

# Public Document Pack



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## CABINET

Tuesday, 18th February, 2025

### SUPPLEMENTARY PACK

<b>4.</b>	<b>YSGOL BRO CYNLLAITH - CONSULTATION REPORT</b>
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To consider the recommendations made by the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee.

(Pages 3 - 10)

<b>5.</b>	<b>YSGOL GOLWG PEN Y FAN STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE</b>
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To consider the comments of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee contained in the document above.

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## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and considered the following documents:

#### Bro Cynllaith

Cabinet Paper Bro Cynllaith Consultation Report (Cym / Eng)  
 Appendix A Bro Cynllaith Consultation Document (Cym / Eng)  
 Appendix B Consultation Report Bro Cynllaith (Cym / Eng)  
 Appendix C Bro Cynllaith Minutes of Meetings with Staff and Governors (Cym / Eng)  
 Appendix D Bro Cynllaith Consultation Updated Impact Assessments (Cym/ Eng)

#### Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan

Cabinet Paper Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan SOC (1)  
 Appendix A – Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan SOC 200125 (1)  
 Appendix B – Impact Assessment - Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan Strategic Outline Case (SOC) Feb 2025

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holders for a Learning Powys, Finance and Corporate Transformation, Future Generations and officers for attending scrutiny.

The Scrutiny Committee Recommendations presented to Cabinet on the **17<sup>th</sup> September 2024** had not been responded to, therefore that paper has been resubmitted alongside for a response on the following documents:

**Cabinet Paper – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Proposal Summer 2024**  
**Appendix A – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Option Appraisal Spring 2024**  
**Appendix B – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Impact Assessment**  
**Appendix C – Impact Assessment Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Spring 2024**

The Chair noted that discussion on Home to School Transport and Welsh Medium Continuum would have been negated by a response to the previous Recommendations to Cabinet.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed:
  - The investment in Ysgol Pen y Fan to provide children with greater facilities, Early Years wrap around provision and with the addition of community and multi-agency facilities.
- The Committee noted:
  - The maintenance costs detailed in the report of the current federated 3 sites involved in the Ysgol Pen y Fan transformation project, were only for

- the fabric of the buildings, and would not address the safeguarding nor operational challenges across those sites.
- The new build of Ysgol Pen y Fan, would be constructed for a similar lifespan to current, modern build methods would ensure annual costs would be reduced or kept to a minimum.
  - The Councils commitment to engage with the community in Llansilin on the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith site, should the school closure, and options that would be available, e.g., transfer and grant funding, especially as the playing field was the only green space in the village.
  - That evidence was not provided within the report on why the option of Llanfyllin / Ysgol Bro Cynllaith dual site was not considered.
- The Committee requested:
    - A breakdown of the projected savings in relation to Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, should pupils and families decide to be educated out of county, and the impact on the Revenue Settlement Grant (High School element) for future years be measured should such a situation occur.
    - A formal letter be sent to the Welsh Government requesting clarity on its stance on cross-border school transport, nearest and catchment schools.
  - The Committee remained unconvinced about
    - The option of Ysgol Bro Cynllaith pupils to attend Ysgol Llanfyllin being offered during the consultation process as a viable alternative to Ysgol Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.
    - The figures reported within the Ysgol Bro Cynllaith documents in relation to maintenance costs which included the cost of refurbishment of a redundant mobile unit.
  - The Committee expressed concern:
    - That catchment maps should have been presented at the earliest opportunity within the Consultation phase to allow pupils, parents / carers to make informed decisions.
    - Of the impact on working families in relation to the availability of breakfast and afterschool club provision, where school transport would in future have to be relied upon.
    - That the offer of meetings between Cabinet Members and Officers with the Bro Cynllaith school and community was only attended by the Portfolio Holder in person, with the Leader of the Cabinet joining on-line.
    - Of the commitment to future engagement with the Llansilin community in relation to the site, should Ysgol Bro Cynllaith close.
    - That the new Home to School Transport Policy, due for implementation Sept 2025, could be open for legal challenge.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
1 How assured were			

<p><b>the Cabinet that the new Home to School Transport Policy, due for implementation Sept 2025, would withstand legal challenge.</b></p>			
<p><b>2 A formal letter to be sent to the Welsh Government requesting clarity on its stance on cross-border school transport, nearest and catchment schools.</b></p>			
<p><b>3 Catchment maps to be provided at point of consultation, to allow pupils, parents, and carers to make informed decisions.</b></p>			
<p><b>4 Analysis of future years classroom capacity for the receiving-in schools, particularly where new housing developments are earmarked or in the process of development, be undertaken and included within future Education consultation reports.</b></p>			
<p><b>5 Assurance sought that the Welsh Language Continuum for Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, would not be affected, as per recommendation of the 17th of September 2024.</b></p>			
<p><b>6 The effect of the Powys resident primary aged pupils, and their continued Secondary Education provided out of county, on the Revenue Settlement Grant (RSG) to be considered in future</b></p>			

<b>school transformation programmes.</b>			
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In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. **by 18/04/2025**

Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025

County Councillors:

G. Thomas, L. Roberts, A W Davies, G Morgan, S McNicholas, C Robinson, G E Jones, C Masefield.

Co-Opted Members:

S. Davies, M. Evitts.

K. Chedzoy – in attendance only for discussions on Ysgol Golwg Pen y Fan, due to Disclosure of Interest as Chair of Governors for Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.



## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

### Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and considered the following documents:

Cabinet Paper – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Proposal Summer 2024

Appendix A – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Option Appraisal Spring 2024

Appendix B – Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Impact Assessment

Appendix C – Impact Assessment Ysgol Bro Cynllaith Spring 2024

The Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Portfolio Holder for a Learning Powys and officers for attending scrutiny.

Scrutiny made the following observations:

- The Committee welcomed:
  - The Portfolio Holders agreement that the outcome Consultation report would be brought to Learning and Skills Committee.
  
- The Committee noted:
  - The Councils commitment to transport learners to the closest school, including those across national and council borders.
  
- The Committee requested:
  - They receive a detailed breakdown of savings per pupils using the correct financial information (2024/25), to allow for impact on overall budget to be appropriately assessed for the receiving schools. This revised information needs to be updated prior to Consultation paperwork being disseminated.
  - Further quantified information of the impact of a learners receiving education outside of Powys.
  - A chart depicting the individual year groups of all possible receiving schools, to accurately ascertain the impact on numbers within classes.
  - The community impact on the closure of a school was severe and that the community must be included in proposals for alternative uses of school buildings and land, in the first instance.
  - The narrative within the report must and should accurately reflect the facts and not misrepresent the situation, for example, 90% of learners actually live closer to Shropshire schools.
  - Trochi provision be provided as soon as practicably possible.

- The Committee remained unconvinced about
  - The validity of the report as data used is old e.g., Condition survey information is from 2016. This must be rectified prior to any public consultation.
  - The capacity of the proposed Powys receiving school in terms of individual year groups.
  - Projected costs and the basis for transport to Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant over other schools within catchment and Shropshire.
  - Consideration being given to explore all available options.
  
- The Committee expressed concern:
  - That as the majority of learners from Bro Cynllaith were taught currently through the medium of English, leading to a possible increased percentage of learners in the English stream compared to Welsh Stream, the language continuum progression of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant would be affected.
  
  - That the current draft Home to School Transport Policy does not reflect the proposals in appendix A, with a question posed by Committee of does Powys Policy override Welsh legislation.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<b>1. Assurance sought, if proposal was accepted, that the progression of the language continuum of Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, would not be affected, if the numbers of English medium learners surpassed Welsh medium learners.</b>			
<b>2 The current draft Home to School Transport Policy does not reflect the proposals in appendix A, with a question posed by the Committee of does Powys Policy override Welsh legislation.</b>			

In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, as soon as possible or at the latest within 2 months of the date of the Cabinet meeting i.e. by 17/11/2024



Membership of the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

County Councillors:

R G Thomas, L Roberts, A W Davies, B Davies, G Morgan, S McNicholas, A Davies, G E Jones, C Masefield, C Robinson

Co-Opted Members:

S. Davies, M. Evitts.

K. Chedzoy Declared an Interest as Chair of Governors at Bro Cynllaith and did not participate in the discussion on this item.

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