extensive use made of renewable technologies such as photovoltaics and battery storage coupled with low tariff supply, to support a fabric-first Passivhaus approach. The construction's embodied energy will also be designed to fall below 600kg CO₂e/m² to meet Welsh Government standards for net zero.
- 6.2 The building will be designed to optimise natural daylighting and will be fitted with energy saving LED lighting, as well as mechanical ventilation and heat recovery to provide excellent internal conditions, while reducing energy demand.
- 6.3 The new school will be designed to achieve BREEAM 'Excellent', which is a holistic sustainability standard required as a condition of funding. Within this methodology additional credits will be sought for the extension of habitat and species.
- 6.4 The location of the new building has been located on the existing school playing field to minimise disturbance to valuable habitat located

at the fringes of the site, and the school's landscaping will be designed to develop a forest school ethos.

- 6.5 Implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, however the distance from Treowen C.P. School to the Calon y Dderwen site is minimal, however the Treowen estate is located up a hill.
- 6.6 Whilst it is unlikely that pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would be eligible for home to school transport, it is possible that the change in location would result in pupils being transported in cars from the Treowen estate to the new site. However, some pupils currently attend Treowen C.P. School from other areas of Newtown, and are already transported to school by car.
- 6.7 Active travel would be considered when developing the new school building, and the aim would be to ensure the provision of active travel routes to minimise the use of cars for pupils living in Treowen accessing the new school building.

7. Data Protection

N/A

8. Comment from local member(s)

Cllr. Peter Lewington:

1.As a councillor for a neighbouring ward in Newtown I really do believe that we should have an overall plan for education in Newtown rather than what appears to be a piecemeal approach. It must be joined up and address all the issues we face at a town level such as equality of provision , available places, quality of buildings ,transportation links etc

2.it can't be right for a strength of the proposed merger to be that learners would benefit from an improved learning environment and a more efficient model of education– that implies hat other pupils in Newtown will be disadvantaged and if so, what will be done to address that – we can't have a two tier education provision.

3.It states that a weakness is that pupils from Maesyrrhandir will not receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment – surely that will apply to all the other Newtown schools and pupils. What is the plan to achieve equality of provision?

4.Is there a plan B to address the uncertainty of what would happen if the wellbeing campus does not go-ahead e.g.Welsh Governmanet funding not secured

5. I firmly believe that the best way out of deprivation is a good education and that this is best delivered in the area of deprivation rather than ripping the heart out of the community against their wishes. Treowen school will lose its unique identity and its education provision would no longer be linked to the community.

In light of the above comments, I would ask cabinet to look again at this proposal and to be absolutely certain that this is the best outcome for the pupils, staff, schools, and Newtown as a whole in terms of improving educational standards across the community.

Cllr Joy Jones:

It is very disappointing that the consultation has resulted in bringing this result forward.

There are a lot of families very upset by the thought of the closure of the school. Many families have made their voices known of their disappointment and upset regarding losing the school which is central to the community and the estate.

With all the development and future of the town this appears very short sighted as there will be need for more school spaces not less. By restricting the amount of places available in Newtown there will be an effect of future plans for development and growth of the town and the estate

Please consider that there are many families that don't like large schools and want to bring their child up in a smaller environment. Not only do some children have issues being in a large, highly populated school but there are many parents who can't face being around a lot of people and the amount of noise that comes with a lot of children and adults in one place.

Please consider not only the importance of the school but the estate having an empty building left in the centre of this estate. The school is the hub for Treowen estate and is used by many in the Community and is an important meeting point.

Many families take their children there as they know that the quality of education is excellent.

The school is short of a headteacher, sadly this came about due to the former head leaving due to ill health and the PCC telling the governors not to employ another as they obviously had this closure in the pipeline.

The estate is up on a hill and for children to walk to the new school they will have to cross main, very dangerously busy, roads. All children will have to be accompanied to the new school unlike on the estate, where children are able to access school safely without crossing any

main road. The estate road has a zebra crossing and there is a lollypop person who helps them across if their parent is unable to be there. There will be children who will miss school if they cannot be accompanied due to parents being ill, siblings being ill, or if the road is not gritted in bad weather as the road is up on the hill and is steep and slippery. It is extremely slippery to walk due to how steep it is and parents are telling me they won't be taking their children.

Please do not devastate this estate and close community. Please listen to the parents and the voice of the people. Keep Treowen school open.

9. Impact Assessment

- 9.1 An initial impact assessment was considered by Cabinet on the 24th of October 2023.
- 9.2 In addition, a range of draft impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation documentation. These included an Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, and a Community Impact Assessment.
- 9.3 These draft impact assessments have been updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and are attached in Appendix D.
- 9.4 The Overall Summary from the Impact Assessment is as follows:

'This impact assessment suggests that the impact is generally positive with some negative aspects, such as the requirement for some pupils to travel further than they currently do to school, and loss of provision in Treowen. Whilst the intention is to close Treowen C.P. School and initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site, the intention is that the school would move to a new building. This would provide much improved buildings and facilities for pupils compared with the current poor condition buildings, ensuring that future pupils would be taught in facilities that are fit-for-purpose, improving their learner entitlement and experience. The new facilities would be fully DDA compliant, supporting learners with disabilities.'

10. Recommendation

- i) To receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.
- ii) To approve the publication of a statutory notice proposing the following:

Phase 1:

- To close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1st September 2025.

Phase 2:

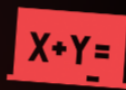
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

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Head of Service:	Georgie Bevan
Corporate Director:	Dr. Richard Jones

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Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School Consultation Document



Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

If you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the Transforming Education Team on 01686 611553, or e-mail transforming.education@powys.gov.uk.

Consultation on Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

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Consultation on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposals

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

2. How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online questionnaire which is available on our website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14956/Ysgol-Calon-y-Dderwen-and-Treowen-C.P.-School>

A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available at the back of this document.

Alternatively, you can respond in writing using the contact details below.

All responses must be received by the **26 February 2024**

3. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

Phone: 01686 611553

4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will consider whether or not they wish to proceed with the proposals outlined in the consultation document. This is expected to happen in the spring 2024.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, a statutory notice would be published, and there would be a period of 28 days for people to submit objections. The Cabinet would then need to consider another report summarising any objections received and decide whether or not to proceed with implementation.

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposals are as follows:

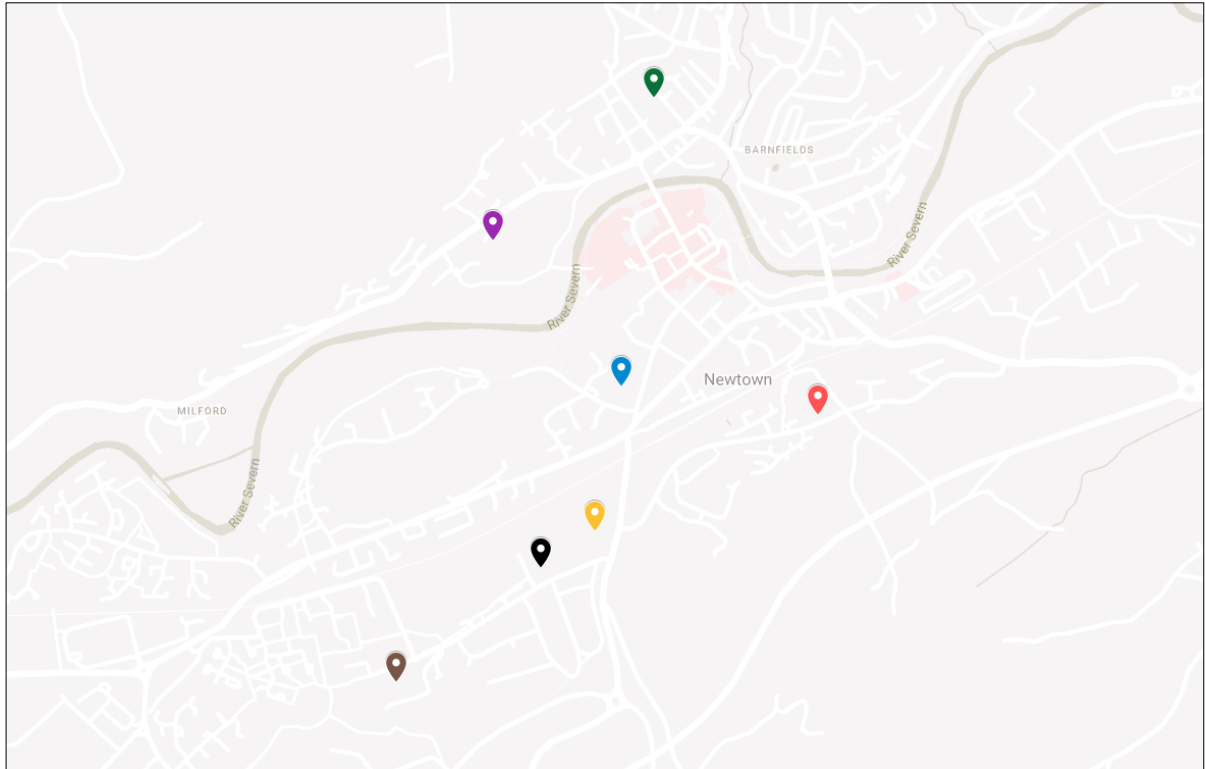
Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

1. BACKGROUND

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are English-medium primary schools located in the town of Newtown, in North Powys. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was established in September 2021 following the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, and currently operates from the buildings of the two previous schools.

The following map shows the location of the two schools and other primary schools in Newtown:



Key: Blue – Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Red – Treowen C.P. School, Yellow – Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Brown – Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, Purple – St Mary's RC School, Green – Penygloddfa C.P. School, Black – Newtown High School.

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

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹	Rural School ²
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English-medium	48	No
Treowen C.P. School, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1NJ	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English-medium	24	No

Current pupil numbers³ at the two schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	39	35	45	26	33	38	35	251
Treowen C.P. School	10	15	15	9	15	14	27	105
Total	49	50	60	35	48	52	62	356

Whilst Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was established in the existing Ladywell Green and Hafren buildings, the intention was that eventually a replacement building would be provided on the site, to be co-located with the new Health and Well-being Campus being developed as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme.

Since the establishment of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, the Council has been developing plans for the new school building. A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been developed and approved by the Council's Cabinet and Welsh Government and plans for the new building had been developed to the end of RIBA Stage 2.

Following consideration of these plans by the Council's Cabinet, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned

¹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24

² 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>)

³ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.

An initial review of the plans by Property Design Services suggested that this might be possible, and officers were subsequently asked to carry out a period of engagement with the three school communities to further investigate this.

In early June 2023, the Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys, Cllr Pete Roberts wrote to parents, staff and governors at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School to let them know of the Council's possible plan to expand the new build to accommodate pupils at other schools in Newtown. As part of this, meetings were held with staff and governors at the three schools, and an engagement questionnaire was launched for parents and the wider community. A summary of the findings of the engagement exercise are provided in a separate Engagement Report.

The engagement exercise identified a number of concerns about the possible plan to bring these together. These included:

- Concern about the impact of pupils attending a larger school
- Concern about traffic and parking
- Concern about the impact on staff
- Concern about loss of community identity and facilities
- Concern about land and facilities for the replacement building
- Concern about location and access to the new building
- Suggestions that smaller schools are preferred
- Concern around wellbeing, bullying and behavioural issues
- Concern around loss of parental choice
- Concern around the impact on pupils with ALN

Respondents were asked to outline any specific local issues which the Council would need to consider when exploring the idea further. The following is a summary of the comments received:

- Traffic and parking in the Park Street area of Newtown
- Impact on pupils and learning around class sizes
- Impact on communities and families
- Concerns around the North Powys Wellbeing Programme
- Size of the new school
- Accessibility and transport from Treowen and Maesyrrhandir

Since the engagement exercise was carried out, the Council has carried out an options appraisal exercise to identify a preferred option for the three schools. The feedback received during the engagement was taken into consideration when undertaking the options appraisal exercise.

The following steps have been undertaken:

- Options appraisal exercise
- Recommendation considered and agreed by the Transforming Education Programme Board
- Recommendation considered and agreed by Cabinet

On the 24th October 2023, the Cabinet considered the options appraisal and engagement report, and agreed to commence consultation on the following proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:

‘Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.’

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.

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 2021 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 43% 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 5% by 2026.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there was 14% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools. With pupil numbers across Powys projected to decrease overall over the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

iv) Building condition

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

v) Financial pressures

The Council is currently facing significant financial pressures in general. This is affecting all service areas, including the schools' sector. There are significant variations in the budget share per pupil across Powys schools, ranging from £3,512 to £11,689 in the primary sector in 2022-23.

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

The Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the last few years left a legacy in Powys.

3. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the summer of 2019, Powys Education Services were inspected by Estyn. The report published by Estyn following the inspection outlined significant concerns regarding the Council's progress on school reorganisation, and includes a recommendation to 'Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post-16, Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of children and young people of Powys.'

Following the publication of the inspection report, 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, and was updated and relaunched in July 2022.

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

The Vision Statement is as follows:

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

In order to achieve the vision and guiding principles, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of these aims is to 'improve learner entitlement and experience' and this aim includes an objective to 'rationalise primary provision'.

The strategy also includes an Enabling Action which includes a commitment to capital investment in Powys schools, as outlined below:

'E.A.1 – The implementation of a major capital investment programme that will ensure that schools in Powys have inspiring, environmentally sustainable buildings that can provide opportunities for wider community activity, including where possible childcare services, early years, ALN, multi-agency support and community and leisure facilities. This will also include developing a reliable, high quality digital infrastructure.'

The current proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are in line with these priorities.

4. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN NEWTOWN

As work on the designs for the planned replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen moved forward, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.

The reasons for this were as follows:

i) Decrease in pupil numbers

As shown in the table below, total pupil numbers at the three schools have decreased from 626 in 2017 to 462 in 2023. This is a decrease of 164 pupils.

	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	270	256	264	239	231	230	230
Treowen C.P. School	146	146	145	131	136	135	114
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	210	193	172	144	139	116	118
Total	626	595	581	514	506	481	462

The projections, which are shown below, suggest that pupil numbers, whilst remaining steady at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, are projected to continue to decrease significantly at Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School⁴.

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	236	235	229	224	229
Treowen C.P. School	105	88	85	77	78
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	92	86	77	72	71
Total	433	409	391	373	378

⁴ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023.

The projections also indicate that both Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School will fall below the Welsh Government definition of a small school of less than 91 pupils in the future.

ii) Increase in surplus places

Currently the three schools combined have a surplus capacity of 273 pupils, or 37.5%. This is much higher than the current 21% of surplus places in primary schools across Powys.

As pupil numbers in the three schools are set to fall, significantly in Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, these surplus places will increase. By 2028, according to the projections, surplus places could be 350 places or 48.1% based on the current configuration of schools.

iii) Building condition

There are issues with building condition in the three schools, in particular the former Ladywell Green Infants building of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which has been assessed as Condition C/D.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options were identified for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School to address the challenges identified above:

Option	Description
1	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, other schools to remain as they are
2	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen
3	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen
4	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

SWOT analyses have been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors. These can be found in [Appendix B](#) of this document.

Based on the SWOT analyses and the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred option for the schools is as follows:

Option 4: New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

The reasons for this are:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building
- Improved building condition for the two schools
- Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building
- Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites
- The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- New building would be meet Welsh Government net zero requirements
- Potential financial saving
- Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc
- Additional services could be provided in a larger school
- Reduction in surplus places in Newtown

- This Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future

6. IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Having identified a preferred option, a number of possible implementation options were identified to take this option forward.

These are as follows:

Option 4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. - When the new building opens, Treowen C.P. School closes, and pupils transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen along with Calon y Dderwen pupils.
Option 4B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. - When the new building opens on the Calon y Dderwen site, a new primary school is established in the new building by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.
Option 4C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From September 2025, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building. Treowen pupils would continue to attend the Treowen site, however the school would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Treowen C.P. School would close. - When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.
Option 4D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From September 2025, a new primary school is established by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The school initially operates from the current Calon y Dderwen and Treowen buildings. - When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.
Option 4E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From September 2025, Treowen C.P. School closes and pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. - Pupils continue to occupy current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen buildings until the new building is ready.

SWOT analyses have also been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors. These can be found in [Appendix C](#) of this document.

Based on the SWOT analyses and the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred implementation option is as follows:

Option 4C:

- From September 2025, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building. Treowen pupils would continue to attend the Treowen site, however the school would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Treowen C.P. School would close.
- When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

7. IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the preferred option identified in section 5 above and the preferred implementation option identified in section 6 above, the preferred option is as follows:

New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

- Treowen C.P. School closes from 31 August 2025. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building and pupils continue to attend school in the existing Treowen building from September 2025.
- When the new building opens, the Treowen site closes and pupils then move to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

In order to take forward this preferred option, the Council is consulting on the following proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

The proposals are further explored in the following section. The reasons why the other options considered have not been taken forward are summarised in [Appendix D](#) of this document.

PART B – THE PROPOSALS

8. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building. The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

9. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSALS

The Council is proposing to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building for the following reasons:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building
- Improved building condition for the two schools
- Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building
- Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites
- The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- New building would meet Welsh Government net zero requirements
- Potential financial saving
- Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc
- Additional services could be provided in a larger school
- Reduction in surplus places in Newtown
- Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future
- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

10. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building - Improved building condition for the two schools - Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building - Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites - The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 - New building would meet Welsh Government net zero requirements - Potential financial saving - Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc - Additional services could be provided in a larger school - Reduction in surplus places in Newtown - Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future - Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils from Maesyrrhandir C.P. School would not be able to receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment - Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site - Pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would have to walk/travel further to get to school than they do currently - Treowen is located on top of a hill which may make walking to school challenging for some - Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/travel further - Community opposition to the proposal - Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a larger school than they are used to - Doesn't address backlog maintenance issues at Maesyrrhandir C.P School - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place. - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - Would incur costs to rebrand the Treowen site as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources - Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school. - Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school 	
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11. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Parents choose for their children to attend alternative schools instead of Treowen / Calon y Dderwen which results in a reduction in pupil numbers at these schools	Low	Low	Engagement with parents to take place throughout the process.
Period of uncertainty for the affected schools whilst the statutory process is being carried out and implemented may have a negative impact on standards at the two schools.	Medium	Medium	The Council to provide advice and support to the schools and governing bodies to ensure that standards and performance continue to improve during the transition period.
Uncertainty for staff during the transition period, may result in some staff leaving	Low	Low	Engagement with staff to take place throughout the process and staff to be kept informed of developments. Process to be concluded as quickly as possible in order to minimise the period of uncertainty for staff.

No capital funding is available to fund the project, either from the Welsh Government or the Council.	Low	High	<p>A SOC for a new build 270 place school has previously been approved by Welsh Government, however it is recognised that should the decision be implemented, the estimated costs would be higher than the current funding envelope.</p> <p>The Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme to Welsh Government by the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.</p>
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11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, potential implementation timescales are as follows:

Formal Consultation	15 January to 26 February 2024
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	April 2024

If Cabinet decide to proceed:

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	May 2024
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	July 2024

If Cabinet approves implementation:

Phase 1:

Treowen C.P. School closes	31 st August 2025
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the former Treowen C.P. School site	1 st September 2025

Phase 2:

The target date for completion of the new school building is 2026/2027. Once this is complete then the Treowen site would close.

PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSALS

12. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

Implementation of Phase 1 of the proposals would see the continuation of English-medium primary provision on the current sites of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. It is anticipated that the impact on pupils attending the two schools would be minimal during this phase, however it is possible that there could be a greater impact on pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School as they would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This may mean some staffing changes, however it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on pupils. Pupils would continue to attend school at their current location, so there would be no additional travel to school.

During this phase, there would be improved opportunities for pupils in all key stages to benefit from staff specialisms. There would also be improved opportunities for more able and talented pupils.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would mean that all pupils would transfer to the new site. The new building would provide significantly improved accommodation compared with the current accommodation of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, which would have a positive impact on pupils. However, for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, the move to a new building would require additional travel. Whilst the distance to the site of the new building would be less than a mile, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a steep hill, which could make it more difficult for pupils and their families to walk to and from the new site.

There would also be opportunities to provide more activities for pupils during this phase, as all pupils would be attending the same building.

ii) Pupils attending other schools in Newtown catchment

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposals would impact on any pupils attending any other schools in the Newtown catchment. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend alternative schools instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School, which could result in an increase in pupil numbers at these schools, it is not anticipated that the numbers would be large enough to have an impact on these schools.

iii) Pupils attending other schools not in the Newtown catchment

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposals would impact on any pupils attending any other schools in the Newtown catchment. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend alternative schools instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School, which could result in an increase in pupil numbers at these schools, it is not anticipated that the numbers would be large enough to have an impact on these schools.

13. IMPACT ON STAFF

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close, and a Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the former Treowen site.

The Council would work with the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen on an expanded staffing structure, which would enable the school to operate from the Treowen site in addition to its current site during Phase 1. This would be in accordance with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. As part of this process, there would be an opportunity for the governing body to 'ringfence' all teaching and associated staff posts to staff currently employed within Treowen C.P. School in the first instance.

It is possible that further changes to the staffing arrangements would be needed when the school moves to a new building during Phase 2. Any such changes would be carried out by the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in accordance with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff.

Should the proposals be implemented, all cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council would be supported by the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

14. IMPACT ON NURSERY / EARLY YEARS PROVISION

In September 2017, the Council changed the age of admission to primary schools in Powys from "at the start of the term in which they attain their fourth birthday" to "at the start of the school year following his/her fourth birthday". Following this change, there are no nursery aged pupils attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School.

However, ten hours of funded early years education provision is available on the sites of both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. Information about this provision is provided below:

Derw Bach

Derw Bach is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. There are 32 places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Treowen 3+

Treowen 3+ is a non-maintained school run setting which operates from the site of Treowen C.P. School. There are 20 places available at this provider which is currently sufficient to meet the needs for early years education in the area.

During Phase 1 of the proposals, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current site of Treowen C.P. School. During Phase 1, the expectation is that funded early years education would continue to be available on both sites, however consideration would need to be given to the management arrangements of the provision at Treowen, as the setting is currently run by Treowen C.P. School, which would no longer exist.

Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Accommodation to provide funded early years education would be provided in the new building. The demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.

Should all provision move to the new building, this would mean that funded early years education would no longer be available at Treowen, and families currently living in Treowen who access this provision at Treowen C.P. School would need to travel further to access this provision.

Parents would also be able to access other providers in Newtown, however due to recent changes in provision in the town, there is currently some pressure on places. Demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.

15. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON AVAILABILITY OF PLACES AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

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

The intention is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the site currently occupied by Treowen C.P. School.

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and building condition of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:

School	Capacity	Current Pupils ⁵	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	342	251	91	26.6%	C	B
Treowen C.P. School	172	105	67	39.0%	B	B

This information shows that there is enough capacity within the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to accommodate existing and projected pupil numbers at the two schools. The accommodation would be at least equivalent quality for current pupils until the new building is constructed.

The new building is expected to be built for 360 pupils, which would be sufficient to hold all the current and projected pupils and would provide access to accommodation which is of improved quality compared with the current accommodation.

Alternative English-medium provision is also available at a number of other schools in Newtown. The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and the building condition of these schools:

School	Capacity	Current Pupils ⁶	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	214	99	115	53.7%	B/C	B/C
Penygloddfa C.P. School	312	273	39	12.5%	B	B
St Mary's RC School	117	60	57	48.7%	B	B/C

Places are available at these three schools for any pupils wishing to attend alternative provision.

- ii) **Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and designated religious character?**

⁵ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

⁶ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are both community primary schools. The proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would provide continued access to community primary provision for pupils currently attending these schools. As indicated above, there are sufficient places at the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen buildings to accommodate current and projected pupil numbers at these two schools.

The new building is expected to be built for 360 pupils, which would be sufficient to hold all the current and projected pupils at these two schools, ensuring continued access to community primary provision for these pupils.

Additional English-medium C.P. provision is also available at other providers in Newtown, such as Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Penygloddfa C.P. School.

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

Initially, the intention is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current site of Treowen C.P. School. During this phase, pupils currently attending school on the Treowen site would continue to attend the same location, so there would be no change in terms of the nature of journeys and journey times for pupils during this phase.

Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school. The Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site is approximately 0.8 miles from Treowen C.P. School, therefore whilst there would be additional travel time for all pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school, including SEN pupils, this would be minimal.

In respect of primary provision, the nearest alternative English-medium provision to Treowen C.P. School would be as follows:

School name	Distance from Treowen C.P. School	Approx. travel time
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	0.8 miles	3 minutes
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	1.0 miles	3 minutes
Penygloddfa C.P. School	1.2 miles	4 minutes
St Mary's RC School	1.6 miles	5 minutes

The travel times above are the approximate travel times from Treowen C.P. School to the alternative schools, however the distance from individual pupils' homes to alternative schools would be different. Analysis has shown that the distances and travel times to alternative English-medium provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes for primary pupils.

The travel times above are the approximate travel times from Treowen C.P. School to the alternative schools, however the distance from individual pupils' homes to alternative schools would be different. The distances and travel times to alternative English-medium provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes for pupils.

It is also acknowledged that Treowen C.P. School is located up a hill, which could mean that it would be less convenient for families from the Treowen estate to get to school following the move to the new building, however the additional distance is not considered to be excessive and should not have a significant impact on the accessibility of the provision. The Council's view is that this should not have an effect on pupils' engagement with and attendance at school.

Should the proposals be implemented, the existing Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, therefore during Phase 1, walking / cycling routes to school would be the same as the current walking / cycling routes to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building.

As the proposed site for the new building is currently a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre. There has also been some development of active travel routes on the Treowen estate recently, with the construction of a path which runs from Kerry Road to the school and continues to Bethshan Nursing Home. However it is acknowledged that further development is needed of routes from the Treowen estate to the town centre. Several potential future routes have been identified to better connect this area to the town centre, which would be considered as part of the process of developing the new building, to ensure that there would be safe routes in place to enable pupils from the Treowen estate to access the new site.

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

The latest pupil projection figures⁷ for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School suggest that pupil numbers at both schools are not expected to increase over the coming years. This is in-line with the general trend in terms of pupil numbers in Newtown.

⁷Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 & Birth Rates.

The following table provides the latest primary projections for all primary schools in Newtown:

School	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	92	86	77	72	71
Treowen C.P. School	105	88	85	77	78
Penygloddfa C.P. School	287	289	286	275	272
St Mary's RC School	65	63	53	44	41
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	236	235	229	224	229
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	193	201	201	199	190
Total	978	962	931	892	881

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

The intention is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site in their existing accommodation initially. Pupils currently attending the Treowen site would continue to attend the same location during this period, so there would be no change in terms of access for disabled pupils during this phase.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would be built to meet the requirements of the Equality Act. This would provide improved access for disabled pupils compared with the provision currently at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.

16. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposals would result in the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to current Treowen site. This would mean that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's current governing body would become responsible for the Treowen site in addition to the Calon y Dderwen site.

The governing body of Treowen C.P. School would be dissolved. There would be opportunities for representatives of the Treowen site to be appointed to the governing body if there were any vacancies.

The governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may also decide to add additional governors in line with the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

17. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

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

Standards of education and progress at both schools are currently good. The Council would expect the preferred option to further strengthen the current standards.

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.

It is anticipated that extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site would have a positive impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT, through improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources across the school, and through improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

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

ii) Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning are currently good in both schools. Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site would provide an opportunity to strengthen these further. It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact, particularly with regard to pupils' emotional health.

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupil wellbeing during transition to the new operating model, however the expectation is that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would work with Treowen C.P. School to support transition to the new operating model from September 2025, to minimise any negative impact. Pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend the same location during the transition period, and it is likely that they would continue to be taught by the same staff.

In the longer term, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site. It is possible that there would also be an impact on pupil wellbeing during the transition to the new building, including pupils who were previously attending the Treowen site, as they would need to travel further to school. However, all pupils would be attending a brand new building, which would provide significantly improved accommodation compared with the current accommodation of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, which should have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning.

iii) Teaching and learning experiences

Quality of teaching

Quality of teaching is currently good in both schools. It is anticipated that extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would provide an opportunity to enhance this, by providing flexibility to share good practice and teaching experiences, resulting in positive benefits for staff and pupils.

Being part of a larger primary school with a larger pool of teaching staff would also lead to enhanced opportunities for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would provide the opportunity to further strengthen the curriculum offered to pupils. The school would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum for all pupils.

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

The provision of skills

The provision of skills is good in both schools now, however, extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would provide an opportunity to strengthen this.

Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

iv) Care, support and guidance

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

There are no concerns currently about these aspects at either school. Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would provide an opportunity to further develop these aspects across the two sites. For those children that need additional support, this continuity of approach would be beneficial. This is also the case in respect of personal development and safeguarding.

In the longer term, the Council intends to invest in a new building to replace the current buildings. Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, these would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future. Safeguarding arrangements would be a key consideration when planning the site, and when designing the new building, particularly given that the intention is for the new building to be part of a new well-being campus to be developed by the North Powys Well-being Programme.

v) Leadership and Management

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

There is currently a permanent leadership team in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, but not at Treowen C.P. School. Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would provide an opportunity to secure permanent leadership arrangements across both sites.

The expanded Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be a larger school and would enable increased focus on leadership. Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would also provide enhanced opportunities to develop leadership across the school, on both sites and would provide enhanced leadership opportunities for staff, and enhanced opportunities for improvement planning across the school.

The intention is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site. Whilst some benefits would be realised immediately following this change, it is acknowledged that operating across two sites could cause some challenges for the school's leaders during this phase.

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

Professional learning

Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would result in a larger staff team at the school and would provide improved professional learning opportunities for staff through greater opportunities for cross phase working, opportunities to develop leaders more effectively and more opportunities to develop middle leaders across both sites. In addition, there would be improved opportunities to see the progression of learning across both sites and improve opportunities to apply the principles of the new curriculum.

Whilst it is expected that some improvements in professional learning opportunities would be realised immediately following the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, this would be further enhanced following a move to one new building in the future.

Use of Resources

Should Ysgol Calon y Dderwen be extended to include the Treowen site, the existing Treowen C.P. School would close. The school would be funded as one school, with one budget, and would be run by one headteacher, one leadership team, and one governing body. This should result in some efficiencies within the school's delegated budget through shared staffing and the ability to share of other resources.

Initially, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current Treowen site. This would mean that there would be a need to maintain all current buildings in the short term, which would not be the most efficient operating model. The school would be funded as two separate schools whilst on split sites so there would be no saving to the Council from Phase 1, however there could be some efficiencies within the school's delegated budget.

In the longer term, the intention is for the school to move to a new building which would reduce the surplus capacity that currently exists in the two schools. This would enable the new school to maximise the benefits in terms of the use of resources and deliver savings to both the school's delegated budget and the Council's budget.

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

Implementation of the emerging preferred option would impact on any vulnerable pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, including any pupils with ALN/SEN.

Based on January 2023 PLASC, 23.8% of pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and 19.2% of pupils at Treowen C.P. School had additional learning needs.

Whilst the emerging preferred option would impact on these pupils, there is no reason to believe that their needs would not be met by the new arrangements.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with the schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with ALN/SEN, and their families. Pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend the same location initially, and it is likely that they would continue to be taught by the same staff, which would help support their transition to the new delivery model.

The arrangements for supporting vulnerable pupils at the school would be further enhanced following the planned move to a brand new building, however it is acknowledged that there would be a change in location for pupils attending the Treowen site, which could mean that it is make it more difficult for them to access school.

vii) 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

Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would enable the provision of a full curriculum to pupils across the primary age range.

Initially, the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the existing Treowen C.P. School site. Whilst one headteacher and governing body would be responsible for all through sites during this period, the full curriculum would continue to be provided to pupils in the foundation phase and key stage 2 on both sites. The provision available for pupils would be at least equivalent to the current provision, and there would be additional opportunities to provide enhanced opportunities to pupils across all three sites through shared staffing and the opportunity to hold all-school activities.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would provide enhanced opportunities to offer a full curriculum to all pupils across the primary age range in brand new facilities.

18. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

The proposal is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, therefore there would be no impact on surplus places in the area during this phase.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The current intention is that the new building would be built for 360 pupils. This is a reduction of 154 compared with the current combined capacities of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, which is 514, therefore this would lead to a reduction in surplus places in Newtown.

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

Phase 1 of the proposals, to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, is not dependent on Sustainable Communities for Learning funding.

Phase 2 of the proposals, to provide a replacement building, is dependent on capital funding, and is part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21st Century Schools) Investment Programme.

Plans to provide a new primary school in Newtown are included in the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This is linked to wider plans to develop a multi-agency Health and Well-being campus in Newtown. A SOC for a new build 270 place school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has previously been approved by Welsh Government. However it is recognised that the current estimated costs for a 360 place school would be higher than the funding envelope approved within the SOC.

The Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme for the new Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme before the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.

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

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the increased rates charges for a new build which are currently estimated to be an additional £14,000 and it is expected that utility costs would rise in the new build by an estimated £20,000. This has been included in the delegated revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal. These costs will need to be updated as the build is developed and more information is known.

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

It is not anticipated that any additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of the proposals.

During Phase 1, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the Treowen site. During this phase, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend school in the same location.

During Phase 2, all pupils would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This means that there would be some additional travel for pupils attending the Treowen site, as they would need to travel to the new school site. However the new building would be located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen building, so it is not anticipated that there would be any additional transport costs associated with this move.

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

There are no capital costs associated with the initial phase, which would see the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is estimated that the capital cost of this (excluding optimism bias, risk, client costs and fees) would be £16m, based on current costs.

The intention is that this would be funded by the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. Plans to provide a new primary school in Newtown are included in the Council's SOP for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. As part of the business case process, a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been developed and approved by the Council's Cabinet and Welsh Government and plans for the new building had been developed to the end of RIBA Stage 2.

However, the original SOC was based on a 270-place school, with an estimated cost of just under £13m, based on 2020 costs. It is noted that the Council would need to submit a revised SOC if the scope of the project was to change.

The Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme for the new Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme before the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.

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

The intention initially is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site. No savings to the Council would be identified at this stage in terms of delegated funding, however the school would be able to combine resources and potentially reduce management costs for the school, as there would be one senior leadership team.

There would be no additional transport costs associated with this phase, however there may be some additional costs associated with extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, such as new signage. This is estimated to be in the region of £15k and would be funded from the Council's transformation budget.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is estimated that the capital cost of this (including optimism bias) would be £16m, however this would be reviewed and updated as the design process moves forward.

It is anticipated that the lifetime costs of the status quo option, which would include backlog maintenance would be £78.00m over a 60-year investment period. This is compared with the lifetime costs of the move to a new school building which would be £72.61m over a 60-year investment period, generating a saving of £5.39m.

The move to one new building would result in estimated revenue savings in delegated funding amounting to £108.6k per annum (after taking account of the estimated increase in business rates of £14.0k). In addition, there may be some minimal savings for catering functions. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transport costs as the new building is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building. The school itself is also anticipated to realise savings to its budget as they will be able to pool resources as well as put more cost-effective class structures and a single leadership team in place, however it is expected utility costs would increase by approximately £20.0k for the new school.

vii) Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

Based on the latest information held by the Council's Finance Team, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is projecting a cumulative surplus of £61,543 in March 2024 and Treowen C.P School is projecting a cumulative surplus of £36,161 in March 2024.

Neither school is projecting a deficit position over the next 3 years but both are spending more than the funding delegated to them in-year in 2025/26. They are able to do this as they have cumulative surpluses available to them, but if this in-year position continued, then they would be likely to fall into a cumulative carry forward deficit in 2026/27.

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

Any savings would be available for reinvestment as part of the Council's corporate budget process and any reinvestment in the schools system would

be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

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

Initially there would be no redundant sites as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would initially be extended to include the Treowen site.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would result in the Treowen site becoming surplus. The Council would need to consider what to do with this site in the future. This would initially be considered through the Council's Strategic Asset Board.

Should the site be declared surplus, the Council would hope to realise a capital receipt for the site. Any capital receipts received would be reinvested into the Transforming Education programme in order to improve the educational provision across Powys.

19. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- i) **Impact 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 Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Based on PLASC figures from January 2023, 42% of pupils attending Treowen C.P. School and 36% of pupils attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen were eligible for Free School Meals therefore it is acknowledged that the proposal would impact on some pupils from economically deprived backgrounds.

However, it is not anticipated that the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would have a negative impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds. Initially, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend school in the same location, which would minimise any impact on the educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds and would support their transition to the new model. They would be part of a larger school, which would have a larger pupil deprivation grant, which could be used to support pupils consistently throughout their time in primary school.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would mean that pupils attending the school would need to transfer to the new site. For

pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, this would require additional travel. However, the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building, so it is not expected that the additional travel required would impact on pupils' educational attainment.

During the engagement exercise carried out when developing this proposal, some concern was raised that moving to the Calon y Dderwen site would make it more difficult for pupils from economically deprived backgrounds to attend school as it would be located further away, and that this would impact on attendance, which could impact on their educational attainment. The Council would work with the school to prepare for the transition to the new building, to minimise any impact on attendance.

ii) Land and Buildings

Comparison of the quality of accommodation at the school from which pupils would be transferred

As the proposal is to initially close Treowen C.P. School and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include this site, there would be no impact on the quality of accommodation for pupils.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would result in new facilities, leading to a significant improvement in the quality of accommodation for pupils in the longer term.

Information on any building works necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated

All current pupils can be accommodated within the current accommodation and no building work would be necessary to proceed with Phase 1 of the proposals.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. A new building would be required in order to enable this move to take place, which will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils.

Details of any potential transfer or disposal of land or buildings that may need to occur as a result of the proposals

The Treowen site would be surplus following a move to a new building and this would be disposed of in accordance with the Council's asset management policy.

Is the school / schools involved 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?

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School are not subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposed option.

iii) Walking routes to school

Should the proposals be implemented, the existing Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, therefore during Phase 1, walking / cycling routes to school would be the same as the current walking / cycling routes to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building.

As the proposed site for the new building is currently a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre. There has also been some development of active travel routes on the Treowen estate recently, with the construction of a path which runs from Kerry Road to the school and continues to Bethshan Nursing Home. However it is acknowledged that further development is needed of routes from the Treowen estate to the town centre. Several potential future routes have been identified to better connect this area to the town centre, which would be considered as part of the process of developing the new building, to ensure that there would be safe routes in place to enable pupils from the Treowen estate to access the new site.

iv) School Admissions

Admissions for the two schools are administered by the Council. Should the current proposals be implemented, admissions for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would continue to be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available on-line at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place>

Should the proposals be implemented, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would be allocated a place in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

New pupils wishing to attend the school would need to apply for a place in accordance with the Council's admissions arrangements.

v) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The proposal is not directly linked to the targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and would not expand or reduce the availability of Welsh language provision.

Welsh-medium education is available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's new building when it opens instead of choosing Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is itself located in a new building provided by the 21st Century Schools Programme. As Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is closer to Treowen than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it is also possible that some pupils would choose to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the future, instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

i) 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 Treowen C.P. School, these are outlined in section 5 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

The preferred option is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen C.P. School site, which would result in establishing a multi-sited school, until the new building is constructed for learners on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site.

ii) 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

Whilst the preferred option involves closing Treowen C.P. School, it does retain educational provision on the Treowen site, until such time that the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is constructed.

A range of options have been considered and these are outlined earlier in the document, as well as an assessment of each option.

Clustering, collaboration or federation have not been considered as they would not solve the key issues of surplus places and decreasing pupil numbers, nor would they provide opportunities for larger numbers of pupils to benefit from the planned capital investment in Newtown. However the status quo option indicated opportunities for the schools to work collaboratively.

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

The preferred option involves utilising the existing Treowen C.P. School as a site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen until the new building is constructed. Therefore, education will be retained in Treowen until a new building is available for pupils to transfer to.

Upon transfer to the new building, the future use of the Treowen site would be considered in accordance with the Council's asset management policy. This would include exploring the possibility that the building could be used as a community resource.

iv) 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 educational provision would continue to be available in Newtown for pupils that currently attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. Ultimately, there would be a positive impact on the community in Newtown, through the provision of a new primary school with enhanced facilities, including community facilities.

During the first phase, provision would continue on the current Treowen site, so the impact on the Treowen community would be minimal. However eventually, there would no longer be provision in Treowen. This would have a negative impact on the Treowen community and would result in the loss of primary provision on the Treowen estate, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school. However, pupils would continue to be able to access education in the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site.

A community impact assessment has been carried out, which includes input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community. This will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils, however it is likely to include whole school activities for staff, pupils and parents, school council and governing body to include representation from both sites.

21. EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Draft impact assessments have been carried out in respect of the proposals. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. The assessments are available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14956/Ysgol-Calon-y-Dderwen-and-Treowen-C.P.-School>

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

i) Equalities impact assessment

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen be extended to include the Treowen site. The school would then eventually move to a new building on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site and the Treowen site would close. All pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School would be able to attend the new school. The aim of the proposals is to improve the educational opportunities available to pupils in Newtown, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups.

During the first phase of implementing the proposals, pupils would continue to attend school in their current buildings, therefore the impact on pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups would be minimal.

Eventually the intention is that the new school moves to a new building in Newtown. Whilst this would provide significant improvements to all pupils in terms of the quality of accommodation and the facilities available, this phase would have a more significant impact on pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend that school, including any pupils with ALN, as some additional travel would be required in order to attend the new building. However, the additional distance from Treowen C.P. School to the proposed site of the new school is minimal.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposals would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the two current schools, there is no reason to believe that the extended Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected, including pupils with Additional Learning Needs, pupils belonging to Ethnic Groups other than White British, EAL pupils, pupils eligible for Free School Meals and Looked After Children.

ii) Impact on the community

Should the proposals be implemented, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would initially be extended to include the Treowen site. During this phase, it is expected that a similar range of activities to the activities currently provided would be available to pupils. It is also possible that an increased range of activities and opportunities could be offered to pupils, through the ability to share staff expertise and the ability to offer joint activities to a larger group of pupils. Both schools also benefit from links with the community. It is expected that these would continue during Phase 1. During Phase 1, pupils would continue to attend school at the two existing sites, so no additional travel would be required. It is anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be minimal during Phase 1.

Eventually, the intention is that all pupils would move to one new building located on the current site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is anticipated that the new building would have a range of community facilities, which would ensure that many of the activities which currently take place in the schools could continue, and could also provide the opportunity to offer new activities.

It is acknowledged, however that the move to one new building in the town centre would mean that there would be no school provision in the Treowen. This would mean that school activities would no longer take place on the Treowen estate, and could impact on links with the Treowen community. Activities that currently take place in the Treowen C.P. School building would need to find an alternative location. There is a community centre and a M.U.G.A. directly opposite the school which would continue to be available to community should there be no school in Treowen. Some of the activities that currently take place at the school could be held in the community centre.

It is also acknowledged that Phase 2 of the proposals would result in an increase in the distance to school for pupils for whom Treowen is currently their closest school. Whilst the additional distance would be minimal as the site would still be located within Newtown, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a hill, so it might be more difficult for parents without access to a car to access the site. Concern has also been raised about the walking route to the new school, and that pupils would have to cross a busy road.

PART D – CONSULTATION DETAILS

Who will we consult with?

The Council will consult with a range of stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code, which include the following:

- Parents, carers and guardians at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Governors at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire and regional Members of the Senedd for the area
- The MP for Montgomeryshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Mid Wales Partnership
- The Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People’s Partnership

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the Welsh children and young people’s national participation standards⁸.

The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the **15 January** and end on **26 February 2024**

The statutory process

Consultation on these proposals will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the revised School Organisation Code which became operational on the 1st November 2018. The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

⁸ <https://gov.wales/children-and-young-peoples-national-participation-standards>

Consultation will start on the 15 January and end on 26 February 2024. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a consultation report will be produced and shared with stakeholders.

It is important to note that responses made to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposals, and that only objections can be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposals, to make changes to the proposals, or to not proceed with the proposals. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of these proposals.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by the Cabinet in the Spring of 2024.

ii) Statutory notice

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposals, a statutory notice would be published after the Cabinet meeting. There would then be a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there were objections, the Council would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the Council's response to them before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the local authority's determination. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered as objections and included in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period would not be counted as objections. Should stakeholders wish their consultation responses to be considered as objections, they would need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period.

A further report would be presented to the Council's Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposals.

It is anticipated that a final decision would be made by the end of July 2024 at the latest.

iii) Implementation

If the Council's Cabinet were to approve the proposals, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date.

How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form is attached to this document. An online version is also available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14956/Ysgol-Calon-y-Dderwen-and-Treowen-C.P.-School>

Alternatively, you can respond in writing.

Completed forms and other written responses should be sent to the following address:

*Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells,
LD1 5LG*

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

All correspondence should be received by the **26 February 2024**.

If you have any further questions about these proposals, you can contact the Transforming Education Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01686) 611553.

APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

Key data about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School is provided below.

As the proposal is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, before all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site in the future, it is not anticipated that the proposals would affect any other schools. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend other schools in Newtown other than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, it is not anticipated that the numbers would be significant.

General Information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ⁹	Rural School ¹⁰
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English-medium	48	No
Treowen C.P. School, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1NJ	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English-medium	24	No

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹¹

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr6
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	39	35	45	26	33	38	35	251
Treowen C.P. School	10	15	15	9	15	14	27	105
Total	49	50	60	35	48	52	62	356

⁹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24

¹⁰ 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>)

¹¹ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

ii) **Historical pupil numbers¹²**

	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	270	256	264	239	231	230	230
Treowen C.P. School	146	146	145	131	136	135	106

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)¹³**

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	236	235	229	224	229
Treowen C.P. School	105	88	85	77	78

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

	Capacity ¹⁴	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	342	251	91 (26.6%)
Treowen C.P. School	172	105	67 (39.0%)

ii) **Building condition¹⁵**

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficiency
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	C – Poor	B – Satisfactory	No
Treowen C.P. School	B – Satisfactory	B – Satisfactory	Yes

¹² PLASC

¹³ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 & Birth Rates.

¹⁴ Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

¹⁵ Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard - 2022

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	Treowen C.P. School
Date of inspection	Not yet inspected	May 2018
Standards	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	N/A	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement
Care, support and guidance	N/A	Good
Leadership and management	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement
Next steps	N/A	School placed in Estyn Monitoring. Removed from monitoring in December 2019.

Before the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School were both inspected by Estyn. The outcomes of the last inspections of these two schools are listed below:

	Ladywell Green Infants School	Hafren C.P. Junior School
Date of inspection	June 2019	December 2015
Standards	Good	N/A
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good	N/A
Teaching and learning experiences	Good	N/A
Care, support and guidance	Good	N/A
Leadership and management	Good	N/A

School's Current Performance	N/A	Adequate
Prospects for Improvement	N/A	Adequate
Next steps	The school will prepare an action plan to address the recommendations.	Estyn Monitoring Estyn Monitoring visit March 2017 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring

Financial information

Cost per pupil¹⁶

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	£484,515	£4,528	£37,966	0
Treowen C.P. School	£985,816	£4,401	£55,266	0
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,729.23	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

i) National Identity¹⁷

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused/ Blank
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	32.2%	19.1%	0.4%	0.0%	21.7%	4.3%	22.2%	0.0%

¹⁶ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/2024

¹⁷ PLASC 2023

Treowen C.P. School	64.9%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	10.5%	2.6%	7.0%
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ii) **Ethnic Group¹⁸**

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	80.4%	11.3%	8.3%
Treowen C.P. School	77.2%	15.8%	7.0%

iii) **English as an Additional Language¹⁹**

	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	7.0%	2.6%
Treowen C.P. School	8.8%	6.2%

iv) **Free School Meals²⁰**

	Eligible for FSM %	Eligible for Transitional Protection %
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	30.9%	5.2%
Treowen C.P. School	32.1%	9.4%

v) **Pupils in care²¹**

	Looked after Children
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	2.7%
Treowen C.P. School	0.9%

¹⁸ PLASC 2023

¹⁹ PLASC 2023

²⁰ PLASC 2023

²¹ PLASC 2023

vi) **Additional Learning Needs²²**

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	School IDP	LA IDP	% ALN
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	20.4%	3.9%	0.4%	3.5%	0.0%	28.3%
Treowen C.P. School	6.1%	6.1%	0.0%	3.5%	0.9%	16.7%

²² PLASC 2022

APPENDIX B – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of these three options identified in section 5 are provided below:

Option 1 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, other schools to remain as they are

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with a modern new building to replace existing poor buildings - Provides a more efficient model of education as all pupils would be taught in a single building rather than across two separate buildings - Removal of backlog maintenance at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen - New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act - New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government’s net zero targets - No disruption to pupils, parents or staff at Treowen or Maesyrrhandir - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff, who have only recently been through a change process, would not be affected by a further change - Schools would continue to be located in the various communities within Newtown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not allow pupils from other schools to benefit from the investment in the new building - Would not reduce surplus places in Newtown - Would not address issues with building condition at Treowen and Maesyrrhandir - Would not provide any efficiency savings

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus. - Opportunity for increased collaboration between the schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A new attractive learning environment at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may attract more pupils, which may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School – this could have an impact

	on funding and staffing levels at these schools.
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Option 2 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides the opportunity for all learners from the current three schools to benefit from an improved learning environment - A larger school provides a more efficient model of education - Removal of backlog maintenance at three schools - New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act - New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constraints around space on the site, particularly as the site will be shared with the North Powys Wellbeing Programme - There would be no room to extend the school should there be an increase in pupil numbers in the future - Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site - Pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir and Treowen would have to walk/travel further to get to school - Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/ travel further to school - Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools would lose their unique identities as provision would no longer be linked to those communities - Community opposition to the proposals - Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used to

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for more pupils, including those from deprived areas, to benefit from a modern learning environment - Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new building would be almost full from the beginning, without any 'buffer' should pupil numbers in the area increase in the future - Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown - Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school - Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes - Reduces surplus places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes
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Option 3 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment - A larger school provides a more efficient model of education - Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools - New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act - New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets - Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Treowen C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils from Treowen C.P. School would not be able to receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir have a very different pupil profile which could make the transition into a new school more challenging – the percentage of pupils with additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher in Maesyrrhandir - Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site - Pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir would have to walk/travel further to get to school than they do currently - Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/travel further - Community opposition to the proposals - Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a larger school than they are used to - Doesn't address backlog maintenance issues at Treowen C.P. School

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for more pupils, including those from a deprived area, to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than

<p>benefit from a modern learning environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown - Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school - Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes 	<p>the current budget available for this project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes - A new attractive learning environment at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may attract more pupils, which may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Treowen C.P. School – this could have an impact on funding and staffing levels in future.
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Option 4 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment - A larger school provides a more efficient model of education - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals – this would enable a positive transition process - Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools - New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act - New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government’s net zero targets - Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Maesyrrhandir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils from Maesyrrhandir C.P. School would not be able to receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment - Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site - Pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would have to walk/travel further to get to school than they do currently - Treowen is located on top of a hill which may make walking to school challenging for some - Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/travel further - Community opposition to the proposal - Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a larger school than they are used to - Doesn’t address backlog maintenance issues at Maesyrrhandir C.P. School

C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers	
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for more pupils, including those from a deprived area, to benefit from a modern learning environment - Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown - Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school - Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes - A new attractive learning environment at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may attract more pupils, which may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Maesyrrhandir C.P. School – this could have an impact on funding and staffing levels in future.

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme

2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level The option must be achievable within current legislation The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives
5 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted revenue of participating organisations The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding of participating organisations

The options have been scored against the critical success factors using the following system:

✓ - meets the criteria

? – may meet the criteria

X – does not meet the criteria

The following is a summary of the evaluation given for each option:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Strategic fit and business needs	?	✓	✓	✓
Value for money	X	✓	?	?
Potential achievability	?	X	?	✓
Supply-side capacity and capability	✓	✓	✓	✓
Potential affordability	✓	?	✓	✓
Total ✓	2	3	3	4
Total x	1	1	0	0
Outcome	Discounted	Discounted	Possible	Preferred

APPENDIX C – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS – IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified in section 6 are provided below:

Option 4A – Both schools continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed and then Treowen C.P. School closes. Pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen’s new building along with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. - Limited disruption to pupils and staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Treowen would lose its identity once the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - Temporary leadership arrangements would continue at Treowen until the new building is constructed. - No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for greater collaboration / federation between Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen until Treowen closes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

Option 4B – Both schools continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed and then Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School closes. A new primary school is established at the new building.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. - All staff at both schools would be treated in the same way and would have the same opportunity to secure positions at the new school - Both schools would have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new school's identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Treowen would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Both schools would lose their identity once the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. - Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021. - Would incur costs to establish a new school.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for greater collaboration / federation between the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen until both schools close. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

Option 4C – Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building and pupils continue to attend school in the existing Treowen building from September 2025. When the new building opens, the Treowen site closes and pupils move to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period. - Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources - Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school. - Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - Would incur costs to rebrand the Treowen site as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for staff to be part of a larger team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

Option 4D - A new primary school is established in September 2025 over both existing sites and pupils attend school in the existing buildings. Closure of Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Pupils then move to the new building when constructed.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. - Treowen pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites. - Would enable the school to run more efficiently through shared staffing and resources. - All staff at both schools would be treated in the same way and would have the same opportunity to secure positions at the new school - Both schools would have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new school's identity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021. - Would incur costs to establish a new school.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May address the issue of recruitment to leadership positions in Newtown. - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

Option 4E – From September 2025, Treowen C.P. School closes and pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Pupils continue to occupy current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen buildings until the new building is ready.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited disruption to pupils and staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. - Would help solve building condition in the short term. - Pupils would be taught together in one building. - Would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the short term. - Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school. - No costs incurred to establish a new school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision in Treowen would be lost immediately. - Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place. - Treowen would lose its identity. - No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. - Pupils from Treowen would be subject to two moves. - Not enough surplus places in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate Treowen pupils. - A larger number of pupils would be on site during the construction period.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for staff to be part of a larger team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. - Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032, to include the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives
5 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted revenue of participating organisations • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding of participating organisations

The following is a summary of the evaluation given for each option:

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

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 4A	Option 4B	Option 4C	Option 4D	Option 4E
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	?	?	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	✓	✓	?	x	✓

3 – Potential achievability	✓	?	✓	?	x
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total ✓	4	3	4	3	4
Total x	0	0	0	1	1
Outcome	Possible	Possible	Possible	Discount	Discount

APPENDIX D – REASONS WHY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN FORWARD

Options

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
1	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, other schools to remain as they are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not lead to any financial efficiency savings - Would not address the building issues at Treowen and Maesyrrhandir - Pupils at Treowen and Maesyrrhandir would not benefit from the investment - Would not reduce surplus places
2	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed site has size constraints and would be difficult a school of this size around the North Powys Wellbeing Programme - The site size means that there would be no room to extend the school if pupil numbers increased - Possible travel congestion in the area - Pupils who walk to school would have to travel further to school - Parental concerns about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used to
3	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would still need to maintain three buildings in the short term, and at least two buildings in the long term - Unlikely to attract capital funding to improve the buildings at Treowen - Would not address the issues with building condition at Treowen - Would not address surplus places at Treowen - Pupils who walk to school would have to travel further to school - Parental concerns about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir have a very different pupil profile which could make the transition into a new school more challenging – the percentage of pupils with additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher in Maesyrrhandir - Pupils at Treowen would not benefit from the investment

Implementation Options

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
Option 4A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. - When the new building opens, Treowen C.P. School closes, and pupils transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen along with Calon y Dderwen pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Treowen would lose its identity once the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - Temporary leadership arrangements would continue at Treowen until the new building is constructed. - No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building.
Option 4B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. - When the new building opens on the Calon y Dderwen site, a new primary school is established in the new building by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Treowen would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Both schools would lose their identity once the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. - Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would incur costs to establish a new school.
Option 4D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From September 2025, a new primary school is established by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The school initially operates from the current Calon y Dderwen and Treowen buildings. - When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. - Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process - Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. - Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021. - Would incur costs to establish a new school.
Option 4E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From September 2025, Treowen C.P. School closes and pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. - Pupils continue to occupy current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen buildings until the new building is ready. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision in Treowen would be lost immediately. - Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place. - Treowen would lose its identity. - No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. - Pupils from Treowen would be subject to two moves. - Not enough surplus places in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate Treowen pupils. - A larger number of pupils would be on site during the construction period.

APPENDIX E – RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSALS FOR YSGOL CALON Y DDERWEN AND TROWEN C.P. SCHOOL

Introduction

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals for Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation>. This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposals. The response form can also be completed online – a link to the online form is available by following the link above.

The closing date for this consultation is the **26 February 2024**. All responses must be received by this date.

For information on how the Transforming Education Team protects and uses personal information collected during consultation processes, please see the Transforming Education privacy notice, which is available via the following link:
<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9803/Transforming-Education-Privacy-Notice>

Part 1 – About You

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

<input type="checkbox"/> Parent, carer or guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospective parent, carer or guardian
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Member of the community	<input type="checkbox"/> Organisation e.g. Community Council
<input type="checkbox"/> No association	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

If you said 'Other' or are responding on behalf of an organisation, please specify:

2. If you are associated with a school, please specify which school you are associated with:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	<input type="checkbox"/> Treowen C.P. School
<input type="checkbox"/> Another school	<input type="checkbox"/> No association

If you are associated another school, please specify which school:

3. Please provide your postcode: _____

Part 2 – Consultation Response

Please indicate your responses to the questions below.

- 4. Please provide any comments you have in respect of Phase 1 of the proposals, to close Treowen C.P. School from the 31st August 2025, and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from the 1st September 2025.**

- 5. Please provide any comments you have in respect of Phase 2 of the proposals, to move the new school to a new building on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen when the new building is ready in 2026/27.**

6. Are there any other options you think the Council should be considering for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School?

Please outline any alternative options below, including a description of the option(s) you think the Council should be considering:

Impact on people with protected characteristics

7. Do you have any comments or concerns about the impact of the proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Copy of Consultation Report

8. At the end of the Consultation Period, the Council will publish a Consultation Report, summarising the issues raised in the consultation responses received and providing the Council's response to these issues.

Would you like to be informed of the publication of the consultation report?

Yes

No

If you answered 'Yes', please provide an e-mail address or postal address:

Part 3 – Equalities Information (Optional)

We want to ensure that we include all sectors of the community in our consultation, and are requesting that you provide this information to enable us to identify whether the consultation has been inclusive. However, these questions are optional.

9. How old are you?

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 16-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34
<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64
<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74	<input type="checkbox"/> 75-84	<input type="checkbox"/> 85+
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		

10. What is your gender?

<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Fluid
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Binary	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender neutral	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

11. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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12. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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13. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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14. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
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15. What is your ethnic group?

<input type="checkbox"/> White	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Black, African or Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy/Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say		

Part 4 – Impact on the Welsh language (Optional)

We are required by the Welsh Language Standards to consider the effects of any policy decisions on the Welsh Language. Please note these questions are optional.

- 1. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would the proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?**

- 2. How do you think the proposals to for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive / more positive effects, or so that it would not have adverse effects / less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?**

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 26 February 2024.**

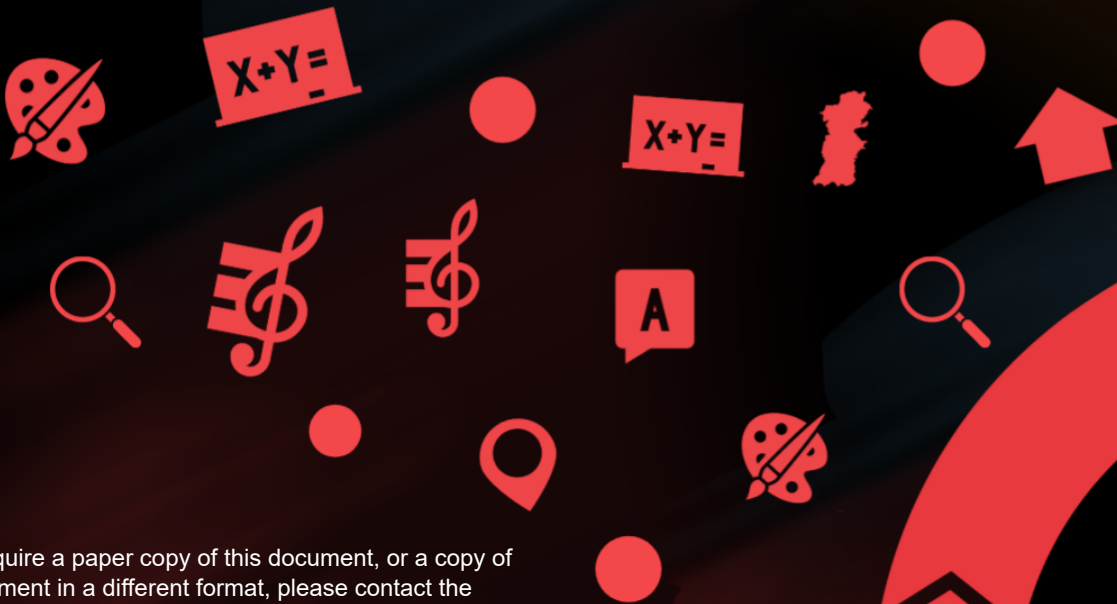
Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

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Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School Consultation Report



**Consultation on the proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and
Treowen C.P. School**

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Consultation on the proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

1. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION

Powys County Council consulted on proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building.

The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1st September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

The consultation took place from the **15th of January 2024** to the **26th of February 2024**.

i) Consultation methods

The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period, and was distributed to stakeholders, as required by the School Organisation Code (2018). A separate version for pupils was also available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing an online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the Transforming Education Team at County Hall, or by e-mailing / writing to the Transforming Education Team.

Meetings were held with the following:

- Pupils of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen – 5th of February 2024
- Staff of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen – 5th of February 2024
- Governors of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen – 5th of February 2024
- Pupils of Treowen C.P. School – 8th of February 2024
- Staff of Treowen C.P. School – 8th of February 2024
- Governors of Treowen C.P. School – 8th of February 2024

ii) Responses received

A total of 119 respondents completed the consultation response form which was included in the consultation document. This included paper copies as well as responses submitted using the online response form.

In addition, 5 written responses were received, which included a response from Estyn. The response received from Estyn is provided on pages 18-22, in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

iii) Summary of issues raised

The issues raised in the consultation responses are listed in detail in section 6, from page 23 onwards. This includes the Council's response to each issue. The following is a summary of the issues raised:

1. Comments about the current schools
 - 1.1 Comments about Treowen C.P. School
 - 1.2 Comments about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen
2. Comments about Phase 1 of the Proposals
 - 2.1 Comments about the impact on pupils
 - 2.2 Concerns about the impact on staff
 - 2.3 Concerns about loss of school identity
 - 2.4 Comments about the impact on families
 - 2.5 Concerns about impact on the community
 - 2.6 Queries about Phase 1
 - 2.7 Comments in favour of Phase 1
3. Comments about Phase 2 of the Proposals
 - 3.1 Concern about the impact on pupils
 - 3.2 Concern about the size of the school
 - 3.3 Comments about the location of the school
 - 3.4 Comments about the new building
 - 3.5 Comments about the North Powys Wellbeing Programme
 - 3.6 Comments about the impact on the community
 - 3.7 Comments about the impact on staff
 - 3.8 Comments about Early Years provision
 - 3.9 Other comments not in favour of Phase 2
 - 3.10 Comments in support of Phase 2
4. Other comments
 - 4.1 General comments not in support of the Proposals
 - 4.2 General comments about the impact on staff
 - 4.3 Comments about the impact on Protected Characteristic Groups
 - 4.4 Comments about the impact on Welsh
 - 4.5 Comments about the consultation process
 - 4.6 Comments about the consultation documentation
 - 4.7 Alternative options

iv) Correspondence received prior to the consultation period

A total of 42 letters were received before the consultation period began on the 15th of January 2024. They were received after the Council had announced the findings of the engagement period carried out in the summer of 2023 and the outcome of the options appraisal exercise carried out to identify a preferred way forward for Newtown schools, but before the start of the consultation period in January 2024.

The issues raised in these letters have not been included in the 'Issues raised during the consultation period' in Section 6 as they were not submitted as part of the formal consultation process. However, the Council acknowledges their contents.

A summary of the key themes raised in the letters is included as follows:

- Concerns over the loss of Treowen C.P. School as the central part of the Treowen community.
- Comments about the quality of provision pupils receive at Treowen C.P. School.
- Expressions of frustration around the existence of the proposals; questions relating to the logic and reasoning behind the proposals.
- Concerns about the logistics of children getting to the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site, particularly during the winter months, and about the additional journey time.
- Comments about funding for the maintenance of the existing school buildings in Newtown.
- Concern about a potential decrease in school budget following the proposed expansion of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
- Comments about possible increase in class sizes.
- Concerns about how the proposals will affect school staff.
- Comments about safety of pupils at the proposed new site.
- Concerns about the impact on ALN pupils.
- Comments about environmental impact of Phase 2 of the proposals.
- Comments about lack of engagement with the communities involved.
- Concerns about the impact on disabled pupils and disabled parents.
- Comments about the impact on Treowen as an area of deprivation.
- General comments not in favour of the proposals.

2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

104 respondents completed the English language consultation response form, which was available online. 15 respondents sent the consultation response form by email in English. No responses were received in Welsh.

The quantitative findings of the questionnaire are summarised below. Written comments were also provided in the consultation response forms. The issues raised in these comments are included in Section 6 of this report.

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

Response	No.	%
Parent, carer or guardian	58	48.74%
Governor	2	1.68%
Member of staff	14	11.77%
Member of the community	40	33.61%
Organisation	5	4.20%
Total responses	119	100%

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

Response	No.	%
Treowen C.P. School	77	64.71%
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	28	23.53%
Another school	1	0.84%
No association with any school	12	10.08%
Not answered	1	0.84%
Total responses	119	100%

3. Please provide your postcode:

Response	No.	%
Abermule	2	1.68%
Carno	1	0.84%
Llandinam	1	0.84%
Newtown	114	95.80%
Not supplied	1	0.84%
Total responses	119	100%

4. How old are you?

Response	No.	%
Under 16	0	0.00%
16-24	2	1.68%
25-34	24	20.17%

35-44	42	35.30%
45-54	10	8.40%
55-64	11	9.24%
65-74	16	13.45%
75-84	1	0.84%
85+	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	4	7.56%
Not answered	9	3.36%
Total responses	119	100%

5. What is your gender?

Response	No.	%
Male	24	20.17%
Female	84	70.59%
Prefer not to say	2	1.68%
Not answered	9	7.56%
Total responses	119	100%

6. Can you understand, speak, or write Welsh?

Response	No.	%
Yes	26	21.85%
No	66	55.46%
Prefer not to say	21	17.65%
Not answered	6	5.04%
Total responses	119	100%

7. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?

Response	No.	%
Yes	32	26.89%
No	43	36.13%
Prefer not to say	22	18.49%
Not answered	22	18.49%
Total responses	119	100%

8. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

Response	No.	%
Yes	23	19.33%
No	50	42.01%
Prefer not to say	23	19.33%
Not answered	23	19.33%

Total responses	119	100%
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9. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Response	No.	%
Yes	11	9.24%
No	84	70.59%
Prefer not to say	19	15.97%
Not answered	5	4.20%
Total responses	119	100%

10. What is your ethnic group?

Response	No.	%
White	101	84.88%
Asian	0	0.00%
Black, African or Caribbean	1	0.84%
Mixed	0	0.00%
Gypsy/Traveller	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say	11	9.24%
Not Answered	6	5.04%
Total Responses	119	100%

3. CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS

Notes from meetings held with pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are found below.

3.1 Consultation meeting with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils

As part of the consultation process, council officers met with the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen Learning Council on the 5th of February 2024. The Learning Council is made up of 12 pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Pupils were asked to respond to some questions and give their thoughts on the proposals:

What do you think is good about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen?

- Lots of nice children in this school.
- We sing a lot.
- Lots of sports - house athletics, cross-country, football, rugby, netball.
- Like all the space – inside and outside.
- Like all the Eisteddfod events (singing, dance, arts)
- Like the Welsh learning.
- Like the teachers.
- Delicious food.

Is there anything different since the two schools became Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in 2021?

- More children.
- Different uniform.
- New name

Is there anything you think could be better about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen?

- Would like a drama club.
- Longer break times.
- Have lunch breaks at same time [they're currently staggered].
- More arts and crafts.
- More sports days.
- More things to do with history.
- Think the buildings need to be a bit bigger.

If Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was extended to include Treowen school what would be different?

- There would be more friends to make once two schools come together on one site.
- There would have to be more classes.
- There could be different teachers.
- Treowen uniforms could change.

- Children from Treowen might be scared about getting to know a new school.
- New site could be too far for some people to get to.
- Might be difficult to get used to new rules and subjects.
- We might have to go to the Treowen site sometimes.

Does anything worry you about this proposed change?

- Maybe Treowen children would be scared.
- Might be worried about not knowing teachers.
- Treowen children could worry that we're taking over their school.

What do you think about Phase 2 of the proposal, which is to move to a new building on the Calon y Dderwen site?

- What would we do whilst the new building is being built? Worried about building being knocked down.
- If the building is being built during school time it could be noisy.
- Would Treowen stay as it is or would it be knocked down too?
- Everyone from three sites would move into new building at same so it's fair.
- What if people get lost in new building?
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would have a lot more pupils afterwards.
- What would the new building look like?

What might change for Treowen pupils during Phase 2?

- They might not know where we are.
- Would the classes be bigger?

What do you think about having more pupils coming to this site? Would this cause any problems?

- Where would we all park? We currently park at the school or library.
- There will be more noise as a bigger school – might be harder to learn with more people talking.
- Might be more crowded with everyone from three buildings in one new building.
- New building needs to have enough space and facilities for pupils with extra needs.
- New building needs to be designed with enough toilets.
- Worried about too many people crowding the school at pick-up time.
- More exits for safety in case of fire etc.
- Would there still be house captains?
- General comments: would enjoy coming to a new, bigger school.

How would Treowen pupils feel?

- Could be sad.
- Hard because they like going to school where they live.
- Would have to travel further.
- They're proud of the name they have now and wouldn't like to change.

Do you have any other comments / questions?

- Joint effort to create new t-shirts was proposed by pupils so that new Treowen pupils can feel part of the process.

3.2 Consultation meeting with Treowen C.P. School pupils

As part of the consultation process, council officers met with a group of pupils from Treowen C.P. School on the 8th of February 2024. The pupils were from Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Pupils were asked to respond to some questions and give their thoughts on the proposals:

What's good about Treowen School?

- Art
- Fun Lessons
- Teachers
- Playtime
- Cinio
- Friends
- Playing Football
- Urdd
- Cross Country
- School Trips; Llangrannog, Chester Zoo, Leisure Centres Swimming, Theatre Demon Dentist
- Eisteddfod

What don't you like about Treowen School? Is there anything that could be better?

- Maths
- More Clubs, they have breakfast club and reading club.
- Clubs like to see; more in general.
- More sports teams.
- Football Teams to play against other schools.

What do you think about the plan for Treowen School to become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen?

- How many years away is it?
- Why do you want us to be part of CYD?
- What would happen to the building when we move?
- Would we have a new name if we become one school?
- If we did join and went to the super school would this become a nursery?
- If more children came here we'd need more teachers to help

Is there anything you think would be good about being part of Calon Y Dderwen?

- Make new friends.

What wouldn't be good?

- Impact on younger children's learning, moving to new teachers and people you don't know, they may be uncomfortable.
- Tough for the younger children, worried that it's going to be too big.
- Worried they're not going to know everyone's names.

What do you think about the idea of moving into a new building? What will be good about this?

- New friends.
- More chance of getting into school teams and competing.
- More fun for sports day as you'd have more to do.

What don't you think will be good about moving to a brand new building?

- Finding your way around and finding the classrooms may be difficult.
- Uncomfortable if the school was big and walking through people you don't know.
- Feel a bit worried about going to school somewhere different.
- Late to classes in case we don't know our way around.

What do you think about walking down the hill to school?

- Road is really tight, people from Trehafren walking to Hafren the road is too small for everyone.
- Not everyone could make it to school on time as it takes longer to get to school.
- If you still want to walk, it will take longer, really tired from walking.
- Traffic if you do drive.
- More of an impact on the younger children.
- It will affect the people who can't drive or don't have cars.
- Some people don't live in Newtown, difficult for them to get there.

How do you come to school?

- A few walk
- Cars
- No buses
- A few live in Treowen, Vaynor, Barnfields and Garth Owen

What do you think we could do to help you to get to know the other pupils?

- Get to know people before it happens.
- Make new clubs in the schools to meet new people.

- First day everyone wear stickers with their names on so they don't forget.
- Sports with pupils in the schools to get to know people better.

Do you have any further comments / questions?

- What's going to happen to this building?
- What's going to happen to the teachers?
- How much money they've spent on this school already will be a waste.
- Thought Welshpool Primary was too big.
- 360 pupils isn't far off the size of Newtown High School, it will be too big for the younger children.
- Are the classrooms going to be too big in the classrooms some children may not be able to hear their teachers?

4. CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH STAFF AND GOVERNORS

Consultation meetings were held with the staff and governors of both schools. The issues raised at these meetings are summarised below:

i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

- Concern about the impact of the proposals on Calon y Dderwen staff jobs, particularly following the move to a new building.
- It's unfair for staff to have to go through another period of uncertainty following the merging of Ladywell Green and Hafren schools.
- It would be better for Calon y Dderwen staff if Treowen pupils moved to Calon y Dderwen straight away.
- What would the leadership arrangements be during Phase 1?
- Currently there are more than 360 pupils in the two schools, so if the school is built for 360, it will already be over capacity.
- Is it right that we have funding for a build for a 270 place school but not for 360 pupils?
- What happens if there are more children in the future and the school isn't big enough?
- Pupil numbers at Treowen may drop because of these changes – parents may choose for their children to attend other schools instead.
- How realistic is it that we will move to the new building in 2026/27?
- When will the current process end?
- What will happen with the upkeep of existing buildings until there is a new building?
- Concern about the design of the new building, the grounds / outdoor space and size of the hall
- Queries about whether the new build will be any further forward compared to the current buildings or will it be a step back?
- Do you evaluate the success of previous new buildings?
- A number of outside agencies come into the school to work with pupils and we are already struggling for space to put people.
- Are we really thinking about the children in all of this? And the impact on the children we have now, not just those for the future?
- Some pupils are likely to struggle with transition, especially ALN pupils. Additional support required for these pupils.

ii) Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

- Questions around the reasoning and strategy behind the proposals – why have we got to this proposal? Why a Treowen and Calon y Dderwen merger, and not a Maesyrrhandir and Treowen merger?
- Feeling that here is a lack of strategy behind the current proposal. It would make more sense to merge Maesyrrhandir and Treowen.
- Concerns around constraints relating to the site and the new building – compromises are already being made in terms of the new building.

- Concern about use of Building Bulletin 99 – this is now at least 25 years old, so is it fit for purpose to meet the new education requirements that the government has set out? Further discussion around the new design standard that are due to be released by the Welsh Government in coming months.
- Concern that it would not be possible to accommodate all parents in the hall.
- Concern about job security for staff, particularly during phase 2.
- Queries about the logistics of amending the make-up of the Governing Body during Phase 1.
- Concern that a Calon y Dderwen based governing body would need to be making decisions on staffing on another site, which would be challenging.
- Pupil numbers at Treowen may decrease anyway as parents may choose for their children to go elsewhere.
- What would a typical management team look like for a school of 360?
- Need to look at the staffing structure that we have at this school today because we're not business as usual as we're operating across two sites already.
- Concern about the impact on Treowen pupils in terms of getting to school.
- Would there be a town bus route as part of this process? It could include a loop around Treowen and the town centre?
- Queries about the condition of the Maesyrrhandir building and whether there would be a new building for them.
- The projected numbers for Calon y Dderwen are stable, we built that as a school. Now the proposal is to add variability to our structure, more risk of having to manage fluctuations in numbers.
- Concern that we are losing half the site.
- If Calon y Dderwen expands to include Treowen, would we lose our surplus budget?
- Queries about the accuracy of Treowen's ALN figures – they seem a little low.
- Concern about the impact on Treowen families, particularly those without cars.
- Better alignment is needed between the various things going on in Newtown.
- Queries about the cost of having an energy efficient building e.g. recladding, replacing solar panels.
- Queries about maintenance of e.g. lifts?

iii) Consultation meeting with Staff of Treowen C.P. School

- Queries about why Maesyrrhandir is not included, particularly as Treowen numbers are higher than Maesyrrhandir and building condition is better.
- The report refers to the SLT situation at Treowen, but we haven't got a permanent SLT at the moment because we're in this situation.
- Worries raised relating to staff jobs.
- Is it the same situation for us and Calon y Dderwen staff? When this was proposed, we were told that if we close, they would also close.
- Concerns that the school's identity would be unfairly lost.

- We've recently been through a redundancy process at Treowen too, this isn't reflected in the Consultation Document.
- In Phase 2, is everyone affected?
- Questions about the neutrality of decision makers.
- Queries about the design of proposed new build – how will a 2-storey building work without access to outside areas?
- Do teachers input into the designs, or is it just an architect that doesn't have a clue about the new curriculum and what's needed?
- Concern about access, congestion.
- Concern about the wording of the risk identified around impact on staff
- Queries about the impact on 3+ and early years provision
- Feeling that the school community have already filled in forms and given their views but haven't been listened to.
- The school is the community, it is the anchor for many in the community.
- Concern about the impact on pupils who struggle
- Some pupils that come here don't live on the estate – they choose to come here even though it isn't their closest school.
- Suggestion that the Cabinet members should visit the school.

iv) Consultation meeting with Governors of Treowen C.P. School

- Why was Maesyrrhandir taken out of the proposal?
- We wanted to advertise for a full time head, but were advised not to because of the current situation, and now you're using this against us.
- There was an issue with our ALN PLASC figures – we have got more statemented pupils than was first stated.
- We have fewer surplus places than Maesyrrhandir and better buildings, and aren't that different in terms of ALN and FSM.
- Concern that there will be a reduction in pupils coming here because of the situation.
- Discussion around pupil numbers at the school and in Newtown in general.
- How are there benefits from being a larger school?
- There is an error on page 51 of the consultation document re finance – the figures should be the other way around.
- There is no information on current travel patterns in the document.
- Concern about the distance from Treowen to Calon y Dderwen.
- Some pupils come to this school even though they don't live in Treowen.
- Parents are choosing for their children to come here instead of a larger school.
- In this school, every member of staff knows every child, and can spot immediately if there are any issues.
- Concern that Treowen are the ones that will be missing out here – they'll be losing their identity and becoming part of another school.
- If this were to go forward, would we have an opportunity to input into the plans for the new building?
- Have you considered that the Calon y Dderwen site just becomes a Health Hub, and that a new school is built on this site?

- Concern that Treowen staff would have to apply for their jobs but Calon y Dderwen staff wouldn't.
- Concern about pupils falling through the net in a larger school.
- There are a lot of housing developments in Newtown, which will result in additional children.
- Is there a figure for the number of pupils that start in a larger school then move because maybe it's not for them?
- Concern that this proposal won't address the Maesyrrhandir position. Preferred option would be one school between Treowen and Maesyrrhandir.
- What are the predicted class sizes if this goes ahead? I've read that there could be class sizes of up to 60?
- If it goes ahead, when would we expect to learn more about our positions?
- There would need to be some representation from Treowen School on the Calon y Dderwen governing body, if this went ahead.
- What would be the outside space with the new building as some would be lost because of the campus being shared?
- Concern about congestion around the site.

5. ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

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

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

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the propose and other additional information, such as Welsh Government data and the opinion of the Regional Consortium that delivers school improvement services to the schools in the proposal.

Introduction

This proposal is submitted by Powys County Council. The proposal is considered under the School Organisation Code (2018) and the proposal is as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31st August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1st September 2025.

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Calon Y Dderwen site during 2026/27 and close the Treowen site.

The proposal aligns with the county's Strategy for Transforming Education that was re-launched in July 2022. The council's Cabinet agreed on 24th October 2023 to begin consulting on the proposal following consideration of the alternatives.

Summary/Conclusion

The proposer has provided useful information that explains the rationale behind this proposal.

The following options were considered:

- **Option 1:** New building for Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen, other schools to remain as they are.
- **Option 2:** New building for Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new building at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen.
- **Option 3:** New building for Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School with pupils attending the new building at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen

- **Option 4:** New building for Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new building at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen.

Based on SWOT analyses and an assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred option for the schools is Option 4.

Having identified the preferred option, a number of possible implementation options were identified to take this option forward.

Option 4A – Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. When the new building opens, Treowen C.P. school closes and pupils transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen along with Calon Y Dderwen pupils.

Option 4B – Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. When the new building opens on the Calon Y Dderwen site, a new primary school is established in the new building by merging Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.

Option 4C – From September 2025, Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building. Treowen pupils would continue to attend the Treowen site; however, the school would be part of Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen. Treowen C.P. School would close. When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon Y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.

Option 4D – From September 2025, a new primary school is established by merging Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The school initially operates from the current Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen buildings. When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon Y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.

Option 4E – From September 2025, Treowen C.P. School closes and pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen. Pupils continue to occupy the current Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen buildings until the new building is ready.

Following SWOT analyses and an assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the Cabinet's preferred implementation option is Option 4C.

Estyn believes that the proposal is likely to maintain, or improve upon, the current standards in terms of education, provision and leadership and management.

Description and benefits

The rationale for this proposal is sound and due attention has been given to the considerations. Evidence is based valid facts and considerations and the proposer has provided a clear timetable for the statutory procedures and implementing the proposal.

On the whole, the proposal identifies the proposal's expected advantages and disadvantages clearly and fairly in comparison with the status quo. The proposer has given detailed consideration to the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives and clear and valid reasons have been provided for disregarding these alternatives.

Detailed consideration has been given to completing the proposal in two phases. This would allow pupils to attend the school at the existing location until the new building is built and would eliminate the need for Treowen pupils to move twice. Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils who are eligible for free school meals. This would enable a positive transition process, for example by sharing staff expertise, good practice and resources across both sites. The proposer has not detailed how they would reduce the effect on pupils' learning and well-being during the construction period of the new building, for example reducing the noise impact and disruption of the construction work. The proposer has acknowledged that the proposed arrangements may contribute to traffic density in the Calon Y Dderwen area and that this may have a negative effect on the attendance of pupils who have to walk further to school.

The proposal is expected to provide an opportunity for pupils at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from a better learning environment which is fully accessible, energy-efficient and meets the Welsh Government's net zero targets. The new building would eliminate the maintenance backlog at both sites, along with concerns about the condition and suitability of the existing buildings.

The proposal has given clear consideration to the effect of the changes on learners' travel arrangements. The proposer states that every effort would be made to encourage walking/cycling to school when developing the new building. As the proposed site for the new building is currently a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and town centre. There has also recently been some development of active travel routes on the Treowen estate to reach the school after moving to the new building. However, the additional distance is not considered to be excessive and should not have a significant effect on the accessibility of provision. Several potential future routes have been identified to better connect this area to the town centre, which would be considered as part of the process of developing the new building.

The proposer has given some consideration to the effect of the proposal on school capacity and the effect of surplus places in the area. The surplus places that would have been at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. school are expected to decrease from approximately 40% to 15%. However, surplus places are expected to increase gradually across other English-medium schools in the town until January 2028.

The proposer has considered the financial costs of the new school to be suitable. Revenue savings of £108.6k per annum are estimated as a result of implementing the plan, excluding additional savings that can be made, for example by pooling resources. The proposer estimates that the re-branding costs and the Treowen site for the implementation of Phase 1 would be approximately £15k. It is acknowledged that there is a risk in terms of attracting capital funding for the implementation of the proposal. The original Strategic Outline Programme was based on a school with 270 places (as opposed to the 360 for the revised proposal). The council will submit a new Strategic Outline Programme for the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme before the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.

The proposer gives suitable consideration to the effect of the proposals on the local pre-school provision. It is acknowledged that management arrangements for the provision in Treowen would need to be considered, as the setting is currently run by Treowen C.P School, which would no longer exist. Should all provision move to the new building after Phase 2, this would mean that funded early years education would no longer be available in Treowen and families living in Treowen would need to travel further to access provision at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen. The proposer states that parents would also be able to access other providers in Newtown and that the demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal progresses to ensure that sufficient places are provided to meet the demand.

The local authority has provided a Welsh Language Impact Assessment as part of this proposal. As the re-organisation of English-medium provision is the basis of this proposal, no significant impact is expected on Welsh-medium provision.

The local authority has provided a Community Impact Assessment as part of this proposal.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has given due consideration to the effect of the proposal on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management.

The proposer believes that pupils at both schools are making good progress in their skills. It is anticipated that extending Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site would have a positive effect on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and digital competence. This is intended to be realized by improving opportunities for staff to share expertise and resources across the school and by improving the school's capacity to monitor pupils' progress in these aspects. The proposer believes that the quality of teaching is good at both schools. It is anticipated that extending Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would be an opportunity to improve this further by providing positive professional learning opportunities for staff, such as sharing effective teaching practices and experiences.

The proposer has not given detailed consideration to how the plans would develop the breadth, appropriateness and balance of the curriculum at the school beyond identifying that it would be an opportunity to strengthen the curriculum provided for pupils further.

Appropriate consideration is given to the effect on vulnerable pupils, including those with additional learning needs. Pupils will be taught at the same location initially. They are likely to be taught by the same staff, which would help to support their transition to the new delivery model. Although the proposal would ultimately affect these pupils, there is no reason to believe that the new arrangements would not meet their needs. The proposer acknowledges that there would be a change in location for pupils who attend the Treowen site, which may mean that the school at the new site would be less accessible to them.

The proposal is not likely to expand or have a negative effect on Welsh-medium provision as the schools affected are English medium. Appropriate consideration has

been given to the effect on groups of pupils who are vulnerable and ensuring quality. There are not concerns that the plan will have any effect in terms of these aspects. No adverse effect is anticipated on pupils' well-being or attitudes to learning. Over the short term, all pupils are likely to be taught by the same staff as at present. It is acknowledged that moving to the new building may have a short-term negative effect on pupils' well-being, for example Treowen pupils who have to travel further to school. The proposer does not detail how they intend to mitigate any negative effects on pupils at the Calon Y Dderwen site during the construction period, for example if temporary classes are needed. The proposer expects that the school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils would improve further following the move to a new building in the future. Safeguarding arrangements would be a key consideration in planning the site and designing the new building, particularly considering that the proposal is for the new building to be part of the new well-being campus to be developed by the North Powys well-being Programme.

Extending Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would be an opportunity to ensure permanent leadership arrangements across both sites. There is currently a permanent leadership team at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen but not at Treowen C.P. School. The proposer indicates that the extended Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen would be a larger school which would enable more leadership capacity. It is acknowledged that operating across two sites may cause some challenges for the schools' leaders during this transitional period.

The Estyn report in May 2018 shows that Treowen C.P. School received two 'Good; grades against the 'Well-being and attitudes to learning' and 'Care, support and guidance' inspection areas and three 'Adequate and needs improvement' grades against the 'Standards', 'Teaching and learning experiences' and 'Leadership and management' areas. The school was placed in the 'Estyn monitoring' category and in December 2019, the school was judged to have made good progress in relation to the recommendations and, therefore, removed from the list of schools in need of Estyn monitoring. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is a new school and has not yet been inspected by Estyn.

6. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

The following tables list the issues raised during the consultation period and provide the local authority's response to these issues.

1. COMMENTS ABOUT THE CURRENT SCHOOLS

1.1 TREOWEN C.P. SCHOOL

1.1.1 General positive comments about the school

1.1.1.1	It is a lovely school with happy children.	The Council notes these positive comments about Treowen C.P. School.
1.1.1.2	Treowen CP School is a wonderful school.	As above.
1.1.1.3	Treowen is an excellent school .	As above.
1.1.1.4	Have got nothing but amazing things to say about the school and the atmosphere.	As above.
1.1.1.5	Pupils have excelled and loved their school experience at Treowen School.	As above.
1.1.1.6	Pupils love Treowen School.	As above.
1.1.1.7	Treowen is such an amazing school with great opportunities and access to the local estate.	As above.
1.1.1.8	Treowen is a wonderful school for children to attend in their formative years.	As above.
1.1.1.9	Treowen is a thriving school and does so well, it prides itself on traditions continuing over many years and pupils returning as parents and staff members says a lot about how amazing this school is.	As above.
1.1.1.10	Treowen is a happy, successful school with a great attendance record.	As above.
1.1.1.11	Treowen CP school is a thriving school who have made huge steps forward over the last few years especially,	As above.

	building up an excellent profile across our community and town. The school themselves, building important relationships and trust with the school.	
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1.1.2 Comments about the school's family feel

1.1.2.1	Treowen School has a good ethos and a family feel not just a workplace feel.	The Council notes these positive comments about Treowen C.P. School.
1.1.2.2	Treowen School meets the needs of its learners and has a family feel to it which is felt by everyone who visits.	As above.
1.1.2.3	The atmosphere and team feel in the school is very much present. This school has a warming, friendly environment to it and I can honestly say I've never felt more at home in a place away from home than I do in Treowen School.	As above.
1.1.2.4	Treowen School has a community and family feel and everybody knows each other.	As above.
1.1.2.5	Treowen is a wonderful, close knit community who thrive and give their children every opportunity that they deserve.	As above.
1.1.2.6	Treowen School is well known for its nurturing care and environment.	As above.
1.1.2.7	The school has built positive relationships with families and the local community, it's not just a school it's like a family.	As above.
1.1.2.8	Treowen School is a fantastic school and has a strong sense of community.	As above.

1.1.3 Comments about staff

1.1.3.1	The staff at Treowen have a long-term positive impact on pupils who attend the school.	The Council notes this positive comment about staff at Treowen C.P. School.
1.1.3.2	Treowen School is one of the few schools that stayed open even in bad weather due to the commitment of the staff wanting to be at school.	As above.

1.1.3.3	The teachers and children are very supportive to each other.	As above.
1.1.3.4	Past teachers still attend school activities due to the relationships built up over many years of teaching.	As above.
1.1.3.5	The teachers are not just teachers they're friends too.	As above.
1.1.3.6	The teachers are excellent.	As above.
1.1.3.7	The staff are dedicated to the welfare of each individual child and work very closely as a team.	As above.
1.1.3.8	The proven ability of the staff at Treowen is second to none.	As above.
1.1.3.9	The school has amazing staff.	As above.
1.1.3.10	Staff at the school are more than just teachers to the children they are a support network to the families.	As above.
1.1.3.11	Pupils who are shy and intimidated by new places are given the support to feel at home and be loved by the class teacher and all staff. They then flourish and have the best in them brought out. They're helped to believe in themselves.	As above.
1.1.3.12	The staff recognise straight away when a pupil needs a little check in or when they aren't quite themselves.	As above.

1.1.4 Comments about quality of provision

1.1.4.1	The nurturing, supportive environment and the close-knit community that this school provides have been invaluable in shaping the lives of pupils. It is a place where not only academic learning but also invaluable life skills and values are imparted, creating a strong foundation for the future.	The Council notes these positive comments about Treowen C.P. School. The quality of provision at Treowen C.P. School is not one of the reasons for the proposals.
1.1.4.2	Many of the parents whose made choices to send their kids to Treowen who don't live on the estate do this because the school has a good reputation for working well together.	As above.

1.1.4.3	The care, support, guidance and exemplary teaching that pupils experience at Treowen is second to none.	As above.
1.1.4.4	Treowen school has been recognised for its good performance by Estyn in 2018, which allows us to believe that the quality of education is exceptional.	As above.
1.1.4.5	The format of the school is excellent.	As above.
1.1.4.6	Treowen C.P school is not projecting a budget deficit and is a successful school. It achieved an Estyn good status in education standards and progress, wellbeing and attitudes to learning and quality of teaching in 2018. Whilst also achieving Good in prospects for further improvement.	As above.
1.1.4.7	The school is a great school and provides a nurturing, happy learning environment for the children.	As above.
1.1.4.8	Children are happy and settled and enjoy attending Treowen School.	As above.
1.1.4.9	The education that they receive at Treowen is great without it being in a shiny new building.	As above.
1.1.4.10	Treowen CP school's good performance is proven in the 2018 Estyn Inspection, in which Outcomes for Education Standards and Wellbeing were both identified as Good.	As above.
1.1.4.11	Treowen gives everyone equal opportunities to have a go at anything, sports events, Urdd competitions, they don't just look for their best performers, they look to each child who wants to give it a go.	As above.
1.1.4.12	It achieved an Estyn "good" status in education standards and progress, wellbeing and attitudes to learning and quality of teaching in 2018, whilst also achieving Good in prospects for further improvement.	As above.
1.1.4.13	Treowen CP school's good performance is recognised in the findings in the 2018 Estyn Inspection, in which Outcomes for Education Standards and Wellbeing were both identified as Good.	As above.

1.1.4.14	The teaching at Treowen is excellent.	As above.
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1.1.5 Comments about support for pupils with ALN

1.1.5.1	The school is very nurturing, it's like going to a home from home for the children and it doesn't feel so overwhelming for them especially if they have extra needs.	The Council notes these positive comments about Treowen C.P. School provision for pupils with additional learning needs.
1.1.5.2	Treowen is a small school that works for many pupils with additional needs, education is perfect at the school.	As above.
1.1.5.3	The school helps children with additional needs and they feel more comfortable and they are more able to adapt and grow in a safe, smaller nurturing environment.	As above.
1.1.5.4	Treowen School is very friendly to children with autism and other needs.	As above.
1.1.5.5	The staff are really good at helping and meeting the needs of pupils with autism. The smaller size of the school means it's not overwhelming for these pupils.	As above.
1.1.5.6	Small school like Treowen perfectly meets the needs of children with additional learning needs.	As above.
1.1.5.7	Pupils who learn very differently and need spaces of quiet at times are supported.	As above.
1.1.5.8	Treowen School is already set out to meet the needs of everyone with it being all on one level, it has a disabled toilet and is accessible to all.	As above.

1.1.6 Comments about the school's role in community

1.1.6.1	This institution has been an integral part of our community for many years.	The Council notes these comments about Treowen C.P. School's role in the community.
1.1.6.2	Treowen is a community school and this is reflected in the relationships we have built with the pupils and parents.	As above.

1.1.6.3	The school is the heart of Treowen estate, it provides stability and fosters community spirit not only for the Treowen children but also for the wider community, parents and residents of Treowen.	As above.
1.1.6.4	Treowen School is a vital part of the community and considering the deprivation in the area has provided a wonderful education its pupils.	As above.
1.1.6.5	The kids, parents and teachers all love this school. It is the heart of the community.	As above.
1.1.6.6	The events, activities, and support networks that have flourished within the school grounds have played an essential role in strengthening the bonds within our neighborhood. It is a place where relationships are nurtured and where everyone feels a sense of belonging and involvement in the education and well-being of our children.	As above.
1.1.6.7	I hope that the council will recognize the deep-rooted significance of our community school and work towards preserving it for the benefit of current and future generations.	As above.
1.1.6.8	The services of the school to the community within the Treowen area of Newtown is vital to so many. In a small community based school, the vast majority of parents would have been pupils within Treowen School themselves.	As above.
1.1.6.9	Treowen School has a lovely community feel.	As above.
1.1.6.10	The school is a valued part of the community. It brings people together. Parents get to know each other and this is vital for a community. It encourages people to care for each other and for the physical environment.	As above.
1.1.6.11	Treowen is a large housing estate and the school provides education to many of the residents.	As above.

1.1.6.12	Treowen School is a community school and lots of children from the area attend the school.	As above.
1.1.6.13	Treowen School is the heart of the community.	As above.
1.1.6.14	Treowen School is truly the hub of the community.	As above.
1.1.6.15	The school is a vital part of our Treowen community.	As above.
1.1.6.16	All parents are friendly with each other and all parents are willing to take part in many activities such as the town carnival.	As above.
1.1.6.17	The community on Treowen is unique, it is an essential part of our community.	As above.
1.1.6.18	Treowen school is a huge part of the community on that estate. It's a safe place for the children and their families.	As above.
1.1.6.19	The community centre and the school are what keep Treowen beating. The residents of Treowen pull together on so many occasions and it has been known as a village.	As above.

1.1.7 Comments about access to the school

1.1.7.1	Most of the parents walk their kids to school, therefore we need Treowen school.	The Council notes these comments about access to Treowen C.P. School and notes that the school's location is very convenient for those living on the Treowen estate.
1.1.7.2	Treowen School is close and safe to access.	As above.
1.1.7.3	As a parent of former Treowen pupils, it was invaluable having the school nearby.	As above.
1.1.7.4	Having a school close is a hugely positive thing for many families.	As above.
1.1.7.5	The school is used by most of the families on this estate and on others.	As above.
1.1.7.6	Many of the parents at Treowen have chosen the school for proximity.	As above.
1.1.7.7	We currently walk to school which encourages my child to look after his wellbeing by getting out for a short walk every	As above.

	day. I have time to walk to school with my child before going to work.	
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1.1.8 Comments about the size of the school

1.1.8.1	Treowen is a nice small school.	The Council notes these comments about the size of Treowen C.P. School and acknowledges that it is smaller than some other Newtown schools.
1.1.8.2	Treowen really suits a lot of children/families and with it being a small school, children and families are all known and supported well because the children do not become lost in a huge school and become just another number.	As above.
1.1.8.3	Treowen is an amazing school. One of the reasons people choose Treowen is because it's a smaller school.	As above.
1.1.8.4	Treowen is a lovely small school.	As above.
1.1.8.5	Treowen school has always been a lovely quaint little school and well presented.	As above.
1.1.8.6	Treowen school is a small and safe school.	As above.
1.1.8.7	One of the reasons we picked Treowen was because it was a smaller school.	As above.
1.1.8.8	The smaller classes at Treowen School help pupils many ways and the teachers are able to listen and help them whenever necessary.	As above.
1.1.8.9	Treowen C.P. school is not a small school by definition as it has more than 3 classes, but it is a smaller school. Smaller schools are proven to work better in communities and have better outcomes when adequately supported and resourced.	As above.
1.1.8.10	As the school is relatively small it allows all the staff to know every child by name.	As above.
1.1.8.11	It is well known that smaller schools are of benefit to children both socially as well as academically. Teachers	As above.

	tend know more about the emotional, social and academic needs of pupils in smaller schools, and children tend to have a better sense of belonging and connection. All this is true of Treowen school.	
1.1.8.12	Children benefit from the smaller classes where their needs are nurtured more and they still get a one to one benefit.	As above.
1.1.8.13	Treowen is a small school that works for many children.	As above.
1.1.8.14	Small school like Treowen perfectly meets the needs of children.	As above.
1.1.8.15	Many of the parents at Treowen have chosen the school because it is smaller and meets the needs of their children.	As above.
1.1.8.16	Smaller schools are proven to work better in communities and have better outcomes when adequately supported and resourced.	As above.

1.1.9 Comments about early years provision

1.1.9.1	Treowen has the 3+ pre-school which allows the children to develop emotionally/socially and allows families to get to know each other.	The Council notes these comments about the early years provision at Treowen C.P. School.
1.1.9.2	Treowen Flying Start works closely with the Treowen school with transitions for children who turn three to be able to have a smooth transition to their next step, three plus which is their big first step into school life. Many of our children have settled in so well because of being able to work together to understand the individual needs of every single child. Each child gets to have short visits for a few weeks before leaving us to attend three plus every day.	As above.

1.1.10 Comments about the use of Welsh at Treowen C.P. School

1.1.10.1	Treowen School uses a lot of Welsh and has had many Welsh achievements in the past; they compete in the Eisteddfod and even had a child place 3rd in Eisteddfod in cooking and have placed in the Urdd Eisteddfod in solos and groups for poetry.	The Council notes these comments about the use of Welsh at Treowen C.P. School.
1.1.10.2	Treowen school has increased the amount of Welsh being used over the years with having staff attend Welsh sabbaticals. The school currently has 4 staff members that speak Welsh fluently and all others can converse in basic Welsh.	As above.
1.1.10.3	Ysgol Treowen makes perfectly good use of Welsh already, while not being a Welsh medium school.	As above.
1.1.10.4	Many staff in Treowen primary school have completed the Welsh sabbatical and speaking and hearing Welsh is a strength in the school.	As above.
1.1.10.5	Treowen school have and are continuing to work hard to progress Welsh within the school and community, staff members have been on Welsh sabbatical courses to develop fluent Welsh and Welsh/Wales is venerated in the school.	As above.

1.1.11 Other comments about the school

1.1.11.1	Pupil numbers at Treowen are still very good. We have 4 classes ranging from 25 – 32 pupils in each class. Our children need a nurturing environment to help support their needs.	The Council notes these comments about Treowen C.P. School.
1.1.11.2	Treowen School is a fully functional school, the school is needed to provide education for the nearby estates. There is a lot of housing being built around this area, such as a housing development site at the end of Treowen and Kerry Road, the second stage of Meadow View about to start.	As above.

1.1.11.3	Treowen C.P. school is not projecting a budget deficit and is a successful school.	As above.
1.1.11.4	Treowen doesn't currently have a permanent SLT as we were advised not to advertise for a permanent head due to the current situation.	Comment noted.

1.2 YSGOL CALON Y DDERWEN

1.2.1	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is very understanding towards individuals and actively encourages children to ask questions and understand fully all situations.	The Council notes these positive comments about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
1.2.2	My child went through the school when it was Hafren and Ladywell Green. It's a lovely school.	As above.
1.2.3	The grounds at Calon y Dderwen currently have great green spaces for the kids to enjoy in the summer and a good yard area for winter months.	As above.
1.2.4	Welsh learning and conversational interaction is actively encouraged at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in both interactions with parents and lessons provided to students. The use of the Welsh language within the school grounds is a positive and it would not be good to have this be impacted by any school integration. A special note to the Headteacher, whose enthusiasm towards celebrating the Welsh language is infectious and provides a very positive and natural influence on the students and parents.	As above.
1.2.5	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has worked hard as a new school to provide an identity for all. This can be seen multiple times a week with whole school assemblies, summer and winter concerts and other parent pupil engagements.	As above.
1.2.6	The school has a wonderful site with lots of outdoor space which a school for 360 and ever growing will need.	As above.

1.2.7	As it stands at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen across the two sites we are currently working in, we don't have space for external agencies to meet with the children and families in our school.	Comment noted. The intention is to provide a replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would include the provision of community facilities, including meeting rooms.
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2. COMMENTS ABOUT PHASE 1 OF THE PROPOSALS

2.1 CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT ON PUPILS

2.1.1	If Phase 1 was to go ahead it would be detrimental to the children.	<p>The Council recognises that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for all involved, including children. The Council is committed to supporting schools and learners, including through periods of change. An experienced member of staff from the Council will be available to support school leaders to help them manage possible changes for their learners. It is also expected that school governors, staff and parents support the children to ensure that there isn't a detrimental impact on their wellbeing.</p> <p>Disruption for pupils would be minimal during the first phase of the proposals, as pupils would continue to attend school on their existing sites and it is expected that most staff would also remain on their current sites. However, it is recognised that senior leadership may change, and there would also be changes to the school name and identity for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School.</p> <p>The proposal is to implement Phase 1 in September 2025, which would give a lead in time of approximately 12 months, which would provide an opportunity for joint</p>
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		activities to take place to aid the transition to the proposed new model.
2.1.2	Closing Treowen school in August 2025 will cause massive disruption to the school and the pupils. Especially those in their last year preparing for high school. This is already a huge change and will be overwhelming for pupils but to add to the pressure is cruel.	As above.
2.1.3	It will be hard for new starters, who will just be at the very start of their education, trying to settle in and making friends, only to have to change schools, new teachers etc.	As above.
2.1.4	It is of no advantage to the pupils and would cause considerable hardship to the Treowen pupils.	As above.
2.1.5	I ultimately see this whole idea upsetting and traumatic for all involved. The welfare of the children is paramount!!!	As above.
2.1.6	This phase would be detrimental to pupils with additional learning needs and would undo all the progress we've made. No matter the time scale, whether it was tomorrow or in 2 years, it doesn't make a difference – my child still needs the support, and the support he gets from Treowen and their staff is second to none and the size of the school is ideal for pupils with sensory issues.	As above. The Council notes these concerns about the impact on pupils with additional learning needs in particular.
2.1.7	It's unfair for those pupils that will enter year 6 in September to have to transition to another school on their last year of primary school and could have an effect on their learning.	As above. The Council notes these concerns about the impact on pupils in year 6 in particular.
2.1.8	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has already gone through a merger of 2 schools – Ladywell and Hafren schools. This proposed merger with yet another school is totally unfair on the children of both schools, the effect on both the children's mental health is unacceptable.	The Council fully acknowledges that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has recently been through a merger process. This is one of the reasons why the proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, rather than merging the two schools to establish another new school.

		Disruption for current pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be minimal, particularly during the first phase of the proposals as they would continue to attend school at their current location, however it is acknowledged that there could be some impact on them in terms of staffing arrangements in particular.
2.1.9	How will the pupils on the Treowen site feel part of the school when they are not visible to those other pupils currently in Calon y Dderwen?	<p>The school would be led by one Headteacher and leadership team, who would need to work with the Treowen school community to ensure that pupils on that site felt part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p> <p>The proposal is to implement Phase 1 in September 2025, which would give a lead in time of approximately 12 months which would provide an opportunity for joint activities to take place to aid the transition to the proposed new model.</p>
2.1.10	The logistics of having the school run from two sites is an area of concern. How it will be managed without having any impact on the wellbeing of staff and children?	These concerns are noted. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would need to ensure appropriate staffing arrangements across the two sites to ensure that both sites can operate effectively. In Powys there are existing examples of headteachers managing schools across more than one site. This has been successfully implemented with standards being maintained across each of the schools.
2.1.11	I will not be sending my child to a new school for the sake of a year left in school. It will be his last year in primary school and think it would be too much disruption to have to move schools.	Comment noted.
2.1.12	As Treowen is a flying start postcode, this leads me to believe that many families are less fortunate on this estate. This affects many factors in life, health and education being the main ones. My personal opinion is that this	All schools, regardless of size, are able to provide for the needs of their pupils, and are required to support, challenge and nurture all pupils to achieve their full potential.

	proposal is just disastrous. Many of these children need the support of a smaller setting to encourage their abilities as they may not get those opportunities at home. Moving them to another school further away is not the way forward.	During Phase 1 of the proposals, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend school in the same location.
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2.2 CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT ON STAFF

2.2.1	School staff jobs are at risk.	<p>As stated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>‘Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close, and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the former Treowen site.</p> <p>The Council would work with the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen on an expanded staffing structure, which would enable the school to operate from the Treowen site in addition to its current site during Phase 1. This would be in accordance with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. As part of this process, there would be an opportunity for the governing body to ‘ringfence’ all teaching and associated staff posts to staff currently employed within Treowen C.P. School in the first instance.’</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that any school reorganisation process causes a period of uncertainty for those affected, including staff, it is anticipated that the impact on staff during phase 1 of the proposals would be minimal, as the expectation is that the majority of staff would continue in their current roles on their current sites.</p>
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		As stated in the Consultation Document, it is possible that further changes to staffing arrangements would be needed when the school moves to a new building during Phase 2. However, there would be opportunities during Phase 1 to put arrangements in place to safeguard current staff, such as recruiting to vacancies on a fixed term basis to provide greater security to current staff.
2.2.2	Concerns regarding staffing and whether there will be redundancies.	As above.
2.2.3	I feel that if Phase 1 was to go ahead it would be detrimental to the staff.	As above.
2.2.4	The proposal is ripping apart a team of staff.	As above.
2.2.5	Treowen staff deserve stability.	As above.
2.2.6	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has already gone through a merger of 2 schools – Ladywell and Hafren schools. This proposed merger with yet another school is totally unfair on the staff of both schools, the effect on the staff's mental health is unacceptable.	The Council fully acknowledges that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has recently been through a merger process. This is one of the reasons why the proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, rather than merging the two schools to establish another new school. This would minimise the impact on Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff during Phase 1 in particular, however it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on them during the move to a new building as part of Phase 2.
2.2.7	I don't think it's fair for the current headmaster to have to travel between technically 3 schools.	The Council notes this concern about the impact on the Headteacher of having to travel between the sites. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would need to ensure appropriate staffing arrangements across the two sites to ensure that both sites can operate effectively. In Powys there are existing examples of headteachers managing schools across more than one site. This has been successfully implemented with standards being maintained across each of the schools.

2.2.8	How are staff meant to share resources and expertise when they are the other side of Newtown? Calon y Dderwen is already on a stretched staffing structure due to budget restrictions, so there is no time for staff to move around campuses.	<p>The Council notes this concern about the impact of the school operating across multiple sites. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would need to ensure appropriate staffing arrangements across the two sites to ensure that both sites can operate effectively. In Powys there are existing examples of headteachers managing schools across more than one site. This has been successfully implemented with standards being maintained across each of the schools.</p> <p>Whilst schools are expected to operate within their budgets, additional funding is available to support schools who have been through reorganisation processes during the transition from one operating model to a new operating model. The Council would work with the school to understand whether any additional funding was required to enable it to operate successfully across more than one site during the transition period.</p>
2.2.9	The headteacher is a great value to Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and would be so upsetting for the students/ him to have to split between the 2 schools.	As above.
2.2.10	At the original meeting for consultation, Treowen were told that all staff would be in the pot for jobs but since this second consultation phase has been discussed this seems to not be the case anymore. It is now not a merger but a closure of Treowen and everyone has to move to CYD.	<p>During the initial engagement exercise carried out, it was explained that there were two ways to bring schools together, either by closing all schools involved to establish a new school, or by extending an existing school to include another school.</p> <p>When developing the current proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, the option to close the two schools and open one new school and the option to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site were considered, however due to the fact that Ysgol Calon</p>

		<p>y Dderwen staff have recently been through a merger process as part of establishing the school, the preferred option was to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site.</p> <p>Initially, Treowen pupils would continue to attend provision on the Treowen site, and the expectation is that this would be staffed by the current Treowen staff, although a staffing process would be needed.</p> <p>Should any further staffing processes be needed to prepare for the move to the new building in Phase 2, all staff would be treated the same, as by then, all staff would be Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff.</p> <p>The Council recognises that all school reorganisation proposals create a period of uncertainty for all staff involved. Should the proposals be implemented, then HR officers would work alongside school staff through the formal process, and also informally, to offer support whilst recognising that any period of change can be unsettling. Staff would also be able to receive support from their unions. In addition, support would be given in the management of change process for staff to consider redeployment or other positions if this were required.</p>
2.2.11	Treowen staff would have to re-apply for any remaining jobs. This is very unfair and very underhanded. Morale for staff has lowered as they feel that they have been cheated.	As above.
2.2.12	I completely understand and sympathise that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen have already had to go through the process of creating a new school but I feel all staff should be given the same chance to keep their jobs and not have it decided	As above.

	from Calon y Dderwen governors and management – surely this will be a conflict of interest as staff at that school will be favoured.	
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2.3 CONCERN ABOUT LOSS OF SCHOOL IDENTITY

2.3.1	I don't believe that it is fair to take away the Ysgol Treowen name from a community that has worked hard to build up the school.	The Council notes this concern about the loss of Treowen C.P. School's identity.
2.3.2	The community and family feel of Treowen School will slowly start to disappear in a larger a school – having family who work and also attend Welshpool Church in Wales School they say how you don't get the family feel with so many children and families.	<p>The Council notes this concern about the loss of Treowen C.P. School's identity, and that the school's 'family feel' would be lost if it became part of a larger school.</p> <p>During phase 1 of the proposals, pupils would continue to attend school on the Treowen site, so would continue to attend a smaller site. It is likely that the staff on the Treowen site would be the current Treowen staff, so the expectation is that the 'community and family feel' would continue.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the proposals would also provide an opportunity for the Headteacher and other staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to get to know the Treowen pupils, ensuring a smooth transition for pupils to the new building during Phase 2.</p> <p>The Council does not agree that it is not possible do get a 'family feel' in a larger school – staff at all schools know their pupils well, and teachers are able to get to know pupils individually, allowing them to grow and develop.</p>
2.3.3	Waste of resources to rebrand current building. Impact on 3+ branding also.	It was acknowledged in the Consultation Document that there would be a cost associated with rebranding the

		current Treowen site. Despite this, the current option was identified as the preferred option.
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2.4 COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON FAMILIES

2.4.1 Loss of choice for families

2.4.1.1	The proposal is taking away choice.	<p>Parents can choose to apply for a place for their child(ren) in any school they wish, however there is no requirement for the Council to provide a choice of schools of certain types or of certain sizes.</p> <p>There are currently 8 schools which provide primary education in the Newtown catchment. The current proposal, if implemented, would merge 2 of these schools, however there would still be 7 schools in the catchment which would continue to provide choice. These include community primary schools, Roman Catholic provision, a Welsh-medium primary school, Church in Wales provision and schools located in rural areas, as well as schools of a variety of different sizes.</p>
2.4.1.2	There are parents who want their children to stay at Treowen until it closes, but do not want their children to move to Calon y Dderwen after that period. By making Treowen part of Calon y Dderwen in the first phase you are taking away this choice.	Parents can choose to apply for a place for their child(ren) in any school they wish. Pupils wishing to transfer to alternative schools instead of transferring to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site would be able to apply for a place at an alternative school, should that be their preference.
2.4.1.3	I am completely against this phase, it will have such a big impact on my family and children who are happy and settled at Ysgol Treowen and have been for the past 17 years. If this merge is to happen I will be removing my children from education to home-educate.	Comment noted.

2.4.2 Concern about cost of buying new uniforms

2.4.2.1	There will be an added expense to parents to get new uniforms.	<p>It is acknowledged that should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposals, there would be an additional cost to families of pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School to purchase new uniforms.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposals, the school would need to determine the arrangements for introduction of the Calon y Dderwen uniform on the Treowen site, which would include consideration of the impact on families. It is possible that arrangements could be made to introduce the new uniform on a phased basis, which would minimise the impact on families.</p>
2.4.2.2	Calon y Dderwen changed its uniform and name when Hafren and Ladywell merged, to have a new name and uniform again could be costly for many.	As above.
2.4.2.3	This phase is not ideal, buying new uniforms, for my child's last year in primary school.	As above.
2.4.2.4	Those low income families may struggle to buy two new sets of uniforms for their children.	As above.

2.5 CONCERNS ABOUT IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

2.5.1	Detrimental to the Treowen estate to lose the school.	The Council notes the concern about the impact on the Treowen estate. During phase 1 of the proposals, education would continue to be provided on the Treowen site.
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		The effect of the proposals on the community was acknowledged in the Consultation Document and also in the impact assessments which were carried out. These will be updated to reflect the feedback received during the consultation period, and updated versions will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposals.
2.5.2	This will affect the whole Treowen community which is already vulnerable and showing poverty.	As above.
2.5.3	Treowen is a large estate there should always be a school located in Treowen.	As above.
2.5.4	Phase 1 will break community links in Treowen.	As above.
2.5.5	This proposal is ripping away communities and families that have been built throughout years of this establishment being open.	As above.
2.5.6	The closure of Treowen School would have a detrimental effect on the estate and the future generations of students should the school be closed and merged.	As above.
2.5.7	Having the school on Treowen is essential for the community.	As above.
2.5.8	I don't believe relocating the school would have a positive impact on the community.	As above.
2.5.9	It is truly unfair to Treowen School when it is in the heart of pupils' and parents' community.	As above.
2.5.10	Calon Y Dderwen has not been a key part of the community for as many years as Treowen, and I know that the community will be torn apart by this move. Ysgol Treowen started in 1977, Calon Y Dderwen hasn't even been around for 3 years. Treowen primary school, a big part of the community, will cease to exist to make way for a new school with much fewer community links. It just doesn't make sense.	As above. Both schools benefit from links with the community. Whilst it is true that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has only existed for 3 years, it was established following the merger of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, both of which had links with the community.

2.5.11	It is important for Treowen to keep their identity and place within the community, especially as there are more houses due to be built in the area.	Comment noted.
2.5.12	Treowen is a close community and the proposal to close the school will have a detrimental effect on the various housing estates surrounding the school.	Comment noted.
2.5.13	When the new housing is built Treowen School will be needed more than ever.	There is currently a significant number of surplus places in Newtown primary schools. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the current proposal, there would continue to be surplus places at Newtown schools to accommodate any increase in demand for places in the area as a result of new housing.
2.5.14	A stated reason for proposing the move to the Calon y Dderwen site is falling school numbers in Treowen. However, the 2018 LDP identifies two sites in Treowen for housing development: P48 HA3 with 70 units and P48 HA4 with 136 units. It is short sighted to take a school with all its related community activities away from an estate which is earmarked for growth.	As above.

2.6 QUERIES ABOUT PHASE 1

2.6.1	If the new school is not going to be ready until year 26/27, why is it essential to close Treowen C.P School in 2025?	<p>A number of implementation options were considered when developing the current proposals, this included the option to retain Treowen C.P. School as a standalone school until the new building was complete. However, this was not the preferred option.</p> <p>The strengths associated with the option to expand Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site from the 1st of September 2025 include the following:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. - Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period. - Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources - Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
2.6.2	Has this been done successfully elsewhere? Newtown High / John Beddoes would perhaps suggest otherwise from inspection reports.	There are other examples where schools have initially operated across more than one site whilst awaiting a move to a new building. This has included Welshpool C. in W. School, which initially opened on three sites before moving to its new building, and Ysgol y Mynydd Du, which operated on two sites before moving to its new building. The Council is currently in the process of establishing a new primary school in the Brecon catchment, which will operate from 3 sites from September 2024 before moving to a new building in the future.
2.6.3	What are the plans for the pre-school setting that is currently situated in Treowen School?	As stated in the Consultation Document: 'During Phase 1 of the proposals, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current site of Treowen C.P. School. During Phase 1, the expectation is that funded early years education would continue to be available on both sites, however consideration would need to be given to the management arrangements of the provision at

		<p>Treowen, as the setting is currently run by Treowen C.P. School, which would no longer exist.</p> <p>Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Accommodation to provide funded early years education would be provided in the new building. The demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.</p> <p>Should all provision move to the new building, this would mean that funded early years education would no longer be available at Treowen, and families currently living in Treowen who access this provision at Treowen C.P. School would need to travel further to access this provision.</p> <p>Parents would also be able to access other providers in Newtown, however due to recent changes in provision in the town, there is currently some pressure on places. Demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.'</p>
2.6.4	Why can't Treowen school remain as Treowen school on their current site?	Status Quo was considered as an option in the Options Appraisal which was included in the Consultation Document. However this option would not address the issues identified.
2.6.5	What happens when a parent or teacher at one site needs the headmaster?	Should the proposal be implemented, the school would need to ensure appropriate staffing arrangements across the two sites to ensure that both sites can operate effectively, which would include leadership arrangements.

		In Powys there are existing examples of headteachers managing schools across more than one site. These headteachers are supported by a leadership team, and arrangements are made to ensure that a Deputy or Assistant Headteacher are available on site when the Headteacher is not, who would be able to deal with any issues that arise.
2.6.6	The logistics of having the school run from two sites is an area of concern.	This concern is noted, however elsewhere in Powys there are examples of headteachers managing schools across more than one site. This has been successfully implemented with standards being maintained across each of the sites.
2.6.7	How and where are we going to find space for extra children?	No additional space would be required during Phase 1 as pupils will remain at their existing site of learning.
2.6.8	How would it be possible for every member of staff to know every child in a larger school?	Individual teachers would know the pupils they teacher, however it is acknowledged that it is possible that not all staff would know every individual pupil in a larger school. All schools, regardless of size, are able to provide for the needs of their pupils, and are required to support, challenge and nurture all pupils to achieve their full potential.
2.6.9	It has been difficult enough managing the opening and running of Calon y Dderwen in two buildings on the same campus. Having another site which is not on the campus brings in many more difficulties. How will we be able to hold whole school events when one site is at the other side of town?	Whilst noting these concerns, and acknowledging that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be operating across more than one building initially, the two sites are located within Newtown, so it would be possible to arrange for the pupils to come together for whole school events. It would also be possible to hold some online activities, which would enable pupils from both sites to access activities together.

2.6.10	No issues with Phase 1 as long as current students could continue to learn in their regular setting and would not be required to visit both sites during the school year.	Comment noted. Disruption for pupils would be minimal during the first phase of the Proposals, as it is expected that they would remain on their current sites, however it is possible that some joint activities would be held, which could involve pupils moving between the two sites.
2.6.11	What does this [<i>Phase 1 of proposal</i>] mean? It's not clear. The Treowen school building will remain open, but would be classed as being a part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen? How would it work in principle when the two school sites are spread apart? Would it be a case of certain year groups will be based at the current Treowen School and certain year groups at the current Calon y Dderwen site? If differing year groups, how would it work for parents who have children in these different year groups? Has this been considered at all?	Phase 1 would see minimal change for pupils. They would continue to be based at their existing site – there is no intention for certain year groups to be based at the Treowen site and certain year groups to be based at the Calon y Dderwen site. The Ysgol Calon y Dderwen name would extend across both sites and the school would have one governing body and one leadership team.
2.6.12	What will happen in terms of upkeep of the existing buildings until there is a new building?	The Council will need to make sure that buildings are safe and well maintained whilst they continue to be used to provide education.
2.6.13	What would happen in terms of the governing body to ensure representation from Treowen?	Where any vacancies arise on the governing body, every effort would be made to provide opportunities for representatives of the Treowen School community to join the governing body.
2.6.14	If Calon y Dderwen is expanded to include Treowen, would it lose its surplus budget?	No, it would not lose its surplus budget as the school would not be closing.

2.7 OTHER COMMENTS NOT IN FAVOUR OF PHASE 1

2.7.1	The council should not be looking to close a school that is doing well.	The Council recognises that quality of provision at Treowen C.P. School is good. Quality of provision at the school is not one of the reasons for the proposal.
2.7.2	I would understand the merger a little more if Treowen School were a tiny rural school in a small Welsh village in	Pupil numbers at the school and other schools in Newtown have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to

	the countryside. But we're not, our pupil numbers are very good and our school works and is successful.	decrease further over the next five years, which has resulted in a significant number of surplus places in the town. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to continue to decrease over the coming years.
2.7.3	I understand that declining cohort numbers would lead to this as a viable option, however as the council are also planning more new builds within the area it us a realistic expectation that numbers of students moving into the area will increase and amalgamating schools will reduce potential available opportunities.	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the current proposal, there would continue to be a large number of surplus places available in Newtown schools, which would be able to accommodate any increase in pupil numbers following any new housing in the future.
2.7.4	Phase 1 is not ideal for me or my child!	Comment noted.
2.7.5	I do not agree with phase 1 at all, the plan was to build a new building to accommodate the merged school, not to send pupils from Treowen to the building that is already being used. Is the building even big enough to accommodate pupils from both schools? The whole point was to get a new school site for pupils from both schools to attend.	There is no intention for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School to attend the current Calon y Dderwen building. During Phase 1, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend school at the same location, however the site would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. All pupils would then move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site in the future, once this is ready. The intention is to build a new school for 360, which would accommodate the current projected numbers at Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
2.7.6	I strongly object to the merging.	Comment noted.
2.7.7	While I understand the thought process of merging the two schools I feel that there has been an oversight on the value of having two separate schools instead of merging into one large school.	Comment noted.
2.7.8	It's absolutely awful to close Treowen as it's a brilliant school that the children love so much.	Comment noted.
2.7.9	I am concerned Ysgol Calon y Dderwen will become too big.	This concern is noted.
2.7.10	At the original meeting for consultation, Treowen were told that if a merger was to happen then a new name and new	The proposals being consulted on relate to the expansion of the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, not the merging of

	uniform would be chosen but since this second consultation phase has been discussed this seems to not be the case anymore.	two schools to create a new school. Therefore, there are no plans within the proposals to change the existing name.
2.7.11	What would the leadership arrangements be during Phase 1?	That would be up to the governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in terms of how it manages leadership across both sites.
2.7.11	Concern that pupil numbers at Treowen might drop because of these changes – parents may choose for their children to attend other schools instead.	Concern noted.
2.7.12	Concern that a Calon y Dderwen based governing body would need to be making decisions on staffing on another site.	Concern noted.

2.8 COMMENTS IN FAVOUR OF PHASE 1

2.8.1	Phase one of the proposal has benefits as Treowen C.P. School would remain at its existing site but become part of Calon y Dderwen School. The pupils and staff on the Treowen site would benefit from consistent leadership and governance, shared resources and expertise with Calon y Dderwen but would retain the recognised advantages of being a school based within its community.	Comment noted.
2.8.2	If the closure of Treowen Primary school ends up happening I think this is what would be best for pupils at Treowen although I do believe the school should be made into a new school to allow all pupils to feel wanted.	Comment noted.
2.8.3	I believe that this can only benefit more local children. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is a truly amazing school led by a fantastic head teacher who has an amazing team behind him. The more children to learn from everyone at this school has to be a good thing.	Comment noted.
2.8.4	Think it's a great idea.	Comment noted.

2.8.5	I agree with Phase 1! This will allow the existing children at the school to stay within a familiar environment and faces. The existing staff will be maintaining their job and will still be educating the children. This is beneficial for the children as they have already made those relationships with the staff and other children in the school. Treowen school will benefit from the consistent leadership however being in an environment they are settled in and familiar with. With the resources that would be received from Calon Y Dderwen could help to enhance the educational options for the children. Breakfast club at the school allows children to bond with a mix of children of different ages and this helps with their social development, it allows parents to be able to drop off their children and work more regular hours, it helps those low income families, and it encourages children to eat breakfast by allowing them to socialise and enjoy eating breakfast.	Comment noted.
2.8.6	Phase 1 is a better solution rather than closing it down. They get a permanent head teacher.	Comment noted.
2.8.7	I have no objections to encompassing both schools into one name as long as they are kept as separate campuses where children only attend one of the settings.	Comment noted.
2.8.8	I support this phase as children will be able to access extra resources and support for their education and development but at the same time they will be able to stay with what they are already familiar. The small classes and friendships they have built already is important in their early years development. Children at Treowen are still able to experience diversity within their classrooms without the need to a joint school venture.	Comment noted.

2.8.9	New opportunities for sharing skills and expertise among a wider staff team will be of benefit to both Treowen and Calon y Dderwen.	Comment noted.
2.8.10	I think phase 1 will have a positive impact because they will benefit from shared resources and wider staff team.	Comment noted.

3. COMMENTS ABOUT PHASE 2 OF THE PROPOSALS

3.1 CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT ON PUPILS

3.1.1	The closure of Treowen School will have a detrimental effect on the 100+ pupils that benefit from the community school.	<p>The Council recognises that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for all involved, including children. The Council is committed to supporting schools and learners, including through periods of change.</p> <p>The Council has engaged a former Headteacher to support school leaders to help them manage possible changes for their learners. It is also expected that school governors, staff and parents support the children during any periods of change, to ensure that there isn't a detrimental impact on their wellbeing.</p>
3.1.2	We all know it's about cutting costs etc but you should be considering the effects this will have on these poor children.	As above.
3.1.3	Pupils will suffer from changes and being uprooted.	As above.
3.1.4	There will be disruption to young children who will be going to a whole new school with new faces, new teachers and this will cause anxiety and stress.	As above.
3.1.5	Closing Treowen School will have a detrimental effect on our pupils.	As above.
3.1.6	Pupil behaviour and attendance will be affected by such a drastic change in circumstances.	As above.

3.1.7	I disagree with moving all the children to Calon Y Dderwen because who is thinking of the children's mental health? Moving them to multiple schools within the next couple of years cause them to struggle.	As above.
3.1.8	Those children who are more reserved and introverted may really struggle with the change. The fear of the unknown for these children could cause high levels of anxiety.	As above.
3.1.9	Introverted children will struggle in an unfamiliar environment.	As above.
3.1.10	The children should not have to leave the school they are happy at.	As above.
3.1.11	The closure of Treowen School would not only disrupt the education of current students but also deprive future generations of the opportunity to benefit from the unique and enriching educational experience it offers. The idea of uprooting children from a familiar, local environment and forcing them to adapt to a completely different school setting is distressing, especially considering the developmental impact it can have on young minds.	As above.
3.1.12	A possible adverse effect on young children if taken out of neighborhood.	As above.
3.1.13	Children nearing the end of Year 5 and Year 6 are preparing for SATs and to go to high school and they will be so disrupted by having to move to a bigger school or having more pupils join their classes from another school. This will cause anxiety and higher bullying levels.	As above.
3.1.14	For anxious children this would be a challenging change to deal with a larger group of children to face in the lunch hall and at playtimes. Some children do not settle well into school so any changes can be difficult to face. This can also negatively impact on their education and development.	As above.

3.1.15	Children's health and safety is paramount. By moving the school you are putting children at a great risk of mental and physical health issues.	As above.
3.1.16	Concern about the impact on kids mental health and the cost of treatment to the NHS.	As above.
3.1.17	Concern about children being bullied.	Whilst this concern is noted, all schools have anti-bullying policies and would be expected to deal with any issues relating to bullying which arise.
3.1.18	Taking Treowen children out of their environment and making them attend Calon Y Dderwen will result in social problems - children from different parts of town do not necessarily integrate well. There could well be bullying as a result and more children made vulnerable.	The Council recognises that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for all involved, including children. The Council is committed to supporting schools and learners, including through periods of change. All schools are able to provide the support needed to help their pupils with any issues they face. Further to this, all schools have anti-bullying policies.
3.1.19	Having one school combining all the children will be a disaster, with behaviour issues, additional needs and some with disabilities. I really can't see it working.	Comment noted, however the Council is confident that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be able to meet the needs of pupils currently attending bot Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.
3.1.20	Closing Treowen School is likely to see increased behavioral problems.	The Council does not agree that 'closing Treowen School is likely to see increased behavioural problems.'
3.1.21	My child will not be attending this school as their needs will not be met.	Comment noted, however the Council is confident that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be able to meet the needs of pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School.
3.1.22	Concern about the disruption that the new build will have on pupils currently attending the school.	It is acknowledged that there could be an impact on pupils at the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during the building process required in the future. Every effort would be made to minimise the impact on pupils during this time.
3.1.23	It will confuse the children in both schools being moved around so many times.	Pupils from both schools will only be expected to move once. When the new building is ready, all pupils and staff will move there. Prior to that stage, pupils will remain at their existing site of learning.

3.1.24	This is appalling, you are going to uproot children to make them learn on a building site and to then uproot them again.	As above.
3.1.25	Parents may struggle to get their children to eat breakfast in the morning since there won't be a breakfast club.	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen also has a breakfast club, so pupils would be able to continue to access this provision. During Phase 1 of the proposals, the expectation is that pupils would continue to be able to access this provision on the Treowen site.
3.1.26	Regular school attendance has the strongest correlation with pupil attainment. Reduced attendance (due to increased journey times) will negate the stated strategic aims of improving learner entitlement and experience and improving provision for SEN/ALN in key target areas, will also reduce access to other important school provision, multi-agency support and will remove an important element in safeguarding which is regular contact.	The Council agrees that regular school attendance is important to ensure pupils meet their potential. However, whilst acknowledging that the new site would be further away and less convenient for pupils currently living closer to Treowen C.P. School, the new site is still within the town, and the Council would not expect this to have an impact on attendance in the longer term.
3.1.27	If Treowen School closes the children suffer many losses, as the large school won't be a participant in all community activities.	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen already has strong links within the community. The expectation is that should the proposals be implemented, they would develop these links to include some of the links which currently exist between Treowen C.P. School and the community, ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop links with their community.

3.2 CONCERN ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE SCHOOL

3.2.1 Concern about pupils having to attend a larger school

3.2.1.1	Children are going to suffer going to a bigger school.	All schools, regardless of size, are able to provide for the needs of all pupils, and are required to support, challenge and nurture all pupils to achieve their full potential. Smaller schools do not necessarily mean that pupils receive a more individual education as there is often a number of
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		year groups and a wider age range of pupils in the class. The Council is confident that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be able to meet the needs of pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School.
3.2.1.2	Parents have sent children to Treowen School as they did not want their children going to a big school .	As above.
3.2.1.3	Creating a super school means less support for children.	As above.
3.2.1.4	This proposal appears not to take into consideration the number of families that do not want their children in such a large school.	As above.
3.2.1.5	Children will just disappear on this site which is impersonal and lose any sense of belonging.	As above.
3.2.1.6	We know each and every one of our pupils in Treowen School and moving to an extremely large school (which has their own behaviour needs already) would be detrimental to everyone involved.	As above.
3.2.1.7	Worried that teachers will not having the same amount of time to spend and get to know each child individually as the classes are larger, and this is important within a child's development.	As above.
3.2.1.8	Larger schools are not better schools. Children become lost in the crowd. Allow children room to express themselves and make friends close to where they live.	As above.
3.2.1.9	With so many pupils in one school I worry they will not get the care and education they need.	As above.
3.2.1.10	A lot of kids really benefit from being in a smaller school, their life chances are increased exponentially. This is particularly important when you consider Treowen is a deprived area and these children deserve to have this.	As above.
3.2.1.11	In a bigger school, children with ALN can be easily missed which can affect the whole future of our children.	As above.

3.2.1.12	Treowen staff will be concerned about the impact of such a large school on their ability to maintain that nurturing, stable, family environment where every member of staff knows every child inside out.	As above.
3.2.1.13	In larger schools not everyone had an equal opportunity to have a go at anything – children are hand-picked or have to trial leaving those who may not be the best feeling deflated and not good enough.	It is acknowledged that in a smaller school there may be more opportunity for all pupils to take part in all activities. However, all schools, regardless of size, have a range of activities and are expected to ensure that pupils can participate fully in these. Whilst it is possible that in a larger school, not all pupils would be able to take part in all activities, it is likely that a larger range of activities would be offered, which would enable pupils to participate in their preferred activities.
3.2.1.14	If more houses are built it may attract more people into the town with less schools. Which could lead to Calon Y Dderwen being over-populated and the children not gaining a good education.	There is currently a significant number of surplus places in Newtown primary schools. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the current proposal, there would continue to be surplus places at Newtown schools to accommodate any increase in demand for places in the area as a result of new housing.
3.2.1.15	I don't think there is enough room for more pupils. My son in year 6 has to share his class with half of year 5 as it is which a lot of parents aren't really happy with.	The pupils at the two current schools wouldn't come together until the new building is ready, so there would be no need to accommodate additional pupils at any of the existing buildings.
3.2.1.16	If this takeover/merger/expansion (it doesn't matter how you dress it up, it's a takeover to create a super school) goes ahead Ysgol CYDd will be over-subscribed before the spade is put in the ground to start the new build.	The intention is to build a replacement building for 360 pupils, which is sufficient to accommodate projected pupil numbers at both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.
3.2.1.17	I cannot see any real advantage in increasing the size of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to incorporate Treowen school, it will cause hardship to the pupils of Treowen.	Should the proposals be implemented, there is potential that an increased range of activities and opportunities could be offered to pupils, through the ability to share staff expertise and the ability to offer joint activities to a larger group of pupils.

3.2.1.18	My children have already voiced to me that they don't want to be in a larger school and they could be home schooled or moved to a smaller school if this was to go ahead.	Comment noted.
3.2.1.19	If this proposal goes ahead, parents are not going to send their pupils to a large school with almost 400 pupils.	Comment noted.

3.2.2 Concern about larger class sizes

3.2.2.1	Pupils tend to be overlooked in larger class sizes.	<p>Schools themselves decide how many classes to have and therefore what size the classes will be, however this needs to be within the budget allocated to them, so it is not necessarily the case that pupils would be in larger classes. Whilst the size of each year group would be larger, it is possible that the school would need to split the year group in some cases.</p> <p>New build primary schools are designed and built to accommodate a maximum of 30 pupils per class, therefore it is unlikely that class sizes would exceed 30.</p>
3.2.2.2	My concerns are around large class numbers. Accommodating 2 schools and the early years provision.	As above.
3.2.2.3	If the children have to be in much bigger classes they may not be able to get the teachers to listen and help them whenever necessary like they can in smaller classes.	As above.
3.2.2.4	My concern is the class sizes at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen getting too big. With larger classes, children are easily lost in the crowd and fall behind.	As above.
3.2.2.5	Practically with year group sizes of 36+ young learners. How in all reality is this prioritising their learning experience?	As above.
3.2.2.6	The classes will be so big. Children will not be getting the education they deserve.	As above.

3.2.2.7	Class sizes will be too large, pupils will have less one to one support. Grades will suffer. Confidence may suffer.	As above.
3.2.2.8	The ratio staff to children will be too much, classes will take longer.	As above.
3.2.2.9	I just feel larger classes and a larger school would be very overwhelming for small children.	As above.
3.2.2.10	I have issues with bigger classes.	As above.
3.2.2.11	It will be difficult for the children to adapt at such an early stage of their development to larger classes (potentially).	As above.
3.2.2.12	Introverted pupils may find it difficult to form relationships with teachers and be anxious with larger classes, causing their concentration levels to decrease and they won't be gaining a full understanding of what is being taught.	As above.
3.2.2.13	Behaviour problems have been at an all-time high since Covid and the importance of keeping class numbers as low as possible even in this financial climate is of far more value than huge classes. Although there may be money saved initially when merging two schools, the impact on future services such as the Police, Youth Service, High Schools and even Prisons etc. cannot be overestimated.	As above.

3.2.3 Other comments about the size of the school

3.2.3.1	With regards to the capacity of the new school being 360 pupils, the current intake of Calon Y Dderwen (251) and Treowen (110) is already above this.	Comment noted. However, the projected pupil numbers as included in the Consultation Document suggest that pupil numbers across the two schools are expected to decrease over the coming years – the projected pupil numbers for January 2028 are 229 for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and 78 for Treowen C.P. School, which is a total of 307 across the two schools.
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3.2.3.2	I don't think that many children would move to this new school site, and I think it would result in a lower number of pupils on roll.	Comment noted. In general, parents / pupils are attracted to new buildings, so the Council's expectation is that pupil numbers would be maintained. However parents are entitled to apply for a place for their children in whichever school they choose, and these applications will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
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3.3 COMMENTS ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL

3.3.1 Comments about the distance to the site

3.3.1.1	Children from Treowen will be forced to travel longer distances to school.	<p>It is acknowledged that implementation of Phase 2 of the Proposals would mean that there would be an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School for whom this is currently the closest school.</p> <p>Should the proposals be implemented, the existing Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, therefore during Phase 1, walking / cycling routes to school would be the same as the current walking / cycling routes to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.</p> <p>Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building. It is acknowledged that this would be located further away from the Treowen estate, which would impact on pupils / families living on this estate, and would mean that the school would be</p>
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		located further away from their homes, which would mean that it would take longer for them to get to school. It is also acknowledged that the Treowen estate is located up a hill.
3.3.1.2	Phase 2 will add extra pressure on parents having to transport children that extra distance to the new school.	As above.
3.3.1.3	It will be adding almost an hour onto the children's day to walk there and back.	As above.
3.3.1.4	It is a significant distance for those without transport to travel, especially coming back up that hill!	As above.
3.3.1.5	It is too far for some families to have to walk.	As above.
3.3.1.6	I think that the journey from the Treowen estate to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is unreasonable for younger children and accompanying parents with pushchairs.	As above.
3.3.1.7	If parents drive this will be an additional cost of petrol/diesel.	As above.
3.3.1.8	It is a fair distance for the Treowen community to walk to the new proposed site.	As above.
3.3.1.9	The children of Treowen having to walk all that way every single day is beyond understanding.	As above.
3.3.1.10	The prospect of sending pupils to a school that is not within walking distance is deeply concerning.	As above.
3.3.1.11	To expect Treowen pupils to walk almost 2 miles to school and back every day is very unfair.	As above.
3.3.1.12	It's a long walk to the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site.	As above.
3.3.1.13	Children may have to wake up earlier to walk over half an hour to school, then having tea later than usual due to having to walk back half an hour from school.	As above.
3.3.1.14	The additional travel time will undoubtedly impact some children/parent's ability to get to school and back.	As above.
3.3.1.15	Lots of the Treowen parents cannot drive.	As above.

		It is acknowledged that some Treowen parents cannot drive or do not have access to a car, which would make it more difficult for them to access the Calon y Dderwen site.
3.3.1.16	Some parents do not have their own transport. Those with no transport will find it difficult to negotiate the additional time required to take their children to school and attend their place of work in time.	As above.
3.3.1.17	Many of the families in Treowen don't have a car which makes getting the children to school more difficult.	As above.
3.3.1.18	This will cause stress, extra expense and inconvenience to working parents having to make extra trips and time to get their children to school.	As above.
3.3.1.19	Some families who are unable to drive or afford to be able to drive will struggle with the commute from Treowen to the new school and then school attendance for the child/ children will become a struggle.	As above. These concerns about the impact on pupil attendance are noted. Whilst acknowledging that the new site would be further away and less convenient for pupils currently living closer to Treowen C.P. School, the new site is still within the town, and the Council would not expect this to have an impact on attendance in the longer term.
3.3.1.20	Attending a school a mile away with the problems of actually getting there is likely to increase absence.	As above.
3.3.1.21	Attendance is key to every child's success and I believe that this longer travel time would have an adverse effect on children that live in Treowen.	As above.
3.3.1.22	There is a problem - post-covid - of poor attendance. Making the school journeys harder will make this worse.	As above.
3.3.1.23	Significantly longer walks to and from school will undoubtedly result in increased absenteeism and increased lateness for children from disadvantaged families. This will lead to a high risk of a reduction in school standards and wellbeing outcomes.	As above.

3.3.1.24	Phase 2 would add pressure on parents to find a way to get to school. Some also have other children to take on the school pick up and drop off and may not have access to a car.	As above.
3.3.1.25	With the new school 1 mile from the current site this will have a huge impact on families with young children walking to school: it will add an average of 30 minutes to the walk to school and potentially 45 minutes to return because of the steep hill involved and the difficulty of crossing main roads. This will add an hour to current walking commuting times for parents and will result in many of those who have the option to use a car instead of walking.	As above. The concern that parents will use a car instead of walking to school is noted.
3.3.1.26	Changing schools also has a negative environmental impact on how children can get to and from school.	<p>The concern that there would be a negative environmental impact should more pupils be transported to school in cars is noted.</p> <p>As indicated above, active travel would be considered when developing the new school building, and the aim would be to ensure the provision of active travel routes to minimise the use of cars for pupils living in Treowen accessing the new school building.</p>

3.3.2 Concerns about the journey during inclement weather

3.3.2.1	Treowen School is located on a hill and Treowen residents can struggle trying to get into the centre of Newtown in the middle of snow and ice. Many families do not drive so will have to risk theirs and their children's safety just to get them to and from school in the ice. Attendance will drop during these conditions.	It is acknowledged that Treowen C.P. School is located up a hill, which could mean that it would be less convenient for families from the Treowen estate to get to school following the move to the new building, particularly during bad weather.
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		The additional distance to the alternative site is not considered to be excessive and should not have a significant impact on the accessibility of the provision, however the Council notes these particular concerns about the ability to access the site during bad weather. These concerns will be taken into consideration by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposals.
3.3.2.2	Treowen is on top of a steep hill, so it's a hard journey particularly in bad weather.	As above.
3.3.2.3	The parents, a lot of which do not drive and some of which are disabled, will struggle with getting their children to school due to the fact they live on a hill and the council do not maintain the paths during the winter so the risk of falling on ice is huge.	As above.
3.3.2.4	Weather conditions could have an impact on getting children to school at the new location.	As above.
3.3.2.5	It is a much longer journey for children in inclement weather.	As above.
3.3.2.6	In the winter Treowen is not easy to walk off as the pathways do not get treated and get very dangerous.	As above.
3.3.2.7	Lots of people from Treowen do not drive and would make the walk to school in winter horrible for children and parents.	As above.
3.3.2.8	I have issues with tired little ones having to walk up and down steep hills in all winds and weather if parents do not have transport.	As above.
3.3.2.9	In the winter, walking up and down that hill will be dangerous and in the summer, it's a hard slog. Not everyone is able to drive.	As above.
3.3.2.10	The children would have to walk in all weathers up and down the hill.	As above.

3.3.3 Concerns about road safety

3.3.3.1	The children would have to walk near main roads, with no safe routes. As children get older, letting them walk to school alone in preparation for high school is important but having to cross main roads will mean that this may not be possible.	<p>The Council acknowledges these comments relating to pupil safety when walking from Treowen to the new school's location.</p> <p>Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to provide safe walking / cycling to school when developing the new building.</p> <p>As stated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>'It is acknowledged that further development is needed of routes from the Treowen estate to the town centre. Several potential future routes have been identified to better connect this area to the town centre, which would be considered as part of the process of developing the new building, to ensure that there would be safe routes in place to enable pupils from the Treowen estate to access the new site.'</p>
3.3.3.2	Travelling to and from school could be made more difficult; there is a main road to cross.	As above.
3.3.3.3	Children may have to walk alone on very busy roads.	As above.
3.3.3.4	The site at Park Street is already very busy so expecting the footfall from Treowen to YCyD is not safe.	As above.
3.3.3.5	Children will have to cross the main road.	As above.
3.3.3.6	It has been stated that parents would walk their children to the new school. It has also apparently been suggested by the council officers that the children could be walked to school in 'walking trains'. I really do wonder if this has	As above.

	been thought through. There are 2 viable routes which could be taken from Treowen to the proposed new school site. Imagine walking a hundred or so 4 – 11 years olds on either of those routes which require crossing 2 very busy main roads at the busiest times of day, and one of the routes also has hundreds of children walking the opposite way to get to the high school. I know without doubt that I would not risk walking those routes with my children.	
3.3.3.7	Treowen pupils will be forced into a busy area of town.	As above.
3.3.3.8	Park Street is already an unsafe road.	As above.
3.3.3.9	Children if walking to school will have to cross very busy roads.	As above.
3.3.3.10	Very worryingly, if Treowen School is closed, I envisage many young children will end up going to school alone, when parents, for whatever reason, are unable to escort their child. So this is a child safety and welfare concern.	As above.
3.3.3.11	There is a higher risk of children not coming to school and therefore not being educated, because they is such a long way to go for them over busy roads.	As above.
3.3.3.12	It is already dangerous in the mornings by Calon y Dderwen now.	As above.
3.3.3.13	Is there a safe walk for parents of Treowen who don't drive?	As above.
3.3.3.14	Walking from Treowen to Calon y Dderwen is dangerous.	As above.
3.3.3.15	I have issues with children having to cross at least 2 main roads walking to and from school even with an adult in attendance.	As above.
3.3.3.16	It is true that, when the area around a school has heavy car traffic, more parents will drive to school because of the higher perception of risk to child pedestrians.	As above.
3.3.3.17	I am concerned about the journey from Treowen to the new school. One way from the estate is down a steep hill,	As above.

	across a road and then under a railway bridge which is already a pedestrian hazard as it is not wide enough for the volume of children walking (in the opposite direction I may add) to Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Newtown High School at the beginning and end of the school days. This is by no means a safe route to school.	
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3.3.4 Comments about impact on disabled parents/pupils

3.3.4.1	The main concern is for families with disabilities trying to get their children across the town just to go to school when there's a perfectly excellent school across the road.	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the impact on families with disabilities due to the fact that the new building would be located further away for pupils for whom Treowen is currently the closest school.</p> <p>The impact on protected characteristic groups was considered in the draft equality impact assessment document which was published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect comments received during the consultation period, and an updated version will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the Proposals.</p>
3.3.4.2	Disabled parents won't be able to get their children to school, and people with disabled children will struggle just as much.	As above.
3.3.4.3	Parents/children who are disabled and unable to drive, they arrive to school via wheelchair and now they will not be able to access that without having to get on public transport, which isn't always an option. Disgusting neglect on the Council's behalf of these families.	As above.
3.3.4.4	Currently those that have disabilities can get their children to school with a very short commute.	As above.

3.3.4.5	Many of the ALN parents rely on the help of the school to be able to get their children into school in the morning and meet the needs of their child/ren.	As above.
3.3.4.6	Closing Treowen School is a big mistake, think of parents that can't drive or suffer with a disability.	As above.
3.3.4.7	It is important that Treowen School remains open otherwise disabled children, disabled parents of pupils, or parents with long term illness may find getting children to school very difficult or impossible, especially if they don't have a car.	As above.
3.3.4.8	The parents who are disabled or children who are disabled and have no transport will be put at risk due to the long unsafe journey to Calon y Dderwen.	As above.
3.3.4.9	It would be an exhausting job to take children to school if Treowen closes – it would mean pushing prams and pushchairs up and down the steep hill to and from school with little ones in tow. When you are a new mother, or you have poor health or disabilities, having the school near is so important.	As above.
3.3.4.10	I think we need to take into account that Treowen School does provide education to some families who themselves have disabilities or their children with the lay-by right next to Treowen School with a flat easy access this really helps these families. Some of these families may choose to home school rather than send their child to a large over-populated school.	As above.
3.3.4.11	How do you expect families to access the school who live on the Treowen estate? We have disabled pupils in our school and you are making their lives extremely difficult by doing this.	As above.
3.3.4.12	I have 3 disabled children I have to get to the school at 2:20 already to get somewhere to park as they're unable to	Comment noted.

	walk far. And some days we don't get home until 4pm because the traffic on Park Street is so bad!	
3.3.4.13	How are people – children and parents with disabilities – supposed to cope with walking from Treowen in the winter months, it will be bad enough in normal conditions.	Comment noted.

3.3.5 Comments about congestion

3.3.5.1	Park Street is already congested now.	<p>These concerns about the impact on traffic and the potential increase in congestion in this area of Newtown are noted.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the Proposals, further consideration would be given to this aspect when developing plans for the building, and as part of the wider plans for a well-being campus as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme. This would include an assessment of the impact on traffic in Newtown.</p>
3.3.5.2	It will add to the traffic on the roads.	As above.
3.3.5.3	Park Street is over-populated with doctors, health visitors, police station, job centre, children centre and the library - this road gets very busy over-crowded and parking becomes impossible so even if the families would be able to drive down to this new school I am not sure how this area of Newtown will have the capacity to make parking safe and manageable for families.	As above.
3.3.5.4	It will cause too much traffic in the area.	As above.
3.3.5.6	I believe the parking and town traffic will be a big problem when the capacity of Calon y Dderwen changes.	As above.
3.3.5.7	Increased traffic and pollution.	As above.

3.3.5.8	Roads need to be looked at for access to and from the new building of Calon y Dderwen if Treowen is to be merged, this is too much traffic in one area.	As above.
3.3.5.9	Driving is not feasible on a road that cannot cope with the amount of traffic it currently has.	As above.
3.3.5.10	Those travelling by car would add to the congestion in an already busy area.	As above.
3.3.5.11	Closing Treowen school would mean that parents would have to take their children into the centre of town to the new school. Park street is already congested. With the new proposed health hub as well it would become even more congested, contrary to the council's environmental fight and causing yet more pollution and environmental damage. Certainly not a 'greener Powys'.	As above.
3.3.5.12	It will create even more congestion in Park Street.	As above.
3.3.5.13	The current roads around Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen are already grid locked when it's pick up time. Creating a lot of emissions from vehicles in stop start traffic. This also poses a threat that emergency services couldn't reach critical patients. Adding the parents from Treowen school to this would only increase the problem.	As above.
3.3.5.14	Will cause ridiculous amounts of traffic.	As above.
3.3.5.15	Park Street is already an area where there is vehicular congestion and is unlikely to be able to easily accommodate additional vehicular traffic from Treowen.	As above.
3.3.5.16	More cars will be put on the roads.	As above.
3.3.5.17	Parents would need to drive them to school creating more traffic problems on the already congested Park St at school drop off and pick up times.	As above.
3.3.5.18	Is any consideration being made to the traffic build up in the area near the school and Park Street?	As above.

3.3.5.19	The proposal does not address the appalling access issues that exist at the Calon y Dderwen site, and the increased effect it will have on traffic that is already a problem.	As above.
3.3.5.20	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen struggles with parking not just for dropping off and collecting but during school hours too. It is absolutely insane to hoist another school on that area. I appreciate that parking will be addressed in the new building but in the meantime chaos will reign.	As above.
3.3.5.21	The access to Calon y Dderwen is shocking, there is not enough parking and the narrow road leading out by the library cannot cope with the amount of traffic now. The whole road comes to a standstill at school closing time.	As above.
3.3.5.22	Traffic and access to the school site, not just for parents but also considering non-school related traffic in the area. I work along Church Street and already see a large build-up of traffic around school times; especially at the exit from Park Street. With the addition of the new health centre along Park Street, this could add increased pressure during school drop-off and pick-up times. The use of Back Lane car park has been suggested however, this may result in additional pressure on Broad Street and surrounding areas without relieving any of the current pressures placed on Church Street. I regularly see traffic mounting the curb to turn left onto New Road while traffic builds up to turn right.	As above.
3.3.5.23	Traffic is likely to build up in the mornings if all children attend Calon Y Dderwen, causing children to be late for school (impacting their education), members of the community may be late for work due to traffic meaning having to leave even earlier impacting on everyone home life/routine.	As above.

3.3.5.24	Phase 2 will have a negative impact on the area around Calon y Dderwen due to increased car traffic at peak times.	As above.
3.3.5.25	Improvements to active travel routes will only partially ease the congestion situation and don't form a guaranteed part of this proposal. In terms of active travel initiatives the proposal is counter to what is generally accepted as good practice.	As above.
3.3.5.26	Adding to the already congested area around Calon Y Dderwen will create a worse nightmare than there already is. Especially if the Health Centre plan also goes ahead.	As above.
3.3.5.27	The traffic on Park Street is already chaotic and unsafe so to add in another 100 children and a health hub to that is detrimental to safety.	As above.
3.3.5.28	Car ownership in Treowen is around 70% so there could be a potential of 140 additional car journeys per day to and from the already congested Park Street area, the consultation document tacitly acknowledges that those families that can, will use a car. Improvements to active travel routes from Treowen to town will not fully address this issue.	As above.
3.3.5.29	Phase 2 of option 4C will also have a negative impact on the area around Calon y Dderwen due to increased car traffic at peak times: improvements to active travel routes will only partially ease this situation and don't form a guaranteed part of this proposal. In terms of active travel initiatives the proposal is counter to what is generally accepted as good practice. It is also true that, when the area around a school has heavy car traffic, more parents will drive to school because of the higher perception of risk to child pedestrians.	As above.

3.3.5.30	If the school was to move, due to time constraints we would have to drive to school as I would not have time to walk there and back and then get to work on time. This then has an impact on parking in the area. This can be stressful for parents and picking children up from school as a stressed parent is not a pleasant experience for the child or the parent.	As above.
3.3.5.31	I cannot wait to see how the parking in a residential area is affected with so many extra parents.	As above. All the Council's new school builds are developed with a specific car parking ratio, including disabled spaces. Should the Proposals be implemented, full consideration will be given to access and car parking at the new school, and traffic assessments will be undertaken. Parking will also be considered as part of the wider plans for a well-being campus as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme.
3.3.5.32	Is there going to be extra provisions for the traffic and parking if you are adding a further 150 students to the school?	As above.

3.4 COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING

3.4.1 Positive comments about the new building

3.4.1.1	YCyD deserve a new school as it is currently unsafe.	Comment noted. The Council fully agrees that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen needs a new school building.
3.4.1.2	A new school building is welcome.	As above.
3.4.1.3	I am excited for the new build.	As above.

3.4.2 Concerns about the new building

3.4.2.1	There is a need to maximise the space both inside and out at the school.	<p>The plans for the new school building are being developed in accordance with the appropriate Building Bulletin and Welsh Government guidance. The key purpose of the Building Bulletin document is to set out simple, realistic, non-statutory area guidelines for primary school buildings. Essentially the document gives minimum areas for all types of space in primary schools. It also offers area ranges over and above this minimum to allow schools flexibility in the design of their buildings and the way in which they use them.</p> <p>Welsh Government expect local authorities to design new schools in accordance with the Building Bulletin guidance. The current design for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is for 270 places plus early years and community space, and is aligned with the areas recommended within the Building Bulletin.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that concerns about the space available for the new building have been expressed by Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in discussions to date when developing the designs for the new building, particularly as the current school has a significant amount of outside space which the school has stated is an important part of its ethos.</p> <p>The current design is two-storey in order to maximise the use of outside space available. Should the Council proceed with the current proposals, discussions with the school would continue, with the aim of achieving a design</p>
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		solution which meets the school's needs in accordance with the expectations of Welsh Government, the budget and area available.
3.4.2.2	Is there going to be enough space for all the pupils in the new building to be able to get the correct education they need without falling under the radar?	As above.
3.4.2.3	I think it's really important for the children to have plenty of space within the school and also outside playing. This needs to be included when plans are put together for new school especially with more children at the school it will become tighter naturally.	As above.
3.4.2.4	We need space!!!! All the children from both schools deserve the best education and facilities, that's why you have decided to add Treowen to YCYD. So they also get the opportunity of a brand new state of the art school brings. Really?? Let's hope it's fit for purpose with so many children crammed into small classrooms.	Classrooms are generally designed for 30 pupils, and the Building Bulletin guidance recommends that the minimum size should be 56sq metres. The classrooms in the current design are slightly above this at 61sq metres.
3.4.2.5	The new build plans to date have presented an ever-shrinking floorplan.	The current design has been developed through an evolutionary process in discussion with the school. During such a process, compromise is required at times by all parties to achieve a design that meets the needs of the school but also aligns with Welsh Government's expectations around areas, as well as to remain within available budget.
3.4.2.6	The proposed new school and allocated grounds is barely going to be big enough for Calon y Dderwen and future intakes, adding another 100 people will take away vital indoor and outdoor learning spaces.	The area available can accommodate a larger school of 360 places and is aligned with the recommended internal and external space recommended by the Building Bulletin guidance.
3.4.2.7	It is appalling that the size of the new build is set to remain the same footprint but with the addition of another school of pupils. The size of the classrooms and hall were already much smaller than we already have and learners will be	The current school design can accommodate 360 pupils without the need to expand the footprint due to the fact that it is a two storey building and classrooms can be added upstairs. If the proposal goes ahead, the school

	crammed in even without the addition of Ysgol Treowen learners. There is no understanding whatsoever of the impact that this will have on the staff and the children and is in direct contrast to what the new curriculum promotes.	would be designed in accordance with the area recommendations of the Building Bulletin guidance for an increased number of pupils – classrooms would continue to be designed for 30 pupils and the current design includes classrooms that are slightly larger than the minimum recommended by Building Bulletin. The size of the hall is also aligned with the Guidance.
3.4.2.8	Inside the building, the space has also been cut from the original plans to what we were told that we would have for 270 pupils. By expanding the school to 360 pupils, the footprint of the school is not going to change at all.	As above.
3.4.2.9	The new school needs to be bigger to accommodate all the extra pupils to avoid large class numbers including provision for ALN children and extra early years provision.	As above. The current school design includes areas for ALN and early years provision. Should the proposal be implemented, further consideration would be given to how the new design would need to evolve to meet these needs.
3.4.2.10	The school needs a hall of the size where the school are able to hold family events as a whole school and benefit to the community.	Guidance about the size of school halls is included within the Building Bulletin and is based on the size of the school population. The hall in the current design is aligned with this guidance. Should the proposal be implemented, the size of the hall would be reviewed based on a 360 place school. However, it may not be possible to design a hall that could accommodate the whole school at the same time as this isn't a requirement of the Guidance. Many schools, including new build and older schools, are unable to accommodate the whole school in their hall at the same time.
3.4.2.11	The hall itself will not be big enough to hold whole school events from assemblies, fayres, parent engagement events to Christmas concerts. How can we build our new school community when we cannot invite them all in at the new school?	As above. Building a school community isn't reliant on having a hall that can fit in the whole school community at the same time.

3.4.2.12	The school hall under existing proposed plans for a new build was small and now the added accommodation of an additional 60 pupils added to the last school plans would result in the hall of the same size. The proposal highlights the extra need for all these pupils; however a new school build, built strictly to the building bulletin 99 (over 20 years old now) is not providing the best for these pupils.	As above. Building Bulletin 99, which is the guidance for primary schools, was published in 2014. Welsh Government have recently been reviewing the Guidance, with a view to developing a new standard for school building in Wales, to reflect the changing needs of the Curriculum for Wales and other educational priorities. The Council will take account of any changes as a result of this.
3.4.2.13	All learners access the outdoors and this element is key to learning. This aspect will be taken away under the current building design as there will be no direct access to the outdoors for at least half the school. The initial compromise of having an upstairs as long as there is access to the outdoors has now been negated by adding extra classes upstairs for Ysgol Treowen children.	A two-storey building is considered the optimal design as it allows maximum use of external areas for children. Additional classrooms can be added upstairs without needing to expand the design footprint. It is recognised that it is not possible to have direct access to external areas from the upstairs classrooms, but this is not a requirement of the Guidance.
3.4.2.14	The new build is already now proposed for a two-storey development due to shrinking space and energy saving commitments. Yet with 350 pupils and 40+ staff onsite nearly 50% will be on the upper floor. The accessibility to learning for pupils and staff requiring assistance or elevators in accessing the upper floor is likely to outstrip a single elevator. The challenge of pupil movement with these additional needs has not been assessed and any solution is only stressing the available space further.	Should the proposal be implemented, consideration would be given to pupil movement and how many lifts would be required.
3.4.2.15	The new school curriculum in Wales is based on experiential learning and connection with outdoors. Having up to 180 pupils upstairs will hinder the delivery of the curriculum.	Many schools across the county do not have direct access to external teaching areas from the classroom, but this doesn't hinder their ability to deliver the curriculum. Evidence from other two-storey primary schools in Powys and wider afield indicate that they are able to deliver the new curriculum, ensuring connection with the outdoors as

		part of learning, even though they haven't got direct access to an outdoor classroom.
3.4.2.16	The new Welsh curriculum is supposed to give time to learning outdoors, more space inside classrooms to allow fluid movement, this won't happen as the footprint of our new build will be too small. We will not be able to support children the way they deserve or are supposed to be according to WG's new curriculum.	As above.
3.4.2.17	The New Curriculum for Wales has a heavy focus on different areas of learning and that this should be provided in both indoor and outdoor classrooms. With the building being kept at the same footprint for an extra 100 pupils and additional staff I struggle to see how we will be able to provide this effectively and to the same level that both schools currently provide.	As above. All classrooms on the ground floor have direct access to external classrooms, which are the early years and Foundation Phase.
3.4.2.18	Make the new building fit for purpose and the size reflects all the different aspects of the curriculum so ALL the children can be taught in an appropriate environment for their stage. Meaning better sized classrooms and proper outside classrooms too. Not just a landing strip of tarmac with a covered area not adequate for it to be an outside classroom.	As above.
3.4.2.19	A new building with all new technology is great but it does not replace excellent teaching, I would prefer children to be met with people who know them inside out than a brand new whiteboard.	Comment noted. The Council fully agrees that a new building does not replace excellent teaching. The expectation is that should the Council proceed with the current proposals, pupils would benefit from a new building and excellent teaching.
3.4.2.20	If the schools are to be merged, extra funding should be provided to increase the footprint of the new building substantially to ensure a high standard of education for all learners.	A school of 360 can be accommodated within the footprint of the current design. If the proposal is implemented, further consideration would be given to how to make best use of the space to meet the needs of the school, align

		with the Building Bulleting guidance, within the budget and area available.
3.4.2.21	There have been so many promises regarding the proposed new build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, and the school has been asked what they want, but are not getting anywhere near what they want.	The Council notes the concerns and frustrations expressed by Ysgol Calon y Dderwen about the design process relating to the new school building. Designing a school is in an evolutionary process which sometimes needs compromise by all partners to meet design guidance within the budget and area available.
3.4.2.22	The site needs to be made bigger to incorporate the extra children from Treowen.	The site available is large enough to accommodate an increased number of pupils.

3.4.3 Other queries / comments

3.4.3.1	Extra funding for a new build at Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen may not be guaranteed so it is not clear what would be the situation if funding were not available.	The Council has included Ysgol Calon y Dderwen within its new Strategic Outline Programme for Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning. Welsh Government has already given in-principle approval for the project by approving the original business case. Should the proposal be implemented, then a new business case would be submitted to Welsh Government. The Council's contribution to the project has already been included within its capital programme.
3.4.3.2	Why spend all that money on another new school when they haven't long built one?	No new school has been built for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
3.4.3.3	A new building is unnecessary. The existing buildings suffice.	The Council disagrees with this comment. There are condition issues which need to be addressed at both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.
3.4.3.4	If the proposed new build continues with a couple of extra rooms as has been suggested, PCC will be letting children this side of the river down, instead of the promises that were made publicly that the council wants to make sure that children this side of the river are not left behind!	A school of 360 can be accommodated within the footprint of the current design. If the proposal is implemented, further consideration would be given to how to make best use of the space to meet the needs of the school, align

		with the Building Bulleting guidance, within the budget and area available.
3.4.3.5	What will happen if we need to expand in the future? In addition to more pupils, there will be more members of staff and with no view to expand the staff areas in the building, how is this going to affect staff wellbeing and morale when they cannot be in the same area at the same time?	As above. There is surplus capacity in other Newtown schools, and the current projected pupil numbers for Newtown indicate that pupil numbers are expected to continue to decrease.
3.4.3.6	Is it right that we have funding for a build for a 270 place school but not for a 360 place school?	It is correct that the initial SOC that has been approved by Welsh Government for a replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is for a 270 place school. However, discussions have already taken place with Welsh Government colleagues about the intention to increase the capacity of the building. Should the Council proceed with the proposals, a new business case would need to be submitted based on the revised capacity.
3.4.3.7	How realistic is it that we will move to the new building in 2026/27?	As with all capital projects, there is a risk that it would take longer than this.
3.4.3.8	Do you evaluate the success of previous new buildings?	Yes. The Property Design Services team are currently doing a piece of work where they are reviewing some of the recent new buildings, and speaking to the heads of those schools to gather feedback on what's worked well and what hasn't worked well.
3.4.3.9	Concern about the use of Building Bulletin 99, as this is now at least 25 years old, so is it fit for purpose?	This concern is noted, however Building Bulletin 99 is still the guidance used by the Welsh Government for projects taken forward as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The Welsh Government has been working on a new standard for school designs recently, we expect to hear more about this soon.
3.4.3.10	Who would be responsible for maintenance costs associated with the new building e.g. recladding, replacing solar panels, lifts?	Discussion will need to take place with Welsh Government about maintenance costs for some of these elements, in particular those associated with the Welsh

		Government's expectation that new buildings meet net zero standards.
3.4.3.11	If the proposal were to go ahead, would there be an opportunity for Treowen staff to input into the plans for the new building?	Yes, there would be opportunities for Treowen staff to contribute to the plans.

3.5 COMMENTS ABOUT THE NORTH POWYS WELLBEING PROGRAMME

3.5.1	We are losing so much space thanks to the proposed health hub, which is another crazy idea!	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the impact on the space available for the new school building due to the proposal that it becomes part of the proposed well-being hub which is being developed as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme.</p> <p>The plans for the new school building are being developed in accordance with the appropriate Building Bulletin and Welsh Government guidance, however it is acknowledged that concerns about the space available for the new building have been expressed by Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in discussions to date when developing the designs for the new building.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the current proposals, discussions with the school would continue, with the aim of achieving a design solution which meets the school's needs and also enables the development of the well-being campus.</p>
3.5.2	Outside our space has been drastically cut by the plans for a health hub in Newtown which doesn't seem to be moving forward.	As above.

3.5.3	There is concern about the annexing of 50% of the school footprint today for the health hub where plans justifying the space are yet to materialise.	As above.
3.5.4	The site of Calon Y Dderwen is now artificially constrained by a boundary for the annexed land to the health hub; where no progress has been made. Should this proposal progress the boundary should be reassessed to provide adequate space and provision for all.	As above.
3.5.5	We need space!!! Inside our new build and outside!!! Stop the health hub for taking our site. We don't want a 5+ storey building towering over our school.	As above. There is currently no plan for the well-being campus to include a 5+ storey building.
3.5.6	<p>I strongly believe that the 'health hub' is in totally the wrong place and should not be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the town centre, move to an out of town site and make better infrastructure to local bus services to get people to the health hub. 2. Next to a school, we have such peaceful surroundings at the moment but when the health hub is there with potentially 100s of people in and out daily. Our children deserve the right to learn in a tranquil environment. 3. Squeezing a school out of space, making our building just fit the amount of children we will have and also trying to use the flood plain count as part of our usable land. We need more space to give our children the rights they deserve to learn in a safe space with plenty of areas to explore the new curriculum. 	<p>These comments about the proposed location of the 'health hub' are noted.</p> <p>The location was selected following a site selection exercise.</p>
3.5.7	People's lives will be put at risk as emergency services may be blocked in or out of the site by vehicles due to the increased congestion that will be in the area.	Ensuring access to emergency services will be a key consideration when developing the site.

3.5.8	Make the school the flagship of Powys not the health hub. Which will probably be half empty.	The Council's expectation is that the whole campus would become a flagship for Powys and further afield. This would include both the 'health hub' and the school.
3.5.9	The current plan would severely and permanently restrict the potential for health services to expand and serve the community of North Powys in the future.	Comment noted. The Council has been working closely with the Health Board as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme to ensure that the site design will meet the Programme's needs and result in provision which meets the needs of the local population.
3.5.10	With more space the health hub could be far more open and accessible, and could make fuller use of its connection to the town's green spaces and the newly built Hafan yr Afon centre. Putting a school in, which would need to be fenced off, would mean that the site would become very closed off and constrained.	Comment noted. However, a site assessment was undertaken when initially considering locations to build a new primary school in Newtown and there were no alternative locations in the Council's ownership.
3.5.11	The compromise of school and health on one site has been accepted because it has been assumed there is nowhere else to build a new Calon y Dderwen.	As above.

3.6 COMMENTS ABOUT IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

3.6.1	Phase 2 would be damaging and have a highly negative impact on the community of Treowen.	<p>The Council acknowledges that implementation of Phase 2 of the proposals would mean that there would no longer be a school on the Treowen estate, which could impact on the community.</p> <p>A community impact assessment has been carried out, which includes input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community, which was published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect any feedback received during the consultation, and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision-making process.</p>
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3.6.2	Communities from Treowen losing their local school, destroying the Treowen community and the housing in that area.	As above.
3.6.3	The impact that losing the school would have on the community of Treowen would be devastating.	As above.
3.6.4	In all of this I think the only area that will suffer will be Treowen so shame on you for ripping out the heart of the community.	As above.
3.6.5	This will be a huge loss to the children of Treowen, the local community. This proposal will have a devastating effect if goes ahead.	As above.
3.6.6	In speaking with other residents and parents of children at the school, they feel that if the school closes, the community will fall apart. Parents won't have that village that they can count on.	As above.
3.6.7	The closure of Treowen School would mean the loss of a vital hub that brings together families, teachers, and the wider community.	As above.
3.6.8	Do not destroy that community spirit, that is what you will be doing if you close Treowen School. It will do immeasurable damage to the community.	As above.
3.6.9	Phase 2 would be damaging and have a highly negative impact on the Treowen community and its ability to access learning opportunities and broader community support.	As above.
3.6.10	Cllr Pete Roberts stated recently 'securing the best start in life for our young people is the only way that we can build a stronger, fairer and greener Powys. One of the ways we can achieve this is by transforming education'. So, a best start in life by destroying the community in which the children live? Not exactly a great start.	As above.
3.6.11	Phase 2 of the proposal will have a negative impact on the sustainability of the community of Treowen which already	As above.

	has few resources and has pockets of deprivation rated as the lowest 10% in Wales. The school is at the heart of the community and closing it will be detrimental to programmes designed to deliver a Wales of cohesive communities.	
3.6.12	It will destroy the Treowen community and create further social problems.	As above.
3.6.13	There is a lot of anti-social behaviour across Treowen, take away that school and there will be a marked increase in the anti-social behaviour.	As above.
3.6.14	It is stated in the consultation documents that when the planned second phase is complete the school building at Treowen will be redundant and will be sold by PCC. This will be a point of no return for the community as it is probable that the school site will be developed for housing. Treowen Community Hall is unfunded and not capable of filling the gap in community provision.	<p>The Council would need to consider the future use of the current Treowen C.P. School site should the proposals be implemented.</p> <p>Should the site be declared surplus, it would be disposed of in accordance with the Council's asset management policy. Whilst it is possible that this could lead to sale of the sites to third parties, some schools that have closed have been transferred to other service areas e.g. housing or to a community group.</p> <p>The Community Hall at Treowen would not be affected and would continue to be available for community activities.</p>
3.6.15	Treowen school's site would also become derelict which would have a negative effect on the estate.	As above.
3.6.16	Closing Treowen School would affect the community - it is unknown who may buy the land, if multiple flats or houses are built it could cause over-population of the area.	As above.
3.6.17	What is going to happen to the land at Treowen?	As above.
3.6.18	What are the suggested plans for the old site? Left to become run down and derelict like all the other closed down schools in the area?	As above.

3.6.19	Phase 2 of the original proposal is more focused on the acquisition of a new school than consideration for the communities involved. The Newtown Place Plan, adopted by Powys County Council as supplementary planning guidance in 2021, states that proposals that will result in the loss of existing community facilities will be strongly resisted (Community Facilities Planning policies Cf-a).	<p>The Council acknowledges that implementation of Phase 2 of the proposals would mean that there would no longer be a school on the Treowen estate, which could impact on the community.</p> <p>A community impact assessment has been carried out, which includes input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community, which was published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect any feedback received during the consultation, and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Whilst implementation of the proposals would mean that there would be no school in Treowen in the future, there is a Community Hall on the Treowen Estate which would continue to be available for community activities.</p>
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3.7 COMMENTS ABOUT IMPACT ON STAFF

3.7.1	Concern about the impact of the proposals on Calon y Dderwen staff jobs, particularly following the move to a new building	The Council notes the concern about the possible impact on staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen as part of Phase 2, particularly as they have recently gone through a merger process when the school was established.
3.7.2	It's unfair for Calon y Dderwen staff to have to go through another period of uncertainty following the merging of Ladywell Green and Hafren schools.	As above.
3.7.3	Concern about job security for staff, particularly during phase 2.	As above.

3.8 COMMENTS ABOUT EARLY YEARS PROVISION

3.8.1	Any big change like the one that's being proposed would be detrimental to the progress of pupils that currently attend 3+ provision in Treowen. Please think of the families and what impact this decision is going to make.	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the impact on early years provision.</p> <p>The impact of the proposals on early years provision is considered on page 24 of the Consultation Document, where it states:</p> <p><i>'Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Accommodation to provide funded early years education would be provided in the new building. The demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.'</i></p> <p><i>Should all provision move to the new building, this would mean that funded early years education would no longer be available at Treowen, and families currently living in Treowen who access this provision at Treowen C.P. School would need to travel further to access this provision.</i></p> <p><i>Parents would also be able to access other providers in Newtown, however due to recent changes in provision in the town, there is currently some pressure on places. Demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.'</i></p>
3.8.2	With both schools possibly combining together, will there still be a room for the 3 plus years that needed extra support?	As above.
3.8.3	Will the pre-school setting transfer to the new school also?	As above.

3.8.4	Another vital service that Treowen C.P. school provides on site is the 3+ pre-school. This is the only funded early years provision in Treowen and is another crucial element in engaging and supporting families in their own community. Phase 2 will have a negative impact on this service.	As above.
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3.9 OTHER COMMENTS NOT IN SUPPORT OF PHASE 2

3.9.1	Phase 2 is completely unnecessary.	<p>The Council does not agree that ‘Phase 2 is completely unnecessary.’ The reasons for the proposals are clearly set out in the Consultation Document.</p> <p>Implementation of Phase 2 of the proposals would provide access to a brand new school building to pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, providing access to much improved accommodation for pupils attending both schools.</p>
3.9.2	Why waste more money building a new build when you have a perfectly good school away from a major road?	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposals are ‘a waste of money.’ The lifetime costs of the proposed new building compared with the costs associated maintaining the existing buildings were considered in the Consultation Document. As stated in the Document:</p> <p>‘It is anticipated that the lifetime costs of the status quo option, which would include backlog maintenance would be £78.00m over a 60-year investment period. This is compared with the lifetime costs of the move to a new school building which would be £72.61m over a 60-year investment period, generating a saving of £5.39m.’</p>
3.9.3	I do not support this phase of development.	Comment noted.

	The potential closure of Treowen School is disheartening.	The concerns about the impact of the closure of Treowen C.P. School are noted, and will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposals.
3.9.4	Closing Treowen will have a huge negative impact.	As above.
3.9.5	Treowen closing would mean the loss of breakfast club and low-income families may struggle due to no longer have free school meals, the children may the lack the nutrition they need to keep their health adequate.	As above.
3.9.6	A vast amount of money has been spent on building safe pedestrian and cycle pavements along the road to Treowen School. This will have been wasted if there is no school in Treowen.	Comment noted. The Council does not agree that this money would have been wasted, the pavements would continue to provide safe walking routes across the estate, even if there was no school in Treowen.
3.9.7	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen have already been waiting a long time for a new school. The merger will delay this even more.	Comment noted. The Council fully acknowledges that the current proposal in respect of Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has impacted on the timescales involved in order to provide a much needed replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.
3.9.8	There is potential housing growth in Treowen area identified in the Local Development Plan as: P48 HA3 South of Heol Treowen Extension 70 units and P48 HA4 South of Heol Treowen / Great Brimmon 136 units. And retaining a local school site will help provide the necessary educational infrastructure to cope with extra housing. This additional housing allocation is underlined in the local Place Plan which has been adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the planning authority. It would seem perverse to act contrary to the adopted plans.	<p>Whilst it is correct that land in the Treowen area is identified for potential housing in the Local Development Plan, there is no guarantee that this would be developed in the near future.</p> <p>Even if it were to be developed, there are surplus places available elsewhere in Newtown that would be able to accommodate any increase in pupil numbers as a result of additional housing in Treowen.</p> <p>It is expected that on average each new residential unit developed within Powys will likely generate 0.40 children or young people with educational requirements. Based on this figure, the expectation would be that a development of 70</p>

		units would generate 28 pupils, and a development of 136 units would generate 55 pupils, however these would not all be primary aged pupils.
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3.10 COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF PHASE 2

3.10.1	Both schools are very outdated and think would be an improvement on all pupils experience of school and learning facilities.	Comment noted.
3.10.2	Calon y Derwen should have a new building, having two schools already closely located together as one makes a lot of sense.	Comment noted.
3.10.3	I think a new school for Calon y Dderwen is a fantastic idea for the parents with children in that school or parents that will use this school in the future.	Comment noted.
3.10.4	I think phase 2 is the better option when the new school is ready and able to accommodate the number of children.	Comment noted.
3.10.5	Phase 2 is the better option! When the new school is ready and you can accommodate all the children with room, staff and I just think it would be a better way to introduce the children to a new school rather than having to leave the school they are happy in to then be in a temporary school to have to then move to the new school, it's a lot of disruption for the children. Phase 2 is the better option.	Comment noted.
3.10.6	It will be good to have a much bigger school for all the children to benefit from the teaching and learning that already goes on in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.	Comment noted.
3.10.7	Broadly speaking, I agree with the benefits of fewer larger, better built and better staffed primary schools, especially in the larger towns like Newtown.	Comment noted.

4. OTHER COMMENTS

4.1 GENERAL COMMENTS NOT IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSALS

4.1.1	I fully understand that Calon Y Dderwen is in need of a new school building but do not feel that should be at the detriment of Treowen School.	The proposed changes provide the opportunity for all learners involved to benefit from the capital investment in a new building – for example, a better learning environment which is fully accessible, energy-efficient and meets the Welsh Government’s net zero targets. The new building would also remove the maintenance backlog which exists for both existing sites.
4.1.2	Don't need to merge with other schools just so the council can save some money, too many kids already fall through the nets!!	As above.
4.1.3	Absolutely no thought has been given to pupils, staff and the communities of the two schools. It is clearly a money saving exercise. The proposed changes would put unwarranted stress on children and parents.	The impact on pupils, staff and the wider school communities has been considered throughout the consultation process. The consultation exercise has provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to let the Council know their views on the proposals, these will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed.
4.1.4	I fully believe this proposal is just to save money and Powys County Council are not giving Treowen School's pupils, parents and staff any thought or consideration.	As above.
4.1.5	I feel that this proposal is being pushed through to gain funding for the new school for Calon y Dderwen.	The first business case (SOC) for a replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has already been approved by the Council and the Welsh Government, this is not dependent on including Treowen School in the plans.
4.1.6	This whole process seems to be more about money rather than what really matters and that's the children of the future.	As outlined in the Consultation Document, there are many reasons for the current proposals, which include the decrease in pupil numbers in the area and resulting surplus places, as well as issues with building conditions at both

		existing schools. The aim of the proposal is to maximise the benefit from the investment in a new school in Newtown, by ensuring that more pupils are able to access the new building.
4.1.7	The proposal makes no sense.	Comment noted.
4.1.8	I don't agree with the merger.	Comment noted.
4.1.9	Trehafren, in the Calon y Dderwen catchment area, has 32 more homes being built and there are other housing developments close to completion in Newtown. In this way there are initiatives in Newtown which, by creating more homes for young people and families, will naturally address falling school numbers and surplus places.	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 5% by 2026.
4.1.10	The proposal doesn't consider the amount of new families to the area.	As above.
4.1.11	The current proposal would mean that the current undersized and inadequately built Maesyrrhandir would remain.	Comment noted. The Council is aware that implementation of the current proposal would mean that Maesyrrhandir would continue to attend the same building, and consideration would need to be given to how to address these issues going forward.
4.1.12	Maesyrrhandir is the school tackling some of the greater social issues faces within the town, it seems wrong to not be addressing this, and to not be investing in this community.	Comment noted.
4.1.13	The current proposal won't address the Maesyrrhandir position.	Comment noted.

4.2 GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON STAFF

4.2.1	The impact of this will lower staff morale and wellbeing as they will be made jobless.	The Council fully acknowledges that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for those affected, including staff.
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		<p>Opportunities have been provided through the consultation process for staff to let the Council know their views on the proposals, these will be taken into consideration when determining whether or not to proceed.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposals, HR officers would work alongside school to support any staffing processes required to implement the changes. Staff would also be able to receive support from their unions. Support is also available to staff through the Council's employee support programme, 'Vivup'.</p>
4.2.2	The impact on staff mental health would be distressful for all. Job losses, moving of locations, ending relationships and trust built over many years is would be once again, devastating.	As above.
4.2.3	How can you expect a teacher, teaching assistant, school admin, headteacher, deputy headteacher, etc to give their all to 30-odd children all day every day with this proposal hanging over their heads?	As above.
4.2.4	Staff wellbeing will be affected by such a drastic change in circumstances. Plus the risk that redundancies would be necessary.	As above.
4.2.5	It not fair as what going to happen to the current staff teaching and kitchen staff, you don't need three full kitchen staff to run one kitchen.	As above.
4.2.6	Staff at Ysgol CyDd have already experienced the pressure and pain associated with change, they are still experiencing this due to having to work across 2 sites whilst waiting for the proposed new build. There is clearly no consideration for staff wellbeing. The management of change has been bearable during the transition of Hafren and Ladywell Green. Staff at Treowen school don't want	<p>As above.</p> <p>The Council fully acknowledges that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has recently been through a merger process. This is one of the reasons why the proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, rather than merging the two schools to establish another new school. This would</p>

	<p>this either. Staff wellbeing is at a low, across all schools in the UK, the impact this is having on the wellbeing of the staff across these 2 schools just isn't fair. Working in schools is hard at the moment, there is little time for enjoying your job because of the increasing pressure put on to school staff to deliver according to the needs of the children and their families. Staff are worried about their jobs in both settings, it's natural, it's obvious that there will be job losses.</p>	<p>minimise the impact on Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff during Phase 1 in particular, however it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on them during the move to a new building as part of Phase 2.</p>
4.2.7	<p>The closure of Treowen and the expansion of Calon y Dderwen is likely to result in the Calon Y Dderwen governing body needing to follow the management of change process, and possible redundancies. This would be the first act and not an endearing one for existing Treowen staff. In addition, the proposal would require all appointments for Calon y Dderwen to be temporary only until the new build school. This effects the existing staff of the school knowing that the proposal has ensued more uncertainty.</p>	<p>The Council notes and acknowledges this concern about the potential impact on Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's governing body.</p>
4.2.8	<p>Staff were originally sold this idea of creating a brand new school, in doing this it would mean all members of staff at each school would be treated fairly to now be told this won't be the case.</p>	<p>The Council notes this comment, however in the initial engagement on the potential of including more schools in the planned new building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it was explained that this could either be achieved by merging schools together to create a new school, or it could be achieved by expanding Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include other schools.</p> <p>Concerns about the impact of another merger on the staff of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, who have only recently been through a merger, were raised during the initial engagement exercise, and this is one of the reasons why the proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, rather</p>

		<p>than merging the two schools to create another new school.</p> <p>The Council doesn't agree that Treowen staff 'aren't being treated fairly.' During phase 1 of the proposals, education would still be provided on the Treowen site, and the expectation is that current staff at Treowen C.P. School would provide this. Any further staffing process which would need to take place to prepare for a move to a new building in phase 2 would affect all staff, as by that time, all staff would be employed by Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p>
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4.3 COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC GROUPS

4.3.1 Comments about ALN/SEN learners

4.3.1.1	<p>Treowen has a high number of ALN children who are comfortable in a stable environment which is not currently too overwhelming for them. Putting them into bigger classes with a higher teacher to child ratio is not providing them with the best education.</p>	<p>The impact on pupils with ALN has been considered in the equality impact assessment published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p> <p>The Council's opinion is that pupils with ALN and those with disabilities would be equally well supported by larger schools. Where schools have larger classes with a high number of pupils with additional needs, there are processes and mechanisms within the Council to provide additional support and guidance as appropriate.</p> <p>The proposal is to introduce the changes on a phased basis, which provides an opportunity to support pupils with</p>
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		additional learning needs with transition to the new operating model.
4.3.1.2	I worry that pupils with additional learning needs will go under the radar and not get the care and education he needs as the teachers will be overwhelmed with the amount of children they will have.	As above.
4.3.1.3	Currently Treowen has great provision for those with any neurodivergence, learning disabilities etc. They have the time and resources that bigger schools don't have. The children benefit from the smaller class sizes which suit those with SEN better.	As above.
4.3.1.4	It's going be harder for children with special needs to get access to the help they need.	As above.
4.3.1.5	Pupils won't get the one to one learning in a bigger school.	As above.
4.3.1.6	Children with additional education needs are not going to cope in a large school.	As above.
4.3.1.7	The children won't get the one to one learning like they get now in Treowen school and it might knock their confidence and knock the learning.	As above.
4.3.1.8	Merging too many schools together will cause those pupils in need of extra support to be completely overlooked and lost.	As above.
4.3.1.9	A pupil who learns differently and can't cope with busy spaces would struggle in the new school.	As above.
4.3.1.10	Children with additional learning needs will be affected greatly. We as parents fight so hard for the education and extra support our children need in school, which they are all entitled to. To close Treowen would dismiss our children's needs. Which is disgraceful and disgusting.	As above.
4.3.1.11	I have huge concerns about the impact on learners with additional learning needs. Learners with autism already struggle with large classes.	As above.

4.3.1.12	Both schools have a recognised higher than county average FSM and ALN. Both catchments are recognised in the 2021 census as being highly deprived in multiple dimensions. The pupils of both schools deserve and require outstanding education provision; however, I believe the accessibility of the provision should phase 1 & 2 go ahead is of high priority and the proposal has inadequately assessed.	As above.
4.3.1.13	Concerned that pupils with additional health issues (e.g. epilepsy) would not be fully supported in a larger school. Seizures could be missed if teachers have so many other pupils to watch.	As above.
4.3.1.14	There are several children in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen that have special educational needs and I dare say there will be children in Treowen School too - how are you going to ensure that these children's mental health and other children's mental health is going to be protected?	<p>As above.</p> <p>The Council recognises that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for all involved, including children. The Council is committed to supporting schools and learners, including through periods of change.</p> <p>The Council has engaged a former Headteacher to support school leaders to help them manage possible changes for their learners. It is also expected that school governors, staff and parents support the children during any periods of change, to ensure that there isn't a detrimental impact on their wellbeing.</p>
4.3.1.15	Some pupils are likely to struggle with the transition, especially pupils with ALN.	As above.

4.3.2 Comments about disability

4.3.2.1	There are accessibility concerns for the new school build when pupil numbers will increase. This affects access to	The proposed new building will be fully accessible, including the planned first floor. Toilet provision will be in
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	upper levels and access to enough toilets suitable for those with additional needs.	accordance with the latest guidance, and will include provision for pupils with additional needs.
4.3.2.2	I don't believe moving school provision further away from an area of the community more likely to be lower income is going to be conducive to the needs of disabled pupils or parents with disabilities.	The impact on those belonging to the protected characteristic groups was initially considered in the equality impact assessment published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
4.3.2.3	It will completely affect adults & children with disabilities.	As above.
4.3.2.4	In particular those pupils with mobility difficulties may have considerable difficulty coping with the gradients between Treowen CP and Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen	As above.
4.3.2.5	The impact on children with disabilities of not being able to attend a school within their immediate community can be far reaching mentally and socially.	As above.

4.3.4 Comments about the socio-economic duty / low-income families

4.3.4.1	Treowen is already an area of very little resources and has pockets of deprivation rated as the lowest 10% in Wales.	The Council notes these comments about deprivation in the Treowen area. The impact on pupils from economically deprived backgrounds was considered in the impact assessments published as part of the Consultation Documentation. This will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
4.3.4.2	There are serious concerns about this proposal due to the negative impact it will have on the community of Treowen and the particular impact it will have on those who may	As above.

	have protected characteristics, especially low income families and those who are vulnerable.	
4.3.4.3	In the consultation documents section concerning Socio Economic Duty a commitment is declared to improve opportunities for lower income families including those eligible for free school meals, Treowen C.P. school has 32.1% FSM compared to the Wales average of 18%. The impact assessment document acknowledges that these families will be more likely to fail to attend a new school in the centre of Newtown because of the distance involved.	As above.
4.3.4.4	This proposal will make the absenteeism issue worse, low income families who are eligible for free school meals are already disproportionately affected by absenteeism and the impact assessment identifies that this group will be more negatively impacted by having to travel further to school.	As above.
4.3.4.5	Treowen C.P. school currently runs a successful breakfast club which, along with FSM, is a lifeline for families suffering from food poverty and social isolation. If the school closes, this already disadvantaged group will suffer greater social isolation through reduced regular contact with the staff team and other members of the community, this will increase any existing risks to children and families who are already vulnerable and will remove a vital source of nutrition.	As above.
4.3.4.6	Phase 2 of the proposal will have a negative impact on the 3+ pre-school and it is lower income and vulnerable families who will be impacted most, it is universally accepted that early intervention is key to supporting families.	As above.

4.3.5 Other comments

4.3.5.1	Treowen School has many mixed kids from all over the world which is amazing seeing the community accept and nurture children where English has not been the first language and they love Treowen School.	Comment noted.
4.3.5.2	All learners should be valued, those with protected characteristics even more so.	Comment noted. The aim of the proposal is to improve educational opportunities for all learners, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups.
4.3.5.3	Treowen estate has many children of all ethnic groups who thrive in a small school environment before going to secondary school.	As above.
4.3.5.4	With such large numbers being catered for I don't believe people with protected characteristics will receive the support needed.	All schools, regardless of size, are able to provide for the needs of all pupils, and are required to support, challenge and nurture all pupils to achieve their full potential, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups. Smaller schools do not necessarily mean that pupils receive a more individual education as there is often a number of year groups and a wider age range of pupils in the class. The Council is confident that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be able to meet the needs of pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School.
4.3.5.5	Whilst some pupils with protected characteristics may gain from a larger social milieu, others may not and may flourish more in a small setting.	As above.

4.4 COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON WELSH

4.4.1 The proposal will have a negative impact on the Welsh language

4.4.1.1	Don't shut the Treowen School and they will have a better chance of learning it [<i>Welsh</i>] more quickly.	Both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are predominantly English-medium schools where pupils learn Welsh as a second language, and both schools currently
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		<p>participate in Welsh language activities such as the Urdd Eisteddfod.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to learn Welsh and be able to take part in Welsh language activities at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p>
4.4.1.2	Closing Treowen School would give less children the opportunity to be able to achieve in the Urdd Eisteddfod as they would be competing against a wider number in there school alone and may not be picked to do something they would get the chance to while in Treowen.	As above.
4.4.1.3	They won't get a fair learning of it as there will be too many kids the classes.	As above.
4.4.1.4	More children less likely to engage in learning Welsh.	As above.
4.4.1.5	A large school with large classes will find it more difficult to promote the Welsh language. Two smaller schools would be far more able to promote Welsh.	As above.
4.4.1.6	I think the likelihood of Welsh speaking in a bigger school is minimised. Children in Treowen School already struggle to get to grips with the language. This would only be worse in bigger classes.	As above.

4.4.2 Other comments

4.4.2.1	Both schools are English medium schools. I don't believe this proposal will have an impact either way.	Comment noted.
4.4.2.2	Welsh schools should be if the parents want them to speak fluently.	Parents of pupils in Powys are free to apply for a place at any school. Any such applications would be considered in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
4.4.2.3	It should be a choice by the child what language they use in school.	As above.

4.4.2.4	There is a difference of learning basic Welsh and speaking it fluently. I believe it should be of choice.	As above.
4.4.2.5	Freedom of choice is being taken away from parents and prospective parents. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is typically Welsh so I'm guessing it will be Welsh speaking. Very unfair on those that maybe do not want their children speaking Welsh.	As above. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is an English-medium school and there are no plans to change the language category of this school.
4.4.2.6	There is favour there already with the school being a Welsh name.	As above.
4.4.2.7	Just because you give a school a Welsh name does not mean that they have a higher level of Welsh throughout the school.	As above.
4.4.2.8	All primary children should become fluent in Welsh. The medium should be Welsh, with extra support for non-Welsh speakers. In England pupils are expected to speak English and extra help is provided for non-speakers of English (EAL - English as an Additional Language). Wales should take the same approach with Welsh.	As above.
4.4.2.9	Welsh should be the main medium for all schools. If we want to preserve the Welsh language this is vital. All primary children should become fluent in Welsh.	As above.
4.4.2.10	Children and families should have a choice of how they want to speak in school.	As above.
4.4.2.11	I feel the ability to communicate and understand the Welsh language would be most beneficial.	Comment noted.
4.4.2.12	I think it is good opportunity to learn Welsh more.	Comment noted.
4.4.2.13	Becoming an ever more diverse community I feel that conversational Welsh would be hugely beneficial to all learners.	Comment noted.
4.4.2.14	Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is already built and available for any parent that wants their child to be taught through the medium of Welsh.	Comment noted.

4.4.2.15	The provision of education through the medium is Welsh is already well served by Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd located between Treowen CP school, Maesyrrhandir CP school and Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen.	Comment noted.
4.4.2.16	The high school does not have a Welsh stream so pushing this agenda is unfair when Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd children can't go on to be educated in our town! At least fix that first before messing with the kids and parents education to fit WG goals of all schools to be Welsh language like Ceredigion.	The Council's plans to increase the number of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh are outlined in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Whilst the Council has been working to support a number of schools to move along the language continuum, currently it has no plans to change the language category of Newtown High School, or to change the language category of all schools.
4.4.2.17	Each school offers the Welsh language learning, at some stage schools should become like Ceredigion all Cat A.	Comment noted. It is correct that all schools provide opportunities for pupils to learn Welsh. The Council's plans to increase the number of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh are outlined in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Whilst the Council has been working to support a number of schools to move along the language continuum, currently it has no aim to change the language category of all schools.
4.4.2.18	Children are given the opportunity to learn Welsh no matter what school they attend.	Comment noted. It is correct that all schools provide opportunities for pupils to learn Welsh.
4.4.2.19	All staff should have the opportunity to access the Welsh sabbatical as part of promoting the Welsh language in this new larger school.	Comment noted. Opportunities are available for staff to access Welsh sabbatical courses should they wish to do so.
4.4.2.20	English medium schools work so hard on the promotion of the Welsh language, why does this matter for this consultation?	The Welsh Language Standards require the Council to consider the impact of all changes on the Welsh language. This is why a question about the impact of the current proposal on Welsh was included in the consultation response form.

4.5 COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.5.1	This proposal is awful and the council have not even had the decency to meet with parents or the members of the Treowen action group which also consists of members of the community, to hear their views and listen to what they want. This will cause parents like me to have a grudge against sending their children to this new school. I will not be sending my children there.	All members of the community were able to respond to the consultation. The School Organisation Code does not require that consultation meetings are held as part of the consultation process. As part of the consultation, meetings were held with pupils, staff and governors at the two schools. The meetings with governors included parent and community representatives.
4.5.2	PCC don't know who this is affecting because they're not coming out into the communities and meeting the people it will affect. Come to our schools, meet our children, meet our families, meet our staff. Maybe then you will realise what a truly awful idea this is.	As above.
4.5.3	What I find shocking is that there is little or no discussion / debate with the people who live here. It feels like you are remote and unreachable, therefore are very detached from my Treowen community.	As above.
4.5.4	If 'transforming education' is the goal of this proposal then I would urge councillors to look seriously at the negative impact on the children, the community and the town of closing Treowen school. Transforming education starts with listening to and hearing the views and needs of the very people it affects.	As above.
4.5.5	The cabinet have made no effort at all to discuss this proposal with current staff. Instead the people who do not make the decision have been sent, again!	As part of the consultation, meetings were held with staff at the two schools. This is in-line with the Council's normal process for school reorganisation proposals. All feedback received during the consultation is reflected in this report, which will be considered by Cabinet when deciding whether or not to proceed with the process.

4.5.6	I suppose you are just paying lip service to the legal side of the consultation and the decision has already been made!	The Council has not yet made a decision on whether to proceed with the proposals put forward in this consultation. The findings from the consultation will be considered by Cabinet in late Spring 2024.
4.5.7	The council seem to be only driven financially and lack any real interest in people who live in Newtown. I feel that consultations in Powys are generally paying lip service to the population and are just a paper exercise.	As above.
4.5.8	It feels like it's a done deal.	As above.
4.5.9	We have heard very little about the whole process!	The process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The Consultation Document was published as a public document for anybody to access and all members of the community were able to submit their comments and views regarding the proposals during the consultation period.
4.5.10	The short sightedness of the cabinet in this particular proposal shouldn't come as too much of a surprise to be honest, PCC at its best, cutting costs without considering who it will impact. For this to still be on the table proves that the previous consultation has not been taken seriously. PCC will go through with this proposal regardless of the outcome from this consultation, this feels like a box ticking exercise.	The findings of the earlier 'engagement exercise' which was carried out during the Summer of 2023 were considered when developing the current proposals, and were considered by Cabinet when deciding whether or not to commence the current consultation.
4.5.11	You should take into account parent's and staff's feelings on the closure, and work alongside them to come up with an alternative whilst keeping Treowen School open.	All responses received during the consultation period have been considered and included in this report. A number of alternative options were suggested in the consultation responses received, these are listed and responded to in section 4.7 of this report.
4.5.12	The council has decided to ignore all of the parents and community's letters of concern.	The Council has not 'ignored' the letters. A summary of the letters, which were received after the end of the previous engagement exercise and before the start of the current consultation process is provided earlier in this report.

4.5.13	Treowen parents have all stated they don't want this in the form of over 100 letters and additional emails being sent in to Joy Jones about this situation.	As above.
4.5.14	You say all children are entitled to have a great education yet you haven't even taken in the fact that over 95% of parents at the school wrote in to complain about the proposal to close Treowen school. How is that being inclusive and treating them as equal.	As above.
4.5.15	I can only think that the reason this poor excuse was taken out of the decision is due to the fact that David Selby sits on the panel for this proposal and that school is under his ward, which is conflict.	Whilst Cllr David Selby is a member of the Council's Cabinet, the options appraisal which identified the preferred option which was consulted on was carried out by officers and presented to the Cabinet.
4.5.16	When will the current process end?	If Cabinet proceed with the process, the intention is that the current process will be complete by the end of the school year.
4.5.17	Cabinet members should visit the school before a decision is made.	Comment noted.

4.6 COMMENTS ABOUT THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION

4.6.1	The staff, parents, and pupils of Calon Y Dderwen school have undergone disruption for the past 5 years. Staff have undergone redundancies and uncertainty for a prolonged period and this proposal has resurrected this emotion and hurt. The proposal has already had a negative effect on staff of Calon Y Dderwen and I am certain this is the case for Treowen. On page 20 it asserts that the risk and likelihood of staff leaving is low. However, this does not consider Calon Y Dderwen staff have already undergone 5 years of stress and this proposal has increased this.	Comment noted. The Council acknowledges that the proposal has impacted on current staff at both schools, and that staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in particular have recently been through a merger process as part of establishing the school.
4.6.2	Impact on staff – the proposal states that uncertainty in staff has been identified as Low Risk. I would dispute this	The risk assessment was carried out by officers. The concerns about the assessment of the risk identified in

	<p>extremely strongly and would like to know where this information has come from? Having been part of the merge of Hafren and Ladywell Green I can confirm that my uncertainty is high. Having not known whether I had job security in the first consultation which lasted approx 2 years, I find myself back in the same position only 18 months later. I do not believe Powys have taken in staff wellbeing in any factor of this consultation. Even if this new expansion does not go ahead, I have had this additional anxiety for another 12 months.</p>	<p>respect of 'Uncertainty for staff during the transition period, which may result in some staff leaving' is acknowledged.</p> <p>The Council fully acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal has an impact on any staff affected, and that staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen have already been through a reorganisation process fairly recently.</p>
4.6.3	<p>The proposal says that there will be improved opportunities for pupils to benefit from Staff specialisms - how is this possible when staff will not be able to move around sites freely?</p>	<p>Whilst it is likely that staff will primarily be based on their existing sites during Phase 1, there would be opportunities to share staff expertise across the whole school during this phase, which would enable all pupils to benefit from any specialisms. This could mean that some staff primarily working on one site could visit the other site.</p>
4.6.4	<p>The proposal cites 3 minute travel time from Treowen School to Calon y Dderwen. A google maps search alone can tell you this is not true. 18 to 23 minutes based on the average walker; I assure you a 5-year-old does not reach these speeds, and the return journey home up 40m climb each day will exceed 35minutes. Whilst this is below the 45minute travel limit, you are placing this pressure on those in most need; the most deprived (recognised by the 2021 census) and the areas with the highest FSM and ALN needs (and higher by over 105 for the county average).</p>	<p>As stated in the Consultation Document, the travel time specified is approximate. The travel time refers to the journey time by car, not on foot. It is acknowledged that the travel time by foot would be longer than this.</p>
4.6.5	<p>Treowen School is not by any means 3 minutes travel time away from Calon y Dderwen either by car or by walking (as stated in the documentation).</p>	<p>As above.</p>
4.6.6	<p>The validity of travel times on page 27 of the consultation seems questionable e.g. 0.8 miles in 3 minutes to Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen or 1 mile in 3 minutes to Maesyhandir;</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	this seems extraordinarily fast for a pedestrian and fast even for a cycle or car.	
4.6.7	I am unsure where the 3 minutes of travel time stated in the proposal has come from, but it certainly isn't correct by any stretch of the imagination. Having Googled the time it would take to walk it shows 18 minutes, which is far from 3 minutes. Your proposal states that it is not in excess of 45 minutes travel time, however I think this is an extreme benchmark to compare to - in rural mid-Wales you could be in another town or even in England in that time.	As above. The reference to '45 minutes', the School Organisation Code states that Council's must consider 'whether primary school pupils will have one-way journeys in excess of 45 minutes or secondary school pupils one way journeys of over an hour'. The Council is confident that one-way journeys to the alternative school site for pupils for whom Treowen is currently the closest school will be well below 45 minutes.
4.6.8	The new school build SOC was for 270; the proposal recognises a combined school pupil count of 354, and given some of the pupil numbers presented are under-represented this count is likely too low. The revised plan is for a school build of 360 meaning on opening in September 2026 if a conservative estimate based on some corrected pupil data for Calon Y Dderwen was used it could have 340 pupils; 94% of the capacity. I understand the intention is to reduce surplus spaces, but I am yet to know of a new school build open with 5% surplus. Whilst national trends show a future year on year reduction of births the trend for Calon y Dderwen is flat.	The projected pupil numbers as included in the Consultation Document suggest that pupil numbers across the two schools are expected to decrease over the coming years – the projected pupil numbers for January 2028 are 229 for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and 78 for Treowen C.P. School, which is a total of 307 across the two schools. There are also surplus places in other Newtown schools which would be available to accommodate pupils should the numbers applying for places at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen be higher than 360.
4.6.9	The advantages referred to in the consultation document are mainly based around the benefits of having a new school building and a better supported staff team.	Comment noted.
4.6.10	The consultation document does not provide evidence that option 4C will achieve the stated aims and in several aspects it is clear that the proposed closure of the Treowen School site will cause harm to the community, particular	The strengths and weaknesses of option 4C and all other options are included in the Consultation Document.

	harm to the learning opportunities and safeguarding of the most vulnerable families in that community and increase traffic congestion in the town centre.	A community impact assessment has been carried out, which includes input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community. This will be updated following the Consultation to reflect any feedback received and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision-making process.
4.6.11	Queries about the accuracy of Treowen's ALN figures – they may be higher than this.	The ALN figures included in the documentation are the latest PLASC figures available.
4.6.12	There is an error on page 51 of the consultation document re finance – the figures should be the other way around.	The Council is aware of this error on page 51 of the document.
4.6.13	The consultation document doesn't include information on current travel patterns.	This information is included in the Community Impact Assessment document.
4.6.14	The proposer has not detailed how they would reduce the effect on pupils' learning and well-being during the construction period of the new building, for example reducing the noise impact and disruption of the construction work.	Reducing noise impact and disruption during the construction work will be considered when developing the plans for the new buildings. Contractors will be asked to consider these aspects as part of tendering processes.
4.6.15	The proposer does not detail how they intend to mitigate any negative effects on pupils at the Calon Y Dderwen site during the construction period, for example if temporary classes are needed.	As above. The new building is being planned around the current buildings, so it is not anticipated that temporary classes would be needed.
4.6.16	The proposer has not given detailed consideration to how the plans would develop the breadth, appropriateness and balance of the curriculum at the school beyond identifying that it would be an opportunity to strengthen the curriculum provided for pupils further.	The plans would provide an opportunity to develop the breadth, appropriateness and balance of the curriculum at the school as it would be a larger school with a larger group of staff able to develop specialisms.

4.7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.7.1 Status quo

4.7.1.1	Think it's ridiculous just keep how things are!!	Status Quo was considered as an option in the Options Appraisal which was included in the Consultation Document, however this option was discounted.
4.7.1.2	There are no options for Treowen School other than to keep it open. This is what the community wants.	As above.
4.7.1.3	The schools should remain as they are! It is totally unfair to even be considering this merger.	As above.
4.7.1.4	Let the Treowen children keep their school which, to them, is a place of learning, safety and compassion.	As above.
4.7.1.5	If it ain't broke don't fix it. Leave things as they are.	As above.
4.7.1.6	Treowen needs to stay the same.	As above.
4.7.1.7	Keep the two schools as two schools not one.	As above.
4.7.1.8	Treowen school should be left alone.	As above.
4.7.1.9	I would just prefer that the schools stayed separate.	As above.
4.7.1.10	Keeping Treowen School open as it is and move forward with the new build for Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen as set out following the recent merger of Hafren and Ladywell only two years ago.	As above.
4.7.1.11	Keep Treowen School open and give it the support it needs rather than waste more of our tax money on a project that isn't wanted and isn't going to work.	As above.
4.7.1.12	The glaring option is to not merge the two schools.	As above.
4.7.1.13	Continuing the current provision. I understand these are challenging financial times but I feel this is the best option.	As above.
4.7.1.14	Keep both open - Maesyrrhandir were taken out of the equation so why can't Treowen be too?	As above.
4.7.1.15	I think Treowen School should be kept open as there is nothing up Treowen!	As above.
4.7.1.16	This is not needed, both schools are functioning perfectly well as they currently are.	As above.

4.7.1.17	They should be considering leaving both schools as they are and putting the money being used for the new school into the current sites.	As above.
4.7.1.18	Keep Treowen separate and let it continue as a thriving school.	As above.
4.7.1.19	Keep Treowen School open!!	As above.
4.7.1.20	It would be great to see Treowen School stay open and a smaller amount of money used to allow this to happen.	As above.
4.7.1.21	Keeping both schools going, why change something that's going well?	As above.
4.7.1.22	By keeping open Treowen CP School it could potentially reduce the building cost of Calon Y Dderwen from 16 million pounds to 13 million pounds.	As above.
4.7.1.23	I am completely against the proposal, leave Treowen as it, there is absolutely no reason to take away from our children at Treowen.	As above.
4.7.1.24	I urge you to explore alternative solutions that would allow the school to continue its invaluable service to our community. This could involve seeking additional funding, exploring partnerships with local organizations, or any other viable means to sustain the school's operation.	As above.
4.7.1.25	Treowen School is 60% on the building survey of repair, the same as Penygloddfa. Treowen School should be kept open!	As above.

4.7.2 Invest in the current school buildings

4.7.2.1	Treowen should be left as a school, where it already is but given updated facilities and more resources. Keep the community estate united. The children's happiness,	The Council is already committed to providing a replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to replace the current poor condition buildings in which the school is currently located. This is included in the Council's capital
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	education and overall wellbeing should be the only concern.	programme, and a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for this development has already been approved by the Council's Cabinet and the Welsh Government. It is unlikely that the Welsh Government would agree to fund a replacement building for Treowen C.P. School as well as the replacement building planned for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, particularly given that the current projected pupil numbers suggest a decrease in pupil numbers in Newtown.
4.7.2.2	Don't build a new school and spend the money on Treowen School and keep it open.	As above.
4.7.2.3	Keep Treowen School open and use the money to help improve Treowen School.	As above.
4.7.2.4	Leave Treowen alone and invest the money in learning resources and more teachers.	As above.
4.7.2.5	You should deliver on the original project for a new building for Calon y Dderwen as it currently is and then look at the needs for Treowen School and give them a building and school that they deserve in their own community.	As above.
4.7.2.6	Keep Treowen as a standalone school. Put some money into it to bring it up to standards of which the school should be and go back to building the new CYD school for fewer children.	As above.
4.7.2.7	Invest in the current site instead of wasting more money on an overcrowded site.	As above.
4.7.2.8	I feel instead of investing in a new building in an already overcrowded school area, some investment in the current Treowen site could secure the future generations learning.	As above.
4.7.2.9	The proposal should be scrapped and money saved by not building a larger Calon Y Dderwen School, use the money	As above.

	to upgrade Treowen and other school buildings in the area.	
4.7.2.10	Using the funding available to improve facilities on both sites would give the wider community better choices in the long term.	As above.
4.7.2.11	If phase 2 as proposed is halted, money saved is diverted to bringing the Treowen site up to modern standards.	As above.
4.7.2.12	You spend the money on the improvements to both schools and keep them separate.	As above.
4.7.2.13	Spend the money fixing up existing schools I can imagine this would work out a lot more cost effective.	As above.
4.7.2.14	If phase 2 as proposed is stopped, the money saved can be used to bring the Treowen site up to modern standards.	As above.
4.7.2.15	The saving made from merging the two schools but keeping the two separate sites could be £3 million pounds, which could be used to bring the Treowen site up to date, including DDA compliance, meeting Net Zero targets and enhanced school facilities. There would also be potential in the school building for developing shared facilities and reinforcing links with the surrounding community. In meetings, the Treowen Action group did not recognise the implied difficulty of bringing the site up to date, the condition of the Treowen School site is rated as B/B for condition and sustainability, on a par with Penygloddfa school that is not threatened with closure. The consultation document refers to the need to make the Treowen site DDA compliant: this will require minimal works and financial investment as the school is entirely on one level and already has a disabled toilet. The outside play areas are also level, apart from one step which could easily be ramped.	As above.

4.7.3 Retain two sites

4.7.3.1	Treowen shouldn't be closed but could form part of a multi-site school.	Retaining the current Treowen building as part of a multi-site school would not reduce surplus places in Newtown, nor would it address issues with building condition at Treowen C.P. School. There would still be a cost to the Council of continuing to maintain the Treowen school building.
4.7.3.2	If we were to close Treowen School and rename it Ysgol Calon y Dderwen but leave it on the current site, there should be no problem. The Treowen community will still have their school, just under a different name. The issue would be with Phase 2.	As above.
4.7.3.3	I think you should consider merging the schools and keep both schools open.	As above.
4.7.3.4	Treowen School needs to stay open. Even if it means it comes under Calon y Dderwen, and then perhaps some kind of system where the Treowen School building is used for certain classes.	As above.
4.7.3.5	If having a single school split over two sites can be demonstrated to make a significant saving and/or drastically improved outcomes for pupils then this should be the driver for a school merger, not just a step towards the relocation of the site.	As above.
4.7.3.6	Keeping phase 1 but not enacting phase 2 would address concerns about staff and pupils managing further change, the new way of working will already be established and there will be no need for further disruption.	As above.
4.7.3.7	Issues such as the difficulty of retaining a permanent headship at Treowen would be resolved by having a combined SLT and Treowen would in effect operate as a campus or satellite of the larger Calon y Dderwen primary	As above.

	school whilst retaining its community identity, this will have a positive impact on the wellbeing and morale of staff, pupils and the wider community. New opportunities for sharing skills and expertise among a wider staff team will be of benefit to both Treowen and to Calon y Dderwen.	
4.7.3.8	If Treowen School remained a permanent satellite site then a new build could go ahead for CYD site at the lower number and the money saved from building a bigger school, which I believe would be in the region of £3million, could go towards the Treowen school building, which isn't in the worst state of repair and is already functioning well for anyone with disabilities.	As above.
4.7.3.9	The Senior Leadership and Governance teams continue to manage both facilities, these advantages can be retained while eliminating the damage that the original proposal will do to the community of Treowen.	As above.
4.7.3.10	The advantages referred to in the consultation document are mainly based around the benefits of having a new school building and a better supported staff team. If phase 2 as proposed is halted, the Senior Leadership and Governance teams continue to manage both facilities, these advantages can be retained while eliminating the damage that the original proposal will do to the community of Treowen.	As above.
4.7.3.11	The option that would be best for Treowen CP would be to complete phase 1 of the proposal but to not deliver phase 2. This would mean merging Treowen C.P. school with Calon y Dderwen as one school, the site at Treowen would operate as a campus of the larger Calon y Dderwen school. Treowen Campws would benefit from the SLT leadership of Calon y Dderwen as well as full access to	As above.

	the curriculum, shared resources such as topic boxes, IT and staff team expertise in all areas including SEN/ALN.	
4.7.3.12	By merging the two schools but keeping the two separate sites the size of the new Calon y Dderwen school could go from 360 places to its originally planned 270 places, potentially reducing the build cost from £16 million pounds to £13 million.	As above.
4.7.3.13	Not opposed to a long term model of school mergers but with the provision of retention of multiple sites to keep advantages of smaller local sites for those who flourish best in small local settings whilst still providing opportunities for financial savings from merged teaching and support teams.	As above.
4.7.3.14	Retaining a school on the Treowen site has the advantage of retaining a geographical balance across the community.	As above.
4.7.3.15	A distinction should be made between schools and sites, not opposed to school mergers but strongly opposed to loss of sites.	As above.
4.7.3.16	Leave Treowen School open and try and get one head teacher to run both schools.	Retaining the current Treowen building as part of a shared leadership arrangement would not reduce surplus places in Newtown, nor would it address issues with building condition at Treowen C.P. School. There would still be a cost to the Council of continuing to maintain the Treowen school building.
4.7.3.17	Have one headteacher over the two schools but keep each school with their own name and identity. Have SLT in each school.	As above.
4.7.3.18	Keeping Phase 1 but not enacting Phase 2 would address concerns about staff and pupils managing further change - the new way of working will already be established with a permanent headship across both schools and having a combined SLT. Treowen would in effect operate as a	As above.

	satellite of the larger Calon y Dderwen primary school whilst retaining its community.	
4.7.3.19	Treowen School should be able to stay at their site under the one leadership with Calon Y Dderwen but keep their name and uniform (just like what happens with Newtown High School and John Beddoes) then I could see this as an option.	As above.
4.7.3.20	Have one headteacher to run both schools but keep Treowen School called the same name and in the same location.	Retaining Treowen School as part of a shared leadership arrangement would not reduce surplus places in Newtown, nor would it address issues with building condition at Treowen C.P. School. There would still be a cost to the Council of continuing to maintain the Treowen School building.

4.7.6 Review other schools

4.7.6.1	Why was Maesyrrhandir taken out of the proposal and not Treowen?	<p>The initial engagement exercise carried out in the summer of 2023 considered merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools. However, concerns were raised about bringing all three schools together, and in particular, that this would mean that there would be a lack of surplus places across Newtown to accommodate any increase in demand in the future.</p> <p>An options appraisal exercise was carried out, which considered options to incorporate either Treowen or Maesyrrhandir Schools in the new building planned for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The options considered are outlined in the consultation document.</p> <p>The preferred option identified was a new build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, and the</p>
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		<p>eventual closure of Treowen C.P. School, with pupils to then attend the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This was primarily because Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir have a very different pupil profile which could made the transition into a new school more challenging – the percentage of pupils with additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher in Maesyrrhandir.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the current proposals in respect of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School would not address issues with the condition of the Maesyrrhandir building.</p>
4.7.6.2	Maesyrrhandir School has been taken out of the running and it has more repairs needed than to build a new school and has less pupils and surplus spaces and the parents didn't have concerns about their school merging.	As above.
4.7.6.3	The council should be considering the option of merging Maesyrrhandir rather than Treowen. During the previous consultation process, we were advised that estimated repairs to Maesyrrhandir school ran into millions, while in comparison Treowen was only a fraction of that at £100,000. What possible justification can the council have for not minimising the bigger expense? Also Maesyrrhandir does not have the same sense of community as Treowen, something that would be stripped away with little possibility to repair.	As above.
4.7.6.4	Look again at Maesyrrhandir. Their numbers are falling below Treowen's and their excess spaces far higher. It is not logical.	As above.
4.7.6.5	Regarding the building work on each of the documents in that report it clearly states that Maesyrrhandir and Ysgol	As above.

	Calon y Dderwen are in much worst conditions than Treowen so how does closing Treowen but keeping Maesyrrhandir open save the council money?	
4.7.6.6	There seems no overriding strong case to exclude Maesyrrhandir CP school from the proposal over Treowen CP school, and doing do risks leaving it exposed to decline or downgrade in an area of social deprivation.	As above.
4.7.6.7	If you need to change a school in Newtown you need to look at the location of Penygloddfa, the access is not practical and unsafe and a disturbance to the residents.	Whilst acknowledging the issues around the location of Penygloddfa C.P. School, this school is significantly larger than Treowen C.P. School. The Council currently has no plans to review Penygloddfa C.P. School.
4.7.6.8	Leave as they are and consider merging Treowen and Maesyrrhandir.	Pupil numbers at both Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School have decreased significantly over recent years and are projected to decrease further. Merging Treowen and Maesyrrhandir would result in a school of under 200 pupils, which is still relatively small in the context of a school of the size of Newtown.
4.7.6.9	There is a lack of strategy to the current proposals, it would make more sense to merge Maesyrrhandir and Treowen.	As above.
4.7.6.10	Alternative model of one school, comprising Treowen, Ysgol Calon Y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir, able to serve all pupils equally but operating over three existing sites which will provide better choice and support for those pupils who flourish best in small settings.	This option would not address any of the challenges identified in the Consultation Document.
4.7.6.11	If anything maybe having an Executive Head over all 3 schools (Calon y Dderwen, Treowen and Maesyrrhandir) could be feasible, with Assistant Heads on each site.	As above.

4.7.7 Provide additional transport to support implementation

4.7.7.1	Provide transport to and from the school for disabled parents and children.	<p>The Council notes these comments relating to the request for support with transport to better facilitate the implementation of Phase 2.</p> <p>The effect of the proposals on the travel time and route to the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site was acknowledged in the Consultation Document and also in the impact assessments which were carried out. These will be updated to reflect the feedback received during the consultation period, and updated versions will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposals.</p>
4.7.7.2	Many of the Treowen children make their own way to school and not all parents have transport. There would need to be a plan to support pupils to transport safely.	As above.
4.7.7.3	Those low income families may struggle to pay for taxis if they do not drive and for example can't walk their children far to school due to health conditions.	As above.
4.7.7.4	Moving school provision further away without access to private transport will not be conducive to the needs of disabled pupils or parents with disabilities.	As above.
4.7.7.5	The proposals appear to lack justification with reference to the county council's active travel considerations or plans.	As above.

4.7.8 Build a new school at a different location in Newtown

4.7.8.1	Build a single new school that serves the estates of Treowen, Maesyrrhandir, Trehafren and Vaynor on the current fields of the High School. This would have a number of benefits:	<p>The Council welcomes this alternative option and agrees that it would be a central location for the four estates and very accessible for Maesyrrhandir, closely located to the Leisure Centre and Newtown High School. There would be economies of scale from bringing the three schools on one campus, and it would release land in Park Street</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil journey wise, it would be the most central and accessible location being almost on the join between all four key estates - It would be in the most accessible possible location for Maesyrrhandir - It would be within walking distance to the leisure centre and its sports facilities - It would site three schools on one campus, allowing for some economies of scale - It would release land in Park Street to allow the full potential of the health hub to be realised over time - It would avoid unresolved traffic issues in the park street / town centre area - Chance for one single investment to solve all primary school age issues in one go 	<p>which could benefit the North Powys Wellbeing Programme. It would also provide an opportunity for a single investment to solve issues at all 3 schools.</p> <p>The minimum recommended site area for a 450 place primary school, according to Building Bulletin 99, is 19,400 m² and a maximum area of 20,500 m². This does not include early years provision or a specialist ALN Unit as located in the current Ysgol Maesyrrhandir. Newtown High School has a whole site area of 71,702 m².</p> <p>Whilst there are merits to this alternative option, there are a number of disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More traffic and congestion along Plantation Lane - Loss of playing fields for Newtown High School - Loss of approximately 20,000 m² of the overall site for the High School - Further away for pupils from Treowen - Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would not be in a central location in town - Potential impact on any future investment at Newtown High School. <p>Furthermore, if there is going to be future investment in a potential new build at Newtown High School along with a new build primary on the same site, then the site isn't big enough at approximately 10,000m² below the minimum area recommended.</p>
4.7.8.2	Have you considered that the Calon y Dderwen site just becomes a Health Hub, and that a new school is built on the Treowen site?	The advantages of the Ysgol y Calon Dderwen site over the Treowen site is that the area is on flat land, whilst Treowen is on a sloping site. In addition, the Treowen site

		is 14,490 m2, which is too small against the current building bulletin recommendations for a 360-place school, which is 15,160 m2.
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4.7.9 Other suggestions

4.7.9.1	The Treowen staff and children should move down to Calon y Dderwen straight away. There is room there, and it would make more sense than waiting. Plus it would be easier for leadership to manage two sites instead of three.	This was considered as an implementation option as part of the options appraisal carried out, however this was discounted because there aren't sufficient surplus places in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate all Treowen pupils, and also it would mean that there would be a larger number of pupils on site during the construction period, and it would impact on transition arrangements for Treowen pupils.
4.7.9.2	Consider other cost saving measures.	The Council regularly reviews its spending to identify cost saving measures across all service areas.
4.7.9.3	If the council is struggling to fund both schools, the council could consider bringing partnerships with private companies.	The Council is not currently considering bringing partnerships with private companies to increase funding to its schools.
4.7.9.4	I would maybe take a look at staffing levels to save money at Treowen School. Are the 'extra' staff really needed? Just going back to my childhood when I attended there myself and there was 3 support staff in the whole school.	Schools determine their staffing levels within the budget allocated to them.
4.7.9.5	Money savings could be made by restructuring Treowen staff, as a Deputy really isn't necessary.	As above.
4.7.9.6	Fund them properly.	All schools are funded in accordance with the Council's Funding Formula for schools.
4.7.9.7	I've never understood why a Welsh medium primary school was built on the grounds of an English high school medium school. Maybe the council should have built a new build there for Treowen?? It would have made a lot more sense!	Comment noted.

4.7.9.8	Calon y Dderwen to stay smaller, as we all know many children need smaller class sizes and for teachers to understand each child individual needs to learn, grow and develop.	All schools, regardless of size, are able to provide for the needs of all pupils, and are required to support, challenge and nurture all pupils to achieve their full potential. Smaller schools do not necessarily mean that pupils receive a more individual education as there is often a number of year
4.7.9.9	The proposal appear to lack justification with reference to a holistic plan for education provision in the community as a whole.	<p>The Transforming Education Strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years.</p> <p>The Vision Statement is as follows:</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
4.7.9.10	The Treowen Headteacher post should be advertised.	Comment noted.
4.7.9.11	Could a town bus route be introduced to include a loop around Treowen and the town centre?	Consideration would be given to this when developing plans for the new building.

Appendix C – Minutes of meetings with Staff and Governors

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Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

5th February 2024

Present:

Staff:

Rebecca Smith – Teaching Assistant
Sam Hyde – Teaching Assistant
Hannah Gittoes – Teacher
Emma Jones-Clements – Teaching Assistant
Laura Jones – Teaching Assistant
Martin Copy – Teaching Assistant
Charlotte Foulkes – Teacher
Lynne Roberts-Wakins – Deputy Head Teacher
Margaret Allen – Teacher
Lauri Griffiths – Teacher
Caroline Orden – L.S.A.
Katie Harris – Teacher
Iris S-J – Teacher
Julie Warmington – Teacher
Kate Orehawa – Administrator
Carl Hyde – Headteacher
Lisa Bridges – Teacher
Jess Williams – Teaching Assistant
Caroline Hutek – Teaching Assistant
Sarah Smout – Teacher

Officers:

Marianne Evans – Service Manager for Schools Transformation
Helen Hinton – HR Business Partner (Schools)
Sarah Astley – Transforming Education Strategic Programme Manager
Eurig Towns – Service Manager for School Improvement
Amy Radford – Transforming Education Programme Officer

Sarah Astley welcomed all to the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

SA explained that there would be a brief presentation with an opportunity for discussion, comments, and questions to the officers afterwards. It was explained that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes, but the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been completed.

SA gave a short PowerPoint presentation which outlined the background to the current proposal, and explained that in October 2023, Powys County Council's

Cabinet gave approval to proceed with consultation on proposals affecting Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen School.

The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

The consultation period started on the 15th January 2024 and runs for 6 weeks, ending on the 26th February 2024.

After the consultation period ends, a consultation report will be prepared which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet. If they decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice would be published, and there would be 28 days for people to submit any objections they have. An Objection Report would then be prepared, and Cabinet would consider this report and make a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal.

The indicative timeline included in the document was shared, however it was explained that this can change due to circumstances or the number of responses. The intention was that the Consultation Report would be considered in April, however there is a complication with this due to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections taking place in May, which means there will be no Cabinet meeting in April, so the Consultation Report will either be considered in March or May.

Member of staff: How does it stand with jobs for us?

Marianne Evans: In the first phase there would be no impact on you, the impact would be on Treowen staff. We wouldn't expect to see any massive changes to the Treowen staff either as the school would operate over two sites during that period.

When we get to the position where there's a new build, we would then have to look at the staffing structure. But we can't say now what that structure will be or what it would mean for you. That will be taken through the HR Management of Change process. But that would be at the time when the new build is ready.

Sarah Astley: In terms of the impact on you, we are very aware that we've recently had a process to merge Ladywell Green and Hafren to establish Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which has meant that you have already been through a merger process recently. We heard very strongly from you in the engagement held before the summer that you were concerned about being part of another merger process, and we have taken that into account in terms of the current proposal. The option could

have been to close both schools and open a new school, which would have had more of an impact on you during the first phase.

Marianne Evans: We don't want to put you through that again having only recently come out the other end of a previous merger. I'm sure there will be different views from Treowen about that though – the impact on them and whether they are being treated fairly. However, in the situation we are in, with you only recently having opened, I don't think it would be right to do that again.

Member of staff: I think what you're saying though is that when the new build is created and we're ready to move in, there will be redundancies then. Then we'll all be on the same level playing field, so we will go through it again, I think.

Marianne Evans: When the new build is there and you know the number of classrooms and the pupil numbers and what the configuration is, yes, the school would have to look at staffing again.

Helen Hinton: The governing body would have to look at the staffing structure and they would have to look at how many classes they need. Then if changes in staffing were needed, they would have to consult with you again, like it was for you before, with all the staff of Calon y Dderwen.

Member of staff: So really, we're not secure at all then, are we really? We're secure for a limited amount of time during Phase 1.

Marianne Evans: With every school proposal we've done, where there are schools on separate sites until there is a new build, this has always been the case. It was a similar situation in Welshpool. When the new building was due to open and they knew how pupil numbers looked, the governors and the Head had to look again at what was required.

Member of staff: What about the wellbeing of the staff during those two redundancy periods? How did that look?

Marianne Evans: In the first phase when the schools merged, we were really involved and worked closely with the schools. HR were in full support throughout the whole process. But it was challenging, taking four schools into two was pretty challenging at that time. However, what's important is that there is support for staff as you go through the process.

Helen Hinton: It's also worth noting that what the schools will need to do is look at potentially planning for that time and looking not to go through any permanent recruitment going forward. So as people move on, you could look at offering fixed term contracts, so that the people who are employed now have a better chance of securing jobs as we go through the process.

Marianne Evans: It's an ongoing, evolving thing. You do that every year; you look at your pupil numbers and you do that planning. It's a natural part of planning for the future. What's different here is that it's linked to moving to a new build.

Member of staff: I don't believe that being made redundant should be a natural path for any teacher, or anyone working in a school, as part of their career.

Marianne Evans: I don't think we're proposing a natural path to redundancy here. What we are looking at is to ensure that as many Newtown children as possible have the opportunity to be in a brand-new facility under the banner of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

[Nancy Owen joined the meeting.]

Marianne Evans: That's the number one rationale or reason for taking this proposal forward. And what we are saying is, during this first phase, there won't be any impact on current staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. But even if we weren't proposing that Treowen were going to come in, even if it was just Calon y Dderwen moving into a new building, you would still have to look at pupil numbers and plan for the staffing requirements at that point.

Member of staff: What's the reason for Treowen school staying there during Phase 1? Surely for our staff, if you moved those pupils here to start with, that would mean we wouldn't have to go through that process because they would already be here not on two sites, so there would be no doubling up on staff.

Marianne Evans: I think the reason is, do we have enough space in Calon y Dderwen to take pupils from day one from Treowen and I don't think we have. That's the reason for that. But also having the Treowen site open as part of Calon y Dderwen does provide that transition into a new model, particularly as we already know that there are concerns from the Treowen community, we've heard them already. So this would help with the transition process. But ultimately, have we got enough space on this site to bring Treowen children in from day one, and I think the answer is no.

Member of staff: How many children are there in Treowen?

Marianne Evans: 110.

Sarah Astley: It was also around the use of the site. At some point the site will be a construction site, so there was concern about maximising the number of pupils on the site whilst that construction is period is happening, which can be difficult to manage.

Member of staff: For the Heads, Deputies, SLT, are you saying that they would carry on as they are? Are you saying that there would be a Head on both sites? A Deputy on both sites? Is that what you're proposing if there's no change?

Marianne Evans: That would be up to the governing body of Calon y Dderwen in terms of how it manages leadership across both sites. That would be done in discussion with the governors and the Heads.

Member of staff: So potentially people's jobs could change there?

Marianne Evans: Potentially, that's something that would need to be worked through.

Member of staff: Can I just ask, you just said 110 pupils. I don't know if I've got it wrong but I thought I heard 360 places when looking at numbers for the new school?

Member of staff: At the moment we're 251, so if they're 110, and the number is going to be 360, we're already over capacity.

Marianne Evans: But if you look at the projections for both schools, numbers are dropping. They're dropping very rapidly in Treowen and in are projected to go from 100 to 60 in 2 years. If you look at the whole of Newtown, with the number of schools in the town and what's happened over the last 5 years in terms of pupil numbers, particularly at Maesyrrhandir and Treowen where they've basically halved and are projected to drop even lower, in a few years' time Maesyrrhandir and Treowen could be 3 teacher schools because they are dropping below the 90 pupil mark. Taking that into account and looking at the projections, with yourselves and Treowen, you are still below the 350 mark.

Member of staff: How much below? Do you know?

Marianne Evans: Roughly about 30?

Sarah Astley: Looking at the projections that are in the consultation documents. These are based on PLASC and live birth information, and they are projections so there is always a bit of a caveat around them. Based on this data, in January 2028 we are looking at 229 at Calon y Dderwen, and 78 at Treowen, which takes us to around 310 pupils altogether.

Member of staff: It's hard because we know the people at Treowen, they're not just faceless people, and the children, they are friends. On one level, if this wasn't happening, pupil numbers there were going anyway, so they'd have redundancies there, but we wouldn't. So, it does seem a little unfair on us to be lumped in with those redundancies. But on the other hand, because they're our friends there's a human side to it. Not just thinking about your own self but thinking of them. It's fairer

for them. But having just been through it, being put in a situation that nobody's asked to be in, it's quite hard. That's what I'm picking up from the staff anyway.

The money for the new build, am I correct that we have funding for a build for a 270 place school from the Welsh Government? However we don't have funding for a build for 360 pupils? If that isn't approved, where are we then?

Marianne Evans: You're right. We submitted our first business case for this project to Welsh Government in 2020, so quite a long time ago now. However, it is on the Council's programme, and is on the Welsh Government's capital programme. We've already had discussions with Welsh Government to explain what's going on here, and the reasons why we are consulting on this possible change. What we'll need to do, because the cost will be higher than the previous costs put in, we would need to submit another business case with the new costs in. It's in the Council's programme and on the Welsh Government's programme, but with all new builds, there's never any guarantee of the funding until you're ready to put the spades in the ground, that's when you get the final approval from Welsh Government. Anything up to that is an approval in principle, however we are confident that funding will be available, particularly because the development is part of the development of a health hub as part of the North Powys Wellbeing Programme, and Welsh Government is supportive of that.

Sarah Astley: Also we would have needed to submit further business cases anyway. The Business Case that was prepared in 2020 is the first of a series of three. There have been situations before where things have changed as the business case process has moved forward. But there would have needed to be further business cases anyway before that money was absolutely certain. Do you want to mention the rolling programme as well?

Marianne Evans: Yes. The Welsh Government are expecting all County Councils to put in new capital programmes for school builds. They've changed how they are doing it now, so instead of going with what was previously five-year bands, they're going on what they call a nine-year rolling programme. It's far more flexible and you can plan for a longer term, which is always helpful anyway. Councils are expected to submit their new programmes by the end of March. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is in that programme, so we'll be taking that through our Cabinet and submitting to Welsh Government over the next few weeks. You do have a lovely space here, but there is no denying that the buildings need some investment, and there are issues with older buildings, as we know, across the county.

Member of staff: What happens if there are more children in the future? I know nobody can look into the future, but it's not beyond the realms of possibility that another 30 children could arrive in a couple of years. What happens then? We can't make it any bigger then, can we?

Marianne Evans: That's a question for the architect, I think. For every school build, we do request that they future proof it in some way so that something could be done if pupil numbers grow. They're always designed with that in mind. The other thing we have to look at in Newtown is the number of surplus places already in the town. And again, if the pupil numbers dropped then if things stay the same, surplus places are going to increase. But the last thing we want is to not have any available places in Newtown, so we would need a buffer. So, by keeping Maesyrrhandir, there's surplus places, and there are also surplus places in St Mary's and some in Penygloddfa and Dafydd Llwyd.

When you're looking at a town with so many schools, it's a different consideration to some of the more rural areas we look at as there are already a number of schools within a small area.

Member of staff: It's a possibility that parents at Treowen could decide to move their children to other schools now, and instead of coming all the way over here, they might go to Maesyrrhandir, so we just don't know what could end up happening.

Member of staff: What would happen, for instance, in September 2025, if Treowen numbers were really low and our numbers really high, would staff move between?

Marianne Evans: Potentially.

Member of staff: Because we'd all be Calon y Dderwen staff by then.

Marianne Evans: You'd remain Calon y Dderwen staff. The Treowen staff would have new contracts and become Calon y Dderwen staff.

Member of staff: Would they be permanent contracts then?

Helen Hinton: If they're permanent now then yes, they'll be ringfenced to permanent jobs.

Marianne Evans: You'll be one staffing body by then. You have to think, it's a 360 pupil school, it's larger than you are now, which is currently 251, so obviously the staffing structure is dictated by the pupil numbers and how the classes are configured. It's something to be aware of, but it may have happened naturally anyway.

Member of staff: It will happen naturally to Treowen if their numbers drop but if the pupils choose not to come here, then we're going to be made redundant as one whole staff. So, if pupils from Treowen go to Maesyrrhandir, we'll have less pupils so the staff structure will need to change, but it will because we've got two sets of staff team but not enough pupils.

Marianne Evans: You'd be one body of staff if this proposal went ahead.

Member of staff: But if it doesn't go ahead then all our jobs are safe.

Eurig Towns: Not necessarily because pupil numbers generally are dropping, as we've seen with the numbers that came through here now, your numbers as a school are dropping. So that doesn't mean you're safe.

Member of staff: But that is a natural thing, merging isn't natural. You can't guarantee that those 360 children will actually come to this school.

Eurig Towns: We can't guarantee. Numbers go down or they go up. All we can use are the figures that we have.

Sarah Astley: The flip side of course is that more pupils might want to come here so yes, some may choose to go somewhere else, but others that are somewhere else, may choose to come to Calon y Dderwen as well. We don't know, do we?

Member of staff: But one thing that is guaranteed is that if this goes through, we've got to merge two staff groups and one group, as we all know, are not over the moon at the prospect. So, will we get support? I'm on the senior management team, I'm not doubting our own abilities, but I think that's going to be potentially quite difficult. Are we going to be supported in any way to do that? It needs to be successful from the beginning and I think, we've never done that before. Is there any support from the county or from other schools who have done that before that could help us out?

Marianne Evans: The School Improvement Team will always be supportive, as will HR, as will Finance. There's learning to be gathered from some of the other mergers that have happened, so there are teachers who have gone through this.

Member of staff: Have they merged or have they expanded?

Marianne Evans: We had an expansion in Newtown / Presteigne. That's going back a few years now. But I think what we're hearing from you is that there is going to be quite a difficult transition period.

Member of staff: We don't want that to be a personal thing.

Marianne Evans: If this goes ahead then you're going to potentially have one body of staff thinking they're the underdog. And you're in an uncomfortable position, because you don't want to be seen to be taking over. So that's something we're going to work to.

Sarah Astley: Similar themes came up this afternoon when we were talking with the pupils, they were concerned about one school being seen as taking over the other, and they had some suggestions about how we could work through that, what could be done to ease that and support that transition.

Marianne Evans: If this goes forward then the leadership of this school, working closely with the local authority, working closely with the governors, this is something that needs to be carefully planned out and managed because it is difficult. We're not trying to say this is easy. It's going to be challenging for sure.

Member of staff: On the figures, the projections, it's difficult when you're talking 3 or 4 years in the future. Children haven't been born yet, but the figures in there from January 24 are 236. We've just had it confirmed that our intake in September '24 is 37. We've got 36 children Year 6 now. So, we are actually going to be 252 in September rather than 236.

Marianne Evans: You're right, we've published the current projections, but when you're in a town like this where pupils move around, that forecasting is slightly more challenging. And that's why it's good to work with you to understand what's happening next year so we can map out from there.

Member of staff: That will have consequences for future years.

Sarah Astley: And the question then is what's happening elsewhere, in the other schools. Because often if there's an increase in one school, in a situation like Newtown where we've got a lot of schools in quite a small area, if there's an increase in one school the likelihood is there's a decrease somewhere else. So, what does that look like across the whole town?

Member of staff: How realistic is it that we will move to a new build in 2026/27? That does seem quite quick considering how long it's taken so far.

Marianne Evans: I'm going to be honest. I think there is a risk that it will be pushed further.

Member of staff: Would it be longer than a year or two?

Marianne Evans: Potentially. When all this raised its head last summer we were frustrated because we were going really well along the build. And what's challenging is how much work can we do on the design whilst we're in this period? There is work currently happening, reviewing the designs based on an increased number of pupils, but no decisions have yet been made to move forward with this change, so we can't pre-empt any decisions. But it is a risk.

Member of staff: When will this process end?

Sarah Astley: If Cabinet decide to move forward with the process, we're hoping to finish the process before the end of the school year. However, it obviously depends on the level of responses and how long it takes to work through everything. So if it's

not possible to have a final decision in July, then we would be looking at the first Cabinet meeting back in September.

Member of staff: What happens with the upkeep of the buildings we're currently in? When we merged as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen we thought we'd be in pretty quickly, however the field's exactly the same as it was then. So, we're having to maintain the upkeep of at least those that are deemed core. And then there's Treowen as well. So, if we were to become one school, how do you maintain the upkeep of the buildings while all these decisions are being made and possibly pushed on?

Marianne Evans: Well, the Council don't have a choice. They have to make sure that buildings are safe and well maintained, so there would be an additional cost to the authority of supporting these schools whilst we're in this interim period. But I don't think there's any getting away from that because we can't have schools falling down and not able to open because of issue related to the condition of the buildings.

Member of staff: That currently comes out of our school budget.

Marianne Evans: We'd have to provide over and above funding if that was the case.

Member of staff: Why don't we get it now then?

Marianne Evans: The Major Improvements Programme has supported you over this last year, hasn't it?

Headteacher: Once the budget is run on March 20th, I think, we'll then see what the new formula means for us. And then from that we will look to see what we can afford ourselves. Already we put £14,000 a year into the building and we'll see if that's enough or whether or not we need more. And then we'd get in touch with Marianne, David Thompson would then probably be sent in and then we'll see where we go from there. We generally have had, a significant amount of support from the transformation process when we've asked for it.

Sarah Astley: We have had some conversations recently about some of the needs around the building and how we can support you with that.

Marianne Evans: I think the Council has a duty because it's the Council putting the proposal forward. Therefore, if the proposal does go forward and we delay the new build because of this then obviously there's a duty to support the school in terms of its condition.

Member of staff: You mentioned before about future-proofing, and looking at the plans to ensure they could be extended, but what about the grounds? We're already concerned about the grounds, the hall is barely going to be big enough for the number of pupils we will have. How do you future-proof that? You can't just stretch the hall and add on more land.

Marianne Evans: That's a question for the architects. But you're right, we're constrained by the site and we're constrained by the fact that the health hub is coming in. But, as I said, it's an architectural question and I'm sure the architect would be able to give an answer. The key thing here for us is, as every local authority, we have to design our schools within certain guidance. And if we're not within that guidance we get questioned by Welsh Government. We've had one case recently with another school where we'd gone over the guidance or the benchmarks and this was questioned by Welsh Government. So, at that design stage we have to be very mindful that we're within the boundaries of the Welsh Government guidance.

Member of staff: The guidance that's been put in place, the children we get now, there's a lot of need, and outdoor learning is huge. It's a concern that the outdoor space is being taken away.

Marianne Evans: The guidance is interesting because we are challenged, and we challenge as well. The building bulletin guidance is fairly old by now. Welsh Government recognise that, and they are developing new standards for schools and new guidance, and they're looking at things like ALN, Curriculum for Wales, Community Focussed Schools, that's another big driver. So hopefully by March or April we'll see this new guidance from Welsh Government and that will help us.

Member of staff: So we could end up with more space then?

Marianne Evans: It depends what that is what the guidance is. But actually we have to be really careful because Welsh Government scrutinises these business cases. It's not an open door and you can just put it in your business case and the funding comes.

Member of staff: I am concerned that the classrooms we are going to get are going to be based on the old building bulletin, and that the changeover would happen whilst the building work was going on. I think the classrooms are too small for the foundation phase of the new curriculum and it's not fair because there may be a new building bulletin which changes things. So what I hope is that it does get delayed because then we might have more space.

Marianne Evans: Our understanding with regard to the new guidance is that we'll know something within the next couple of months.

Member of staff: I recognise the building is not in a great shape and it needs to be replaced. But what's actually being proposed is to halve our site, add a huge amount more extra children, and take away a significant amount of grass and space. So, you then start to question, yes, we need a new build but is this going to be any further forward in terms of worth to the new curriculum, or actually is it a step back? And I think that is the concern, it seems that everything is being taken away. I appreciate the building can't carry on as it is, but then you're throwing more children in. So it's a

very difficult thing to look ahead and future-proof and say, yeah, we can see how that's going to work out. If we're going from classrooms that are maybe a bit cold, a bit draughty but are massive into nice, warm but too small ones, that's not necessarily a great swap. Financially it is for the people who are paying for it, but we need space. The children need space.

Marianne Evans: We do have discussions about this, very strong discussions sometimes. However, as we manage the funding process, making sure that we get the right thing for what we want, sometimes there is a compromise needed, or maybe there are different viewpoints. We're having those discussions with the design team, but what we can't do is build something that's too big. Welsh Government will just say 'no'.

Member of staff: Just sufficient though would be a good start. A hall you could get everyone in, and parents can come in and the whole school could get in it.

Member of staff: It just seems ridiculous that you would want to build a school that's too small. It feels like Welsh Government needs to make it a priority to understand what the new curriculum proposes, because as a school we deliver an excellent provision here as it stands now. With the new building we won't be able to deliver excellent provision because every foundation phase class needs a literary area, a maths area, a health and wellbeing area.

We need all the areas in every single class and the foundation phase now. We can't do that with box-shaped classes, we can't deliver it. And then Estyn will come and say why aren't you delivering this provision? But we physically can't in the classrooms being proposed.

I think Welsh Government has to look at it really seriously because we're passionate about our school and our children, really passionate, and we really want to deliver the best, but we can't. We actually can't do it in the building currently being proposed. It can't happen.

Member of staff: Do you evaluate? You've built the buildings in Welshpool. Do they get an opportunity to actually say, after it being there for so many years, this is what works well and this is what doesn't. Does that happen?

Sarah Astley: We are actually doing a piece of work at the moment which Jim is leading on, which is doing exactly that. It's reviewing some of the more recent builds, and he has been out to speak with the heads of those schools to gather feedback on what's worked well, what hasn't worked well. Most of the time the buildings are an evolution of the previous ones and the team learn and develop and change and amend. So, the purpose of this is to look back. He's been visiting some of the heads of the Gwernyfed schools and he's been to the schools in Welshpool to speak to the heads there as well.

Marianne Evans: What we're keen on doing as well, Welsh Government have been developing their standard, and Jim has been part of the group developing that. But we're also developing a Powys standard as well so that we know the basics our schools need.

Member of staff: In all seriousness, it might be really good for him to see one in use, to see if that changes his mind on anything. There are 37 Year 6 children in this classroom.

Sarah Astley: It's not just about him. There are many different elements to pull together. Input from the School Improvement Team, ALN Team etc.

Member of staff: On the ALN point. We already have a lot of outside agencies coming in and part of my Monday involves trying to find places for everybody to go. With an increase of potentially 110 pupils coming in, there would be a need for that provision for the additional pupils too. We are really struggling for space to put people, to the point that it's embarrassing. We've had some pupils outside in huts in the summer because there is literally nowhere for them to work. I've had people saying that the areas aren't private enough and that they can't work properly with children. It's really logistically hard to manage.

So initially when we were looking at the design there were enough rooms, potentially, but even then, it wasn't probably quite enough. We talked about streets and things like that, but there has to be spaces for these people to come in and work, otherwise it's a nightmare. People are fighting for rooms, people are trying to do interventions. It just disrupts the day. ALN is huge. We should be providing for these children, and a lot of time is wasted trying to sort out places for people to go.

Now, if the hub is going to become that, then fine, but if it's not then I don't know where people will manage to work. Physiotherapists need space. Outside is sometimes wet. Where is all that going to happen with an added 100 pupils?

Marianne Evans: That is the challenge, isn't it? But, as I said earlier, the Welsh Government's drive for community focussed schools is now a key part of the programme going forward. It wasn't quite as strong previously. So, they will be looking at how will this new school provide those spaces for multi-agency, how will it provide for the community? How will it provide for ALN. That's something they'll be focussing on much more strongly, I think. So again, a challenge. I'm not saying it's not going to be a challenge, looking at the space you have, more children and your requirements and the school's requirements and the needs of the community. But again, it's something we need to continue to work through.

Sarah Astley: There was a question earlier about responding after the meeting and yes, you can certainly respond after the meeting if there's anything else you want to tell us. The consultation period ends on the 26th February. All the information is on our website and there's a response form there too. We've brought some copies of

the documents to the school as well, they include all the information. If there's anything else you want to say then please do.

Marianne Evans: I think the important thing to say is everybody's views will be reflected in the consultation report. It's really important that Powys' Cabinet, the people making the decision, hear the views of and understand the Council's responses to those views. The issues on the ground need to come through the consultation and it's important that Cabinet and the politicians hear the points you are raising. I'm grateful to you for your candid views today because I think that's what we need to relay back to the politicians.

Member of staff: Would a general election have an impact on this?

Marianne Evans: Not in terms of the Council's Cabinet.

Member of staff: It won't change their views?

Marianne Evans: The make-up of the Cabinet is the make-up of the Cabinet. They were voted in the local authority election last year.

Sarah Astley: In 2022. So, they'll be there for another few years yet.

Member of staff: All of the points that have been raised now, are they going to be automatically part of the consultation?

Sarah Astley: The notes of this meeting will be reflected in the consultation report. But if you want to submit written responses too that reflect the same points, that's fine.

Member of staff: Thinking of our children here, the building was first talked about in 2020 and very selfishly, I think of my daughter who was born in 2020. In September she starts here and realistically, is she going to benefit from anything that we're talking about? Possibly not? By the time she leaves, realistically, is she? What she's going to experience is a whole lot of turbulence from all of this going on. Teacher wellbeing being affected because they're facing redundancy because they're working across two sites, because they're having to go to extra meetings that don't then leave any time for them to plan for her, mark for her, provide for her as well as all the building and everything else that goes on. Are we really thinking about the children in all of this? And the impact on the children we have now, not just those for the future?

Marianne Evans: I think you make a strong point which will be noted in the minutes.

Headteacher: I think it's an appropriate time to end. We have an incredible and exceptional group of professionals who I've had the pleasure of working with at Calon y Dderwen and I know you maintain your high standards regardless of everything and all the other complications going on. It's that togetherness we need

through this part of the journey and then beyond and I think we will come out stronger as we have done in the past.

There is a sense of déjà vu in some ways but let's keep on working together and also share your views on that consultation online. Thanks for the opportunity to engage and also for your openness as well. Hopefully, we'll give some more feedback to the documentation.

Meeting ended.

Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

5th February 2024

Present:

Governors:

Carl Hyde - Headteacher

Luke Orehawa – Chair of Governors

Maggie Preece – Governor

Dan Rowlands – Governor

Lynne Roberts-Watkins – Deputy Head Teacher / Teacher Governor

Andrew Davies – Governor

Officers:

Lynette Lovell – Director of Education

Marianne Evans – Service Manager for Schools Transformation

Sarah Astley – Transforming Education Strategic Programme Manager

Eurig Towns – Service Manager for Schools Transformation
Helen Hinton – HR Business Partner (Schools)
Nancy Owen – Finance Manager
Amy Radford – Transforming Education Programme Officer

It was explained that there would be a brief presentation with an opportunity for discussion, comments and questions to Officers afterwards. It was explained that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes but that the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been completed and agreed.

Sarah Astley gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the background to the current proposal and explained that in October 2023, Powys County Council's Cabinet gave approval to proceed with consultation on proposals affecting Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen School.

The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

The consultation period started on the 15th January 2024 and runs for 6 weeks, ending on the 26th February 2024.

After the consultation period ends, a consultation report will be prepared which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet. If they decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice would be published, and there would be 28 days for people to submit any objections they have. An Objection Report would then be prepared, and Cabinet would consider this report and make a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal.

The indicative timeline included in the document was shared, however it was explained that this can change due to circumstances or the number of responses. The intention was that the Consultation Report would be considered in April, however there is a complication with this due to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections taking place in May, which means there will be no Cabinet meeting in April, so the Consultation Report will either be considered in March or May.

Governor: The Council had an independent review board when it was put to Cabinet, that happened before Christmas.

Sarah Astley: Do you mean the Scrutiny Committee?

Governor: Yes, Scrutiny. They came up with some questions and proposals, are they reflected in the consultation?

Marianne Evans: In terms of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee, they scrutinise the proposals when they're at the start of their journey, basically to test if the case for change is strong enough or if there is anything wrong. This is slightly different to what they did in the past, where the Scrutiny Committee used to scrutinise the consultation report to ensure that we'd carried out the consultation correctly. This is a better way because they can get involved at an earlier stage and question the proposal. This proposal was considered by Scrutiny quite a long time ago, October time. We had a few queries from them which we would have responded to. I can't actually recall what the queries were at the time, but we have responded.

Governor: That Scrutiny was around how have we got to this proposal. Why have we got a Treowen and Calon y Dderwen merger? Why not Maesyrrhandir and Treowen?

Marianne Evans: The starting point for all of this was the question of can you increase the build? This process has been about the new build, and whether more children could be brought in so that more children can benefit. That was what we were being asked to look at. We came out and looked at Maesyrrhandir and Treowen and we did the engagement and heard what everyone had to say at that point.

When we did our optioning, it was felt that Calon y Dderwen and Treowen had more similar profiling in terms of your pupils than Maesyrrhandir and there are other issues, such as there's no permanent headteacher in Treowen currently. There is in Maesyrrhandir – she is on a secondment, but there is a substantive head there.

That is the reason why it was Treowen and not Maesyrrhandir.

Governor: A merger between Maesyrrhandir and Treowen would sort the Headteacher situation. Although you are saying there's a difference in pupil make-up, it's not that different. The issues that have been brought up in earlier engagements and the scrutiny committee were around people's safety and travel. For me we're talking about travel across the railway line although it's not a trunk road now but the infrastructure that we have is a trunk road which has been degraded. Whereas, to go laterally, people moving to Treowen from Maesyrrhandir is safer. I know we're in consultation, but I wanted to focus on the fact that the Scrutiny Committee did bring up issues and I don't know where they've been addressed.

Marianne Evans: I think we have responded to them in the Cabinet paper.

Sarah Astley: I've just bought up the papers now and the points raised by Scrutiny are listed and there's a response then to those points in the minutes.

Marianne Evans: I think going back to the starting point of this, this was about the building. We weren't asked to look at the whole of Newtown. Although the Learning and Skills Committee did suggest looking at the whole of Newtown, our response was that there was a lack of available sites and space. That's why we haven't really looked at Maesyrrhandir and Treowen coming together, because the starting point was slightly different.

If we'd have been asked to look at the schools in Newtown, maybe that would have been where we would have landed. But because the starting point was different then that's why we have ended up with this proposal.

Governor: I can see the reasoning but there's a lack of strategy beyond the current new build on this site here. You've already identified in the reports and the consultation the issues with the buildings at Treowen and Maesyrrhandir, so they are not such a high priority as this site in terms of their building condition. This site has got some funding allocated to progress a new school but that's not to say they're going to be left to rot. It just means there's no immediate plan to merge them. I just feel that the plan B not being discussed here is a Treowen / Maesyrrhandir merger in a new build within a defined timeline. I just feel that's not been recorded, we're going down Plan A and there's no Plan B.

Lynette Lovell: You have got a point. I think the other issue which is also relevant is that in those schools, the numbers have decreased significantly. Maesyrrhandir is currently down in the eighties I think, but I can remember when it was in the two hundreds. Similarly, with Treowen the numbers have dropped there and when we've got such a drop in numbers, we have to look at what's the best for the town. The new build that's coming here, I've been very clear and I've said in Scrutiny and in other public forums, my ideal is that the children of Newtown are together in one building and that all of the children have really good facilities. They have the benefit of the Community Focussed Schools and from an education point of view and as Director of Education, that was my advice to Cabinet and to Scrutiny. The ideal for me would be that we could fit all of those children on this site, because with all of them it would have been around four hundred odd pupils, it wasn't an excessively large school, and where we want to go as an authority is to have larger schools. That's where the starting point was and really the steer for it came from Cabinet, who asked us to look at the Newtown area. When we looked at it, the fact is that at this point we can't build the school large enough to include Maesyrrhandir, Treowen and Calon y Dderwen children, we can't physically do it. But we will have to ensure that children at Maesyrrhandir have facilities for them as well. There's a backlog maintenance there, we recognise that, that's all part of what we looked at.

Marianne Evans: I think if we had the whole site then it may be that we would be proposing that – to bring the three schools together.

Governor: I think that would be a nice prospect if we had all of that space.

Governor: It's central and it's at the heart of the town. It's how it used to be, when I was in this school there were about 500.

Governor: I think now the frustrations we have as a governing body and as a school is that we're talking about a site constraint that to this point was for a new Calon y Dderwen building to service the needs of the catchment area of Calon y Dderwen and we were also pressured into a new build where we were making concessions, we weren't happy with the spaces and the volumes and the shape and were concerned about what this would mean in terms of our ability to meet the needs of pupils, and how we want to teach the pupils. Now we're just chucking another 100 pupils into the mix, and the building is already constrained in shape and size and

volume to reflect the site that we have. Something's got to give – you can't have everything.

Sarah Astley: Just to go back to the Maesyrrhandir/Treowen option. It's not an option that has been considered and as has been explained it's because of where we started, the starting point was the build. However, the consultation is an opportunity to suggest alternative options. Any alternative options that come through the consultation will need to be listed in the report and we'll need to consider them. So there is an opportunity for you to feed that in through the consultation.

Marianne Evans: The concerns around the building and the site came up in the staff meeting earlier too. We know that it is really important to Calon y Dderwen.

Governor: Also, the new curriculum in Wales.

Marianne Evans: I know you've been very involved in developing the design for the new building to date. We've had this debate before. We have to work within the building guidance and I think you're slightly over it in some areas at the moment. The architects deal with the design, however the majority of the funding comes from the Welsh Government. If we don't provide them with a business case that shows that the design is reasonable and within the guidelines, then they will refuse funding. We've already had one business case back in the last 18 months because we were over the Welsh Government's benchmarks. We have to challenge the design all the time.

Governor: We also have to challenge the benchmarks, because Building Bulletin 99 is now 25 years old or maybe even older because the data that's gone into producing Building Bulletin 99 is older still and then there is an additional requirement for it to be carbon neutral, to have it zero carbon because it's self-producing. Just like we've had to make concessions, something has to give, and for me, Building Bulletin 99 isn't always fit for purpose to meet the new education requirements that the government has set out.

Marianne Evans: The Welsh Government have been working on a new standard for new school designs. We're hoping to hear something about this in the next couple of months, taking account of the fact that the current building bulletin is based on England. Education in Wales is changing and has changed so much, so they're looking at the new guidance, new standard taking into consideration the curriculum for Wales, looking at the Carbon Zero agenda, ALN and looking at Community Focussed goals, that's a big, big push. We're hoping that something will come through that may have more flexibility in it than what we currently have.

In terms of if we were further down the design routes when the new guidance came out, it might be more difficult so we're looking into that.

The other thing as well is we are looking at developing a Powys standard for Primary Schools. Jim Swabey has been out visiting the schools we've built recently asking them how they're operating. We know how the build went, we know how the design went, but we need to know is the school now working for them. That's the piece of work that Jim is leading on and hopefully that'll help us as well. We hear your

concerns about the design and about adding another hundred children into the constrained site. We'll look at these other things that come through the Powys standard, the Welsh Government guidance and hope that will give us some flexibility. We absolutely sympathize with you and where you are and the journey you've been on. Obviously, these kind of things need to be fed back then through this consultation process.

Headteacher: What you said about the space, it's reassuring to hear that because these events that we hold in the hall, one example we presented dance in the Eisteddfod this morning and we didn't have enough room for the whole school to be there. Some were standing in the back because we had to create an area for the children to dance in. We've got our Eisteddfod at the end of the month. We can't invite parents in and that's a huge part of our school. Parents can't afford tickets for the events, so we need to have these community events in the hall with the whole school there. We are restrained currently and I feel that we do need that extended space. You look at today, the hall is being used for dance and for karate tonight, we do have that community focused element here.

Marianne Evans: For us, we have to make the case to Welsh Government for the finances. Not only Welsh Government, the Cabinet as well as the Council funds 35% of it. There's sometimes a perception amongst people who aren't close to this programme in that we build gold plated schools. We aren't allowed to build gold plated schools, and we never have built gold plated schools, but actually it's a value for money issue for us. We need to make sure we have got the best building, but actually it has to provide value for money. You can see a little bit into our world in terms of the difficulties and the challenges and the complexities around all of it as well.

Governor: A couple of years ago there was talk about a Welsh-medium all through school in Newtown. Is there still talk of that? At the time there was talk of using Dafydd Llwyd's building for other schools.

Marianne Evans: That's where things were a few years ago. There was a plan, there was a vision, then things changed politically. We've recently been consulting on changing Ysgol Bro Caereinion to a Welsh Medium school from a dual stream school. If that goes forward, we need to make sure that becomes the designated Welsh medium school for the whole area. However, that decision hasn't been made yet. If that proposal doesn't go ahead, there would still be a need to look at establishing designated Welsh medium secondary provision to serve the area, so we would still have to look at it, but at the moment that's where we are at.

Governor: As a teacher governor here, I know it's been mentioned already but there's been a lot of questions asked from our staff today regarding job security. I think that does need to come through the governors as well. I think there were a few that were surprised by Phase 2, people are nervous about job security, so I think that needs to be touched on.

Marianne Evans: Phase 1 is when Calon y Dderwen becomes a two sited school and includes the Treowen site and Phase 2 is when you all move to the new build. In terms of the impact on staff from the first phase, what we've said in the consultation

document is that there would be no impact on Calon y Dderwen staff. Calon y Dderwen staff aren't going to be made at risk of redundancy, so wouldn't be affected by any changes that affect Treowen staff. The staff have just come through it, the school has just come through that when the school was established.

However, when we get to Phase 2 with all staff then coming into a new build, that's when the staffing structure would need to be looked at again and that's when potentially some changes would need to be made. However, this is part of the normal planning process, managing your staffing, managing your budgets going forward. It's something that happened in Welshpool and is happening in Brecon at the moment where we're looking at merging three schools into one, so we're having the same conversation about what happens when we get to the build and planning for that next step.

Governor: In terms of Phase 1, if this was to go ahead, the governing body would be taking on an additional site for Calon y Dderwen, but the existing Treowen governing body would dissolve. We can ratio and increase the headcount within the ratios permitted to include some governor representatives from that site, which of course we should do, but that might be dependent on governors' terms of office. If we've got governors still sitting here and we can't quite do that within the period, that means a Calon y Dderwen based governing body would need to make decisions on staffing on another site. That isn't going to go down well. If there has to be a reduction and there's talk of ringfencing jobs to the Treowen site staff, and again we've been through the ringfencing process ourselves, but if we have to make a reduction, that's not going to build bridges.

Governor: Correct me if I'm wrong, but because we were all brought in under a new governing body when we established Calon y Dderwen, we'll all still be within our current terms of office in 2025.

Governor: Immediately, the first action of a new governing body for this Phase 1 would be to potentially make redundancies to a staffing body. Then Phase 2, we're going forward some years because we're talking about 25 to 28. In between Phase 1 and Phase 2, the expectation is that the transformation team will be supplementing the school budget, which will only be representative of the pupils on roll. So, account for the multiple sites that we're operating under and the increased head count associated with running on multiple sites and in Phase 2 that will be gone. So, between Phase 1 and Phase 2, we already know there's potential job losses because we would be moving to a one site, one school approach. The pupil numbers could be exactly the same between Phase 1 and Phase 2, but we would have one site to deal with, so that would be one administration team, maybe the logistics of having a combined 5-6 class on Treowen and the numbers there and here mean now we don't need that extra class and that's going to be hard to take. We're not constructing a new school from Phase 1, we're constructing a temporary school until we're in Phase 2.

Governor: I think it's a little bit different having been through it with Maesydre and the initial stage, as there were foundation phase sites and one junior site. This is quite different because will still be years 5-6 there initially and years 5-6 here too.

There's no proposal to make it that there's different age groups on each site, is there? We're not asking some pupils to move before others, are we?

Marianne Evans: We'd expect the schools to remain the same, we wouldn't be expecting different age groups to move.

Headteacher: I'll give you a real example that happened recently. We've got two classes in years five and six, one of 36 and one of 37. Some children moved to the area, one came into year 6 and has joined a class of 37, making it a class of 38. We suggested they went to Treowen, but they didn't want to go there. It is now going to be a class of 38. We did know the risk when we set the class up of course.

Would we be able to have the security from transformation to support with arrangements during the transition period? I've said before that the funding support we've had from transformation has been really helpful, particularly as we manage the early stages of this. Would we have some support in that?

Marianne Evans: We would need to look at that because obviously if the proposal goes forward, it is the Council's proposal and you know the ideal would be that you're on two sites for a year or two at the most, but I will say to you, it's a building project and everything you know there is risk with every building project, so we'll just have to be mindful of that as well. We wouldn't want to put any school at a disadvantage because of a proposal the Council is making, so it is something we have to look at.

Eurig Towns: I'm supporting Brecon schools now, there's three schools there coming together into one. They're still going to be on three sites initially. The question that governors there asked was 'What about if we decide to transfer children from one of the sites into one of the other sites?' But you could then put that other site at risk because you could then say, 'Oh well, when you got 28 in this school, transfer another 2 over' - what will be the impact on that? They're trying to think of them as separate sites at the time.

You're thinking at the moment could we transfer them there, but Treowen governing body and parents at the moment, they are probably thinking, well, what happens if they decide you've got spaces down here and you decide to transfer them down here without it being their choice. Where the parents are choosing for the children to go to school is very important. They've chosen to go there, your parents have chosen to come here, it would be their decision or your decision if they moved.

Governor: The proposal has taken that choice away, in respect of where we make those decisions if the proposal goes ahead.

Eurig Towns: It's the parent's choice where they can go to school, rather than the school choosing.

Governor: As a parent, if my child was starting school knowing that it's going to close in 12 months or 2 years' time, I wouldn't be sending my child there anyway. So, it may be that they lose pupils anyway.

Governor: Come September, or once this has happened, we may see this happen anyway, and we got to be ready for that.

Eurig Towns: It will be different then as it will be the parents making that decision, not the school. Yes, it puts added pressure on you, I'm not disagreeing with that.

Governor: What I meant as well, you could decide your year 5-6 children were up there, so that it may add to a year and your year reception to year four down here say and it worked in numbers, but you can't do things like that.

Marianne Evans: We're not proposing that. What we're saying is that all year groups remain on both sites. If this lasted for a longer time, it would be up to the governing body how it wanted to manage its pupil numbers. There is that option there, but we're not advocating it because we feel that the short-term measure until we get into the one site.

Governor: There'd be no option to bring it in for it to run from one site sooner? By bringing in cabins or something? Would that never happen?

Marianne Evans: I think the cost of bringing anything on here would be problematic.

Governor: Just to go back to redundancies, the decision for Phase 1 will be for the governing body to structure the school in such a way that it can operate with the numbers at the time and some roles may be redundant. The question I have is, at that point are all members of staff which are progressing through that merger, are they temporarily permanent members of staff? The governing body needs to make a decision regarding staffing levels across the two sites to make the budget balance for the three years, and that may include some redundancies, but are all the positions which are filled, are they temporary or permanent positions?

Helen Hinton: We wouldn't be able to change someone's terms and conditions of their current employment. If they're currently permanent, then they would remain permanent, and if they're fixed term, the same process potentially would apply depending on how long they've been in that post for. If someone has been in post for four plus years, they will have permanency rights.

It will absolutely depend on individuals and how long they've had those posts for and what their current contract is.

Governor: So that means in Phase 2, we would be looking at operating under a budget for a school on the same site. We won't have any concessions for being split across multiple sites.

Helen Hinton: Yes.

Governor: The arguments that we have heard today are that we've been through this process, we've had two schools merging. There have been redundancies, we have had a turnover of staff because of the knock-on health effects that the processes put them under. Will they have that again in 26/27?

Helen Hinton: There is a potential as you would be one staffing body. I think Marianne used that phrase earlier, which is really useful to understand that you would by that point be one staffing body, so the pot would incorporate the both the current sites. What we do have though is an opportunity to be forward thinking going forward if this is agreed. What we would do is we would advise you to look at not making any permanent appointments where possible, and to manage the workforce, by planning very tightly, to reduce and limit the potential for redundancies in the coming years. So whenever anyone leaves, you would look at whether that needs to be a replacement to start with, and if it does, what could that look like in terms of a fixed term contract? Looking at redeployment opportunities from now going forward through the years, and in the run up to any potential merger change.

Governor: The cost of redundancy at the point of Phase 2, if there were redundancies, would that be incurred by the school budget or from the transformation fund, because we would be one school operating at that point. Is that a cost we would have to absorb?

Nancy Owen: At the moment when we go through any transformation process, or any other situation where schools have to change their structures due to general pupil number changes where the savings attached to that mitigate the financial position, the authority currently has a corporate pot and I would foresee as long as that stays there that this would be applicable to that as it is for the rest of our schools. As long as that corporate pot stays there and it's still there at the moment, that pot would be eligible to be accessed by the school should it change its structure.

Governor: Just for clarification and if we as a governing body come up with a structure to set us off on September the 1st 2025 and I'm thinking leadership structure, would they be permanent beyond Phase 2?

Eurig Towns: You could put a temporary position in while you're on the two sites, which is what has happened in other schools that have operated over multiple sites, so that this can be reviewed when the school comes together on one site. This allows you the flexibility to ensure leadership across all sites in Phase 1, and this can then be reviewed. But any permanent positions you already have now wouldn't be affected because you are permanent whether you're on one site or two sites.

Governor: In terms of a school of 360, what would a typical management team look like then? A head, deputy and how many senior management are we looking at?

Eurig Towns: In Brecon at the moment they are looking at one head, one deputy and one assistant head, but they're also looking at putting in an additional assistant head whilst they are on three sites because they want a member of senior leadership on each site, but also the flexibility with one other person.

If you're looking at this now, you would probably think three members of the senior leadership team would probably be appropriate.

Headteacher: But we're already on two sites here, so we're officially on three sites.

Eurig Towns: You could have three then and then the possibility of four.

Governor: My other point is about staff wellbeing. If we look forward to 2027 potentially when we will be opening at the end of Phase 2, between 2019 and 2027, for 5 1/2 years out of these 8 years, staff have been part of a process, an uncertain time, and that's likely to have a low impact on their wellbeing. We felt it earlier in the meeting. I just think that needs to be in our minds as the staff of Calon Y Dderwen and now obviously Treowen will go through their process in the next four years.

We need to look at our staffing structure that we have at this school today because we're not business as usual. We're stressed at every possible point and it's a challenge to keep delivering this provision for the pupils that we have on roll, given the financial position, in the site that we're operating in. We're still not in one school site, we're still having communications issues of you're going from one side of the school to the other side of the school to access a senior leadership team member, you know trying to get there and we've still got issues with the ALN and the needs for the outside bodies to come in. We still haven't got enough provision for them to access the pupils that they're attempting to access on this site and yet in our new school build for the provision that we had originally for the new school, we've got two or three community rooms and now we want to chuck another 100 pupils.

These outside bodies, the community spaces aren't enough for the school build that we were planning, let alone to have another 100 pupils. It's always said that we have got a similar pupil mix between Treowen and here, we know the challenges that they have getting to school when they can walk along the river and for the report to say that there's low impact if they are travelling from Treowen to here. I think is a low impact if you have a car, if you're from a working family. If you're outside of that bracket, there is a high impact. This is a group of pupils that Calon y Dderwen are good at providing provision for, yet we can't because logistics means that Treowen can't move here, it's there where it is. My personal opinion is that the best thing for Treowen is to have a school that meets the needs that they have.

Governor: Just picking up on the transport around this. I don't know what the town loop does, but would that be part of this process? So the bus route could include an 8.15, 8.30, 8.45 loop around Treowen and the town centre?

Sarah Astley: It is something we could look at as we move forward and as we approach that new build. Also things like active travel and so on, those sorts of things would be part of what we would look at when developing the new building, but obviously that's a couple of years away.

Governor: Is the Maesyrrhandir building in a good state?

Marianne Evans: No, is the answer.

Governor: Would there be a new building for them?

Marianne Evans: Given their pupil numbers, it would be unlikely that there would be a new build. However, we're aware of the condition of the building and we know what is needed. We would have to look at how we address those going forward.

Governor: Potentially in the future they could end up coming here as well. If their pupil numbers start getting lower again.

Marianne Evans: Theoretically, if you've moved into a new build and there are still spaces. Parents could apply from wherever in Newtown or even outside of Newtown, and if there is a place pupils can have that place. So theoretically, yes. Before this proposal came along, we always thought that the new building at Calon Y Dderwen would have some impact on numbers at other schools. What we were going to do was look at the impact that would have over the next few years on pupil demographics around town, as things could change. This would be Phase 1 to monitor pupil numbers, we'd need to see what would happen and then there may be changes so we would take it from there, but this has come in a little bit sooner.

Governor: We weren't informed of that information from the outset. It would have been really handy for us to have known that was your strategic plan all the way through. If we would have known that information then we could have fought harder about what information we were looking at when we were designing plans, looking at pupil numbers, it would have helped us.

Marianne Evans: When we're looking at towns, this town has got six primary schools in a very close proximity. In a town environment, things change in a different way to a rural environment. So quite rapidly, school numbers can change in an urban environment. When there's a new build, the pupil numbers in a town with a number of schools would automatically change. It's not as if we did not share this with you, but that was sort of where we were going.

Governor: We always wanted to look at increasing pupil numbers at Calon y Dderwen in the planning stage. If you're a parent and you see a lovely brand new all singing, all that school and your school building is looking pretty dilapidated, as a parent you'd be wanting to send them to the new building.

Marianne Evans: Interesting though that when Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd opened, pupil numbers went down, and they've only recently started increasing again. It doesn't always follow that a new build will attract because it's always the quality of provision that attracts.

Governor: Was it understood as to why the numbers went down? Was it accessing the education provision now which was on this site and as soon as it moved to the next to the high school? What was the reason for the reduction?

Marianne Evans: I don't really know why because it was the same headteacher. I think maybe what's happened now in terms of Welsh medium is that there is more visibility in this area around Welsh medium provision than there was maybe at that time and the numbers are growing in Dafydd Llwyd.

Lynette Lovell: We've seen that to be the case in Welshpool now as well, with the new build on the old site. The numbers through the Welsh medium have significantly increased.

Governor: When you look at Calon y Dderwen numbers in the consultation document, what we see is a stable projection. We built that as a governing body and as a senior management team, we've been building that well for the past 5 years. Now the proposal is to add variability to our structure, to add in more risk of having to manage the fluctuations in numbers. We were designing a school that services one need, now the needs would change which would add more continual uncertainty to the to the staffing structure.

Lynette Lovell: What we want to do as a local authority strategically is to build up our schools, so that we have schools with larger cohort sizes, so a two-form entry school for example.

Governor: I think a larger school is the way forward and I would be more excited for an even bigger school, but it's the space.

Governor: In terms of the balance of workload, in a smaller school, teachers are having to do everything aren't they? It does work, having been to Welshpool there was two 5 classes, so it works. My concern is the space.

Governor: We're losing half of our site, that is the issue. I do have a concern with larger schools in primary provision, we've seen it with post Covid. I've heard very good reports on how we prepared those children and how we engaged with Calon y Dderwen pupils during that that period because our staff have a responsibility, they look at our pupils and they say, well they're my responsibility. However, it wasn't the same for children in the high school. In secondary they have responsibility for an area of learning, not per pupil. What I saw was that from the secondary view in a larger school, they worry about their area of responsibility i.e. the subject, not the pupil as much. I'd be concerned about this if we become a big primary school where we have the capability of having experts or leaders of learning in different areas.

Lynette Lovell: I think that's more of a primary/secondary thing rather than a size thing. I inspected schools in Cardiff with 750 in primary and it came out excellent. I know the children here and I think this school does a really good job. The provision that you provide here is not about the numbers, it's about the team that you've got. I actually think a bigger school can provide that larger team with more expertise and a bit more flexibility. I mean where you see it acutely is where we have small schools where they haven't got the expertise to be dealing with those pupils and their individual needs. I think the size it is irrelevant in primary, I actually think the larger the school the better.

Eurig Towns: It's the approach isn't it – you're talking about secondary schools where you still looking at subjects or delivering through subjects and you don't get that same connection.

Governor: I think it's responsibility and accountability, it always comes down to that. People need to be held accountable for the responsibility they're given, and the responsibility needs to be reflective of what we're trying to achieve, and here at Calon y Dderwen teachers and the staff have responsibility for the welfare and learning of that pupil. My worry would be that a super primary would lose that.

Governor: I'm just worried if we don't plan for further forward, we could be chockablock. Unless we really know a picture of what is likely to happen down the line, we could be in a sticky situation. Numbers at Treowen might drop faster than we think.

Lynette Lovell: The building will reflect that won't it.

Governor: Would we be able to stop them coming in?

Governor: There are going to be changes to catchment areas too. The only catchment Calon y Dderwen have got now as it stands is Trehafren and Vaynor. We've lost Mochdre and Dolfor.

Governor: But under the proposal we will be gaining Dolfor.

Lynette Lovell: You couldn't have a situation in Newtown where one school can keep taking and taking and taking, there is a limit. It would be addressed through the admissions process, applications could go to appeals, but initially you couldn't go over the pupil admission number. We've had quite a lot of issues with some schools where parents want their children to go to a certain high school, but they are oversubscribed and they can't get in. That's how it would be, and that's how it is in a lot of schools in England – in Shrewsbury if you live in a certain place you can't get into the school.

Headteacher: In the proposal here about savings. Between Phase 1 and Phase 2 when we open on two separate sites, would we have two separate budgets which aren't too dissimilar to what they are now?

Nancy Owen: You'll be funded to acknowledge the two sites. It's funded basically as two separate schools in Phase 1.

Governor: We had a clarification regarding fuel because today at Calon y Dderwen we have two different primary fuel mixes. We have gas on one site and oil on the other one. Although we are classed as one site, we're really two sites regarding funding for the building provision. I would hope that if this goes forward, we have a budget that reflects running a separate site on another fuel mix.

Nancy Owen: We've just consulted with all schools on changes to the premises elements. When the Cabinet paper comes forward, we would update all the figures, rerun it through the updated funding formula. We've also consulted on additional learning needs changes, that can have that could have a positive or negative impact on you.

Governor: The last one for me that you can see in the figures here. The surplus for Calon y Dderwen in March 24 is projected to be at £61,000 in the document. I don't know if that's right or still accurate, and if we do expand and take on Treowen is our budget wiped clean as they were with Ladywell/Hafren?

Nancy Owen: No, because Treowen will physically close but Calon y Dderwen will still remain open in terms of carrying forward reserves and surpluses as they are, but as Treowen is physically closing that's a different matter.

Governor: Would we have their reserves added to our pot?

Lynette Lovell: No, but you wouldn't get their deficit added either.

Governor: You touched then about the new revised formula and working with SEN and ALN. We'd been working with pupils identified by another senior management team where we know there's no head in place currently. I look at the numbers for free school meals, ALN and English as an Additional Language, and I don't quite believe Treowen's numbers. They seem a little low, and that would impact our budget going forward if, once the proposal in Phase 1 goes ahead, and their identified numbers impact our numbers. Could this be re-evaluated?

Nancy Owen: In the regs, the authority has got flexibility, the scheme for financing schools. Ultimately most of it is determined by school funding regs. 2010, they give us that flexibility when we're opening a new school. I'll need to take advice on how that applies to Calon y Dderwen in this instance, so I'd need to come back to you on that.

Governor: It's the transition phase, once we've done a full 12 month period where we can make sure that we're happy with the numbers on PLASC it would be different.

Nancy Owen: I completely understand the point, but you'll have to let me take that away. I'll need to double check in terms of the legality of these funding regs.

Marianne Evans: There are lots of concerns about this proposal, but I would like to ask you as governors, can you see it working? Can you see the benefits in it? Because all we hear about are the concerns. There are benefits to it from an education perspective, it's the implementation of it that's tricky.

Governor: We can see the financial benefit for the Council, we know that there are budgetary issues and we've got to go for efficiency. For our own sake, it's our money coming out of our pocket so I can see the budgetary sense and I can see the argument for the provision. There's always a triangle of things if you're taking from one and you're giving to another and I do worry that the proposal will affect those of greatest need. I know families who are living in Treowen, in houses, flats with no cars. They are constrained in terms of where they shop even because they're on foot, let alone accessing education. None of them are working because they're full time caring for their children at the moment. These are the families of the future of Treowen and they will be accessing provision that's there today, but in the future it might be a struggle.

Governor: Also we need to think about the buildings that are all going to come up needing to be renewed at the same time. We're lucky because Calon y Dderwen has got a real opportunity and we've always been excited about the opportunities that we've got for our children. I would like to be excited about the opportunities for all the

children in Newtown. Those in Treowen would have to walk at least 10 minutes down the hill, which I would do myself, but I'm not so sure that everyone would. However, if I was in Maesyrrhandir and there was a lovely new school here, I would want my kids coming here.

Governor: Everything we're saying and bringing up has obviously been listened to. There are easy fixes and there's little bit more challenging fixes like the bus loop and so on, making it affordable. But you asked the question if you can see it working, it will work if that's what the decision is. I mean, there are people here that are passionate about Calon y Dderwen and also are good at managing change.

Headteacher: It will work if the decision is to move forward. This will be not just because of a new building because but it will also be the provision inside and everything that will happen there. And this isn't just about Calon y Dderwen, I know that Treowen can bring so much to the party too. I'd be really excited about what they could bring as well because they are struggling maybe, but for them to come into here and show that they have strengthened, they have something to give. They're probably feeling a little bit like victims at the minute, but they can offer a lot of strengths as well, they need to realise what they can bring to us as well.

Marianne Evans: We met with the Learning Council this afternoon, and even the youngest ones were so aware of the potential impact of change on the children of Treowen school that they were saying they were saying things like we need to share things with them and when they come here we need to help them, maybe they'll be scared because they'll be too many children. They were really aware that they didn't want this to be seen as a takeover. That came from the youngest member of the Learning Council.

Governor: The fact that we're moving in at the same time as well, there's a fairness with the timescale.

Lynette Lovell: I just wanted to come in as well about governance, because you're strong governors here, and it would be fair to say it's really difficult to get governors across all the different schools. The level of need in Newtown requires good leadership, a good set of governors who really, really want to see the best for those children. I think in terms of what Calon Y Dderwen gives and what Treowen gives currently and what Maesyrrhandir gives, it's about making sure that we get the right provision for those young people going forward, that the leadership is right and the governance is right.

Governor: It's nice to think we will be the first to do this, if this happens. However being the first does require effort. The learning continually of the failures that that we all make and collectively being the first worries me.

When we talk about the issues around transport, the health hub, it's all linked. Let's make it succeed and to make it succeed, we can't just think about this plan here and you're going to deliver that and you can deliver, it's really got to be aligned. Why can't we have a free transport system around Newtown? Remove the cars from the equation. Why are we talking about building car park provision taking space, when that could be used for learning?

Marianne Evans: I think you're onto something there. The North Powys Wellbeing Programme and the linkage there come in because that is forcing people to look at something pretty big in the middle of the town, which is complex. It could change things, couldn't it? That's potentially the lever to change a lot of things within Newtown to the infrastructure such as the transport.

Governor: When I'm looking at the town as a whole, we're situated in the centre, we've got a Health Hub planned but may not be executed. We're talking about transport problems, but equally we're talking about a Town Centre which has problems. We're talking about revenue problems for the Council, for business rates because there's no businesses no longer there to pay the business rates. The solution has got to be joined up. When we're talking about car parking with health, we're in Wales so you're not going to have someone pay for Back Lane Car Park. Make it free or whatever we need to do.

Governors: Linked to the new build of the school. Even though we have places left at Calon y Dderwen, I think efficiency is quite high for the expenditure we have on pupils compared to other schools. When we have a new build site, if we're building for a capacity of 360 and the year on year reduction in population is 4%, I think it's predicted at the moment, if that is the case then the cost of running that school is going to increase year on year. The school's built, we have a static overhead to run the school. So, our efficiency is going to decrease year on year, but again choosing to put so many pupils in one site isn't our own doing. I don't know how that works out in the future finance model, but I think it needs to be considered that some things are just a static overhead of we've got this provision for this area and it's not based on pupil numbers. We wanted a super primary school, we've got one. This is the static cost, and then thereafter there's a per pupil budget to account for staffing needs.

Nancy Owen: I think the new formula that we've got in place at the moment actually is really clear and more transparent than it's ever been before because it shows the cost of different sites. If you take for example the saving whenever it's updated for this current proposal we're discussing this evening, the main saving will come from the site element because we're providing top ups on top of the per pupil elements you get to keep the site running to a large extent, so having to fund so the formula will deliver a set number, set amount of funding per pupil for the premises element. However, if it's then costing X to run, we've got top up elements in there as well. The other element of saving then comes from any teaching and learning top up and class size protection top up we provide. So, I think it's really clear more than it ever has been before about what it costs for the current estate that we have in Powys.

Governor: Part of the new school build programme and it's not linked with Treowen specifically, but there's a cost to having a green building, for example, in that it's made of wood. In 20 years' time the roof needs recladding. Or you've got solar panels galore, but in 7 years' time, I guarantee you parts will need replacing, so you've got a bill for £10,000, but you're requiring those to meet the budgetary needs of a new school build. Where is this funding coming from? And if you don't have it, the work is not done, so we're not operating at the efficiency level anymore that we

should be operating under, and so fuel costs go up because the solar panels aren't working and producing back to the grid.

Marianne Evans: That's a national conversation with Welsh Government, they're setting the standard and they're saying they expect net zero by 2030, however at the moment there's funding per square meter that recognises the fact that we have to look at the energy elements. The question then to Welsh Government is around the cost of maintaining the stuff that makes them eco-friendly. Going forward, this is where Welsh Government need to have that longer term plan of who meets that cost. Because that could be a massive cost to authorities, or it could be a massive cost to schools if authorities pass it down to schools.

Governor: If the local authority is funding it then schools that are in older buildings will be saying hang on a second, they've just had a brand new school five years ago and now you've just given them a load more money to fix the stuff that you just put in.

Governor: Having more than one storey makes sense from an energy provision point of view, but what about lift, what happens when they go wrong? Who's servicing them? What's the maintenance contract? Who's paying for that? That's a static overhead to running a multi-level building for the teaching provision. I am worried that we're going to be pushed from a two storey to a 2 1/2 storey too, because we've only got the footprint we've got.

Marianne Evans: This is I think a conversation for future formulas, because the new builds will have different requirements.

Nancy Owen: I agree completely. We do work closely with the corporate energy management officer. But we need to probably make representations in terms of any pressures that are coming through from that. So you need to make sure any governors here are getting that into the school's forum arena as well and raised in that forum. It's something we need to look at and consider. I think it's just at the moment the financial climate is, as we all know, really challenging, but that doesn't mean to say that we can't make representations in any future finance resource models when the authority looks at the budget set in each year. But we do need that input from head teachers and governors.

Lynette Lovell: Thank you very much, lots of really interesting thoughts here. They will feed into the consultation. All of this will form part of the consultation but it's open to anybody to put any additional views in as well individually.

Meeting ended.

Consultation Meeting with Staff of Treowen C.P. School

8th February 2024

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Present:

Staff:

Debbie Swan – School Cleaner
Marie Whiffen – School Cleaner
Kelly Williams – HLTA
Lisa Bound – 3+ Assistant / Midday Supervisor
Samantha Cartwright – LSA
Angela Williams – Teacher
Liz Jones – Teacher
Laura Green – Teacher
Kirsten Amor – Teacher
Nadia Davis – LSA
Lily Mitchell – LSA
Sam Davies – 3+ Leader / Midday Supervisor
Olivia Allport – LSA
Rob Picken – Acting Headteacher

Officers:

Marianne Evans – Service Manager for Schools Transformation
Sarah Astley – Transforming Education Strategic Programme Manager
Ffion Evans – Transforming Education Programme Co-ordinator
Mari Thomas – Deputy Head of Finance (Strategic Finance)
Rachel Hudson – HR Manager (Schools)
Fiona Jenkins – HR Advisor (Schools)
Eurig Towns – Service Manager for Schools Improvement

Lynette Lovell welcomed all to the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

It was explained that there would be a brief presentation, followed by an opportunity for discussion, comments, and questions to the Officers. It was explained that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes, but the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been completed and agreed.

Sarah Astley gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the background to the current proposals and the process.

The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025.

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

The consultation began on 15 January 2024 and will end on 26 February 2024.

After the consultation period ends, a consultation report will be prepared which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet. If they decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice would be published, and there would be 28 days for people to submit any objections they have. An Objection Report would then be prepared, and Cabinet would consider this report and make a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal.

The indicative timeline included in the document was shared, however it was explained that this can change due to circumstances or the number of responses. The intention was that the Consultation Report would be considered in April, however there is a complication with this due to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections taking place in May, which means there will be no Cabinet meeting in April, so the Consultation Report will either be considered in March or May.

Following the presentation, staff were given the opportunity to ask any questions or to make any comments in relation to the matter.

Member of Staff: One of the things that's going to come through strongly in the governors' meeting tonight is that there's quite a lot of confusion as to why Maesyrrhandir is not included. That would be worth covering in some detail, as that's not been understood very well as yet.

Marianne Evans: When we first started looking at this last year, we looked at whether we could accommodate all three schools on site or whether it would be two schools, and if so which two schools. In the end whilst the current Calon y Dderwen site is big, we only have half the site for the school development going forward, because the North Powys Wellbeing Health Hub are planning to build a health centre on the other half of the site, so that will affect how many pupils could actually be accommodated without having that pressure on space on the outside space etc. Having looked at this and carried out the engagement exercise, we concluded that only one other school could be accommodated.

We then looked at both Maesyrrhandir and Treowen, and the data suggested a better match between Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Ysgol Treowen in terms of your ALN profile and your FSM profile in particular. Also, the fact that there's an acting headship here whilst there is a substantive head in Maesyrrhandir – the head is on secondment, but there is a substantive permanent Head there. That makes a difference as well and that's the reason why the preferred option is to bring Treowen and Calon y Dderwen together.

Member of Staff: Our numbers are higher than Maesyrrhandir, and we have more of an intake of pupils throughout the year. We were led to believe that would be taken into account here.

Marianne Evans: Your numbers are dropping and Maesyrrhandir's numbers are dropping too.

Member of Staff: Ours were higher than Maesyrrhandir's and we had a higher intake of children coming in, we had children constantly coming in, from different schools across the town.

Marianne Evans: We saw and met some of the pupils today, and yes, they were from different parts of the town. We understand that. However, the reasoning behind Treowen being chosen not Maesyrrhandir is as I explained. We're here to hear your views though.

Teacher: The condition of our building is better than Maesyrrhandir, so surely there's going to be some cost involved in maintaining the Maesyrrhandir building.

Marianne Evans: Yes, there will be a cost but both schools have condition issues. Whichever one was staying open, there would be a cost associated with making sure that the buildings were maintained.

Member of Staff: One of the comments we touched on briefly is the SLT situation in both schools, and it's worded in the report that there is a permanent SLT in Calon y Dderwen but not in Treowen. I think it's fair to say that we haven't got a permanent SLT at the moment in Treowen because we're in this situation.

Marianne Evans: I acknowledge that, and thought this would be raised. However, we have to look at things as they are, and this is one of the reasons for Treowen coming in and not Maesyrrhandir. Another thing I would say, if we had the whole site available to us, and the Health Hub was not being built there we could have a different proposal being put forwards which would probably include all three schools, so we are constrained by the space that we have.

How do you feel about the current proposal as a staff body?

Member of Staff: We could lose our jobs; we don't know what's what do we?

Marianne Evans: Rachel, could you talk through the impact on staff in terms of how it would happen if it happens?

Rachel Hudson: At the moment we are in a situation where we don't know if any change is going to happen. In the event we do get to the point where there is a decision that Treowen will close, we would then need to have a different kind of consultation with you as staff. This current consultation is about the proposal around

this school and Calon Y Dderwen. If a decision is eventually made to move forward with implementing that proposal, we would be talking to you about what that means for you as individuals, how we can support you as individuals, in the same way as we do with any consultation that affects members of staff when we are talking about making changes that would affect those members of staff.

This would include talking about opportunities to do something different, to undertake a different role and think about redeployment to other Powys schools or other roles within Powys, if we were in a position where there weren't enough positions.

Member of Staff: Will there be the same conversation with Calon y Dderwen staff, is it equal in this respect? When this was proposed, we were told that if we close, they would also close.

Marianne Evans: There is a difference...I don't think we said that.

Member of Staff: We're feeling a little bit as though we're not being treated fairly – they get to keep their school, their jobs, their name, we're feeling as though we are the poor relation, we've already drawn the short straw compared with Maesyrrhandir, and now we're drawing the short straw in that we will lose our school, our name, our identity, in the short straw with Maesyrrhandir and we lose our school, our name, our identity, it looks like we are the poor relations, like we need rescuing by Calon y Dderwen. That's just where I am.

Marianne Evans: When we were here last, we did explain that there were different ways of merging schools, and you're right, one way of doing it would be to propose to close both school and reopen a new school, so both bodies of staff would be treated in the same way. However, we did have to think really carefully about this one because Ysgol Calon y Dderwen have only recently come through that process when Ladywell Green and Hafren schools were merged.

Member of Staff: We've just gone through redundancies here, so we've had that process ourselves.

Marianne Evans: That's noted, but the issue here is that Ladywell and Hafren merged to establish Calon y Dderwen, and the whole staff went through that process as the school was only recently established, so we felt that we had to take that into consideration.

Member of Staff: You knew this though the last time you came to meet with us, because we talked about this last time, but you led us to believe that we would both close, because we talked about having a new name and uniform. So we were all led to believe that would happen. That's not exciting for us, but at least we would all be treated equally, it wouldn't be Treowen being taken over. But then we read in the consultation that none of that is happening, and we're just being pushed into them. I think it's a real upset for the kids.

Marianne Evans: I understand your views but just to explain, that's the rationale that we've put it forward like this as the model currently. I understand your concerns. Rachel, do you want to carry on explaining what would happen from a staffing point of view?

Rachel Hudson: Because there's a two phased approach, and assuming that it all does happen, come 1st September 2025 in theory there would be a school over two sites, so there would be a more limited impact on staffing, however we don't know exactly what that would look like and that would need to be worked out after the decision is made. One of the first things that would need to happen is we would need to look at the school budget and the staffing structure and all of those things, and that then would form the basis of the consultation, the employment consultation I was talking about a minute ago.

We would have to do that twice because there would be one consultation to move to one school on two sites and then once you've got the new building in place there would need to be another consultation to move the two sites to one site. I know it's hard anyway, but it is especially difficult when you are looking at that process happening twice.

Marianne Evans: It's really important that you feedback what you have fed back today, because we may not have got it right in our proposal. If you feel very, very strongly that both sets of staff need to be treated in the same way, that needs to come through in the consultation feedback. From our perspective, Calon y Dderwen staff had recently gone through the whole process, being at risk of redundancy etc, which is the reason for the current proposal.

Member of Staff: We've also been through processes though, and that was not mentioned in the report at all. It was mentioned how they've gone through processes, but we've faced redundancy in the last couple of years and people in the room that have faced redundancy.

Marianne Evans: And it's important again that comes through.

Member of Staff: What is the situation for Calon y Dderwen? In Phase 2? Isn't it the same for all staff from both sides? So everyone is impacted as everyone is Calon y Dderwen staff? But in Phase 1 there's a difference there isn't there? But in that Phase 2 it's slightly different again, isn't it in terms of the staff groups from both sides? So, at the second stage everyone is impacted as everyone is Calon y Dderwen. However, in the PowerPoint it says to close Treowen and extend Calon y Dderwen.

Sarah Astley: That's the wording in the proposal. When we consult on something, we have to be quite clear about what it is we are proposing. So, in this case that's what we are consulting on. That's not to say that when we come to the end of the

process, we could consider all of the responses and views, and it might be that the decision is to look at a different option. It might be that the outcome is not to proceed with anything, it could be to proceed with the proposal as it is, or it could be to look at something different. And again, some other options came through in the meetings with Calon y Dderwen earlier in the week which will need to be considered. So it definitely isn't the case that a decision has been made to move forward, but we have to be quite specific about what it is we're proposing in the documentation.

Member of Staff: This has been years in the making, and I can't see all that money being wasted.

Eurig Towns: It has been done before when proposals have been put forward and County Councillors have decided that it's not in the best interest. That's the whole point of being transparent.

Member of Staff: Are the people who proposed this in the beginning and the Cabinet who will decide on the outcome completely neutral? I've heard that there are some people who wanted this to happen, which does not seem fair to me.

Marianne Evans: They are neutral on the Cabinet. This all started quite a number of years ago with all the changes. Calon y Dderwen was established, and that decision was taken by the last Cabinet. We were on the journey, we were designing a school for 300 pupils.

Member of Staff: When you say that this has been in the planning for years, that was a new build for Calon y Dderwen. Bringing in other schools in the area had not been in the plan, had it? That's quite a new development.

Marianne Evans: We were very surprised when we started showing the designs for a 300 place school to people within the Council including the Cabinet, as we were challenged straight away about whether we were building it big enough. Our job is to take on those instructions and look at whether we can act on them, so that's why we've ended up here.

The Cabinet are neutral, and what they have to do is consider all the consultation responses that come back, and they have to make their decision based on what they hear. So, the consultation aspect is very, very important.

Member of Staff: Thinking of the site then, the thought is that it's going to be a two-storey building. With regards to the new curriculum and classrooms needing access to outside areas, to me it doesn't sound as if it's going to work as the classrooms upstairs won't have direct access. Maybe it's going to fit, but all the wonderful lovely new things that we're supposed to be able to do with the new curriculum, if you're in a two-storey building stuck at the top, your outside space is going to be limited. Obviously, you're not going to build something that won't fit, but we have beautiful outdoor spaces at the moment. We've got access to the outdoors really easily. I'm

just trying to imagine letting the children have the freedom of going out and using an outdoor space when you can literally open the door and go outside. And if you're in a two-storey building, I don't see how that fits with all the plans you've been working on.

Eurig Towns: We have two storey school buildings, it can be done.

Member of Staff: There's also been that new school in Welshpool and teachers have been to see it. Do teachers have an input into the design? I hope they do have an input in the design and it's not just down to an architect that doesn't have a clue about the new curriculum and what is needed.

Marianne Evans: The architect works closely with the school as the design develops. When we were talking with Calon y Derwen about the designs, there were concerns about it being on two storeys. Lots of discussions happened, so that they could then see how it would work. The design always evolves and there is discussion with staff as part of this, so it can work.

Member of Staff: I know it might have been done before, but the people to outdoor space ratio would be very different down there on a school site with 300 or 400 pupils compared to what we've got here.

Access is a massive thing with that amount of pupils on the site. You've got the police station as well, and it could block the road for emergency vehicles. Getting your children in and out would be a nightmare – we try to avoid that part of Newtown already.

Marianne Evans: We picked up last time the issues around congestion, parking etc, especially with the Health Hub being developed on the site. What I can say is that work has been going on, on the master plan for the whole campus, which is looking at traffic flows, parking and safer routes to school. We're not building a school and then the Health Board are building a Health Hub, we have to look at the whole campus. However, if things go ahead the school will be built first.

Sarah Astley: The concerns we heard last time about congestion and the number of people on the site and so on, those are part of the reasons why the proposal is to move forward bringing two schools together and not three.

Member of Staff: So, are you building new roads? At the moment there's just that one narrow road, surely there has to be some sort of new traffic arrangements?

Marianne Evans: They're looking at it as a whole campus, the health element as well. It's a central part of town isn't it, and at the moment it's very congested.

Sarah Astley: As well as the roads and access there's active travel as well and walking routes and cycling routes.

Member of Staff: There's also just a little bit that needs mentioning in the risk section of the document. It mentions the risk that staff would get a bit wobbly and would leave. The risk is quite high, however the impact is noted as low. I don't think that reads particularly well for staff wellbeing – the impact of a professional leaving because of the situation was considered low impact. I think that was poorly judged in your report.

Marianne Evans: I'll take that on board. This did come up with Calon y Dderwen as well.

Member of Staff: What about the 3+ and early years?

Marianne Evans: Facilities for early years would be developed in the new building as well. However, there is already provision here. Here are facilities for early years being developed as well but we already have provision here.

Eurig Towns: At the moment the provision here will not change, we need the provision across Newtown. I also know the issues and support that you need at the moment. There is potentially when it moves to the one site, that could help the situation you've got now, such as when you need additional members of staff and things like that. If you were in a bigger provision, there would be more staff to help. But at the moment there's no change to 3 plus.

Marianne Evans: We've heard a lot on social media about the impact on the community of Treowen and Treowen being a strong community with its own identity. Is it worth elaborating a bit on that?

Member of Staff: It's difficult to elaborate when we've expressed our concerns on all these forms and things that you've asked us to do, but we haven't been heard. I know we are here to get our points across, but we've already been very detailed in the forms and questionnaires you've asked us to fill out. What we're telling you now is no different to what we filled out on the forms.

Marianne Evans: We understand where you are come from. From the Council's point of view, we have to look at Newtown as whole. If you look at Newtown and the number of primary schools it has got in a relatively small space, the Council has to look at if it can afford to keep them all running. is there a better way of providing education? Do we need to have larger schools? That's the Council's duty, but absolutely we hear about the community, about Treowen and the school being a strong part of the community. The Council also has to look at the wider perspective though, about how it manages its schools to fit within the financial challenges it has got.

Member of Staff: I think it's fair to say as a community there's a strong feeling that perhaps the voice has not been heard. People feel that they have let you know their

views and have responded, but how many more forms can they fill in. If they feel that they haven't been listened to, it's difficult to encourage them to continue to respond. Am I right in saying that there was more engagement from the Treowen community?

Member of Staff: School is not just the heart of the community; it is the community. I was on the sidelines when my boys were at football last night and one of the other mothers I didn't even know, went to Treowen, and she remembers and asked me how's it going. But it's the memories and bringing together of Treowen and that's what the school does along with the community hall. But the people that we deal with on a day-to-day basis, they'd be lost without us. We are like their anchor, and the thought of them walking down the hill to Calon y Dderwen it would have that impact on the community. It would just be awful for a lot of them we are their lifelines.

Member of Staff: They send their children to a smaller school for a reason. They don't want their children getting lost in a big school.

Member of Staff: We go to a house sometimes to get a child to school.

Marianne Evans: We heard that from the pupils themselves this afternoon. They're concerned about being part of a larger school and about little things like well, how do we find our way around. These things are important to the children.

Member of Staff: We've got the kind of children who struggle socialising, struggle around this many children. They struggle to be able to get into class or, you know, their anxieties are high, but they feel loved by the teachers. They feel comfortable, they feel a part of the school that they want to be here daily, even in their struggles. There is no way those children would be able to flourish if they were in a larger school because it's too much for them. There are too many people. We've got a high number of children like that. What are you expecting them to do? Just get on, or will they misbehave down there? Will their behaviours change because they can't cope? They'll be lost.

Eurig Towns: Our role is to collate the information to inform Cabinet. That's why we need to make sure you get those points across.

Marianne Evans: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would also have a similar profile of children and the same behaviour issues.

Member of Staff: I know my child, for example, really struggles with too many things going on and too many noises. Put him in a school with another 200 children on top of the number of pupils in Treowen, if you have an assembly all together or lunch all together, suddenly that triples in noise, and he's not anywhere near what some of the children in this school are like. So, I just think, you know, they might have the same level of need, but then you're putting them all together and that's going to make it a lot harder for them.

Member of Staff: Some of our pupils don't live on the estate, they come to this school because it is safer and it is better. For others that do live on the estate, they don't have cars. You are stopping them from having a small school because they won't be able to walk that much further to be able get to small schools like St. Mary's, drive to Abermule or elsewhere. I'd just like to give an example of a lovely benefit of a small school, one of the boys in my class had his birthday a few weeks ago. Everybody knows each other in this school, you know every single person, and every teacher knows every pupil's name – you don't get that in a big school. And the boys started singing him to him in the corridor on his birthday. You would not get that in a super school, that would be lost.

Eurig Towns: I can't agree with you on that, when I was a head teacher at a school of 326 pupils I knew every single pupil. I'm talking from personal experience. I knew every single one of them.

Member of Staff: But everyone wouldn't know everyone else. Yes, the headteacher would know everyone's name, but here all the pupils know each other.

Member of Staff: I still struggle with the fact that Treowen is referred to as a small school. A smaller school to me is a school with 15 to 20 kids, not a school with 100 with the potential to get more in. We had an influx throughout the year until now because people know what's happening and it's putting them off. If this hadn't been announced, there's a good chance we would have had more pupils. This has impacted our numbers. I struggle with that term small school

Marianne Evans: The Welsh Government definition is that anything below 91 is classed as a small school. When you speak to colleagues from some other authorities though, they consider anything 200 to be a small school.

Sarah Astley: Just going back to the engagement and the responses from the school communities. We had 111 responses from the Calon y Dderwen community, 101 from the Treowen community, 55 from the Maesyrrhandir community and 34 were unspecified.

Marianne Evans: Any other comments to raise, or queries? We fully understand your concerns. I know somebody has suggested as well that Cabinet Members come to the school for a visit and I think it wouldn't be a bad thing. The Cabinet Members couldn't visit these schools before they make a decision, but that does normally happen after the consultation ends, so that they can come and see and have a feel for the schools. It's really important that they see and hear.

Member of Staff: Yes, I would say that should have been the first action to be honest with you, it should have happened before the plans moved forward.

Sarah Astley: Councillor Pete did come and visit the school during that first engagement period.

Member of Staff: I'd say that anyone involved in that position will need to visit the schools and spend time chatting with some of the children. That would be nice. We've had a lot of visitors lately that just can't say enough positives about the school.

Marianne Evans: I know you've said you completed the questionnaires, but if you do have anything else that you want to say then please write to us, fill in the forms, or e-mail us. Everything will be taken into account.

Meeting ended.

Consultation Meeting with Governors of Treowen C.P. School

8th February 2024

Present:

Governors:

Keileigh Jones – Chair of Governors
Angela Williams – Teacher Governor
Holly Roberts – School Business Manager
Kelly Williams – Non-Teaching Governor (HLTA)
Kerry McBride – Parent Governor
Olivia Allport – Community Governor
John Barker – LEA Governor
Nicole Harding – Clerk to the Governors
Rob Picken – Acting Headteacher
Natalie Havard – LEA Governor
Janne Titcombe – LEA Governor

Officers:

Lynette Lovell – Director of Education and Childrens Services
Marianne Evans – Service Manager Schools Transformation
Rachel Hudson – HR Business Manager (Schools)
Sarah Astley – Strategic Programme Manager, Transforming Education
Eurig Towns – Service Manager for School Improvement
Mari Thomas – Deputy Head of Finance (Strategic Finance)
Ffion Evans – Transforming Education Programme Co-ordinator

It was explained that there would be a brief presentation with an opportunity for discussion, comments and questions to Officers afterwards. It was explained that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes but that the recording would be deleted once the minutes had been completed and agreed.

Sarah Astley gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the background to the current proposal and explained that in October 2023, Powys County Council's Cabinet gave approval to proceed with consultation on proposals affecting Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen School.

The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the

Treowen site closes.

The consultation period started on the 15th January 2024 and runs for 6 weeks, ending on the 26th February 2024.

After the consultation period ends, a consultation report will be prepared which will be considered by the Council's Cabinet. If they decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice would be published, and there would be 28 days for people to submit any objections they have. An Objection Report would then be prepared, and Cabinet would consider this report and make a final decision on whether or not to implement the proposal.

The indicative timeline included in the document was shared, however it was explained that this can change due to circumstances or the number of responses. The intention was that the Consultation Report would be considered in April, however there is a complication with this due to the Police and Crime Commissioner elections taking place in May, which means there will be no Cabinet meeting in April, so the Consultation Report will either be considered in March or May.

Governors were then invited to ask questions on the proposals.

Governor: My first question is why was Maesyrrhandir taken out of the running for this proposal?

Marianne Evans: Thank you for the question. It was raised in the staff meeting as well. When we engaged with the three school communities in the summer, we looked at the responses that came back and considered everything in the round and we felt that the pupil profile between Treowen and Calon y Dderwen was closer than it was with Maesyrrhandir, particularly in terms of ALN and free school meals. One of the other big factors that we had to take into account was, yes Calon y Dderwen have a big site currently, but half of that site is going to be used for the North Powys Wellbeing Health Centre. When we considered the feedback that had come up through the engagement around the impact on the space of bringing all three schools together on that site, that was a factor. One of the other factors that was looked at was staffing, the leadership here not being permanent, whilst in Maesyrrhandir there is a substantive Head who is on secondment, so that was another factor. These were the main reasons, as outlined in the consultation document. Whether we're right or not, who knows, however that was where we ended up.

Governor: I'm under the impression that Maesyrrhandir still actually only have an Acting Headteacher like we do?

Marianne Evans: They have a Head. The headteacher is away on secondment. So they have the Deputy acting up, I think. So, it's a similar situation but not quite.

Governor: So the one that's substantive, she's only part-time, isn't she? They don't have a full-time Headteacher.

Marianne Evans: No she's full-time.

Governor: She manages two schools.

Eurig Towns: The substantive role is actually headteacher at Maesyrrhandir full-time.

Governor: It was a cost saving measure for her to only be Headteacher part time.

Eurig Towns: Not necessarily a cost saving measure. That was an agreement between their governing body and another governing body that she would support that other school as well. However her substantive role is Headteacher of Maesyrrhandir, full time.

Governor: The other thing is that we actually wanted to put out an advert for a full-time headteacher when our previous Head handed in her notice, however we were informed that this wouldn't be a good idea because of the current situation. So actually you've put us in a worse situation, a now you're using this against us.

Governor: I agree, this is a good point.

Marianne Evans: I think it would be up to the governing body to decide whether they wanted to go out and recruit. I think the timing then maybe, you know, affected whether to recruit.

Governor: I think we took advice as well.

Eurig Towns: Based on what we know from other schools which are going through a similar situation, that have gone through that, they've tried to recruit at that time. As soon as candidates have found out there is a consultation process there, they've found they've had very few, if any, candidates. So that's why the advice has been given. It's difficult to appoint a permanent Head to a school that's going through any form of consultation.

Governor: We understand that. I think the point is that it is now working negatively against us. And that's put us on the back foot.

Marianne Evans: It's coming back to the pupil profile and similarities between Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen, also that Maesyrrhandir has a significant FSM and ALN percentage. It's difficult because actually if we had the whole site available to us at Calon y Dderwen, it may well have been a different proposal, and we could be thinking that we would put all three schools in. However, we don't have the whole site available, and that's why it's a difficult call. But we have to look at everything in the round.

Governor: It's quite hard for us to accept, because when you look at other facts, with the surplus spaces, the quality of the buildings that are there, there's quite a lot that goes against them as well and in favour for us. There was a little bit of an issue with our PLASC count that didn't have our ALN right, but we'd asked for help and were told don't worry, it won't be used against you, but then, of course, it happened. So, we have got more stated pupils than actually was first stated.

Sarah Astley: The point is noted, however the PLASC figures are the PLASC figures, aren't they? And the information in the documentation is the latest PLASC figures that were available.

Governor: We're still saying we don't want that to be used against us because it is wrong. And we did ask for a bit of help but it's like, don't worry, don't worry. We don't want that to be used against. I'm going by the County Times article that put surplus spaces, they were classed over 50% surplus. We haven't. The state of building repairs. The ALN pupils. When you look at that. Free School meals, I don't think we're that far off.

Marianne Evans: When you look at everything in the round, it's a difficult decision, whether to include Treowen or Maesyrrhandir because we can't include both.

Governor: But I think that's what we're feeling. It's not fair. Once you look at the facts it just seems a little bit unfair.

Marianne Evans: I know the concerns you have, I know the concerns the staff have, but in terms of looking forward, there are benefits this proposal can bring, you know. I know though that obviously in a difficult position because you're feeling it's a negative thing against Treowen.

Governor: And it has that knock-on effect. Now you've started it, we are going to see a reduced amount of people wanting to come to the school, people will be looking at other schools instead because it's the unknown. They don't want their child to start and then be two years down the line and they have to move to a different school. So it has had a detrimental effect by just having the conversation.

The question I have is what are the benefits for having a new school and what is that financial saving you're going to make by closing this one and opening a new school?

Marianne Evans: As you know, the proposal initially is for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to become one school. And we can discuss how that's going to be done. Then the plan is to build a new school, with all the pupils to move into the new building. So, in terms of going to a bigger school, the intention is that we build it for 360. We were planning for a 300-place school, so we've increased the capacity to 360 plus Early Years' provision plus the ALN provision within the building. And it's all part of the North Powys Wellbeing Hub, so there will be benefits from integrating the school with that health hub.

It will be a larger school, so I'm going to hand over to Lynette or Eurig to speak about the benefits of that.

Eurig Towns: Looking at the staffing there, and leadership, there would be more opportunities in terms of leadership at a bigger school.

Governor: How would that be different from this school? By being a bigger school, how will the staff have more opportunities?

Eurig Towns: Well, there are more opportunities for teachers, you could have Deputy Heads, you could have Assistant Heads as well. You'd have curriculum leads too and TLRs would come in as well. So more opportunities for people to lead. In terms of working with staff, you've got a larger staff body, but in the smaller schools perhaps you're leading across two or three areas whereas there you could have other people leading, you've got both Key Stage 2 and Foundation Phase, and opportunities to work together across the phases too. The opportunities to do that have increased at that time.

Governor: Is that an increased salary, though, for those people?

Eurig Towns: If they had taken on some TLRs or are Assistant Heads. There are opportunities for increased salaries.

Governor: So that's going to increase, that's going to add to the cost.

Eurig Towns: No because that would be part of the school's funding. If you've got a 360 school, you're then funded for a Headteacher, a Deputy Head and Assistant Head. That comes into your pot. So, it doesn't necessarily take additional money to do that. It just means you've got additional funding for those posts.

Governor: What's the minimum number of pupils you'd have to have? You say there would be space for 360 but as we know, in all these schools, there's always surplus. So what's the number when you start getting Assistants?

Eurig Towns: You're over 300 by the time you get Assistant Heads.

Governor: I think Penygloddfa got to about 300 and they didn't get funded for an Assistant Head. How many pupils are in Calon y Dderwen?

Sarah Astley: I'll open the document up to confirm the numbers.

Governor: There's about 230 in Calon y Dderwen, and there's around 100 here but I can't imagine all 100 would go.

Marianne Evans: But if you look at the projections, Calon y Dderwen stay fairly stable, although I do know they're having a larger reception group coming in next year. But then your projections were going down, even before we started this consultation.

Governor: We had a few big years at Treowen.

Marianne Evans: But to be honest that's the same across Newtown. And that's one of the issues the Council has to try and tackle with transformation. At the moment, by the time the new build opens, not earlier than 2026/2027, numbers would probably be around the 320 mark. However, with new builds there are risks. There are all kinds of things that can happen. But the issue I think we have though, and this is something we're going to have to think about if this goes forward, a new school could be attractive. Is 360 going to be large enough? So that's another dilemma.

Lynette Lovell: The issue with that is, as we said at the beginning about the engagement, when we were looking at Maesyhandir, Treowen and Calon y Dderwen, we're looking for that site to actually be able to have 400 odd children on the site, and that's where we looked at the space and what we could do with the building. 360 is as far as we can go at the moment with that building but it will probably attract children from elsewhere in town, that's what happens initially when you have a new building. But there will obviously be a cap on the pupil admission number.

Sarah Astley: Can I just come back in on the numbers? So, the numbers in January were 251 at Calon y Dderwen and 105 in Treowen, so 356 altogether. However, if we look at the projections for January 2028, and I know they're just projections, but the projections are 229 at Calon y Dderwen and 78 in Treowen. So that's about 300 across the two. But they are just projections at the moment, and anything can happen, particularly in a town environment where there are a number of schools in a small area.

Governor: The benefits we have at the moment is that there are more opportunities for staff. But then if the numbers are not high enough then you're not going to get the funding for those opportunities for the staff.

Eurig Towns: There are benefits too in terms of the curriculum, from the staff working together.

Governor: How does this mean that the curriculum is better?

Eurig Towns: Because you're working together as staff. You don't have so many staff leading on so many areas. You're taking the skills of each staff member and using that rather than staff having to lead on two or three areas in most schools.

Lynette Lovell: What we'd be looking to develop is a community focused school, you've got a lot of it going on here, there's a lot of it going on in Maesyrrhandir, a lot of it going on in Calon y Dderwen. We'd be looking at the new build to be a community focussed school. So, you've got wraparound, you've got Early Years facilities there. You've got a state-of-the-art building for the children to have that learning environment that will be a community focussed school. There'll be the facilities to enable them to have that multi-agency approach which I know you do here. You have the health board coming in too, that will be a feature of the school. It'll be a community focused school so they'll learn this multi-agency approach. Initially, until that build is ready, we're looking at retaining the school on two sites. We know the build is going ahead anyway for Calon y Dderwen, but if this proposal goes ahead, it would be at that point that the children would come together on the one site in the new building, with the facilities so that the children have those good facilities going forward. Personally, I've been very clear all along, I would like Maesyrrhandir to be there as well because I think all of the children in this town deserve the best facilities going to ensure you've got that multi-agency community focussed school because research proves, that to get children out of deprivation, that community focussed, multi-agency approach is the way to do it. That's what I would prefer but we are constrained by the site currently.

Governor: I just picked up a couple of things from the consultation document. First of all, I'm sure you're aware of the error on page 51 with the finance, the figures should be the other way around.

Projected numbers worry me, in that essentially Calon y Dderwen stay the same, Treowen due to fall. They have fallen in the past but there's been no analysis to say what has caused that fall. We know that school numbers go up and down. I can think back to schools the Council was going to close 15 years ago which are now thriving. So, I wouldn't put too much emphasis on those projections. But one of the things that isn't in the document is an analysis of current travel. Where are the children who are going to Calon y Dderwen currently, travelling from? Are they coming from Treowen? So, is it already drawing from Treowen? Where is Treowen pulling pupils from? There's bound to be children travelling across the town from one side of the river to the other. And I think that's a big risk here. The projections are based on live births and I thought, well, isn't there something about why there are fewer live births on Treowen. Why are these numbers here projected? Is it just on a historic trend that might happen or is there something else? Have there been other developments?

There's no mention of all the building developments in the town. There are a lot of things going on that perhaps haven't fed into this. So that's the first thing about some of the data that is missing.

Sarah Astley: I'm just going to come in on the travel, on the home locations of the pupils. This information is included in the documentation, it is in the community impact assessment. It isn't in the full document but there is information in the community impact assessment. If I can just scroll down to the appropriate bit.

Marianne Evans: And before you go there, projections are tricky to understand as well, particularly when there are so many schools in a small area. I don't know the answer to why there's been such a dramatic drop in terms of Maesyrrhandir and Treowen, so if you know why please tell us.

Governor: Sometimes when you're in an area their children have gone, their children are older, but they stayed in their house. So, you've not got a fresh, new family moving in.

Governor: The distance from here to travel to Calon y Dderwen is a major issue that needs to be looked at. What has happened in some of the surrounding schools? Are their numbers falling similarly? So, what is happening in Kerry and Abermule for example? Are they seeing them still drop or are they attracting as well?

Governor: Penygloddfa is the other side of town. Their numbers have gone down as well. When I started it was 300 and they're down to 270 now. So, it has dropped.

Marianne Evans: Interestingly, some of the schools outside town, such as Caersws and Llandinam. Llandinam basically stayed the same, so very small numbers, 20's and 30's. Caersws was around the 40 mark but now they're up to about 70 and predicted to grow. So that change has happened in very recent years.

We get these projections from the statisticians, they are based on live birth data and the pupils currently within the school. But we also look at the November counts projections which the Finance team take from Teacher Centre and get from schools as part of their 3-year budget projections.

However, we are required to put five-year projections in by Welsh Government. So, we use the one we get from the statisticians, but we also consider the Finance count information, which may be a bit more realistic.

Governor: You can't know the numbers in five years' time, they're not even people who are pregnant at the moment.

Governor: We've had 3 new starters this half-term, which sounds small but when you look at the numbers...

Marianne Evans: The live birth projections that we get from the statisticians are pretty robust when you look at a whole catchment, when you look at the county because they're at that level. When you get down into the smaller, individual schools that model may not be as accurate.

Sarah Astley: It's also why we regularly look at the live information which is on Teacher Centre. PLASC is the standard data set, but we do try to include live data as much as we can, but again that can change daily, weekly.

Marianne Evans: The other thing is that the projections don't take account of any changes in the local area such as a housing development, or even refugees, or things along the lines of the pandemic.

Sarah Astley: In the Newtown area there is a lot of choice available in a small area.

Do you want me to come back on the pupil locations? The information is in the document as a percentage rather than individual pupils because sometimes it's a low number of pupils and to avoid the risk that individual pupils can be identified. The information is based on pupils attending the school in June 2023, and at that time, Treowen was the closest school for 63.7% of pupils attending Treowen. Then Maesyrrhandir was the closest school for 16.9% of Treowen pupils, Penygloddfa for 9.7%, St Mary's for 8.9% and Calon y Dderwen for 0.8%.

Governor: You're saying about the live birth rate, and I know you've just covered a bit of it, but I've never lived on Treowen, not since I was a child. I live in the Maesyrrhandir catchment area, and all my children went to Treowen because that's where I chose to put them because I didn't want them to go to Maesyrrhandir. I also know that there are at least 6 other children that live on Maes-y-Dail that come to Treowen school so they chose that school because of that, not because of where they live. You're basing facts on where people are and what their closest school would be for their catchment but that's not actually how people do it. They go and look at the schools.

Sarah Astley: And obviously that pupil location data is reflective of that.

Governor: But what about wider places? You've only said about people in Maesyrrhandir, Treowen nearer to Penygloddfa area. One of the governors lives in Llandinam but brought her son to school in Treowen.

Governor: I know of someone who lives in Bwlch y Ffridd who was going to apply for a place for their child here, but since this consultation started they've changed their minds. Would I send my son to a school for 2 years to all of a sudden up-sticks and move into another school? No. So, it's going to have a wider knock-on effect than what's actually on paper.

Marianne Evans: Every time we start reviewing a school it does introduce a period of uncertainty and there's no getting away from that. Parents make decisions based on all kinds of things, don't they? The quality of the school, the convenience, because it's on the way to work, is it English-medium, is it Welsh-medium. There's a lot of parental choice, particularly in a town where you have got quite a number of primary schools in a very small area. So, we take all that into account, but parental preference is something you can't really measure.

Lynette Lovell: In terms of parental preference, parents do have the choice to go to whichever school they choose, although they may not get the transport. But it's interesting because you were mentioning that 60% of pupils here live closer to Treowen, but does that mean that 40% from Treowen go elsewhere?

Sarah Astley: No that's just the pupils coming here. We have the information for Calon y Dderwen but it's a bit different because of the school's location. It's not as close to housing. So 54% of pupils attending Calon y Dderwen are closest to Maesyrrhandir, but that could be pupils in areas of town like Vaynor or along Llani Road. Treowen is the closest school for 11.9% of pupils at Calon y Dderwen.

Governor: From Treowen 11%. That's 20-odd pupils. So if they came here that would be another 20 pupils in this school.

Governor: Forgetting catchment areas now. Going back to the parental choice, and pupils, because pupils are the most important thing in all this. And the parents are choosing for pupils, for their children, to come here for a reason. If they want to be in a larger school, would they not be choosing that now? What is it that makes them want their children to go to Treowen? I personally know what it is, and that's the reason I send my children here.

Governor: I didn't grow up on Treowen, I grew up on Trehafren but my mum decided on Treowen. I asked why I didn't go to Ladywell and her straight honest answer was because I like the feeling of Treowen School and I like the feel of the staff and the environment.

Governor: And that's why I sent my kids there.

Governor: They do have a choice, but I think a lot of the time parents that come here walk into the school and get a feel the minute they come in here.

Governor: I presume there's space there in Calon y Dderwen, so why are the pupils coming here now and not Calon y Dderwen?

Marianne Evans: Is it because this school feels more like a village school? It's on top of the hill.

Governor: Would you lose that in a large school? I know you say you would prefer for all 3 schools to be included, and I appreciate the multi-agency thing because I would want the best for my children in that sense and for the children I work with now. But when I send my child here knowing they've got whatever issues, health issues or whatever, I'm confident that every member of staff in this school is aware of who those children are. They can spot in an instant if they are not themselves. They know when to take them off for little chats. And I mean that for any of the children here. Would you get that in a larger school? If a child walked past the Headteacher, he instantly knows their name, what class they're in, their

temperament, if they're out of sorts. How can a Headteacher or any teacher be able to do that with a school of over 300?

Eurig Towns: I can answer that. I mentioned earlier when we met the staff, my history has been as a Headteacher of a school of more than 300 pupils. I knew all the children there. I knew them instantly. I talked to them, their families at the gate in the morning, but I would also say the staff knew those children very well because they have to. It's part of your role as a teacher, as a teaching assistant. You know your children very, very well. So I would say, yes, they can. It's how you build it up. The school is only as good as the staff that are inside it. OK, I can't say every single school is like that, but you can make a school a community. It doesn't matter what size it is as long as you've got the people there who are driving that.

Governor: And have you got, I don't want to say proof of that, but from other schools, have you got proof of that?

Eurig Towns: We've got schools right across Powys that are doing that. My role is going into schools with the School Improvement Team to go and have a look at those. We work with some of the largest schools and we work with some of the smallest schools. It's not how many pupils but how are you teaching those pupils. Are they getting quality education? That's what we look at when we go into schools. That's what we said to you in Treowen, you provide a good quality education to your pupils, but we can also go into Calon y Dderwen and then go, hey, you're doing it as well. You do it in a different way, but you're still able to provide that quality education.

Governor: I think that's what worries me, that if we are doing those things, we're showing that we are providing a high level of education, we're providing the pastoral care of our children. We're bringing in multi-agencies. We've got all that going on. What are we doing wrong?

Eurig Towns: The reason for the closure is not because of the quality of education. That's not the reason why it's closing. We recognise that and that's in the report as well. We're not saying you're doing anything wrong.

Governor: But I just think it's Treowen staff and pupils that are losing out.

Eurig Towns: I think that's why it's important to state, we're not saying you're doing anything wrong educationally, that you're not supporting pupils. You're actually doing a good job. We can also say that at Calon y Dderwen.

Governor: But I still feel it's us that are missing out in this new proposal. Originally it was proposed to us that we would merge together under a new name, new uniform, new school. In this new proposal we are just joining them and everything about Treowen is gone and there's going to be an imbalance in the staff because of that.

Lynette Lovell: This is a consultation and, as we said earlier, there are times in the past where things have changed following the outcome of the consultation.

Governor: We've spoken about how we are feeling because it looks like Calon y Dderwen will carry on but it's us going to have to walk downhill, our pupils that will have to change their uniform and be the newbies. It's almost like starting a new school. And it's us that's going to have to fit in the way that they're doing things instead of it being a collective joint enterprise.

Governor: My child is in Year 6 and came home tonight and said, 'Oh my God mum, you want to hear what I've just heard today in school. We're going to have to have a new uniform but their uniform, not our uniform.' How sad is that for kids to come home and say we've got to have their uniform?

Marianne Evans: That's if it happens, and no decisions have been made at this stage. We had a really good session with the children today where we explained to them that this is just an idea at the moment and no final decisions have been made.

Going back to the point about staffing, I explained in the staff meeting, when we came to meet with you in the summer, that there are different ways of doing this. One is to close both schools and open a new school. I'm going to have to explain here because I think it is important. The reason we proposed it this way is because Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is only newly established and has recently gone through the merger of Hafren and Ladywell, so have gone through all that upheaval. The staff quite rightly pointed out that you've also gone through upheaval here in terms of redundancies in the last few years and I think we may not have made that explicit in the consultation document. But in the report that goes back to Cabinet, we will explain that you have already gone through similar issue and challenges.

I'm going to have to say here that we met with staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen on Monday, and they're not happy about it either, let's put it that way. And one of the issues for them is the perception that they will seem to be 'top dogs'. So, I think if this goes forward and during the transition period before it all happens, a lot of work will need to be done to make sure all staff feel involved in the development of this new proposal. A lot of work will have to be done with both groups of staff and pupils for parts of it, and the Calon y Dderwen governors were also extremely mindful of the delicate nature of this going forward. They've got change fatigue, that was what we had from them because they've already managed a number of years and they've been in the development of the design of the new building. So, Calon y Dderwen have serious concerns about this as well.

Sarah Astley: It came through in all of the meetings. It came through with the pupils who themselves were concerned about Treowen Pupils, potentially feeling like they were being taken over. It came through with staff and it came through with the governors too. So, it's something that already they're very mindful of.

Governor: You mentioned that they have had input into the building, should this all go forward, we would have as much opportunity as them?

Governor: Has it ever been considered that the Calon y Dderwen site just becomes a Health Hub, and that a new school is built here on this site? So, keep that as a Health Hub, make that a centre of town Health Hub, then the Super School built on this site. Has that been considered?

Marianne Evans: It hasn't been considered.

Sarah Astley: The current Treowen school site probably wouldn't be big enough for a school of the size needed though.

Governor: You were thinking previously about having a Welsh all through school on a field near to the school. So there is a potential of still keeping a school here.

Governor: I was just thinking really in regard to the discussion around decreasing numbers and considering the impact that that potentially could have on staff and teacher retention, and also obviously if numbers are dropping would that have an impact on funding for Treowen prior to anything happening? And just thinking about stability for the current teachers who are there if the transformation were to go ahead. What would that look like really for staff? Have there been any assurances, is that something that's been thought about? Basically, if numbers are dropping would there be pressure on the school if the budget wasn't as much because the pupil numbers are lower. Would they have pressure then to make redundancies prior to any transformation if it were to go ahead?

Lynette Lovell: Mari, do you want to come in on this? About the dual sited school and how they're funded during the transition period if this were to go ahead, and if numbers did drop here in terms of teacher retention and staff retention here during the transition period? How the budget works.

Mari Thomas: The current funding formula is largely based on pupil numbers. But there are top ups then for smaller schools. So, you would still get the same top up in terms of premises and the small class top up as well, so those pupil numbers will affect the budget. And I think maybe it's something that we would need to consider if the impact of this proposal, if it goes ahead, was to have a significant impact on learner numbers, and then therefore your budget, that is something we would have to take into consideration. We know that budgets are extremely tight at the moment across the board. There are a lot of difficult decisions being made both within the Council and across Powys as well. We'll have to take it step by step really and obviously within all those budget discussions, be mindful of the situation the school's in if it is decided to go ahead with this proposal.

Lynette Lovell: Rachel, can I bring you in on that one, in terms of if the proposal goes ahead and on one site the numbers go down? In terms of staff retention, if the

proposal goes ahead to be one school, it would be one school so everybody would be in the same pot?

Rachel Hudson: Yes, that's my understanding of how it would work. I think that part of the question was around what if numbers drop regardless of whether this proposal were to go ahead. I'll just echo what Mari said around the funding being based on pupil numbers and, if the school were to find itself in the position where I know it's been previously, of having to consult on redundancies then that could happen regardless of whether this proposal was to go ahead.

If the proposal did go ahead, and there was one school from the 1st September 2025 and the numbers were lower after that point then it would be one school, a collective. So, any risk, I can't think of a nicer way of saying it, any risk would be across the staff group of the new, enlarged Calon y Dderwen.

Governor: I think what I was referring to as well, is if there was a drop in numbers between now and January from PLASC say, for example, if that had an impact because obviously there's been talk in the community around what's going on and already governors are saying, parent governors are saying, that there are people who are not choosing to come to Treowen irrespective of whether or not it does go ahead. I think that must be a concern for the staff currently in school. So, what can happen to safeguard them really? And I understand there's budgets, and I understand there's funding formulas, but you know staff, parents potentially, are voting with their feet because they don't want to uproot children. So, I do think that's a worry for the staff. It absolutely must be and through no fault of their own. It isn't because Treowen isn't a good school. It's because of the uncertainty that they don't want to put their child through that uprooting later down the line even though nothing's been confirmed yet.

Lynette Lovell: It is the case that it's a pupil led funding formula and the number of pupils does make a difference to the budget that you get and the staffing, and Treowen has been through it...

Governor: I'm here tonight as a member of staff. Obviously, I know what's going on but we put a brave face on. We come to school and our main focus is the wellbeing of children and ensuring they still get the same learning opportunities, regardless of whether our jobs could be at stake or whether we're going to have to reapply or merge. Tonight, I'll probably leave this meeting feeling completely deflated, thinking OK it's time to really start thinking about what's going to happen as a member of staff.

Governor: If an opportunity comes up, they might think about going because will that opportunity come up for them again.

Governor: Sorry to jump in but the points that were made in the staff meeting, are we repeating ourselves?

Eurig Towns: It's fine to repeat because obviously the governors are here, and they didn't hear earlier on. So, we're happy to answer those questions again. Don't feel you can't say it again. We'd prefer you said it again, covered it twice, than to feel it's only been said once so perhaps the governors haven't heard the answer.

Governor: We'd have to apply for our jobs when we're Calon y Dderwen staff because that school, they're safe, and we're not. That was the main point, wasn't it?

Marianne Evans: I think, as well, it's worth pointing out here because it's in the documentation that there are staff implications twice with this proposal. If this proposal goes forward as it currently stands in the way we're proposing, there is an impact on Treowen staff during the initial joining with Calon y Dderwen because you have to go through the management of change process. However, there would still be a site here, there would still be education delivered here during that first phase, so that would need to be staffed.

But it's really worth pointing out that when the new school, the new building opens there would need to be a review of staffing structure again because, at that point, it's all of the staff going into the new building. The governing body would, by then, have had to look at not only the school, but how many classes, what the class structure would be, how many staff would there need to be and so on. So, there'd be a double staffing review needed.

But at Calon y Dderwen, even though they're not directly impacted in the first stage, they were very concerned about the second stage because they've just come through it as well. So, it's not to say everything's great for the staff at Calon y Dderwen, because it would be one staffing body and everybody's in the pot as you go into the new building. With all the new buildings, Welshpool Church in Wales, there were 2 restructures. Brecon Primary School – we're setting up a new primary school in Brecon, merging three schools into one, first on the three sites and then into a new build – we're going through exactly the same conversations there. So there will be two lots of staffing reviews, I just needed to put that out there.

Eurig Towns: Your point is there'll still be a school here on the 1st September 2025. You will still need staff here. Whatever number of children you have in 2025, you will need to staff that, whether you are part of Calon y Dderwen or whether you are Treowen.

Governor: At the rate children are going to look at other schools we might not need them. We might not need all the staff in 2025 because the amount of children might not be here because they're seeing their education threatened.

Governor: As a parent, I can honestly say if this does go ahead as of September, my child will move from here. And I'm not the only parent. I've been to all the schools in Newtown now. I don't want my child to go to a big school, I don't think he'll cope,

so St Mary's is a school I'm looking at and I know that school can't get affected by merging. I don't want my child's education to be affected, so I'm acting before it can get affected.

Governor: I wouldn't send mine either. I agree, if this was to go ahead, I wouldn't put my children into Calon y Derwen because I know full well that my children wouldn't cope in a bigger school. It's one of the reasons I chose Treowen. It had a nice family feel without being a big school. It had the feel of a small village school while it's not. Obviously when I put my children into school, they were closing most of the village schools, so there wasn't the risk of the school closing. But it still had the nice feel of a village school where there wasn't a lot of people. My children weren't going to fall through the net of we've got so many children. There's a lot of demand because it is a smaller school so the staff have the ability to be able to help those children in a better way that they wouldn't have in a bigger school.

Governor: I have to echo what has been said. I brought my son to Treowen school. There were nine schools closer to me but Treowen was the only school that I felt could actually provide what my son needed because of his medical conditions. As soon as he went to high school, that fell apart very quickly. He was in High School for, I think, two terms before he was declared medically unfit because neither the school nor he could deal with his medical conditions. So there are a lot of children that being in a bigger school isn't going to be a better thing for them. Everybody likes to say, oh yes, there are going to be all of these facilities, but in actual fact, generally bigger schools don't work well for children who have a lot of needs. And they do fall through the net.

Also, we've discussed decreasing pupil numbers but in the documents you've put together, have you considered all of the new developments? There are a lot of new developments in Newtown right now. There are 38 houses being built a couple of hundred yards away from Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Have you considered how many children are going to be going to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen from that development because that is going to be their closest school? There's another big development by the by-pass. Have you thought about how many families are going to be coming into those properties and going to this school?

Marianne Evans: In terms of housing developments, the projections don't include housing developments, but this is something we've been pushing for a while in terms of any housing developments need to be factored into pupil projections. So that's an ongoing discussion that we're having. There is a ratio for housing developments that the planning department use. One new house yields 0.45 of a child. That's the calculation used. However, that's not an exact science because it depends on the type of houses being built. If you have one-bedroom houses versus houses with 3 or 4 bedrooms for example, or if it's social housing. There are a different range of permutations within that, but we do look at what's happening in Newtown. It's difficult to factor in the impact of the estates towards the bypass because I think that would be closer to Maesyrrhandir from there.

Sarah Astley: That's part of the whole Newtown picture as well. Although housing may have an impact on overall pupil numbers, there is capacity elsewhere in Newtown, in Maesyrhandir, Dafydd Llwyd, St Mary's, as you mentioned.

Governor: Is Newtown one of the towns that has the highest amount of primary schools in Powys? Because we have got quite a lot.

Marianne Evans: You are. If we look at the four main towns. Welshpool had four primary schools, three infants and one junior which we amalgamated into one English school and one Welsh school.

Governor: What's the success rate of that Welshpool?

Lynette Lovell: In terms of Welshpool Church in Wales School and the Welsh Medium School, they are very successful schools. Welshpool Church in Wales School is around 300 pupils, with very good provision for ALN, and a case study with Estyn for young carers. They've got something like 25 young carers going into that so it's really a good multi-agency school, working effectively.

Governor: Have you got statistics of the pupils that come in, start and then go because maybe it's not for them. Is there a statistical figure of that?

Lynette Lovell: We'd be able to get that. I think it's pretty much when they go there, they stay there, there's not a huge drop off.

Marianne Evans: The situation previously when we had the four Schools, and John will probably remember this, there was a draw out of Welshpool to the neighbouring village schools: Leighton, Guilsfield and so on. What we see now is that children in Welshpool tend to stay in Welshpool, so they're not choosing so much to go out to the village schools because of the success of Welshpool Church in Wales. And the Welsh school as well. That's growing too.

Jumping down into the next town, Llandrindod, two large primary schools, one English medium, one dual stream. Both large.

Then Brecon has quite a few – six - but three are being merged to create one new school. Ystradgynlais went from ten or eleven to four across quite a large area.

Governor: Based on population and number of schools, we're quite high in Newtown.

Eurig Towns: In Ystradgynlais, there is deprivation in that area, and there is strong evidence that the larger schools there are meeting the needs of pupils. Again, case studies from Estyn have come in and looked at their provision for pupils, to support

the daycare to their families as well. So, there's some evidence that that can work OK.

Governor: Just a general comment really. I'm not a stranger to school closures, but this is different because unlike other schools that actually close, it's not a small school, it's not in a deficit budget, it would have had a headteacher, and standards are good. These have been the reasons in the past mainly why schools have been closed. I think this proposal is just an opportunity. I think it's short sighted and it doesn't address the Maesyrrhandir position, and you should have really considered Newtown as a whole and said what does Newtown need? You mentioned Ystradgynlais which was a big reorganisation and has been successful, you mentioned Welshpool, how that was done to the whole town. You're just looking at this one bit here because you have a chance to. There's an opportunity for one school between us and Maesyrrhandir. That would be my preferred option if there was land and funding about. And that's why I'm saying I'm against this. I think you're missing an opportunity. There is a community here in Treowen, you risk losing that. I have no problem with a larger school and the advantages you talked about I fully support. But this isn't the right solution for Newtown.

Sarah Astley: It's very interesting, that option came up in the Calon y Dderwen governors as well and there were questions as to why that wasn't considered. And the reason it wasn't considered now was because, as you say, the starting point was Calon y Dderwen and the new building. However, the consultation is an opportunity to suggest alternative options.

Governor: Option 3B could have said close Maesyrrhandir and increase the numbers here. Or 3C, two schools together. That's not going to happen overnight. It's still going to be upsetting in terms of things that goes on. I still think there's a better solution.

Marianne Evans: I wouldn't disagree with you, and that is probably where we were a few years ago. I'll be completely honest, as you know we reviewed Newtown years ago and the first plan, first phase of that was Hafren and Ladywell, let's sort that out, let's build the building let's see how numbers in Newtown pan out, what happens then. And then obviously there is the North Powys Wellbeing development. Would that potentially release the hospital site? You can't do Newtown all in one fell swoop because we're relying on space being available. So, we were going down this route looking at developing the plans for Calon y Dderwen and were asked to look at this increase in size, and if we had the full site, I would probably say that would be the solution for these three schools. We haven't got the whole site though so this...

Governor: It's a half solution.

Governor: Before Covid there was talk, like I said before, about an all-through school possibly being put over here, which would then free up Dafydd Llwyd with the possibility of Maesyrrhandir and Treowen moving in there. That would have been a

better option I think because you've got Maesyrrhandir coming so far and Treowen only going to the bottom of the hill as well. You could give them what they needed in the building.

Can I just ask on class sizes? If this goes ahead what are the predicted class sizes in the new build because, now I haven't read it in detail, but I've had a flick through, I'm sure I came across something that said there could be class sizes of up to 60 with the main teacher but more support in general. That then, for me, flags up issues. Are we cutting down on teachers, increasing TAs?

Marianne Evans: The new build is currently being designed. The building bulletin guidance, which is the basis for any school design, says classes need to have 56 square metres. That's the minimum. Calon y Dderwen is being designed with classes that are slightly bigger than that, which is an issue because we have to justify to Welsh Government why we're building them bigger. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would like them to be even bigger. So we're looking at classes of 30, but it could be because of the numbers at the two schools combined, you could have a Year Group of 60.

Governor: So one teacher for 30 and another teacher for 30.

Sarah Astley: Just to go back to the documents, there is no reference to classes of 60, however 60 is the total number of pupils currently in year two across the two schools. That is the largest year group of pupils across the two schools. But it does not say that pupils would be in classes of 60 pupils.

Governor: Could you guarantee two classes being here? Because with the numbers we support that would be an issue. Single year group classes would be the ideal, that's what you should be planning for. That's why I'm a bit concerned over the numbers, and because the numbers are due to fall, it's difficult to plan. I would hope, if you're going to build, you would build for 12 classrooms plus office so that you could do two classes.

Governor: I'm just backtracking a bit. When you were talking about the new builds, one of the comments was that the new builds that are being built just outside of Newtown by the bypass would come under Maesyrrhandir area, well there's a new build that's being built right by the train station and that would fall under Treowen catchment.

Marianne Evans: Point taken. Noted.

Governor: We've got fab relationships between the schools in Newtown, and with Calon y Dderwen and Carl as well. We said from the very beginning we certainly didn't want to put us against them, so there's no hard feelings whatsoever between the personnel at the schools, we don't want to damage that.

Marianne Evans: We know there are sensitive situations here. The minutes will be written up, and we'll make sure that you're happy with them.

Governor: If we think about the way forward, and about positions. Should the proposal go ahead, when could we expect to learn more about positions, opportunities for leadership, TLRs, AOEL Leads, TA, 1-1s?

Rachel Hudson: As with most things in HR, it depends. In the event that the decision is made on the timescales we're looking at, the next step would be to work out what the budget is for the combined, bigger Calon y Dderwen. From that, it would then be for a staffing structure to be worked out and to be proposed and consulted upon. So, we would have 12 months before the before go-live date, if the timeline works as it is anticipated. I would expect that to happen around spring 2025 in preparation for the September 2025.

Governor: In the document it says that this school would cease to exist, so the governing body would cease to exist and Calon y Dderwen governing body would continue as they are. There needs to be some representation from governors currently at Treowen school as well.

Marianne Evans: Calon y Dderwen were mindful of this as well. Interestingly Calon y Dderwen opened in 2021 so by 2025 it'll be four years, and four years is the term of the governor. So, there would be vacancies in terms of governors by then, for example parent governor positions would come up, staff governor positions would come up. But I think what's important is that we make sure that there is representation from both schools on the governing body in some way, even if the structure of the governing body means that, for example, you can't have a staff governor from the two schools.

Eurig Towns: Calon y Dderwen are keen on that because they want to work together. You're also saying that you would want to make sure that everyone works together. It's not pitting one against the other.

Governor: I do have a comment about the terminology for this process? Merger - are we all agreed on that it's not merging?

Marianne Evans: Technically it's extending the capacity of Calon y Dderwen to include another site. So, what we're trying to explain, is that it's about merging with Calon y Dderwen. What we are all keen to avoid, including Calon y Dderwen, is the word takeover. It's similar to the situation we had with Newtown High and John Beddoes back in the day. So it was extending the capacity of Newtown High to include the Presteigne site. But basically, it's joining together. Joining is the right word.

Governor: What would be the outside space? What green area would there be? Obviously, some space would be lost because of the campus being shared, so the green space will be gone.

Marianne Evans: That's a big concern for Calon y Dderwen, as you'd expect, with the amount of space that they have currently. On the plans there's outside space, there's green space, there's multi use games areas. And all of that is within the guidance for building new schools of that size. But what's difficult is Calon y Dderwen have been used to much more space, but the space is within the guidelines.

Governor: How's it going to work with Calon y Dderwen having a bigger school, having an extra 100 children, if you take into account that most of these siblings could be single children households, and then you've got the Healthcare Hub that they're wanting to put hospital facilities in as well and a police station and a nursery nearby, plus then the three plus children. That's going to cause a lot of congestion on that road, that's going to have an impact on emergency services because obviously if there's a Healthcare Hub there then ambulances might need to turn up, police might need to get out, and if there's then going to be an additional 100 possible parents down there then that's just going to cause a lot more problems.

Marianne Evans: In terms of the North Powys Wellbeing Hub, it's being looked at as a joint project, the school and the Health Hub. However, the school is the first element. There's a big piece of work going on at the moment looking at the master plan for the overall campus, looking at things like traffic flows, looking at car parking, looking at walking routes, all of this taking into account the size of the overall campus.

A lot of these issues would need to be considered as part of the planning process when it gets to it, so there's a fair way to go.

Governor: The health hub, what type of things will be there? Won't there be safeguarding issues with the kind of people that would go to the Health Hub? I'm thinking addicts...

Marianne Evans: Even though the campus development is being considered as one project, the safeguarding element is key in terms of the design of the school, this comes first.

Lynette Lovell: Thank you so much everybody for your contributions tonight there's really valid points that really need to be taken into consideration as we move forward.

As we said earlier, everything that's been said tonight will feed into the consultation report. All these conversations tonight will all be available for Cabinet to read before they make their decisions. As you can see it is complex, there's a lot to consider. It is a proposal at this stage, and it will be the proposal the Cabinet will have to consider

and make their decision on. And they will make the decision based on everything that is provided through the consultation process. If there are other things that you haven't said tonight and you think, I'd like to make that point, the consultation is open to everybody to make their views known, including parents.

Governor: About parents' views. Are you still going to be using the letters that the parents all wrote and gave in hand copies of as well as the documents they filled in online? Because a lot of parents wrote at the very start when this was proposed, I think there were over 100 letters that went in.

Marianne Evans: Yes, we have those. We will include them.

Lynette Lovell: Thank you very much everyone. Thank you for your time.

Meeting ended.



Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

Updated Impact Assessments

April 2024

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Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

Updated Impact Assessments

1. Introduction

Powys County Council has consulted on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposals are as follows:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

In line with the Council's policy, an Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out which incorporates the Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management.

In addition, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) requires local authorities to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment in relation to all school reorganisation proposals. For proposals which affect teaching through the medium of Welsh, local authorities are also required to carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These impact assessments were provided in draft form during the consultation period and have now been updated following the consultation. The Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out based on the latest PLASC information available. The Community Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the two affected schools.

Following the consultation period, the impact assessments have been updated to incorporate any issues raised during the consultation period. The updated versions will be considered by the council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.

2. Integrated Impact Assessment

Service Area	Schools Service	Head of Service	Georgie Bevan	Portfolio Holder	Clr Pete Roberts
Proposal	Plans for Newtown Schools				
Outline Summary / Description of Proposal					
The Council has carried out consultation on the following proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:					
Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025.					
Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.					

1. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	Consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code took place from the 15 th of January 2024 to the 26 th of February 2024.

2. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workforce and OD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Data Protection Impact Assessment					

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals? Yes

Is Powys County Council the data controller? Yes

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.

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	✓
North	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crickhowell	<input type="checkbox"/>	Llanfyllin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Welshpool and Montgomery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mid	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hay and Talgarth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Llanidloes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ystradgynlais	<input type="checkbox"/>
South	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knighton and Presteigne	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A prosperous Wales:</p> <p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new build primary school in Newtown. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings.</p> <p>Community benefits to include opportunities for traineeships / apprenticeships are a key requirement of Sustainable Communities for Learning projects, therefore it is anticipated that these opportunities would be available as part of implementing the proposal.</p>	<p>Good</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>A resilient Wales:</p> <p>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 eventually result in a new build primary school in Newtown. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings.</p> <p>Implementation of Phase 2 of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School. Whilst the distance from Treowen C.P. School to the Calon y Dderwen site is less than 1 mile, it is acknowledged that the Treowen estate is located up a hill. Concern was raised during the consultation period about the ability of those living on the Treowen estate to access the Calon y Dderwen site.</p> <p>Whilst it is unlikely that pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would be eligible for home to school transport to the Calon y Dderwen site, it is possible that the change in location would result in pupils being transported in cars to the new site.</p>	Neutral	<p>Ensuring that suitable Active Travel routes are in place from Treowen to the Calon y Dderwen site will be an important consideration when developing the new school building.</p> <p>The intention would be to minimise the number of pupils being transported to school by car.</p>	Neutral

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A healthier Wales:</p> <p>A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017:</p> <p>Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site. It is anticipated that this would provide additional opportunities for pupils to take part in a wide range of activities to improve their physical and mental well-being, including sports activities.</p> <p>Eventually, the proposal would lead to a new build primary school in Newtown. Moving to a brand new building from the current poor quality buildings would have a positive impact on the well-being and morale of both pupils and staff.</p> <p>Concern was expressed during the consultation period about the impact on pupil well-being of moving to a different school, particularly for those currently attending Treowen C.P. School.</p>	Neutral	<p>The proposal is to introduce the change on a phased basis, with provision continuing to be available on the Treowen site during Phase 1 as part of an extended Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This will provide an opportunity for pupils to become familiar with the new delivery model.</p>	Good

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities:</p> <p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>The proposal would eventually provide access to new build, 21st Century Schools facilities, which would have a positive impact on residents and communities.</p> <p>Whilst initially Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would operate across two sites, eventually implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no provision in Treowen, therefore there would be a greater impact on residents living in Treowen due to there being no school in their area. It is less than a mile to the new proposed school site, however it is acknowledged that the Treowen estate is located up a hill. Concern was raised during the consultation period about the ability of those living on the Treowen estate to access the Calon y Dderwen site.</p> <p>Eventually, pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen would attend a brand new building, which would be vastly improved compared with the current buildings.</p> <p>Concern about the impact on the Treowen community of there no longer being a school in Treowen was raised during the consultation period.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>There is a community hall in Treowen which would continue to be available for community activities.</p> <p>Opportunities to use the Treowen school site to provide new community facilities to be considered.</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>A globally responsible Wales:</p> <p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</p> <p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:</p> <p>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 proposals is to provide the best possible opportunities to learners, enabling them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>The Council has carried out consultation on the proposal, which included consultation with pupils affected by the proposal, ensuring that all affected by the plans have the opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Good</p>		
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p> <p><i>Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards</i></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><i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i></p>	<p>Both schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language.</p> <p>Welsh-medium education is available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's new building when it opens instead of choosing Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is itself located in a new building provided by the 21st Century Schools Programme. As Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is closer to Treowen than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it is possible that some pupils would choose to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the future, instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p> <p>Some comments were received during the consultation which suggested that pupils would not have access to the same opportunities to use Welsh or participate in Urdd Eisteddfod activities, should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>All pupils would continue to attend a school of the same language category as their current school, and would continue to have opportunities to learn Welsh and to experience Welsh culture.</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
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	<p>Both schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language.</p> <p>Welsh-medium education is available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's new building when it opens instead of choosing Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is itself located in a new building provided by the 21st Century Schools Programme. As Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is closer to Treowen than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it is possible that some pupils would choose to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the future, instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p> <p>Some comments were received during the consultation which suggested that pupils would not have access to the same opportunities to use Welsh or participate in Urdd Eisteddfod activities, should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>	Neutral	All pupils would continue to attend a school of the same language category as their current school, and would continue to have opportunities to learn Welsh and to experience Welsh culture.	

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
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site.</p> <p>It is anticipated that being part of a larger school would result in additional opportunities for all pupils to take part in sport, art and other extra-curricular activities. Whilst it is expected that some of these benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, this would be further enhanced following the planned move to a new building.</p>	<p>Good</p>		
<p>A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). <i>Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).</i></p>				
<i>Age</i>	<p>The preferred way forward would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.</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
<i>Disability</i>	<p>The preferred way forward would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.</p> <p>Eventually, implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to a new building in Newtown. This would significantly improve the accommodation for these learners, and would ensure full access for disabled pupils in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Concern was expressed during the consultation about the impact on pupils with additional learning needs, particularly those currently attending Treowen C.P. School who would eventually have to attend a larger school. Concern was also expressed about the impact on people with disabilities due to the additional distance to the Calon y Dderwen site and the fact that the Treowen estate is located at the top of a hill.</p>	Neutral		
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	No impact.	Neutral		
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	No impact.	Neutral		

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
<i>Race</i>	The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. 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		
<i>Religion or belief</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, regardless of their religion or belief.	Neutral		
<i>Sex</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, regardless of their sex.	Neutral		
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, regardless of their sexual orientation.	Neutral		
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact.	Neutral		

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
<i>Socio-economic duty</i>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, including any eligible for Free School Meals.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would eventually be no school in Treowen. This would mean that all pupils would transfer to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. This would mean that pupils living in Treowen would have to travel further to get to school. Whilst the distance is less than a mile, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a hill. This may mean that it is more difficult for pupils from homes with lower incomes to access the new school, particularly if they don't have access to a car.</p> <p>It is possible that the change in location would also mean that it would be more difficult for pupils to access extra-curricular / after school activities, and that this impact would be greater in respect of pupils from lower income households. There would also be an impact on the parents of these pupils in terms of accessing school activities.</p>	Neutral	Ensuring that suitable Active Travel routes are in place from Treowen to the Calon y Dderwen site will be an important consideration when developing the new school building. The intention would be to minimise the number of pupils being transported to school by car.	

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

Consultation responses, consultation report

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

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				
Long Term: <i>Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</i>	The aim of the proposal is to provide a more resilient education infrastructure in Newtown, to ensure that the best possible learning opportunities can be provided to pupils in the future.			
Collaboration: <i>Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	Full consultation on the proposal has been carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. This provided an opportunity for all interested parties to give their views on the proposal. A Consultation Report has been prepared which includes the issues raised during the consultation as well as responses to these issues. This report will be considered by Cabinet when deciding how to proceed.	Neutral		

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including:</i></p> <p>Unpaid Carers: <i>Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</i></p>	<p>Full consultation on the proposal has been carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. This provided an opportunity for all interested parties to give their views on the proposal. A Consultation Report has been prepared which includes the issues raised during the consultation as well as responses to these issues. This report will be considered by Cabinet when deciding how to proceed.</p> <p>All stakeholders had the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, including any unpaid carers in the area.</p>	Good		
<p>Prevention: <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</i></p> <p>Safeguarding: <i>Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</i></p>	<p>The key issues relating to the schools affected by the preferred way forward have been identified as part of this work. The Consultation Document and the Consultation Report included with the Cabinet papers identifies challenges facing the affected schools and aims to identify a solution which would address these issues and prevent them occurring again.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal and any new build development. The intention is that the proposal would improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p>	Good		

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Integration: Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.	No impact.	Neutral		

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>Powys County Council Workforce: What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would initially impact on all staff at Treowen C.P. School as the school would close. However, during Phase 1, the Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. A Management of Change process would need to be undertaken to establish the staffing structure on the site.</p> <p>Staffing requirements may also need to be reviewed during Phase 2, following the move to the new building. This could potentially lead to a reduction in overall numbers of staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p> <p>The new school would be a larger school, which would lead to benefits for staff, including improved development opportunities from being part of a larger team of staff. In addition, implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new building to replace the current buildings. Working in these new buildings would have a positive impact on staff morale.</p> <p>Full consultation has been carried out and this process included the opportunity for Council Officers (including HR) to meet with the staff of both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. Concerns about the impact on staff were raised at both of these</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Support to be available for staff throughout the process, including through the Council's employee assistance programme, 'Vivup'.</p> <p>Education would continue to be provided on the Treowen site during the first phase. The expectation is that it would continue to be provided by current Treowen staff.</p> <p>Should any further staffing changes be required as part of the move to a new building in Phase 2, all staff would be treated equally.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

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
	meetings. In particular, concern was raised about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff facing further uncertainty having recently been through a merger, and that staff Treowen CP School were being treated unfairly compared with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff as the proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen rather than close the two schools to establish a new school.			
Payroll: How will this impact salary, any overtime/enhanced payments etc? Does this affect any particular group of employees? E.g. Male/Female dominated workforce. Does this proposal comply with the Councils Single Status Terms and Conditions?	Implementation of the preferred way forward could impact on salary arrangements for current staff at the affected schools.	Neutral		
Welsh Language impact on staff	Both schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh language impact on staff	Neutral		

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
Apprenticeships: Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?	No impact	Neutral		
Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements				
Consultation responses, consultation report				

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

<p>Treowen</p>	<p>The proposal would eventually provide access to new build, 21st Century Schools facilities, which would have a positive impact on residents and communities.</p> <p>Whilst initially Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would operate across two sites, eventually, implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no provision in Treowen, therefore there would be a greater impact on residents living in Treowen due to there being no school in their area. However, it is less than a mile to the new proposed school site.</p> <p>Pupils from Treowen would be attending a brand new building, which would be vastly improved compared with the current Treowen building.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed during Consultation in relation to pupils and parents from Treowen having to travel away from the estate to access the new school if Phase 2 is implemented – these concerns included: road safety from Treowen to the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen sites, increased congestion if pupils are traveling to school by car, increased journey time and the impact on disabled pupils and parents.</p>	<p>Major</p>	<p>Full consideration of the impact on the Treowen community has been considered and is reflected in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>There is a community hall in Treowen which would continue to be available should there be no school on the estate in the future. Opportunities to use the Treowen school site to provide new community facilities to be considered.</p> <p>Ensuring that suitable Active Travel and Safe Routes are in place from Treowen to the Calon y Dderwen site will be an important consideration when developing the new school building. The intention would be to minimise the number of pupils being transported to school by car.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	
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9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Description of risks			
Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)
<p>If there is no funding available to fund this project, either from the Welsh Government or the Council, then the project will not be able to proceed.</p>	High	<p>A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for a new build 270 place school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has previously been approved by Welsh Government. However, it is recognised that should the decision be implemented, the current estimated costs are higher than the funding envelope approved within the SOC.</p> <p>The Council has recently developed a new Strategic Outline Programme for the new Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme, which includes an updated cost for this project. This will be considered by Cabinet in May, and if approved, will then be submitted to Welsh Government for their consideration.</p> <p>It is also recognised that there would be an ongoing impact on the Council's capital budget in the form of borrowing. However, a new build school would address the ongoing backlog maintenance of three ageing buildings and would contribute to the Council's commitment to deliver Net Zero.</p>	High

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10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

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

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

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Full consultation has been carried out on the proposal and the impact assessment has been updated to include the feedback received.

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?

The Transforming Education Programme Board will continue to monitor impact over time.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

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

3. Equality Impact Assessment

Powys County Council

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)



Proposal	Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School: Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025. Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.
Service Area	Schools Service
Date of Assessment	October 2023 Updated April 2024

The Equality Act 2010, requires that public sector organisations in the exercise of their functions, pay due regard to the following ‘general duty’:

- (a) Eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;**
- (b) Advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;**
- (c) Fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.**

The protected characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation. This assessment also includes a consideration of impact upon people and communities whose language of choice is Welsh.

The specific regulations for Wales [Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011] require public sector bodies to monitor relevant policy and practises and then assess and report on the impact based upon an analysis of relevant data and evidence.

1. AIM or PURPOSE

Briefly describe the aim or purpose of the change proposal being assessed.

In October 2023, the Council's Cabinet approved carrying out a consultation on the following proposals:

Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

Phase 2: Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

2. OBJECTIVES

Please state the current business objectives of the change proposal.

- Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building
- Improved building condition for the two schools
- Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building
- Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites
- The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- New building would meet Welsh Government net zero requirements
- Potential financial saving
- Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc
- Additional services could be provided in a larger school
- Reduction in surplus places in Newtown
- Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future
- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.

- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

3. BENEFITS and OUTCOMES

i) What are the intended benefits or outcomes from the change proposal?

The benefits of the proposals are:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building
- Improved building condition for the two schools
- Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building
- Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites
- The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- New building would meet Welsh Government net zero requirements
- Potential financial saving
- Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc
- Additional services could be provided in a larger school
- Reduction in surplus places in Newtown
- Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future
- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

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4. CORPORATE RELEVANCE

How does this change proposal relate to the Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan?

The proposal is aligned to the Transforming Education Programme and forms part of the Transformation Portfolio, set up to support the priorities and objectives outlined in the Corporate and Strategic Equality Plan.

5. DATA USED

5.1. What data has been used to conduct this assessment?

Tick/shade boxes as appropriate.

Profiling of service users, providing a breakdown of who uses the service by the protected characteristics.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service user satisfaction rates, broken down by the protected characteristics.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Qualitative data (analysed against the protected characteristics) which provides evidence about current services users experience accessing the service.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Qualitative data gathered from those that are not currently using the service.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Complaints monitoring against the protected characteristics.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wider research reports and findings.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant service-based Equality Impact Assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.2. Are there any gaps in the data?

Yes No

Please state the gaps:

- None

How will the gaps be addressed going forward? N/A

6. DATA ANALYSIS

6.1 Quantitative

Summarise the key quantitative data analysis results, providing key headline statistics.

Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. statistics generated from a consultation questionnaire.

Key questions:

- i) Are certain groups currently underrepresented in service user figures? Will a change affect this?
- ii) How do satisfaction levels compare across the protected characteristic groups? How will a change affect this?

PLASC January 2023

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

Based on the information provided in the school's PLASC return in January 2023, the following pupils belong to the protected characteristic groups:

- Free school meals: 30.9% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals.
- ALN: 28.3% of pupils at the school have additional educational needs. Of these, 20.4% pupils are on School Action, 3.9% pupils are on School Action Plus, 0.4% pupils have a statement and 3.5% have IDPs.
- Disabilities: 28.3% of pupils have additional learning needs.
- Looked After Children: 2.7% of pupils were recorded as looked after.
- English as an Additional Language: 7.0% of pupils are identified as EAL pupils.
- Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 80.4% of pupils at the school is White British. 11.3% of pupils belong to ethnic groups other than White British.

Treowen C.P. School

Based on the information provided in the school's PLASC return in January 2023, the following pupils belong to the protected characteristic groups:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free school meals: 32.1% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals. - ALN: 16.7% of pupils at the school have additional educational needs. Of these, 6.1% pupils are on School Action, 6.1% pupils are on School Action Plus, 0.0% pupils have statements and 3.5% have IDPs. - Disabilities: 16.7% of pupils have additional learning needs. - Looked After Children: 0.9% of pupils were recorded as looked after. - English as an Additional Language: 8.8% of pupils are identified as EAL pupils. - Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 77.2% of pupils at the school is White British. 15.8% of pupils belong to ethnic groups other than White British. <p>The information above shows that a proportion of pupils that belong to the protected characteristic groups will be affected by this proposal. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30.9% of pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and 32.1% of pupils at Treowen C.P. School are eligible for Free School Meals. This is higher than the Powys average at (18.0%). - 28.3% of pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen have additional learning needs. This is higher than the Powys average for primary schools (20.9%). <p>The proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School would impact all pupils currently attending the two schools, including those pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups. The impact would be greater on pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School as eventually they would need to attend school at a different location.</p>
<p>6.2 Qualitative Summarise the key qualitative data analysis, providing key themes or patterns.</p>	<p>Full consultation has been carried out on the proposals relating to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, including consultation with pupils at the affected schools. This has provided qualitative data in respect of the proposals, and information regarding any additional impact on pupils that belong to protected characteristic groups.</p>

<p>Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. protected characteristics focus group on the proposal.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <p>i) Do certain groups have a different service user experience? How will a change affect this?</p> <p>ii) Have any areas for improvement been communicated by particular groups? Will a change have an impact upon these views?</p> <p>iii) What are the reasons behind some groups not using the service? How will a change affect this position?</p> <p>iv) What has consultation on your proposals revealed about impact on the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Comments received during the course of the consultation indicated concern about the impact on pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on pupils with ALN of having to attend a larger school - Concern that pupils with ALN won't get the support they need - Concern about the impact of transition to the new operating model on pupils with ALN - Concern about access to the upper levels of a two storey building for pupils with disabilities - Concern about the impact on pupils / parents with disabilities that currently live in Treowen of having to access a school located further away, down a hill - Concern about the impact on low-income families living in Treowen - Concern about the impact on pupil attendance, particularly for those from low income families
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7. EqIA RESULT

Based on an analysis of the available qualitative and quantitative data, please tick/shade the appropriate box opposite to provide the EqIA assessment result.

<p>The proposal does not present any adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 10]</p>	
<p>The proposal presents some adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 8]</p>	✓
<p>The proposal presents significant impact on equality [Proceed to question 8]</p>	

8. AREAS for IMPROVEMENT

<p>Please provide detail of weak or sensitive areas of the proposal identified by the assessment.</p> <p>i) Which protected characteristic groups are particularly affected? ii) Will people on low incomes be affected? iii) Will Welsh speakers be affected?</p>	<p>i) The proposals would impact on a number of pupils with additional learning needs. During the consultation exercise, concern was expressed about the impact on pupils with additional learning needs currently attending Treowen School in particular, as well as pupils / parents with disabilities currently living in Treowen as it would be more difficult for them to access the school on the Calon y Dderwen site.</p> <p>ii) 30.9% of pupils attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and 32.1% of pupils attending Treowen C.P. School are eligible for Free School Meals.</p> <p>iii) Both schools are English medium schools, therefore the proposal will not directly affect Welsh speakers.</p>
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9. EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT

<p>9.1 Having identified problematic aspects to the proposal, how will this now be addressed?</p> <p><i>i.e. Are you able to involve (in some capacity) people from protected characteristic groups, Welsh Speakers, people on low incomes, to assist you in this process?</i></p> <p>i) Can the impact be mitigated, and how will this be done?</p>	<p>Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen be extended to include the Treowen site. The school would then eventually move to a new building on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site and the Treowen site would close. All pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School would be able to attend the new school. The aim of the proposals is to improve the educational opportunities available to pupils in Newtown, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>During the first phase of implementing the proposals, pupils would continue to attend school in their current buildings, therefore the impact on pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups would be minimal.</p>
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<p>ii) Does the proposal require modification to reduce or remove this impact?</p> <p>iii) Should the proposal be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have?</p>	<p>Eventually the intention is that the new school moves to a new building in Newtown. Whilst this would provide significant improvements to all pupils in terms of the quality of accommodation and the facilities available, this phase would have a more significant impact on pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend that school, including any pupils with ALN, as some additional travel would be required in order to attend the new building. However, the additional distance from Treowen C.P. School to the proposed site of the new school is minimal.</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposals would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the two current schools, there is no reason to believe that the extended Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected, including pupils with Additional Learning Needs, pupils belonging to Ethnic Groups other than White British, EAL pupils, pupils eligible for Free School Meals and Looked After Children.</p>
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9.2 Will the management of the impact as outlined in 9.1, be included in the Service Improvement Plan?

<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date added.....</p> <p>Reference.....</p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please explain why not: Need was not identified at time of writing Service Strategy</p>
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4. Community Impact Assessment

4.1 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

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

The closest English-medium provider for pupils attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in June 2023 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	9.8%
Treowen C.P. School	11.9%
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	54.0%
Penygloddfa C.P. School	7.2%
St Mary's RC School	17.0%

This suggests that 9.8% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 90.2% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools. However, it is clear that the majority of pupils that attend the school live in the town of Newtown or the immediate surrounding area.

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

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

- Clwb yr Urdd
- Dance Club
- Sports Clubs
- ICT Club
- Singing Club
- Art and Craft Club
- Debating 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:

- Large group rooms and Thrive provision

- Rooms for use by outside agencies including Powys Children's Services teams, school based counselling, a range of Health and Well-being services provided by Powys Teaching Health Board
- Parent and toddler classes (Ti a Fi)
- A range of after school activities such as the Summer Food and Fun Programme, local dance schools and Police Cadets.
- The facilities are also used by religious and local groups such as Newtown Rugby Club and Karate.

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

- See above

v) Other links between the school and the community

- Dementia Friends
- Links with Plas Cae Crwn
- Local library visits
- Local charities
- Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Church
- Local football and rugby clubs

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

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School site, therefore the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site would continue to be available.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. It is likely that the new building would have enhanced facilities compared with the current buildings, including community facilities, which could be utilised for the same activities and services currently provided, therefore it is not anticipated that moving to the new site would have a negative impact.

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

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School site, therefore pupils would be able to continue to access English-medium provision at the same locations. There would be no impact on distance and travelling time.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. The school is located on the same site currently and no additional distance or travelling time would be required.

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 eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils.

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

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposals would impact on public transport provision or community safety.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. As this site is a current school site, appropriate safe walking routes established for the school would remain.

4.2 Treowen C.P. School

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

The closest English-medium provider for pupils attending Treowen C.P. School in June 2023 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	0.8%
Treowen C.P. School	63.7%
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	16.9%
Penygloddfa C.P. School	9.7%
St Mary’s RC School	8.9%

This suggests that 63.7% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 36.3% 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:

- Sports Clubs
- Urdd clubs/competitions.
- Lunchtime clubs

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:

- Newtown Youth Theatre
- NYP dance group
- Breakfast Club.
- 3+ setting

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

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

- See above

v) Other links between the school and the community

- Strong links with Bethshan care home.
- Strong links with Library
- Regular community litter picking
- Strong links with Treowen Community Hall
- M.U.G.A. (Multi Use Games Area)

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

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School site, therefore the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site would continue to be available.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. It is likely that the new building would have enhanced facilities compared with the current buildings, including community facilities, which could be utilised for the same activities and services currently provided.

However, it is acknowledged that a move to a new school site in the town centre would mean that there would no longer be a school located in Treowen, therefore potentially the community facilities provided by the school may no longer be available.

There is a community centre in Treowen directly opposite the school which could provide the services and facilities currently offered.

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

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School site, therefore pupils would be able to continue to access English-medium provision at the same locations. There would be no impact on distance and travelling time.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. The site is located approximately 0.8 miles from Treowen C.P. School.

Following a move to the new building, there would be an impact on distance and travelling time for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School for whom Treowen is currently the closest school. An analysis of pupils attending Treowen C.P. School in June 2023 suggests that the furthest distance to the new school for pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school would be 5.96 miles (currently furthest distance is 5.67 miles).

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

In respect of primary provision, the nearest alternative English-medium provision to Treowen C.P. School would be as follows:

School name	Distance from Treowen C.P. School	Approx. travel time
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	0.8 miles	3 minutes
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	1.0 miles	3 minutes
Penygloddfa C.P. School	1.2 miles	4 minutes
St Mary's RC School	1.6 miles	5 minutes

The travel times above are the approximate travel times from Treowen C.P. School to the alternative schools, however the distance from individual pupils' homes to alternative schools would be different. Analysis has shown that the distances and travel times to alternative English-medium provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes for primary pupils.

Following the move to a new building in the town centre, home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport which is in operation at that time. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transports costs as the new building is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building.

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 eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils.

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

- Longer journey to new site.
- Many parents unable to travel that distance with younger children.
- Many families without car to travel.
- Huge concerns over busy roads to cross to new site from Treowen.

4.3 Issues raised during the consultation period

A number of comments were received during the consultation period which related to the proposal's impact on the community.

These comments are listed in full in the consultation report produced in respect of this proposal, along with the Council's response to the points raised, and are also summarised below:

- **Comments about new housing developments**
 - Concerns that there will not be enough pupil places in the area to meet the demand of the new housing developments
- **Travel implications**
 - Additional travel time/distance
 - Increased traffic near the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site
- **Impact on the Treowen community**
 - General concern about the impact on the community
 - The school is an integral part of the community
 - The school acts as a central hub for the community

4.4 Conclusion

Should the proposals be implemented, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would initially be extended to include the Treowen site. During this phase, it is expected that a similar range of activities to the activities currently provided would be available to pupils. It is also possible that an increased range of activities and opportunities could be offered to pupils, through the ability to share staff expertise and the ability to offer joint activities to a larger group of pupils. Both schools also benefit from links with the community. It is expected that these would continue during Phase 1. During Phase 1, pupils would continue to attend school at the two existing sites, so no additional travel would be required. It is anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be minimal during Phase 1.

Eventually, the intention is that all pupils would move to one new building located on the current site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is anticipated that the new building would have a range of community facilities, which would ensure that many of the activities which currently take place in the schools could continue, and could also provide the opportunity to offer new activities.

It is acknowledged, however that the move to one new building in the town centre would mean that there would be no school provision in the Treowen. This would mean that school activities would no longer take place on the Treowen estate, and could impact on links with the Treowen community. Activities that currently take place in the Treowen C.P. School building would need to find an alternative location. There is a community centre and a M.U.G.A. directly opposite the school which would continue to be available to community should there be no school in Treowen.

Some of the activities that currently take place at the school could be held in the community centre.

It is also acknowledged that phase 2 of the proposals would result in an increase in the distance to school for pupils for whom Treowen is currently their closest school. Whilst the additional distance would be minimal as the site would still be located within Newtown, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a hill, so it might be more difficult for parents without access to a car to access the site. Concern has also been raised about the walking route to the new school, and that pupils would have to cross a busy road.

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