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CABINET

Tuesday, 17th September, 2024

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

1.	YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH - PROPOSAL PAPER
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To consider a report by County Councillor Pete Roberts, Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys.

(Pages 3 - 88)

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET EXECUTIVE

17 September 2024

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

REPORT TITLE: Ysgol Bro Cynllaith – Proposal Paper

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This paper requests Cabinet approval to commence the statutory process on the following proposal:
- To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from 31 August 2025 with Powys-based pupils to transfer to their closest school in Powys.
- 1.2. For most pupils, the closest school in Powys will be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.
- 1.3. The report is supported by the following appendices:
- Appendix A – Options Appraisal
 - Appendix B – Draft Community Impact Assessment
 - Appendix C – Draft Integrated Impact Assessment

2. Background

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

- 2.1 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a small English-medium primary school located in the village of Llansilin in the north of the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys.
- 2.2 Current pupil numbers at the school are as follows¹:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

¹ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

Llanfyllin / North Welshpool Catchment Review

- 2.3 In the Summer of 2022, the Council updated and relaunched its Strategy for Transforming Education², and also published a work programme for Wave 2 of implementation of the Strategy. This includes a commitment to restart and conclude the review of the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment, which commenced in 2020. This restarted in April 2023.
- 2.4 In September 2023, the Council's Cabinet considered a paper which outlined the findings of the review and presented an indicative preferred way forward. The preferred way forward included the possible closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, however this would be subject to the Statutory Process as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
- 2.5 During 2023-24, the Council carried out the statutory process on one element of the preferred way forward identified for the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment, which was to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School. This school closed on the 31st August 2024.
- 2.6 The Council is now considering future options for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Information about Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

- 2.7 The following is a summary of key data relating to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers³

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

ii) Historical pupil numbers⁴

	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	32	29	30	26	26	23	27	25

² Available at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9344/Transforming-Education-Strategy>

³ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

⁴ PLASC (R – Yr6)

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)⁵**

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	27	26	24	27	24

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)⁶**

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	25	25	20	n/a	n/a

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

	Current Capacity ⁷	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	54	26	28 (52%)

ii) **Building condition⁸**

	Condition	Suitability
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	C Poor	B Satisfactory

Quality of Education

i) **Estyn**

	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
Date of Inspection	December 2023

⁵ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 & Birth Rates

⁶ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school – updated by Finance June 2024

⁷ MSCW Capacity from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2023

⁸ Welsh Government Return June 2023

Recommendations	<p>R1 – Address the safeguarding issue that was raised during the inspection</p> <p>R2 – Strengthen procedures to monitor and track pupil progress to evaluate more effectively the standards they achieve</p> <p>R3 – Improve the standards of pupils’ writing across the school</p> <p>R4 – Provide appropriate challenge and regular opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills</p>
Follow up activity	<p>Estyn Review.</p> <p>The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the recommendations. Estyn will review the school’s progress.</p>

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil⁹ (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2024/2025)

	Budget share per school £	Budget share per pupil £	Notional SEN budget £	Non ISB funds devolved to the school £
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	£200k	£8,000	£7,000	£18,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,800	N/A	N/A

The Case for Change

2.8 The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

⁹ Section 52 Budget Statement 2024/2025, available at [Delegated School Budgets per pupil, by school \(£\) \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/delegated-school-budgets-per-pupil-by-school)

2.9 Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers¹⁰ at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and the latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

2.10 High budget share per pupil

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2024-25, the school's budget share per pupil during 2024-25 was £8,000. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,800. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is ranked the 3rd highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil¹¹.

2.11 Combined age classes

The low pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with foundation learners in one class and older learners in another. Because pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged. One day a week, all pupils are in the same class. Small year groups mean that peer working is limited.

Options appraisal

2.12 An options appraisal exercise has been carried out to identify and consider reasonable options for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. This is attached to this report as Appendix A.

2.13 The options appraisal includes the following:

- Consideration of key data
- Identification of reasonable options
- SWOT analysis of each option

¹⁰ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

¹¹ Section 52 Budget Statement 2024/5

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

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

To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from 31 August 2025 with Powys-based pupils to transfer to their closest school in Powys.

2.15 For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys will be Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

2.16 The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers.
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools.
- Revenue saving to the Council.
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building.
- Pupils would attend a larger school, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum.
- Pupils would attend a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities.
- Pupils would attend a school with better quality accommodation.
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages.
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys.
- Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site.

2.17 The options appraisal document considers the impact of the preferred option on the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code as factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals. This is included in 'Part C' of Appendix A.

2.18 The preferred option aligns with the vision and guiding principles as set out in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

2.19 Implementation of the preferred option is subject to the statutory process outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

2.20 A draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out on the preferred option, which considers the impact on the community. This

has been developed with input from the school. The draft Community Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix B.

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

'It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Should there be no school in Llansilin, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that at least a similar range of activities would be available for pupils. However, it is acknowledged that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school for almost all current pupils. Should the school close, additional travel would be required to enable pupils to access their closest school.

Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy which is in operation at that time, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and there could also be an impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc. This could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school. Concern was also expressed that should there be no school in Llansilin, pupils may access alternative provision in England.

The information received by the school suggests that there are extensive links between the school and the local community, and that many community activities are arranged in the school which are accessed by the community. It is therefore acknowledged that closure of the school could have an impact on the community in terms of the services and activities available.

There is a Memorial Hall in Llansilin which would continue to be available to the community should the school close. However, the school has indicated that closure of the school would make it virtually impossible for the hall to continue. Concern has also been expressed about the impact on other business in the village, such as the community shop and the local pub.

The information received from the school indicated that closure of the school would have a significant impact on the local community.'

Statutory Process for School Organisation Proposals

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

i) Consultation

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

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

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

ii) Statutory Notice

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

If there were objections, the authority would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the authority's response to them. A further report would be presented to the Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

iii) Implementation

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

Presumption against closure of Rural Schools

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

2.24 As indicated in the Code:

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

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

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

2.26 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not included in the list of 'rural schools' which is included in the Code, however the Council's view is that this was an error when determining the list, and that the school should be included. Therefore, the Council will treat Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as a school identified as a 'rural school'. The additional requirements for rural schools have been addressed when developing the proposal paper.

3. Advice

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

- **To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from 31 August 2025 with Powys-based pupils to transfer to their closest school in Powys.**

3.2 For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys will be Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

3.3 The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers.
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools.
- Revenue saving to the Council.
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building.
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building.
- Pupils would attend a larger school, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum.
- Pupils would attend a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities.
- Pupils would attend a school with better quality accommodation.
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages.
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys.
- Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site.

- 3.3 Should the recommendation to commence the statutory process be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in October 2024.
- 3.4 It must also be noted that implementation of this proposal does not preclude that school from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 The amount of funding provided to schools is driven by the funding formula. Any change to the formula funding provided will impact on the Council's revenue budget. Based on the current formula, it is estimated that implementation of the proposal would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around **£77k**. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £145.8k and estimated additional transport costs of £70.8k, with a minimal £2k estimated saving in respect of catering.
- 4.2 There will be a further £10.6k annual revenue saving to the Council in respect of the funding provided to the school on top of the saving identified in 4.1. This relates to funding which is delegated to the school for the purposes of paying rent to the village hall for the use of their facilities for the school day. This saving is dependent upon successfully negotiating a termination of the lease which currently commits the Council to part funding the upkeep of the building.
- 4.3 The school is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £20.6k at the end of financial year 2024-25 reducing to £6.7k by the end of 2025-26. The costs will not be as much as planned should the school close on the 31st August 2025 and will therefore improve the forecast balance projected. If the school remains open, the school is projecting a deficit position in future years, based on current indicative funding levels.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 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.

- 4.6 The Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) notes the contents of this report and supports the recommendations.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal: Provided that the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) are followed, 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 comment and support the recommendation."

6. Climate Change & Nature Implications

- 6.1 Implementation of the proposal would impact on travel arrangements for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. This would have a negative environmental impact, as additional home to school transport would need to be provided to transport pupils to their nearest alternative school. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the schools, so it is likely that additional travel would be required for all pupils.
- 6.2 However, implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be a reduction in the number of schools run by the Council, with pupils being accommodated at other existing schools. This would result in a reduction in the Council's use of heating and electricity amongst other factors.

7. Data Protection

N/A

8. Comment from local member(s)

CIlr Aled Davies, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Llansilin:

Llansilin is a village on the Welsh/English, Powys/Shropshire border. The border is just across the field from the school and can be seen from the classroom window. Powys CC delivered services in Llansilin Parish would be negligible, if the school was to be close. This would be a clear indication the Cabinet has complete disregard of the language and culture of this Welsh village, which has played a major part in Welsh history.

I welcome the Impact Assessments that have been produced.

In this report the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Options appraisal is limited, I would have wished to see a further option of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith linking with Ysgol Llanfyllin, an all through school, with the site in Llansilin being retained but managed by Ysgol Llanfyllin. There are natural linkages and pathways to Llanfyllin as all the children travel in that direction to receive their secondary education. Ysgol Llanfyllin also has the advantage of greater capacity and resources to support the two 'classrooms in countryside'.

I fully acknowledge that the classes within Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are not big enough and there would be educational advantages having larger class size of children of the same age. A strong link with Ysgol Llanfyllin will help overcome these challenges and provide the children with an excellent education.

The report produced for cabinet is a misleading and Cllr Roberts must take responsibility for this. There is little reference in the report about the unique position of Llansilin, the report is full of constant references to schools in Powys but little reference to the closest schools, and these closest schools are in Shropshire and Wrexham Borough Council.

In the options of appraisal it states that 'some pupils may be closer to schools in Shropshire should the council proceed with the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith' However the truth is that **almost all pupils**, roughly 90%, are closer to Shropshire schools than they are to the closest Powys school, this is clearly misleading. The map within the report still shows a school in Llangedwyn however Powys CC sadly closed the school at the end of August. The map also fails to show the proximity of the Shropshire schools, clearly this has been done for effect.

Building condition and suitability score C and B, clear explanations of why the school was scored C and B has not been made. The school has recently had a new roof and drive resurfaced and it is important to understand how much of a maintenance backlog exists within the school. I disagree that the condition score is C

Projected numbers are contained within the report are low however 23 new houses have recently been completed and another 4 family homes are about to be built. There will be a small upward tick in the school numbers though I doubt it would be significant to take it up to the 80/90 pupils that attended the school at the beginning of the 2000s

The report also fails to identify the number of children leaving Llansilin catchment to receive their education in Welsh at other local schools, this failure of Powys CC to provide Welsh medium education in Llansilin has had a major impact on the school numbers.

At present one child comes from outside the catchment and 96% of the children attending from within Ysgol Bro Cynllaith catchment. If Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was to close, only three of the children would be closer to Powys schools all other children would be closer to Selattyn and Trefonen schools, both of which are in Shropshire.

Cost of transportation of children to other schools if Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was too close are not accurate. If the children chose not to attend Llanrhaeadr school the council would still have the duty to transport children to their nearest school, therefore 90% of the children would be eligible for free transport to schools in Shropshire, this cost would be borne by Powys CC. These children would also fall off the Powys school statistics and would have a negative impact on Welsh Government funding received through the RSG, Powys would have the costs but no income. It is a serious error that this is not fully explained in the report.

However, the financial implications pale into insignificance when compared to the impact on the culture and language of the local community. The children will attend their closest school, therefore 90% would go to Shropshire. They will then naturally follow their class cohort to the closest high school which would be in Oswestry. Welsh Government can kiss goodbye to the Llansilin's contribution towards the one million Welsh speakers. But maybe the Cabinet doesn't care.
Solution:

The Council's Schools Transformation is a difficult challenge of small rural schools that sit on the border. Small schools are additionally challenged when delivering the new Welsh Government curriculum. The opportunities when child cohorts are larger is clear, in and out of the class room and during and after the school day.

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith should become a part of Ysgol Llanfyllin's Teulu, it ticks so many boxes;

- Educationally
- Culture and Language
- Support and Governance
- Reduced running cost
- Wrap around provision
- Increased incentives to receive education in Powys
- Transport pathways and costs
- Maintain funding streams

If the Cabinet is uncertain about this solution, I would suggest that the Cabinet build in a review once Ysgol Llanfyllin's new build has been completed. Brilliant facilities and excellent education would be so attractive and support positive pupil pathways.

Llansilin is a part of Wales, don't turn your back on the village.

9. Integrated Impact Assessment (draft)

9.1 An initial impact assessment in respect of the recommendation is attached as Appendix C. The impact assessment considers the proposal's impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals, as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

9.2 The summary of the impact assessment is as follows:

'The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners. However, whilst this impact assessment has identified some positive aspects, in particular relating to learning and skills and ensuring the best strategic management of the Powys schools estate, the assessment has also identified some negative aspects. These primarily relate to the impact on the community of Llansilin due to loss of educational provision from the village, the associated additional travel requirements for pupils, and the potential impact on the village hall should the lease arrangement currently in place with the school be terminated. It is also acknowledged that whilst transport would be provided to enable pupils to attend alternative provision in Powys, the closest provision for most pupils would be located in England, and that pupils transferring to provision in England would no longer access the Welsh curriculum, nor would they have the opportunity to learn Welsh in school.'

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

10. Recommendation

10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process on the following proposal:

- **To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from 31 August 2025 with Powys-based pupils to transfer to their closest school in Powys.**

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Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Options Appraisal

June 2024



Version Control:

Version	Date	Brief Summary of Change	Author
0.1	April 2024	Document created	SA
0.2	June 2024	Version for consideration by CLT	ME / SA
0.3	July 2024	Version for consideration by Scrutiny	SA
0.4	September 2024	Version for consideration by Cabinet	SA

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1. INTRODUCTION

Wave 2 of the Council's Transforming Education Programme included a commitment to restart and conclude the review of the Llanfyllin / North Welshpool catchment, which commenced in 2020. This commenced in April 2023.

In September 2023, the Council's Cabinet considered a paper which outlined the findings of the review and presented an indicative preferred way forward. The preferred way forward included the possible closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, however this would be subject to the Statutory Process as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

The purpose of this paper is to present the options identified for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and to identify a preferred option, and to give further consideration to the impact of this option.

The purpose of this paper is to identify a preferred option for the future of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Current pupil numbers¹ at the school are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

¹ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

Following the inspection of Powys Education Services carried out by Estyn in the summer of 2019, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020 and updated following the Council elections held in May 2022.

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

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

In addition, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives, which includes an objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision' in order to improve overall learner entitlement and experience in Powys. This is being taken forward in the form of catchment reviews, the first of which is a review of the Llanfyllin catchment.

2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

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

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

The Council's 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, as outlined in the Strategy:

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. 15 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 schools' 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.

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 past left a legacy in Powys.

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED AT YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH

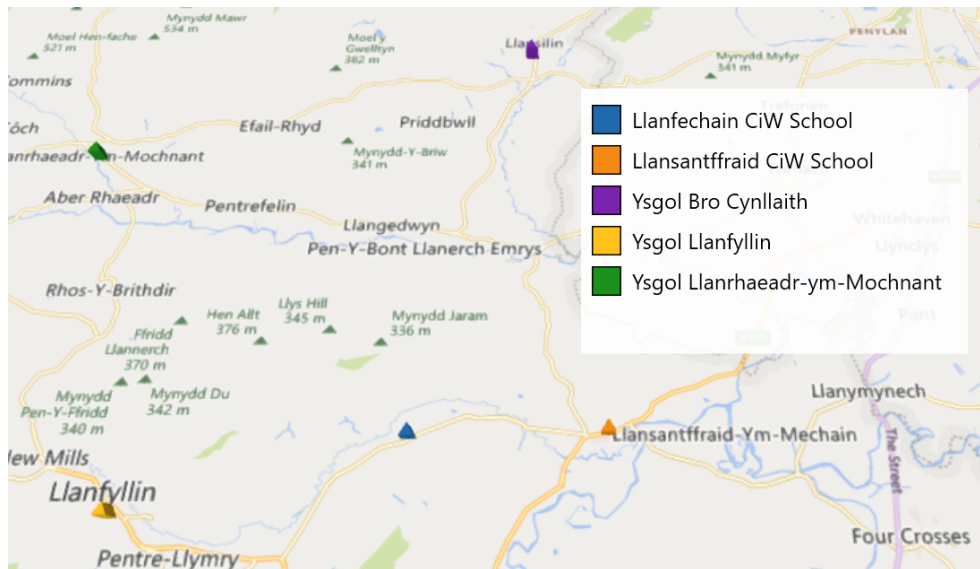
3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a community primary school located in the village of Llansilin in the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys.

The following is a summary of key data relating to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ²	Rural School? ³
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	Community Primary School building owned by the Council	English-medium	7	Yes

The following map shows the location of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and nearby schools in Powys:



² Powys County Council’s Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

³ Annex F of the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>) includes a list of ‘rural schools’, to which the ‘Presumption against the closure of rural schools’ applies. Whilst Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not included in the list of ‘rural schools’ which is included in the Code, the Council’s view is that the school should be included, therefore the Council will treat Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as a school identified as a ‘rural school’.

The following primary providers are located within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith⁴:

School	School Type	Language Medium	Distance from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith by road (miles)
Llanfechain C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled C. in W.	English-medium	8.5
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	Voluntary Aided C. in W.	English-medium	6.7
Ysgol Llanfyllin	Community all-age	Dual stream	8.4
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	Community Primary	Dual stream	5.9

There are also a number of schools located in Shropshire which are within a few miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

School	School Type	Language Medium	Distance from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith by road (miles)
Trefonen C of E Primary School	C of E	English-medium	5.1 miles
Selattyn C of E School	C of E	English-medium	5.9 miles

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁵

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total

⁴ School Distances by Road - Council's Business Intelligence Team

⁵ Teacher Centre, 5th September 2024

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26
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ii) **Historical pupil numbers⁶**

	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	32	29	30	26	26	23	27	25

iii) **Projected pupil numbers**

Birth rate⁷

	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	27	26	24	27	24

Finance Projections⁸

	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	25	25	20	n/a	n/a

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

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

	Capacity ⁹	Currently Filled ¹⁰	Surplus Capacity ¹¹
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⁶ PLASC

⁷ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC Jan 2023

⁸ Powys Finance projections based on data provided by the school – updated by Finance June 2024

⁹ MSCW Capacity from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2023

¹⁰ Based on current pupil numbers – September 2024

¹¹ Based on current pupil numbers – September 2024

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	54	26	28 (52%)
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ii) **Building condition¹²**

	Condition	Suitability
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	C Poor	B Satisfactory

Quality of Education

i) **Estyn**

	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
Date of Inspection	December 2023
Recommendations	<p>R1 – Address the safeguarding issue that was raised during the inspection</p> <p>R2 – Strengthen procedures to monitor and track pupil progress to evaluate more effectively the standards they achieve</p> <p>R3 – Improve the standards of pupils’ writing across the school</p> <p>R4 – Provide appropriate challenge and regular opportunities for pupils to develop their independent learning skills</p>
Follow up activity	<p>Estyn Review.</p> <p>The school will draw up an action plan to show how it is going to address the</p>

¹² Welsh Government Return June 2023

	recommendations. Estyn will review the school's progress.
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Financial information

i) Cost per pupil¹³

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	£200k	£8,000	£7,000	£18,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,799.78	N/A	N/A

Home to school travel¹⁴

i) Closest school

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 27 pupils that were attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith according to the PLASC 2023 information. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

Closest School	Pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	96.3%
Trefonen Primary School (Shropshire)	3.7%

Based on this information, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is the closest school for 96.3% of the school's pupils on roll in January 2023.

¹³ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/2024.

¹⁴ As Llangedwyn C. in W. School is due to close on the 31st August 2024, this school hasn't been included in the calculations in this section.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the closest school for all of the pupils that were on roll in January 2023 would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llansilin
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	7.4%
Selattyn CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	37.0%
Trefonen Primary School (Shropshire)	51.9%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	3.7%

If there were no school in Llansilin, the closest Powys school for all of the pupils that were on roll in January 2023 would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llansilin
Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	85.2%
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	14.8%

ii) Average travel distance

The average travel distance for all pupils on roll in January 2023 at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to the school was 1.40 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2023 to their closest alternative school would be 4.77 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2023 to their closest alternative school in Powys would be 6.64 miles.

iii) Furthest travel distance

Of the pupils that attended Ysgol Bro Cynllaith in January 2023, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was the closest provider was 3.62 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the furthest distance to the closest alternative school would be 5.66 miles.

If there were no school in Llansilin, the furthest distance to the closest alternative school in Powys would be 9.01 miles.

Equalities Information

i) Free School Meals¹⁵

	TP% Eligible	eFSM% Eligible	Total FSM % Eligible
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0.0%	12.0%	12.0%

ii) Children looked after¹⁶

	% of children looked after
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0

iii) SEN/ALN¹⁷

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	88%	8%	0	0	0	4%	12%

¹⁵ PLASC 2024

¹⁶ Teacher Centre, 5th January 2024

¹⁷ PLASC 2024

iv) **EAL¹⁸**

	% of EAL pupils
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0

v) **NI & Ethnicity¹⁹**

National Identity

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not provided
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	44.0%	0%	0%	0%	48.0%	0%	8.0%

Ethnic Group

	% White British	% Other Known Ethnicity	% Not provided
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	96.0%	0.0%	4.0%

Early Years Provision

There is no Early Years provision on the school site.

3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

i) **Low pupil numbers**

Current pupil numbers²⁰ at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are as follows:

¹⁸ PLASC 2024

¹⁹ PLASC 2024

²⁰ Teachers Centre 5th September 2024

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are significantly lower than this, and have decreased in recent years. The latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

ii) High primary budget share per pupil

Based on the Council’s Section 52 Budget Statement for 2024-25, the school’s budget share per pupil was £8,000. This is significantly higher than the Powys primary school average of £4,799.78. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is ranked the 3rd highest primary school in Powys by budget share per pupil.

iii) Combined age classes

The small pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with foundation learners in one class and older learners in another. Because pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged and have opportunities to work collaboratively with pupils of similar ability.

PART B – OPTIONS FOR YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH

4. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The following options have been identified for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
3	Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites
4	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant
5	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
6	Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys – this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant for the majority of pupils

5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

SWOT analyses for each of the 6 options are provided below.

Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - There would be no additional transport costs - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff - No impact on pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a small school

Option 2: Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - There would be no additional transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low - Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils would still be taught separately - Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision - Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith school building - Would not address the high budget per pupil - May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant - The schools are different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school would continue to be a small school

Option 3: Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school - Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on the Llansilin site - Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately - Would not reduce surplus places - Would still need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Both schools would lose their identity - Would also impact on the staff of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant - May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant - The schools have different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunity for increased leadership time for the headteacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 4: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llansilin - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at the Llansilin - Llansilin pupils would still be taught separately

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no additional transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Minimal impact on staff at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant - Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would retain its identity - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would still need to maintain the Llansilin building - Would not address issues with the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Would not reduce surplus places - Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would lose its identity - May not be attractive to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant - The schools have different language categories
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunity for increased leadership time for headteacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes

Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - Revenue saving to the Council - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited availability of places at the closest alternative schools - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from Llansilin - Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith - Impact on the Llansilin community - Pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire - If pupils chose to attend schools in England, they would not benefit from the Curriculum for Wales

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation - Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of children out of county would mean they wouldn't have the opportunity to use the Welsh Language - PCC would still be responsible for funding home to school transport for Powys pupils even if their closest school was in England
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site 	

Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys – this would be Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant for the majority of pupils

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - Revenue saving to the Council - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building - Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation - Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages - Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school - Loss of provision from Llansilin - Impact on the current staff of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith - Impact on the Llansilin community - Impact on Welsh language ethos of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site - Opportunity to offer Trochi provision to enable pupils to transfer to Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of capacity at nearest alternative schools in Powys

6. IMPACT OF EACH OPTION

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

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school	There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision in Llansilin.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
Option 2: Federation with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	There would be very little impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Llansilin. Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would continue to be low, however, more opportunities may be provided for collaboration between the schools.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
Option 3: Merge with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-	This option would retain provision in Llansilin, as both sites would be retained as part of the merger.	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llansilin.	Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, so no

<p>ym-Mochnant to establish a new school on two sites</p>	<p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Merging the two schools to establish a new school is likely to result in a school where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there may be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make-up of the new governing body.</p>	<p>additional transport would be required.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 4: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant</p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Llansilin, as the site would remain in use as part of the new operating model.</p> <p>It is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Llansilin. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the larger Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llansilin site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 5: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith,</p>	<p>Following the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School in August 2024,</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin as</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently</p>

<p>pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</p>	<p>the nearest Powys school to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith will be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.</p> <p>If pupils moved to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, they would be attending provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire. Should they transfer to these schools, they would no longer access the Welsh curriculum.</p>	<p>there would no longer be any provision in Llansilin.</p>	<p>attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events.</p> <p>Some pupils may be closer to schools in Shropshire should the council proceed with the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p>
<p>Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys</p>	<p>Following the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School in August 2024, the nearest Powys school to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith will be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.</p> <p>If pupils moved to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, they would be attending provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Some pupils would be closer to schools in Shropshire. Should they transfer to these schools,</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin as there would no longer be any provision in Llansilin.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p> <p>Some pupils may be closer to schools in</p>

	they would no longer access the Welsh curriculum.		Shropshire should the council proceed with the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.
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7. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032, 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 2020-2032 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 ● 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 achievable within current legislation ● The option must be operationally achievable ● The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue ● The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

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

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

The assessment for each option is as follows:

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

8. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the work carried out, the emerging preferred option for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is as follows:

Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys

The reasons for this are:

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

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys
- Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site

Further consideration of this emerging preferred option will be carried out, to include consideration of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code.

PART C – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code outlines factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals. Consideration is given below to the impact of the preferred option, closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, with Powys-based pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys, on the factors outlined in the Code.

9. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and Powys-based pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school in Powys. For most pupils, this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant was inspected by Estyn in June 2022. The inspection outcome was strong across all of the inspection areas.

The Council's view is that Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Based on PLASC information from January 2023, there are no Looked after Children or pupils for whom English is an Additional Language at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. There are a number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and a number of pupils with Additional Learning Needs, however the number of pupils belonging to these groups is small. It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

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

9.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupils' wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to an alternative school. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However, it is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative schools would be excessive.

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

9.3 Teaching and learning experiences

9.3.1 Quality of teaching

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

9.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The Council's view is that Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Pupils would be transferring to a larger school, therefore the expectation would be that there would be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils. Pupils would also be able to work in groups of similar ability pupils.

9.3.3 The provision of skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

9.4 Care, support and guidance

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. These areas were seen as strengths in the Estyn inspection of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant in June 2022.

9.5 Leadership and Management

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

There is currently an acting headteacher at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant. This arrangement has been put in place for two academic years and has been put in place to secure leadership at the school, following the unsuccessful recruitment of a permanent headteacher. It is the Council's view that leadership could be secured following transformation in the cluster. Estyn highlighted strengths and had no cause for concern in leadership during the inspection of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant in June 2022.

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is larger than Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, and therefore the headteacher would have more time available to focus on leadership

and management. At Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, the headteacher has to balance a large teaching commitment alongside leadership and management duties. For one day per week, the headteacher is the only teacher at the school.

9.5.2 Professional learning

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on positively on professional learning opportunities for staff currently working in Ysgol Bro Cynllaith should they not be able to secure alternative employment. However, should they secure alternative employment in a larger school, it is likely that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on their professional learning, as it is likely the alternative employment would be in a larger school, with a larger group of staff, meaning that the opportunities to share professional learning and lead on professional development would increase.

9.5.3 Use of Resources

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £20.6k at the end of financial year 2024-25 reducing to £6.7k by the end of 2025-26. The school is finding it increasingly challenging to balance in-year due to the combination of the low pupil numbers and high inflation on running costs they are currently experiencing. When small schools encounter any unexpected pressures such as long-term sickness or building maintenance issues, then the risk of falling into a deficit is higher as they have more limited scope to reduce costs in other areas to compensate.

One of the main challenges facing the Powys schools infrastructure is the high proportion of small schools in the county coupled with significant surplus places, resulting in higher premises related costs per pupil. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is amongst the smallest schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil is higher than the Powys primary average.

Closure of the school would reduce the overall number of schools and the number of surplus places in Powys. This would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

Should the preferred option be implemented pupils would transfer to a larger school, ensuring a more effective use of both schools' and the Council's resources.

9.6 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 Bro Cynllaith, including any pupils with ALN/SEN.

Based on PLASC information from January 2024, the proportion of pupils with ALN at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was as follows:

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	88%	8%	0	0	0	4%	12%

Whilst the emerging preferred option would impact on these pupils, as they would be required to move to alternative schools, there is no reason to believe that the schools to which they might transfer would not be able to meet their needs.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and the receiving school to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with ALN/SEN, and their families.

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

Should the emerging preferred option be implemented, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools, therefore Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. This means that implementation of the proposal would result in an increase in pupil numbers at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. It is possible that Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant would need to make some adjustments to its class structure to accommodate additional pupils. The school's dual stream model could cause further challenge.

It is possible that some pupils could choose to transfer to alternative schools rather than Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. However, the number of pupils transferring to any other school is likely to be very small, so it is not anticipated that this would impact on the ability of these schools to deliver the full curriculum to pupils.

10 NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

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

The preferred option is for pupils to transfer to their closest alternative schools in Powys. For most pupils, this will be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and building condition of Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant:

School	Capacity ²¹	Current pupil numbers ²²	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	120	85	35	29%	A Good	A Good

The school's current class structure is as follows²³:

School	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
KS1E	3	7	5					15
KS1W	12	2	8					22
KS2E				5	9	4	5	23
KS2W				6	5	4	9	24
Total	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84

Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant's current PAN is 15, which is based on the published capacity figure of 108. Following a review of capacity in June 2024, the school's capacity has increased to 120 with a PAN of 17. The PAN is whole school not per stream.

Should all current pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith transfer to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, pupil numbers at the school would be as follows, based on current pupil numbers at the two schools²⁴:

²¹ Capacity agreed with the school in July 2024.

²² Teacher Centre, September 2024.

²³ Teacher Centre, September 2024.

²⁴ Teacher Centre, September 2024.

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	15	9	13	11	14	8	14	84
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3	2	6	2	6	2	5	26
TOTAL	18	11	19	13	20	10	19	110

Whilst this information shows that the year groups would be above the revised PAN of 17 in a number of year groups, the Council would work with the school / governing body to accommodate pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wishing to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

As Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school, the school may need to review its class structure should implementation of the proposal result in an increase in English-medium pupils at the school.

Combined pupil projections for the two schools are as follows²⁵:

	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	86	86	78	78	74
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	27	26	24	27	24
TOTAL	113	112	102	105	98

This suggests that total pupil numbers across the two schools are expected to decrease over the next 5 years.

Alternative provision is also available at a number of other schools which are located within 10 miles of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and the building condition of these schools:

²⁵ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC Jan 2023

School	Capacity ²⁶	Current pupil numbers ²⁷	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	120	85	35	29%	A Good	A Good
Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	43	4	9%	C Poor	B Satisfactory
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	106	-1	-1%	B Satisfactory	C Poor
Ysgol Llanfyllin (All-through)	1102	774	320	30%	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/ Poor

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

As indicated in section 10.1, there are sufficient places at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to accommodate Ysgol Bro Cynllaith's current and projected pupil numbers. Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is a dual stream school, so it may be that the school would need to review its class structure should implementation of the proposal result in an increase in English-medium pupils at the school.

Additional English-medium C.P. provision is also available at other providers in the area, such as Ysgol Llanfyllin.

Church in Wales provision is currently available in the area at Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, however it is acknowledged that there is currently pressure on places at both these schools. Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is a C.P. school. There are sufficient places available in the area for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to attend alternative C.P. provision.

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

²⁶ Powys – Condition Survey Oct 2023 return to Welsh Government. Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant capacity increased following discussion with the school in July 2024.

²⁷ Teacher Centre, September 2024

There are alternative primary places available at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close. It is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for ALN/SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

10.4 The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school, and all pupils at the school are currently taught in English. Should the Council proceed with the preferred option, pupils would transfer to alternative school. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, which is a dual stream school, so pupils would be able to express a preference for either the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream. It is therefore possible that pupils would choose to transfer to the school's Welsh-medium stream, which would result in an increase in the number of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh. If pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wanted to attend the Welsh-medium stream, the Council would offer trochi provision to support them with this choice, and information about Welsh-medium education would be shared with parents, to encourage pupils to choose Welsh-medium provision.

The Council's aim is to support all schools to move along the language continuum, including Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant

10.5 How the proposal would expand or reduce Welsh language provision and in the case of the latter, set out why provision will be reduced.

The proposal would not expand or reduce Welsh language provision as Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school. Should the Council proceed with the preferred option, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For most pupils, the closest alternative school in Powys would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, which is a dual stream school, so pupils would be able to express a preference for either the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream.

If pupils from Ysgol Bro Cynllaith wanted to attend the Welsh-medium stream, the Council would offer trochi provision to support them with this choice.

11 RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

Implementation of the preferred option would lead to an overall reduction in surplus places in the area.

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

The review of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith does not form part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21st Century Schools) Investment Programme.

However, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys identifies a number of issues relating to the overall Powys schools' estate, including a high proportion of small schools, a high number of surplus places and issues with building condition. The Strategy includes a strategic objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', which aims to address these issues, to ensure better strategic management of the Powys school estate. The review of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is being carried out as part of a wider review of the Llanfyllin catchment in order to meet this objective.

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

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the potential increased transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £70.8k per annum. This has been included in the revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

There will be a further £10.6k annual revenue saving in respect of the rent to the village hall once the lease has been surrendered.

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

It is estimated there would be additional transport costs of £70.8k per annum, this is based on pupil's current location and assuming the pupils will go to Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

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

It is not anticipated that capital funding would be required in order to implement the emerging preferred option. However it is possible that there would be capital costs should there be insufficient places at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to accommodate all pupils wishing to transfer to the school.

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

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £77k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £145.8k and estimated additional transport costs of £70.8k, with a minimal £2k estimated saving in respect of catering.

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

The school is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £20.6k at the end of financial year 2024-25 reducing to £6.7k by the end of 2025-26. Thereafter the school is projecting a deficit position based on current funding levels.

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

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

11.9 Will the proceeds from 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?

Any capital receipts received from sale of the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith site would be reinvested into the Transforming Education programme in order to improve the educational provision across Powys.

12. OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

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

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. Free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy, however it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Based on PLASC information from January 2024, 11.1% of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were eligible for Free School Meals.

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

Initial consideration of equalities information recorded through PLASC suggests that there are no significant equality issues in respect of pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process in respect of the preferred option, equality impact assessments will be carried out and regularly reviewed throughout the process to ensure that any issues are identified and fully considered.

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

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is not subject to any trust which may be affected in relation to the use or disposal of land.

There is currently a lease arrangement in place in respect of the Llansilin village hall which commits the Council to part funding the upkeep of the building. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual closure of the school, there would be a need to negotiate a termination of the lease. It is acknowledged that this would impact on the village hall.

13. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

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

A range of options have been considered in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, these are outlined in section 4 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are low and have decreased in recent years. The latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years. Establishing a multi-site school would not address this issue.

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

Federation of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith with Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant is one of the options considered in section 4 of this document. An assessment of

this option has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with this option.

Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are low and have decreased in recent years. The latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years. Becoming part of a federation with another school would not address this issue.

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

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing building as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

Pupil numbers at the school are low and are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

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

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llansilin. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Llansilin community, including the loss of primary provision from the village of Llansilin, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from the village.

A draft community impact assessment has been carried out, with input from the school. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process in respect of the preferred option, this draft community impact assessment would be published as part of the consultation documentation. This would be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received, and would be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

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

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and 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 their new schools. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils; however, this could include effective transition arrangements with the receiving school to ensure pupils transition is positive.

14. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

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

Option 6: Close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Powys based pupils to attend nearest alternative schools in Powys

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith building
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with better quality accommodation
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Pupils would be able to continue to access provision in Powys
- Potential opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the site

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on a proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools in Powys. For most pupils, this would be Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.



Proposal to close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

Draft Community Impact Assessment

September 2024



Draft Community Impact Assessment – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith

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

The closest provider for the 27 pupils that were attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith in January 2023 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	96.3%
Trefonen Primary School (Shropshire)	3.7%

This suggests that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is the closest school for 96.3% of pupils attending the school.

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

The following information was provided by the school:

- Breakfast Club
- After School Club
- Table Tennis
- Music/Singing Lessons
- Eco-Club – Gardening
- Dance Club – pupil run
- Drama Club – pupil run
- Gym Club – pupil run
- Criw Cymraeg – Welsh Games
- Film Club
- Code / ICT Club
- Craft Club
- Cooking
- Outdoor Learning Club: when the children get to explore our local environment and learn about nature.
- Community Carol Singing
- Plays
- Pantomimes
- Eisteddfod's
- Leavers' services

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

The following information was provided by the school:

- Clwb Cynllaith / After School Club
- Use of the school field for the Annual Llansilin Village Show races and display of vintage vehicles etc
- The school field is also in constant use as a village playing field for all children in the community and was listed as a 'Public Green Space' in the planning application for the new housing development.
- The school field is used for the annual school Sports Day – attended by parents, grandparents and other members of the community.
- Bring and Buy Sales
- Fundraising events such as Bake Sales which have helped raised money for Hope House, Brain Tumour Research, Wales Air Ambulance to name a few.
- The Memorial Hall is used every day in term time for school dinners.
- The Memorial Hall is used Thursday afternoons for PE lessons in inclement weather.
- Easter Bingo – a fundraiser for the After School Club.
- Christmas Fayre including Santa's Grotto – another After School Club fundraiser.

Accommodation in the memorial hall for the following:

- Twice weekly meetings of a community Stay and Play Mother & Toddler group (0-4 year olds) whose numbers have reached 70 in total, this is considered a very important group which potentially feeds into Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
- National and local government elections and referendums
- Fortnightly afternoon meeting of the community organisation known as Llansilin Over 60 Club
- Refreshments following funeral services at the local parish church
- The Annual Llansilin Village Show for various displays
- Llansilin Table Tennis Club
- Llansilin Bowls Club
- Llansilin Choir Rehearsal/Practice
- Llansilin History Society

- Various meetings relating to above-mentioned Clubs and the Community Council
- Ffair yr Ysgub
- Macmillan Coffee Mornings
- Cymdeithas Ddywylliadol
- Llansilin Community Council
- Whist Drives
- Playing Fields Association
- Côr Cymysg Llansilin
- Yoga Classes
- Aelwyd Sycharth
- Footpath Volunteers group
- Trefonen Hill Walk staging post – this is another major date in the calendar
- Defibrillator training sessions
- First Aid sessions
- Visiting choirs, musicians etc.

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

The following information was provided by the school:

- Use of the school field for the Annual Llansilin Village Show races and display of vintage vehicles etc
- The school field is also in constant use as a village playing field for all children in the community and was listed as a 'Public Green Space' in the planning application for the new housing development.
- Bring and Buy Sales
- Fundraising events such as Bake Sales which have helped raised money for Hope House, Brain Tumour Research, Wales Air Ambulance to name a few.

Accommodation in the memorial hall for the following:

- Twice weekly meetings of a community Stay and Play Mother & Toddler group (0-4 year olds) whose numbers have reached 70 in total, this is considered a very important group which potentially feeds into Ysgol Bro Cynllaith
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- The Annual Llansilin Village Show for various displays
- Llansilin Table Tennis Club
- Llansilin Bowls Club
- Llansilin Choir Rehearsal/Practice
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- Whist Drives
- Playing Fields Association
- Côr Cymysg Llansilin
- Yoga Classes
- Aelwyd Sycharth
- Footpath Volunteers group
- Trefonen Hill Walk staging post – this is another major date in the calendar
- Defibrillator training sessions
- First Aid sessions
- Visiting choirs, musicians etc.

v) Other links between the school and the community

The following information was provided by the school:

- The premises of Llansilin Memorial Hall are leased to Powys CC giving the school a substantive exclusive occupation of the premises. The premises are shared with the school by the hall trustees (i.e. Hall Management Committee) to provide, out of school hours, accommodation for the activities of the following community organisations: Cymdeithas Ddywylliadol, Stay & Play (Mother & toddler group), Over 60s Club, Indoor Bowls Club, Llansilin Community Council, History Society, Annual Village Show, Whist Drives, Playing Fields Association, Côr Cymysg Llansilin, Table Tennis Club, Funeral refreshments, After school activities, Yoga Classes, Aelwyd Sycharth, Committee meetings for mentioned groups, Footpath Volunteers group, Trefonen Hill Walk staging post, Defibrillator training sessions, First Aid sessions.
- Weekly volunteering by the children in the community shop which strikes a bond between the volunteering staff, the shoppers and the children – teaching the children different skills and the ability to

interact with adults from the community. This is considered to be an important part of the children's week.

- A newly formed liaison to begin in September 2024 with the children and the Tanat Valley Social Club who visit the Wynnstay Inn in Llansilin every Wednesday during term time.
- Frequent assemblies given by Rev. Norman Morris.
- Use of St Silin's Church for various celebrations through the year, eg. Nativity Plays, Harvest Festival and periodically the Leaver's Service – these links between the two establishments have always been strong and are vital for the community.
- Use of St Silin's church for craft days attended almost exclusively by pupils of the school.
- Pantomimes/Plays/Eisteddfod's which invite not just parents and other family members but the wider community.
- Christmas Fayre with Santa's Grotto which attracts people from many neighbouring villages.
- Annual Llansilin Show Day has sections which are heavily geared towards the school children and are always very well attended.
- Community Carol Singing
- Easter Bingo
- Llansilin Fun Day
- Bore Cymraeg
- Pupils litter picking activities benefit the village.
- Termly visits from our local Police Officer.
- Visits from local artist Mary Cunnagh which the children really enjoy
- Occasional interactive days between the Foundation Phase class and the children from the Mother and Toddler group. Not all the children who attend are from the Llansilin area but it certainly raises the school's profile.

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

Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would close and pupils transferring to their nearest alternative schools and there would no longer be a school in Llansilin. It is acknowledged that this would mean that there would be no school in Llansilin, meaning that any community facilities provided by the school would no longer be available.

There is a village hall in Llansilin which is located next to school (Llansilin Memorial Hall). Should there be no school in Llansilin, the memorial hall would continue to be available for community events and activities. However, the information received from the school indicates

that closure of the school would impact on the viability of the hall, particularly given the leasing arrangements that are currently in place.

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

- Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school for almost all pupils currently attending.
- Currently, the average distance to school for all pupils that were attending in January 2023 was 1.40 miles, and the furthest distance to school for pupils attending the school in January 2023 was 3.62 miles.
- If there was no school in Llansilin, the average distance to school for all pupils that were attending in January 2023 to their closest alternative school would be 4.77 miles, and the furthest distance to pupils' closest alternative school would be 5.66 miles.
- If there was no school in Llansilin, the average distance to school for all pupils that were attending in January 2023 to their closest alternative school in Powys would be 6.64 miles, and the furthest distance to pupils' closest alternative school in Powys would be 9.01 miles.

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.

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

Information received from the school has expressed concern about the nature and distance of journeys that would be required to alternative schools should there be no school in Llansilin, due to the village's remote location.

In particular, concern was expressed that the local roads are narrow, poorly maintained and poorly lit, and concern was expressed about the safety of children waiting at pick up points.

x) Additional considerations for rural schools

The School Organisation Code includes a number of additional considerations that are likely to be relevant when carrying out a community impact assessment for a rural school closure.

Ysgol Bro Cynllaith isn't identified as a rural school on this list, however the Council's view is that it should be identified as a rural school, so consideration is given to these additional factors below:

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

Information received from the school indicates that many parents have said that they moved to Llansilin because of the school, and therefore that families would be discouraged from moving to the village should there be no school.

Concern is also expressed about the impact on house prices in the village.

Reference has also been made to the extensive links with Welsh history in Llansilin, and that pupils would not learn about their local community if they attended school in a different location.

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

Information received from the school indicates that the school is 'the Heart of the Village'. Reference is made to the links between the school and the Llansilin Memorial Hall, and concern is expressed that closure of the school would impact on the viability of the hall. Concern is also expressed about the impact on the community shop, the local pub and other local businesses, and the impact on the local village show.

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

The school has provided the following information:

- ***The closure of the school will have a heavy economic impact on those local organisations who, having no financial support only from the subscriptions of their members, will need to pay significantly increased charges for the hire of the (hall) premises. The closure of the school will also have a serious impact on the viability of the hall's finances.***

- Without any doubt the loss of the school and any families will have a massive detrimental effect on the village.
 - There would be no more end of term pantomimes or plays – last Christmas the play was amazing and saw a packed hall made up of parents, grandparents and other members of the community. The children were literally ‘buzzing’. To take this special experience away from both children and parents/community is very negative.
 - The school field is currently the only safe play area for the children along with the new playground, a place used by families as a meeting point.
 - The children Christmas carol singing around the village could no longer be co-ordinated with no base.
 - It is highly unlikely that members of the community (other than parents) would travel further afield to watch school plays etc. There is no public transport from Llansilin to other villages and a lot of the older generation do not drive. This will be a very sad thing for them to miss out on.
- **Whether or not the loss of the school, and potential families, will have a detrimental effect on the wider economy of the community**

The following information was received from the school:

- Without any doubt the loss of the school and any families will have a massive detrimental effect on the village.
- Consider also the staff, many of whom are local and depend on their jobs.
- Consider the loss of the clubs which attract a huge amount of people to the village and raises its profile immensely bringing trade to the local pub, community shop and more recently the new MOT approved garage.
- What would the future of our village be? Another new housing estate possible unable to be filled because there would be no school and nothing else to attract a family to the village, and as the developer quite rightly says, may well be bought as second homes.
- Essentially the beauty of village life would be destroyed with one badly made decision.

- It must be acknowledged that a school attracts young families to a village, bringing with them connections, business opportunities and diversity. All things key to keeping a community alive.
 - The main economic impact will be a loss of potential work force. Many rural jobs, whilst not as labour intensive as in the past, still rely on a young work force as much of the work is physical. Removing this potential pool of workers will detrimentally affect many of the farms and enterprises.
 - There will be an environmental impact. Owing to the fact that rural communities are widely dispersed, more buses will have to be provided. This is coming at a time when the Planet is facing a crisis due to Greenhouse gas emissions and national government is trying to reduce the nation's carbon footprint. This policy of school closures runs counter to that.
- **How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported (e.g. how pupils, (particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities)**

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process.

It is acknowledged that there could be an impact on pupils' ability to participate in after school activities as the alternative school would be further away from their home, however the alternative schools in the area already serve rural communities and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who travel to school.

Information received from the school expressed concern that pupils would be 'swallowed up' in a larger school, and that parents would not support after school activities at an alternative school due to the distance to the alternative provision. The following information was received from the school:

- It seems to be the general feeling amongst our parents that after schools activities at alternative schools would not be supported, quite simply would not be an option, because no transport is offered to bring the children home and in any event the distance would make the day far too long for the young children.
- It is a widely felt, real concern, that disadvantaged children would be swallowed up in the new system of a larger school. It is felt that they will not be given the attention and care they have been receiving in our smaller rural school, quite possible

resulting in these children being sent to specialist school at an expense to the local authority.

- Please consider mostly the children of the village whose lives will be turned upside down so unnecessarily. We watch these children blossom in a small nurturing environment, we give them opportunities that they will not get in a large primary school. By the time our children are ready to move on to High School they are well rounded young people with a huge sense of self-worth. They have learnt to mix well with other year groups and have learnt mutual respect for each other. This inter-year mixing of children is a big positive.
 - The parents of the school are a close knit group – helping each other out when needed. This would be lost as there would be no point of contact for them. Their child would purely be picked up and dropped off – no social time for parents at all.
 - It would have a massive effect on the community – isolating the village and the people who live there.
- **The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)**

The information received from the school indicates that closure of the school would have a significant impact on the community, and would result in a reduction in community activities. Whilst there is a Memorial Hall which would be available for community activities should there be no school in Llansilin, concern has been raised about the impact of closure of the school on the viability of the Hall, as well as the impact on other businesses in the village such as the community shop and the local pub.

The following information has been received from the school:

Statement from the Llansilin Memorial Hall Committee:

Since Ysgol Bro Cynllaith was constructed in 1971 the hall management committee has been pleased and privileged for the premises to be used for the purposes of primary education. The terms and conditions for use of the premises have generated an income for the provision of services, repairs and maintenance of the hall premises which has been used to subsidise the cost of hiring the premises by local community organisations listed in the answer to Q4. Therefore, the closure of the school will have a heavy economic impact on those local organisations who, having no financial support only from the subscriptions of their members, will need to pay significantly

increased charges for the hire of the premises. The closure of the school will also have a serious impact on the viability of the hall's finances.

This statement should not be ignored – the school/hall liaison is a crucial link within the community.

The organisations/clubs/activities that could be affected:

- Cymdeithas Ddywylliadol,
 - Stay & Play (Mother & toddler group),
 - Over 60s Club,
 - Indoor Bowls Club,
 - Llansilin Community Council,
 - History Society,
 - Annual Village Show,
 - Whist Drives,
 - Playing Fields Association,
 - Côr Cymysg Llansilin,
 - Table Tennis Club,
 - Funeral refreshments,
 - Yoga Classes,
 - Aelwyd Sycharth,
 - Footpath Volunteers group,
 - Trefonen Hill Walk staging post,
 - Defibrillator training sessions,
 - First Aid sessions.
-
- It is imperative for the health of the village that we have young families and children here.

 - A huge detrimental effect on families' health and wellbeing as they would no longer enjoy the beauty of being able to walk their children to school (something we are all being encouraged to do!)

 - A massive impact will be felt by working families.

 - The Council should be considering 'What is right for the community' rather than what is convenient to the service provider.

xi) Conclusion

It is clear that a wide range of extra curricular activities are available to pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Should there be no school in Llansilin, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that at least a similar range of activities would be available for

pupils. However, it is acknowledged that Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is currently the closest school for almost all current pupils. Should the school close, additional travel would be required to enable pupils to access their closest school.

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

The information received by the school suggests that there are extensive links between the school and the local community, and that many community activities are arranged in the school which are accessed by the community. It is therefore acknowledged that closure of the school could have an impact on the community in terms of the services and activities available.

There is a Memorial Hall in Llansilin which would continue to be available to the community should the school close. However, the school has indicated that closure of the school would make it virtually impossible for the hall to continue. Concern has also been expressed about the impact on other business in the village, such as the community shop and the local pub.

The information received from the school indicated that closure of the school would have a significant impact on the local community.

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Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

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Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.

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

Service Area	Schools Service	Head of Service	Marianne Evans	Portfolio Holder	Clr Pete Roberts
Proposal	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Proposal				
Outline Summary / Description of Proposal					
The Council is proposing to commence the statutory process on the following proposal in respect of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To close Ysgol Bro Cynllaith from the 31st August 2025, with pupils to transfer to their closest school in Powys. 					

Page 74 Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Sarah Astley	Strategic Programme Manager	June 2024

7 Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	If approved by Cabinet, it is anticipated that consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code will commence in the autumn of 2024.

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3. 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 Monitoring	<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 & Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways, Transportation and Recycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transformation and Democratic Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Economy & 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 No

Not currently, however should the Council proceed with statutory processes, this would involve processing the personal details of individuals

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

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

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3a Geographical Locations

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

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

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

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<p>A prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>As part of the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, this proposal represents an innovative effort to ‘reconfigure and rationalise primary provision’ for the pupils of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Implementation of this proposal would positively contribute to a Powys that uses resources efficiently, and which produces a skilled and well-educated population.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith for whom this is their closest school. This would have a negative environmental impact as more home to school transport would need to be provided to transport pupils to their nearest alternative school. However, running a single school site is more environmentally friendly than running two, due to a reduction in the use of heating and electricity amongst other factors.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales: A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood. Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017: Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would result in closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, with pupils transferring to alternative schools. It is acknowledged that this could have a negative impact on the mental well-being of pupils, staff, and other stakeholders associated with the school during the transition period, however the long-term aim is to provide improved learning opportunities for all learners.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Support will be provided to pupils during the transition period to enable them to transfer effectively to their new schools. The process it to be concluded as quickly as possible to minimise the period of uncertainty for pupils, staff and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin, as there would be no provision in the village, and therefore a potential loss of any community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p> <p>A separate draft community impact assessment has been carried out which includes input from the school. This will be updated as required throughout the process.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>There is a village hall in Llansilin which would be continue to be available. Community events could be held here. However, it is acknowledged that there is currently a lease arrangement in place in respect of the village hall which commits the Council to part funding the upkeep of the building. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual closure of the school, there would be a need to negotiate a termination of the lease. It is acknowledged that this would impact on the village hall.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>A globally responsible Wales: A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</p> <p>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The aim of implementing the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities to learners, enabling them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>If approved by Cabinet, the Council will carry out consultation on the proposal, which would include consultation with all pupils affected by the proposal, ensuring that all affected by the plans have the opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</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. <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>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school. Should the Council proceed, the proposal would be for pupils to transfer to their nearest school in Powys. For most pupils, this would be Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, a dual stream school. The Council would ensure that all pupils had the opportunity to transfer to the school's Welsh-medium stream should that be their preference, and trochi provision would be offered to pupils to support this. This would improve pupils' opportunities to access Welsh-medium education and become fluent in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Should pupils choose to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant's English-medium stream, it is acknowledged that this would result in an increase in the proportion of pupils at this school taught through the medium of English, which could impact on the school's Welsh language ethos. However, the Council's long term plan is to support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to move along the language continuum, eventually becoming a Welsh-medium school.</p> <p>Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, the closest school for the majority of pupils attending would be in England. Should pupils choose to access alternative provision in England, it is acknowledged that they would no longer benefit from access to the Welsh curriculum, and they would no longer learn the Welsh language in school.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Information about Welsh-medium education / Trochi provision to be shared with parents to encourage pupils to transfer to Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close.</p> <p>Transport to be provided to enable pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to access their closest alternative school in Powys, ensuring that they can continue to access the Welsh curriculum.</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><i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i></p>	<p>Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school. Should the Council proceed, the proposal would be for pupils to transfer to their nearest school in Powys. For most pupils, this would be Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, a dual stream school. The Council would ensure that all pupils had the opportunity to transfer to the school's Welsh-medium stream should that be their preference, and trochi provision would be offered to pupils to support this. This would improve pupils' opportunities to access Welsh-medium education and become fluent in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Should pupils choose to transfer to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant's English-medium stream, it is acknowledged that this would result in an increase in the proportion of pupils at this school taught through the medium of English, which could impact on the school's Welsh language ethos. However, the Council's long term plan is to support Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant to move along the language continuum, eventually becoming a Welsh-medium school.</p> <p>Should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close, the closest school for the majority of pupils attending would be in England. Should pupils choose to access alternative provision in England, it is acknowledged that they would no longer benefit from access to the Welsh curriculum, and they would no longer learn the Welsh language in school.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Information about Welsh-medium education / Trochi provision to be shared with parents to encourage pupils to transfer to Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close.</p> <p>Transport to be provided to enable pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith to access their closest alternative school in Powys, ensuring that they can continue to access the Welsh curriculum.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	Implementation of the proposal would lead to the closure of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, with pupils transferring Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant School. Pupils would be transferring to a larger school, and it is anticipated that being part of a larger school would result in additional opportunities for pupils to take part in sport, art and other extra-curricular activities.	Good		Choose an item.
A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances). <i>Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).</i>				
<i>Age</i>	The proposal would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Disability</i>	The proposal would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<i>Race</i>	The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups due to their race. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Religion or belief</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, regardless of their religion or belief.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sex</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, regardless of their sexual orientation.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Socio-economic duty	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, including any eligible for Free School Meals. Based on PLASC 2023 data, 11.1% of pupils at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith were eligible for Free School Meals.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no school in Llansilin. This would mean that pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith would need to travel to their nearest alternative provision in Powys. Whilst home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils, it is possible that this would impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular / after school activities, and that this impact would be greater in respect of pupils from lower income households. There would also be an impact on the parents of these pupils in terms of accessing school activities.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
PLASC

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

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)				
<i>Long Term: Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</i>	Pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith are low and are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years. The aim of the proposal to close the school is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.	Good		Choose an item.
<i>Collaboration: Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	Should the Cabinet agree to proceed, full consultation would be carried out, which would enable all interested parties to give their views. This would include an opportunity to suggest any alternative options for the school.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including:</i></p> <p>Unpaid Carers: <i>Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</i></p>	<p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be required in accordance with the School Organisation Code in order to achieve this. This would that all interested parties would have an opportunity to give their views. The findings of this exercise would be reported to Cabinet and would be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. This impact assessment will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received.</p> <p>All stakeholders would have the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, this would include any unpaid carers in the area.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Prevention: <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</i></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 aim of the proposal to close the school is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal. The intention is that the proposal would maintain or improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p>Integration: <i>Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</i></p>	<p>No impact.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Powys County Council Workforce: What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?	Implementation of the proposal would impact on all current staff at Ysgol Bro Cynllaith as there would no longer be a school in Llansilin, therefore staff would be subject to a Management of Change process. Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. This process would be supported by relevant LA teams (e.g. HR). This would include consultation with staff, which would ensure that they had an opportunity to give their views.	Poor		Poor
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 Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Welsh Language impact on staff	Ysgol Bro Cynllaith is an English-medium school, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh language impact on staff	Neutral		Choose an item.
Apprenticeships: Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?	No impact	Neutral		Choose an item.

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

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

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

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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

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Llansilin	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llansilin as there would be no provision in the village, and therefore a potential loss of any community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p> <p>A separate draft community impact assessment has been carried out which includes input from the school. This will be updated as required throughout the process.</p>	Major	<p>There is a village hall in Llansilin which would be continue to be available. Community events could be held here. However, it is acknowledged that there is currently a lease arrangement in place in respect of the village hall which commits the Council to part funding the upkeep of the building. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual closure of the school, there would be a need to negotiate a termination of the lease. It is acknowledged that this would impact on the village hall.</p>	Major
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9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Description of risks			
Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)
N/A			

10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
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The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners. However, whilst this impact assessment has identified some positive aspects, in particular relating to learning and skills and ensuring the best strategic management of the Powys schools estate, the assessment has also identified some negative aspects. These primarily relate to the impact on the community of Llansilin due to loss of educational provision from the village, the associated additional travel requirements for pupils, and the potential impact on the village hall should the lease arrangement currently in place with the school be terminated. It is also acknowledged that whilst transport would be provided to enable pupils to attend alternative provision in Powys, the closest provision for most pupils would be located in England, and that pupils transferring to provision in England would no longer access the Welsh curriculum, nor would they have the opportunity to learn Welsh in school.

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 would be required to implement this proposal, and this would enable the impact assessment to be further developed.

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?

The Transforming Education Programme Board will continue to monitor impact over time.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

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

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Sarah Astley	Sarah Astley	June 2024
Head of Service:	Marianne Evans		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Pete Roberts		

14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Cabinet	Date required	17 th September 2024
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FORM ENDS

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