

Public Document Pack

Cabinet

Meeting Venue
**Council Chamber - County Hall,
Llandrindod Wells, Powys**

Meeting date
Tuesday, 14 March 2017

Meeting time
9.00 am



County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

For further information please contact
Stephen Boyd
01597 826374
steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk

8 March 2017

AGENDA

1.	REVISED PROTOCOL FOR AUTHORISING MOTOR VEHICLE EVENTS AFFECTING FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RESTRICTED BYWAYS UNDER S.33 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988	C52- 2017
----	---	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor John Powell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability.

(Pages 7 - 34)

2.	EXEMPT ITEMS	C53- 2017
----	---------------------	------------------

The Monitoring Officer has determined that category 3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies to the following item. His view on the public interest test (having taken account of the provisions of Rule 14.8 of the Council's Access to Information Rules) was that to make this information public would disclose information relating to:

(i) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

These factors in his view outweigh the public interest in disclosing this information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

3.	SALE OF LAND OFF DOMGAY LANE	C54- 2017
----	-------------------------------------	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor John Powell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability.

(To Follow)

The Cabinet will go back into open session

4.	APOLOGIES	C55- 2017
-----------	------------------	------------------

To receive apologies for absence.

5.	MINUTES	C56- 2017
-----------	----------------	------------------

To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the last meeting held as a correct record.

(Pages 35 - 44)

6.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	C57- 2017
-----------	---------------------------------	------------------

To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

7.	HEALTH AND CARE STRATEGY	C58- 2017
-----------	---------------------------------	------------------

To consider the draft Health and Social Care Strategy for Powys.

(To Follow)

8.	INTEGRATION OPTIONS	C59- 2017
-----------	----------------------------	------------------

To receive an update on integration.

9.	INCREASE IN CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES	C60- 2017
-----------	---	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Stephen Hayes, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

(Pages 45 - 58)

10.	BUSINESS RATES HIGH STREET RATES RELIEF SCHEME IN WALES 2017-18	C61- 2017
------------	--	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Wynne Jones, Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 59 - 78)

11.	PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL AND POWYS ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	C62- 2017
------------	--	------------------

To consider a report by the Leader County Councillor Barry Thomas, County Councillor Graham Brown Portfolio Holder for Commissioning and Procurement and County Councillor Wynne Jones Portfolio Holder for Finance.

(Pages 79 - 100)

12.	CORPORATE ASSET PLANNING- STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN ("STAMP")	C63- 2017
------------	--	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Rosemarie Harris Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing.

(Pages 101 - 130)

13.	LLANFYLLIN HIGH SCHOOL	C64- 2017
------------	-------------------------------	------------------

To consider a report by the Leader, County Councillor Barry Thomas and the Solicitor to the Council.

(Pages 131 - 156)

14.	REPORT ON REGULATION 5.2 ISSUES AT LLANIDLOES AND BRO HYDDGEN HIGH SCHOOLS	C65- 2017
------------	---	------------------

(To Follow)

15.	WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT	C66- 2017
------------	------------------------------	------------------

To consider the Well-Being Assessment.

(To Follow)

16.	CORRESPONDENCE	C67- 2017
------------	-----------------------	------------------

To receive such correspondence as in the opinion of the Leader is of such urgency as to warrant consideration.

17.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING	C68- 2017
------------	---	------------------

To note the delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

(Pages 157 - 158)

18.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	C69- 2017
------------	-------------------------------	------------------

To consider the Cabinet forward work programme.

(Pages 159 - 162)

The following items will not be dealt with before 2.00 p.m.

19.	WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)	C70- 2017
------------	---	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education.

(Pages 163 - 338)

20.	WELSH-MEDIUM STREAM AT BRECON HIGH SCHOOL	C71- 2017
------------	--	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education.

(Pages 339 - 658)

21.	GROWING MID WALES	C72- 2017
------------	--------------------------	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Tony Thomas, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning.

(Pages 659 - 664)

22.	LLANWDDYN COMMUNITY CENTRE	C73- 2017
------------	-----------------------------------	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Tony Thomas, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning.

(To Follow)

23.	EXEMPT ITEMS	C74- 2017
------------	---------------------	------------------

The Monitoring Officer has determined that category 3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies to the following items. His view on the public interest test (having taken account of the provisions of Rule 14.8 of the Council's Access to Information Rules) was that to make this information public would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

These factors in his view outweigh the public interest in disclosing this information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

24.	REVIEW OF FEES: ADULT SOCIAL CARE	C75- 2017
------------	--	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Stephen Hayes, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

(Pages 665 - 674)

25.	PROGRESS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROPERTY SERVICES JOINT VENTURE COMPANY - HEART OF WALES PROPERTY SERVICES	C76- 2017
------------	--	------------------

To consider a report by County Councillor Rosemarie Harris Portfolio Holder for Property Buildings and Housing, County Councillor Graham Brown Portfolio Holder for Commissioning and Procurement and County Councillor John Brunt Portfolio Holder for Highways.

(Pages 675 - 686)

This page is intentionally left blank

C52- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

DRAFT CABINET EXECUTIVE 14th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor John Powell
Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Revised Protocol for authorising motor vehicle events affecting footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways under s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

1. The County Council has a direct role in providing s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 authorisations to motor vehicle events that cross or pass along public footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways.
2. On the 17th April 2012 the Cabinet considered a report setting out a protocol for the authorisation for motor vehicle events within the Council, mostly relating to motorsport. A copy of the report is attached as a background paper to this report as Appendix 1.
3. Recently, concerns have been raised by officers, members and the motor sport industry as to the effectiveness and operation of that protocol and in the circumstances it was agreed that there should be a review of the protocol so as to ensure the future of motor sports within the county, whilst at the same time ensuring statutory compliance.
4. The purpose of this report is to recommend to the Portfolio holder revisions to the protocol which address those concerns. The revised protocol as set out in the proposal section of this report, has been achieved after having taken independent legal advice and discussion with Welsh Government. In addition there has been extensive consultation with the Motor Sports Association, Auto Cycle Union and the Land Access Recreation Association as motorsport representatives.
5. Currently, applications are being received for Section 33 Road Traffic Act 1988 (RTA88) for events which are to be held under two regulations, namely:-
 - 1) Motor Vehicle (Competition and Trials) Regulations 1969 (as amended) (1969 Regulations) and
 - 2) The Motor Vehicle (Off Road Event) Regulations 1995 (as amended), (1995 Regulations).

6. The Highway Authority has no role in authorising events under the 1995 Regulations where no public highways are involved. Such events can be authorised by a number of organisations such as the Motorsport Association (MSA) or Auto Cycle Union (ACU). Where an application is received by PCC under the 1995 Regulations, the Council will return the application to the applicant with an explanation as to why PCC are not able to deal with such applications being that the route does not involve any public highways despite the erroneous interpretation applied by the applicants.
7. Where footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways, “highways”, are affected by a motor vehicle event, such events are to be authorised by the MSA under the 1969 Regulations.
8. However, an authorisation must also be obtained from this Highways Authority (“The Council”) under s.33 RTA88 to use or cross the public right of way during these events. In providing s.33RTA88 authorisations, the Council are consenting for the event crossing or using the public right of way so as to provide defences to certain motoring offences from taking place by the use of a motor vehicle on footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways.
9. Where footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways are affected, applicants must use the Council’s s.33RTA88 application form (See Appendix 2), which will be accessible from the Council’s website. Application forms received using the Council’s application form will be acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt of the original application form.
10. Applications which do not use the Council’s application form will be returned to the applicant within 5 working days of receipt, with an explanation as to where the correct form can be obtained. Applications will not be processed until such time as a properly made out section 33 RTA88 application form has been received. It shall be a condition of the granting of any Section 33 authorisation, that organisers are required to restore to the Council’s satisfaction any damage to the highway resulting from an event and comply with any reasonable conditions as the Council sees fit, such as those contained within Appendix 4.
11. In order to ensure that footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and local biodiversity interests are being fully safeguarded, random event monitoring will take place. As part of the random event monitoring, event organisers may be asked for copies of their risk assessments and evidence of appropriate mitigation measures as well as proof that any conditions as set out in the s.33 RTA88 authorisation are being complied with.
12. Legal advice has been received from leading Queens’ Counsel that whenever the Council considers granting a s.33RTA88 authorisation, it should also suspend the public rights over the highway that is coincidental with the route of the event by way of a traffic regulation order. This would prevent public use of a section or length of public right of way so as to ensure that only motor vehicles can use that section during the event, providing that the conditions set out in the 1969 Regulations continue to be followed. This must include the requirement to adhere to an average speed not exceeding 30mph when crossing or using the public right of way (unless amended by legislation). This protects public safety. Organisers must have in place appropriate risk assessments to ensure public safety is maintained.

13. Contained within the information from the Queen’s Counsel, he has advised that s.16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 is the appropriate means to regulate traffic for the purposes of managing safety in relation to these events.
14. It is clear from the legal advice received that the most appropriate application of legislation is the adoption of S16A RTRA84. The motorsport representatives, however, have asked if the Council would consider using s14 of the same Act instead. The main advantage is the removal of the need to refer applications for repeat events in the same 12 month period to Welsh Government and the time delay such an approach will incur and it would be in the public interest to do so. Having considered the legal advice, it is possible to adopt a s.14 RTRA84 but even though this maybe a less robust application of the law. It is considered, however, that with the agreement of the relevant motor sport bodies s.14 RTRA84 can be used with minimum risk to the Council of external challenge. Beyond this, the adoption of s14 RTRA84 does not expose the Council to additional risk.
15. To provide for the best environment for motorsport to continue and thrive in Powys, then it is considered there is a strong public interest in using s.14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 when authorising motor events under s.33RTA 88.
16. There are costs associated with suspending public rights of way, and full cost recovery must be taken into account. However, efforts have been made to make the process as efficient as possible, and to minimise costs. As such, a two tiered system will be put into place for both simple and complicated scenarios. Further detail on these scenarios, as well as the breakdown on the costs can be found at Appendix 5 and Appendix 6.
17. Additionally, legal advice has confirmed that the erection and removal of the statutory notices can be “contracted out” to the motorsport organisers, instead of the Council undertaking this work itself. The time and transport costs in erecting and taking down the statutory notices are a large part of the overall costs. In order to minimise the fee, an option for the organiser to do this is provided below.
18. In order to comply with the advice received, it is intended that the application form will reflect whether or not the applicant agrees to erect/remove the statutory notices themselves, or is seeking for the Council to undertake this activity. In signing the application and agreeing to the erection and removal of the statutory notices, this will form part of the contract and conclude the applicant’s clear wishes and intent on the fee structure.
19. Fee to include costs for Council erecting and removal s.14 RTRA84 notices.

	s.14 Costs	s.33RTA Costs	Total Costs
Simple Scenario	£235.81	£30	265.81
Complicated Scenario	£733.68	£30	763.68

20. Fee to include costs for Organisers erecting s.14 RTRA84 notices.

	s.14 Costs	s.33RTA Costs	Total Costs
Simple Scenario	£47.42	£30	£77.42
Complicated Scenario	£91.71	£30	£105.53

21. In addition to safeguarding the public who may use affected footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the Council to formally consider how the application of its function under Section 33 RTA88 affects wildlife. The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) also specifically protect a range of habitats and species and require specific procedures to be followed before any consent or permit likely to effect a protected site is issued. The Council is only updated on the position and existence of SSSIs and European protected sites periodically by NRW, and will be unaware of some designations without prior consultation with NRW. As such, organisers will be required to consult with NRW at least 8 weeks prior to the submission of their Section 33 RTA88 application. This will reduce the time needed to process the application by reducing the council's consultation with NRW (which is legally required). Details of all necessary mitigation measures required to adequately safeguard a protected site must be attached to the application. The PCC guidance at appendix 3 has been amended to make this clear.
22. Compliance with any requirements imposed by NRW will be set out as a condition of the Section 33 RTA88 authorisation.
23. To support the conditions, guidance notes including a timeline will be made available to organisers.
24. Guidance will also include contact details in relation to the protection of ancient monuments (see Appendix 3).
25. Where a relevant footpath, bridleway or restricted byway proposes to be used by an event is on or within land that is a SSSI, Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B.1(c)(i) B2 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 requires that planning permission will be required from the relevant Planning Authority and the granting of the Section 33 authorisation will be conditional upon the organiser obtaining such planning permission before the event takes place.
26. It is noted that the Deregulation Act 2015 contains provisions which would allow properly permitted and authorised races or trials of speed to take place on public highways that are currently unlawful. These provisions have not yet been commenced in Wales. Once this change in legislation is in force this policy and guidance will need to be reviewed.

Powys Change Plan

27. As a central theme within the Powys Change Plan, the Council is committed to supporting projects which drive Regeneration of the local economy within Powys. It is recognised that events affected by the paper can contribute significantly to this work, and in particular the larger national and international events with major motoring events in Powys and Mid Wales.

Proposal

28. Applications under s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 for motor sports events will be approved subject to the following:–
 - (i) That organisers fully comply with the 1969 Regulations, and or guidance as set out in the current Motor Sport Association or Auto Cycle Union handbooks, including signage, and a copy of the MSA route authorisation under the 1969 Regulations shall be included with every application. Where there is a conflict

between the 1969 Regulations and the MSA guidance, the 1969 Regulations takes precedence.

- (ii) If MSA/ACU signage (or similar) is not used, personalised signage must be agreed by the County Council in advance of the event.
- (iii) That such Section 33 RTA88 authorisations will be given on the written condition that the organiser will be authorised and comply with the 1969 Regulations.
- (iv) Whenever a Section 33 RTA 88 authorisation is made, the Council will also make a Section 14) RTRA84 Traffic Order to prevent other highway users from utilising the highway at the same time as the event in question.
- (v) The total cost of the Section 33 RTA88 authorisation and the s14 order will be initially set at the fee as set out depending on the scenario and whether the notices shall be erected and taken down by the motorsport organiser. This cost will be reviewed as required.
- (vi) The Council will consult with the motor sports fraternity with a view to provisionally approving a number of routes which minimises the impact upon highway users and avoids the likelihood of impacting upon a SSSI or EU designated conservation site. It is hoped that such agreement could take into account the requirements of any seasonal variations.
- (vii) The Section 33 RTA88 Application form (Appendix 2) will be amended to include i) that a copy of the written consultation response from NRW is provided and ii) That all details of necessary mitigation required to safeguard a SSSI, SAC or SPA are provided. s.33 RTA88 authorisation will include a condition to deliver protected site protection measures as agreed.
- (viii) The Council may carry out monitoring on a random basis, to ensure that any conditions within the s.33 RTA88 authorisation are adhered to and that where events are found to be in breach –
 - (a) A report will be made to the MSA.
 - (b) A report will be made to the County Council's Cabinet, who will decide upon an appropriate action or approach to future applications.
- (ix) A timetable will be issued to guide prospective organisers in procedures for making their applications.
- (x) On receipt of a compliant application, the Council will endeavour to determine an application within 5 weeks.
- (xi) Where a relevant footpath, bridleway or restricted byway proposes to be used by an event and is on or within land that is a SSSI, Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B.1(c)(i) B2 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 requires that planning permission will be required from the relevant Planning Authority, the Section 33 RTA88 authorisation will be conditional upon the organiser obtaining such planning permission before the event takes place.
- (xii) The Section 33 RTA88 application must include a clear Ordnance Survey plan to a scale no greater than 1:25,000, with the route accurately drawn upon it

and annotated on the plan the location of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways, to allow accurate assessment of the route and its impact upon the highway. If the route is not clearly marked or a route map is not provided, then the application will be returned within 5 working days of receipt without being processed. Electronic or hard copy formats will be accepted if legible.

- (xiii) Payment of the appropriate fee must be included at the same time as the application. If payment is not provided, then the application will be returned within 5 working days of receipt without being processed.
- (xiv) Landowner and occupier consent in writing must be provided at the same time as the application and cross referenced with the annotated footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways from the route map. If this is not provided, then the application will be returned within 5 working days of receipt without being processed.
- (xv) A copy of the 1969 Regulations route authorisation from the Motor Sports Association (MSA) must be provided at the same time as the application. If this is not provided in the application form, then the application will be returned within 5 working days of receipt without being processed.
- (xvi) The section 33 authorisation will contain the conditions set out in Appendix 4.

Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder, /Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

- 29. Powys County Council has signed up to the Welsh Government's Sustainability Charter committing the Authority to make sustainable development its central organising principle. A sustainable future for Wales includes a commitment '*to support healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems, by actively recognising and supporting our environmental assets including land, water and biodiversity*'. This proposal mirrors recommendations in the accompanying guidance document for embedding sustainability across the organisation. This supplements the duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which requires the Council to consider biodiversity in exercising its functions and in safeguarding protected species and habitats. The general duties under above legislation will deliver on the further duties imposed on public bodies under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 30. The proposal would not impact upon Welsh language, Equalities or Crime and Disorder policies.

Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

- 31. The proposal would not impact on securing the safety and protection of children and young people and supporting the promotion of their wellbeing.

Local Member(s)

- 32. Not applicable.

Other Front Line Services

- 33. If the event runs through a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), then planning permission is required under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B.1(c)(i) and B2 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995. It states within this

section that development is not permitted if the land is, or is within, a SSSI and the use of the land is for motor sports.

Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

- 34. Finance - The recommendations are approved from a financial point of view.
- 35. Legal - The comments of the Highways and Enforcement Solicitor have been incorporated in the report. The recommendations are approved from a legal point of view.
- 36. Communications:

Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

Communications

- 37. Proactive news release required following decision taken by Cabinet.

Statutory Officers

- 38. The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>1. To approve the revise protocol as set out in the Proposal section of the report.</p> <p>2. That the application and effect of the new protocol be reviewed after 12 months.</p>	<p>Safeguard Authority position and Officer interests and role.</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	None
----------------------------------	------

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Stuart Mackintosh
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediate effect

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Stuart Mackintosh	01597 827583	01597 827555	Stuart.mackintosh@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

1. *Appendix 1 - Cabinet paper dated 17th April 2012 entitled "Protocol for authorising motor vehicle events affecting footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways"*
2. *Appendix 2 – Application form for s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 authorisations.*
3. *Appendix 3 - Guidance Note: Conservation of Wildlife and Heritage*
4. *Appendix 4 – s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 authorisation template.*
5. *Appendix 5 – Simple and complicated s.14 RTRA84 costings.*
6. *Appendix 6 – TRO scenarios.*

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT
17th April 2012

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Wynne Jones
Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Recreation

SUBJECT: Protocol for authorising motor vehicle events affecting
footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

The County Council has a direct role in giving authorisation to those motor vehicle events which may cross or pass along public footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways. The law relating to such 'authorisations' is less than satisfactorily set-out in the legislation, as to how the Council is meant to perform its duties in considering and providing such authorisations.

In addition to interpreting the legislation specifically dealing with this issue, namely the Road Traffic Act 1988 (RTA 1988), other legislation also has a direct bearing on how authorisations are managed and conditions applied, namely the duty to conserve biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and duty to safeguard the authority and public in discharging its duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and in meeting the Council's duty to 'assert and protect the rights of the public' under the Highways Act 1980.

As a central theme within the Powys Change Plan, the Council is committed to supporting projects which drive Regeneration of the local economy within Powys. It is recognised that events affected by the paper can contribute significantly to this work, and in particular the larger national and international events with major stages in Powys and Mid Wales.

A trial of speed and races represent events where competitors compete with one another, as quickly as possible to complete a circuit or route. In the majority of applications received however, applications are for 'trials of average speed', where competitors are not required to complete a course in the fastest times but to do so within defined time controls, and these events are determined to be lawful by the Motor Sports Association. However, in some case the applications are less than clear as to the nature of the proposed event.

It is the duty of the County Council to ensure that for any event, where it affects a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway, that assessments and measures are put into place by the event organiser that fully safeguard the use of these public rights of way. It is intended that conditions regarding health and safety and safeguarding the local biodiversity are made explicitly clear in the authorisation of an event.

Where a motor sport event does not intersect with any public rights of way, the organiser has no need to seek a s.33 TRA authorisation from the County Council.

In setting out safe methods of work, the Council already expect that adequate control measures are put in place to safeguard rights of way users. This may include appropriate signage or marshalling. Concerns over signage are outstanding and representations should be made to the Governing bodies to improve and agree suitable wording.

Organisers are also required to put right any damage to the highway resulting from an event.

In order to ensure that local rights of way and local biodiversity interests are being fully safeguarded, random event monitoring will take place. Event organisers will be asked for copies of their Risk Assessments and evidence of appropriate mitigation measures.

Whilst s.16A of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 does provide measures for a road to be closed by either the secretary of state or County Council, this does not represent an easy or affordable way to manage this issue.

In addition to safeguarding the public who may use local rights of way, the NERC Act requires the Council to formally consider how its actions affect wildlife. The NERC Act, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, and Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 also specifically protect a range of habitats and species, which the Council has a duty to ensure are not threatened by its actions. To this end, organisers will need to consult with the Countryside Council for Wales to identify areas of concern and agree ways to safeguard them.

Conditions will be set-out in authorisation letters, which will require full consultation having taken place with the CCW, that any areas of concern which relate to protected species or habitats have been discussed, mitigation measures agreed and put in place on the day/s of the event. Conditions will in each case require that any event organiser adheres to the advice and requirements for management of events as set out in either the Motor Sports Association (MSA) or Auto Cycle Union (ACU) handbooks.

To support the conditions, guidance notes will be produced which will advise organisers of their biodiversity responsibilities. Guidance will also include contact details in relation to the protection of ancient monuments (see Appendix 1).

Whilst not considered to be a routine occurrence, where an application crosses or is close to land designated as an Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or EU designated Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area for Conservation (SAC), the Council must consult with the CCW, and where required to do so will request additional information from applicants. This might include ecological assessments and proposed mitigation measures. Any measures required by the CCW as management or mitigation will be set-out as conditions in any authorisation.

Where a SSSI is directly affected by an application, Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B.1(c)(i) Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995 also requires that planning permission would be required to allow an event to take place, which would separately involve full consultation with the CCW.

Applicant guidance will set out the need to undertake prior consultation with the CCW to ensure such issues are identified and fully discussed prior to any application being made to the Council.

In cases of EU designations, the Council is also required to ensure that an 'appropriate assessment' is undertaken of the assessments and mitigation measures provided by the

applicant, and these will be provided to the CCW, who will need to provide consents before any authorisation can take place.

In circumstances such as these, applicant guidance will set-out that adequate time is set-aside to allow consultation, assessment and mitigation issues to be properly considered prior to submitting an application and before any determination can take place.

Proposal

That suitable procedures will be put in place, alongside clear conditions to safeguard biodiversity and the public using local rights of way, supported by guidance notes.

The approach set out acknowledges the economic opportunities that such events bring to the area, but also seeks to balance the needs to secure public safety and biodiversity.

The County Council formally supports the Countryside Service in taking a pragmatic approach when managing and giving authorisations which ensures that the Council complies with its statutory obligations and that the public interests and those of the Council are safeguarded as far as is reasonably practicable.

Where a breach of condition is found, a report to the Council's Cabinet will follow.

Powys Change Plan

Regeneration is a central theme in the PCP, and this approach will continue to support this, whilst securing public safety and biodiversity interests.

The proposal supports the delivery of One Powys, notably 'People in Powys benefit from a thriving diverse economy' for which would be a deliverable under the regeneration strategy.

Options Considered/Available

Proposal

- A. Applications under s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 for a race or trial of speed will be refused.
- B. Applications under s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 for average trial of speed or other events which are not trials of speed or races will be approved subject to the following –
 - (i) Full compliance with the protocol (Appendix 1) as attached.
 - (ii) That organisers comply with guidance as set out in the current Motor Sport Association or Auto Cycle Union handbooks, including signage.
 - (iii) Applicants who are not members of either governing body will be expected to follow guidance as set out by MSA or ACU, as relevant for their event.
 - (iv) If MSA/ACU signage is not used, personalised signage must be agreed by the County Council in advance of the event.
 - (v) That in authorising an application, the Council will issue a letter containing conditions which the authority think fit (section 33 RTA 1988), which will specifically require compliance with guidance on Health and Safety, and Biodiversity.
 - (vi) That full prior consultation will have taken place between an applicant and the CCW where the event may affect a SSSI or EU designated conservation site, with additional consultation taking place between the Council and the CCW upon receipt of such an application.

- (vii) The Council being satisfied that it is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or having ascertained, following an appropriate assessment, that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.
- (viii) The Council will carry out monitoring on a random basis and without notice, to ensure that any conditions are adhered to and that where events are found to be in serious breach –
 - (a) a report will be made to the ACU/MSA as appropriate.
 - (b) a report will be made to the County Council Cabinet, who will decide upon appropriate sanctions or approach to future applications.
- (ix) A timetable will be issued to guide prospective organisers in procedures for making their applications.
- (x) On receipt of an application, the Council will endeavour to determine an application within 4 weeks. In the event of failure to meet this deadline, the applicant will be advised of the reasons.

Proposal 2

To make representations to the ACU and MSA on improvements to national signage, to ensure that any signage advises the public on an event, but also ensures that wording is neither false or misleading, nor seeking to directly deter legitimate use of a public right of way.

Preferred Choice and Reasons

It is recommended that Proposal 1 and 2 are adopted as protocol. These provide for simple but clear expectations upon event organisers to meet their statutory and civil duties in safeguarding the public and biodiversity.

Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

Powys County Council has signed up to the Welsh Government's Sustainability Charter committing the Authority to make sustainable development its central organising principle. A sustainable future for Wales includes a commitment '*to support healthy, biologically diverse and productive ecosystems, by actively recognising and supporting our environmental assets including land, water and biodiversity*'. This proposal mirrors recommendations in the accompanying guidance document for embedding sustainability across the organisation. This further adds to the duty under the NERC Act 2006 and Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) which requires the Council to consider biodiversity in exercising its functions and in safeguarding protected species and habitats.

The proposal would not impact upon Welsh language, Equalities or Crime and Disorder policies.

Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

The proposal would not impact on securing the safety and protection of children and young people and supporting the promotion of their wellbeing.

Local Member(s) N/A

Other Front Line Services

If the event runs though a Special Site of Scientific Interest, then planning permission is required under Schedule 2, Part 4, Class B.1(c)(i) Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order) 1995. It states within this section that development is not permitted if the land is, or is within, a site of special scientific interest and the use of the land is for motor sports.

Alan Southerby comments: 'There are no specific comments from the Development Management team that deals with planning applications other than to confirm that in the event of a planning application being submitted, this would be processed in the normal way giving any interested parties the opportunity to comment and make representations before any final decision is taken.'

Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

Finance - The Principal Accountant for Community, Skills and Learning comments that each application made under s.33 RTA1988 is already subject to a fee of £100. The proposal does not have any direct budgetary implications and may be reviewed accordingly.

Legal - The comments of the Principal Solicitor (Shire) have been incorporated in the report.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

Although the Countryside Council for Wales and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority are Local Service Board Members, they are already included in consultations and this report does not affect their interests as LSB members.

Communications

Proactive news release required following decision taken by Cabinet.

Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director, Law & Governance (Monitoring Officer) comments "I am content with the report."

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve Proposals 1 & 2 as set out	Safeguard Authority position and officer interests and role

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	None
----------------------------------	------

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Chris Jones
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediate effect

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Stuart Mackintosh	01597 827583	01597 827555	Stuart.mackintodh@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

1. *Guidance for Public Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty* (2007) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
2. Background legislation (extracts from the Road Traffic Act 1988 (s.12,13 and 33))
3. Appendix 1 - Guidance Note: Conservation of Wildlife And Heritage

This page is intentionally left blank

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988 TO CONDUCT A TRIAL OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON A FOOTPATH, BRIDLEWAY OR RESTRICTED BYWAY.			
Name of event:			
Location of event:			
Event start date:		Event finish date:	
Name of applicant:			
Contact details: (e-mail preferred)			
Brief description of event (to include number and type of vehicles taking part):-			
PLEASE SUPPLY			<i>Please Tick</i>
1 copy of an Ordnance Survey map scaled 1:25,000, showing locations of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways.			
1 fee (as appropriate)			
1 copy of landowner and occupier consent(s) cross referencing where they relate to a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway.			
1 copy of Natural Resources Wales response.			
1 copy of MSA route authorisation under the Motor Vehicle (Competition and Trials) Regulations 1969 (as amended).			
1 copy of completed s.14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 application form.			
Please return this form to: Mark Stafford-Tolley, Countryside Access Officer, Powys County Council, Countryside Services, The Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 6AA or mark.stafford-tolley@powys.gov.uk APPLICATION FORM WILL BE RETURNED IF ANY INFORMATION IS NOT SUPPLIED. APPLICATION MAY BE REFUSED IF SUPPLIED LESS THAN TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE EVENT.			

Undertaking

That the event being authorised under s.33 Road Traffic Act 1988 is authorised and held in accordance under the Motor Vehicle (Competition and Trials) Regulations 1969 (as amended).

Signed: Dated:

This page is intentionally left blank

APPLICATION FOR AN AUTHORISATION UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1988 TO CONDUCT A TRIAL OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

GUIDANCE NOTE: CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE

Protected wildlife and habitats in Powys

Powys is home to numerous species and habitats that are protected under European and/or UK law. The legislation affords very strict protection to some species such as bats, great crested newts, otters and dormouse, for instance, which prohibits killing, injuring and disturbance of such species and damage or disturbance of the places where they live. In addition, certain rivers and areas of land are protected for their nature conservation value and it is illegal to cause damage to them.

Ancient monuments in Powys

Powys also hosts a large number of important archaeological sites, some of which are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Unauthorised disturbance or reckless or deliberate damage of SAMs is illegal.

What this means for local authorities

The Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) require local authorities to consult with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) where consent/permission/authorisation may be given for an activity affecting a site of European or UK nature conservation importance.

Where sites of European importance (Special Areas for Conservation or Special Protection Areas) are concerned local authorities must also specifically assess whether the proposed event is likely to have a significant effect on any of the protected features of a site. This is a legal requirement and the County Council will follow NRW's guidance issued for competent authorities undertaking such assessments.

Any negative impacts on a European or UK protected site's features must be avoided or reduced significantly through mitigation measures or it may not be possible to grant 's.33 authorisation' for an event. With motorised events using unsealed highways for example, that could mean alteration of the route or of the timing of the event, or use of appropriate materials on site to prevent damage to nearby habitat. **In the majority of cases, it is likely that applications for consent can be processed without the need for such assessment and consultation.**

In addition, all local authorities have a legal duty to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity (i.e. all wildlife) when exercising their functions. This means that the County Council may decide to alert event organisers to potential conflicts with wildlife where we are aware of them, e.g. where nesting birds or European Protected Species (EPS) are identified in the vicinity, and advise where further action or advice may be needed to ensure protected/important wildlife is safeguarded.

The Council is not required to consult or seek advice from Cadw (the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Division) in relation to issuing s.33 authorisation that may or may not affect a SAM or other archaeological site.

What this means for event organisers

Organisers will need to consult with NRW prior to submitting an application to the Council to confirm whether the event affects a protected site. If there is a reasonable possibility that protected sites may be impacted by the event, then measures should be put in place by event organisers to avoid or reduce harm to wildlife. The County Council is unable to issue authorisation for events where there is current threat of potential damage to a legally protected site arising from the authorised activity.

Evidence of NRW's consultation responses, including any advice or details of avoidance or mitigation measures designed to safeguard a site, must be provided to the County Council with your application. The County Council will consult NRW before issuing any consent that may result in damage to a protected site. Implementation of any appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures will be included as a condition of your s.33 authorisation.

Motorised events taking place on/within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) must also obtain planning consent as required by planning law. Please be aware that you should plan your event and consult with NRW sufficiently in advance in order to obtain any necessary planning consent.

In a very small minority of cases, a public right of way that is crossed by an event's route may also lie in the vicinity of a European protected site. The County Council must, by law, conduct an evaluation of likely significant effects on that site's features based on an assessment of your original application for authorisation, including any accompanying supporting information detailing measures to avoid or reduce damage to the site. Failure to provide adequate information (e.g. NRW consultation responses and or identified mitigation measures) with the initial application or when requested subsequently will result in a delay in issuing a s.33 authorisation.

Where the proposed route for your event does not coincide with any public right of way you will not need to seek 's.33 authorisation' and so Powys County Council will not be required to seek opinion from NRW or conduct a formal assessment of impact on legally protected sites.

However, the protection afforded to species and habitats still remains and event organisers and individual landowners/occupiers have a responsibility to ensure that they comply with relevant wildlife legislation. This means, for example, that if you are aware of an important site, such as a SSSI or SAC, on or near your event route NRW should be consulted at the earliest opportunity. Any landowner or occupier who permits an activity which damages a SSSI on their land could be committing a criminal offence. Similarly, if protected species are reported from the vicinity of the trial route then expert ecological advice should be sought. A suitably qualified and experienced ecologist should, if required, be able to advise what actions should be taken to avoid harm to wildlife and assist any consultation with NRW (e.g. where EPS are affected).

In addition to wildlife considerations, you should also consult with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) regarding the proposed event route. CPAT are able to provide advice on SAMs on behalf of Cadw (the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Division) as well as a wide range of other archaeological features.

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street
Welshpool
Powys
SY21 7DL

Tel: 01938 553670
Fax: 01938 552179
Email: trust@cpat.org.uk
Website: www.cpat.org.uk

How can I find out whether protected species and/or habitats are present?

You may consult with Natural Resources Wales, ask the landowner or someone else may tell you that they are there. There may also be records held at Powys' local biological records centre (BIS) that record known protected species and legally protected sites. It is always advisable to check with BIS to see what records are available for the area. (Please note that an absence of records does not mean that species/habitats are absent, merely that they have not been recorded.) See below for details on how to obtain a species report from BIS.

How do I find a professional ecologist?

Powys County Council is unable to provide a list of recommended ecological consultants but the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) has a directory of professional ecologists on their website which you may find helpful, <http://www.cieem.net/members-directory>.

How do I contact the Natural Resources Wales?

Natural Resources Wales
First Floor
Ladywell House
Park Street
Newtown
Powys
SY16 1RD

Tel: 0300 065 3000 (Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)

How do I obtain a species and habitats report from BIS?

The Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and the Brecon Beacons National Park (BIS) collates and stores species records and habitat data from across Powys. Individuals and organisations can obtain data reports for any specified area of Powys, including the Brecon Beacons National Park. Please note that BIS may charge for this service and they should be contacted directly for advice on fees. You will also need to ensure that someone suitably qualified and experienced is able to interpret the report's information and provide any necessary ecological advice.

How do I contact BIS?

Biodiversity Information Service for Powys and Brecon Beacons National Park
Unit 4 Royal Building
6 The Bulwark
Brecon
Powys
LD3 7LB

Tel: (01874) 610881
Fax: (01874) 624812
Email: info@b-i-s.org
Web: www.b-i-s.org

What information does BIS need from me?

BIS will require a 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Map(s) 'Explorer Edition' marking clearly all parts of the of the proposed route that are *not* on a road dedicated for use by motor vehicles. Copies of original OS maps will only be accepted if they are of very good quality. Please note that route tracings are not acceptable.

What information do I need to request from BIS?

You will need a report with details of protected/important species and habitats within at least 500m of either side of all parts of the mapped route not using a metalled road. Depending on the length and course of the route it may be simpler and more cost-effective to define the outer limit of the event area and request details of protected/important species and habitats within a 500m buffer of this outer limit. The report should include the following:

- Priority species
- Mobile priority species
- Species of conservation concern
- Locally important species
- Semi-natural habitats
- Protected/important sites

1988

Whereas an application has been made to Powys County Council for an authorisation to the holding of a trial on a public footpath, bridleway or restricted byway involving the use of motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations 1969. The Council has been assured by the organiser/s that the **consent in writing has been given by all of the owners and occupiers of** land over which that length of footpath, bridleway or restricted byway runs, and **the trial is not a race or a trial of speed** consent is hereby granted subject to such conditions as are specified hereunder:-

**On behalf of
Powys County Council**

CONDITIONS

1. The Council will be indemnified by the organisers against any claims or damages that may arise in consequence of the granting of this authorisation and the organisers shall have in place a suitable policy indemnifying the authority to a minimum sum as required by the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association Limited.
2. The Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association Limited has authorised the event, and it complies with the Motor Vehicle (Competition and Trials) Regulations 1969 (as amended) and such an authorisation has been provided to the Council.
3. That the application form as provided by the Council has been fully completed and received by the Council no less than 8 weeks before the event.
4. That the application will not be considered should it be received 7 days or less before the event.
5. Any damage to the public highway caused in consequence of the holding of the event as extraordinary traffic will be met or made good to the satisfaction of the Council.
6. Organisers must have in place appropriate risk assessments to ensure public safety is maintained.
7. That the plans for the route will be at a scale of 1:25,000, or of sufficient scale as to clearly annotate on the route where footpaths, bridleways or restricted byways interact with the route of the event. Any plan submitted to the Council shall not be any bigger than A3.
8.
 - a) That appropriate MSA signs are placed at junctions of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways in addition to any official notices where an order has been made under s.16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
 - b) If MSA/ACU approved signage is not used, personalised signage must be agreed by the Council in advance of the event.
9. That consent in writing by all landowners and occupiers where the event co-incides with footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways has been provided to the Council by the event organiser/applicant.

This page is intentionally left blank

This page is intentionally left blank

The fee for undertaking the s.33RTA88 process has previously been set at £100. The new process, considering it will be more streamlined will take less time to process, and therefore the fee should be varied accordingly. A reasonable fee to check the application, undertake any necessary checks, and provide a bespoke authorisation should be set at £30. This is on the basis that the application form is correctly completed.

However, considering a traffic regulation order (TRO) is also required for a s.33RTA88 authorisation, then there are further costs that will be required to be included in the fee structure. There is the simple scenario and a complicated scenario.

Simple Scenario

That no more than two public right of way are affected that is easily accessed and within 30 miles, such as Sweetlamb.

Complicated Scenario

That the route of the event is coincident 3 times or more with public rights of way, in remote areas such as within the WG woodland estate. The public rights of way will need to be identified, located, and possible alternative routes which provide for a more complicated scenario and therefore an increased preparation time for making a TRO.

This page is intentionally left blank

C56- 2017

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)

County Councillors R G Brown, J H Brunt, M R Harris, S M Hayes, E A Jones,
W T Jones, W J T Powell and A G Thomas

In attendance: County Councillors MJ Dorrance, CJ Gibson-Watt, DW Meredith, GD Price, DR Price, DG Thomas

1.	APOLOGIES	C34- 2017
-----------	------------------	------------------

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Sandra Davies, leader of the Labour group.

2.	MINUTES	C35- 2017
-----------	----------------	------------------

The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February and reconvened on 14th February 2017 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	C36- 2017
-----------	---------------------------------	------------------

County Councillor WJT Powell declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item C37 – 2017 as an LEA appointed governor of Llandrindod High School.

The Chief Executive declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item C37 – 2017 as the parent of a child attending Llandrindod High School.

County Councillor RG Brown declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in item C39 – 2017 Schools Major Improvement Programme as an LEA appointed governor of one of the schools mentioned in the report.

County Councillor MJ Dorrance declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in C40 – 2017 Brecon High School Financial Management as his partner was a governor of the school.

4.	SECONDARY SCHOOL REORGANISATION PROGRAMME BUILTH WELLS AND LLANDRINDOD HIGH SCHOOLS OBJECTION REPORT	C37- 2017
-----------	---	------------------

Cabinet considered responses received to the consultation on proposals to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31st August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that would operate across the current sites of the two schools from 1st September 2018. Cabinet was advised that a total of 1788 objections had been received during the

statutory objection period, including 78 individual written responses and 1695 responses that were a copy of a single objection template signed by individual objectors. It was confirmed that there were no responses received in support of the proposal. Appended to the report were copies of the objections received and the authority's responses.

County Councillor David Price spoke as a local member representing the catchment of Builth Wells High School. He did not feel that there was anything in the proposals to merge the schools that would lead to standards being improved nor was there any guarantee that larger schools were necessarily better. He argued that the objections received showed that there was no support for the proposal and he urged the Cabinet to listen to the public.

County Councillor Gary Price spoke as a local member for Llandrindod Wells. He questioned why the Cabinet was pursuing the option of merging the schools given the large public response against the proposal. He noted that when proposals for the merger of Brecon and Gwernyfed High Schools had been abandoned the Cabinet had cited the large public response as a reason, yet there had been a larger response in opposition to the proposals for Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools.

Cabinet sought and received confirmation that any decision taken did not predetermine the proposals for the Welsh medium stream in Brecon High School due to be considered at the next meeting.

In reply to comments about Estyn's response that it was not possible to establish whether standards would be at least maintained by the proposal, Cabinet was reminded that both schools were currently in special measures. The proposals offered the opportunity of improved leadership at all levels, leading to improved teaching, improved mentoring and coaching opportunities for staff and economies of scale leading to greater investment in teaching and learning all of which would help improve standards.

Cabinet did not feel that there was anything in the responses received that was new or would lead to them to changing their view that the two schools should merge.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
To confirm the decision of Cabinet made on 27th September 2016 to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School on 31st August 2018, and to establish a new dual-stream 11 – 18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools from 1st September 2018.	To establish a sustainable model of secondary education in Mid Powys that would be able to deliver high-quality education.

Councillor MR Harris did not vote having been absent for the start of the debate.

Cabinet considered the Schools Service Asset Management Plan. The Portfolio Holder for Finance noted that schools sometimes received funding for works from other sources and argued that if that was the case then that should be taken into consideration in the calculation.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
(i) That approval is given to a budget of up to £50k per annum from the Major Improvements budget being included in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial years within the Major Improvements Capital Programme for the development of a number of Stage 1 designs for Business Justification Cases (BJCs);	(i) To prioritise Band B projects under the 21 st Century Schools Programme;
(ii) That officers undertake work to quantify the impact of the 21 st Century Schools and Major Improvement Programmes on the level of backlog maintenance works for consideration by Cabinet in Autumn 2017;	(ii) To identify the level of backlog maintenance works for inclusion in the Schools Service Asset Management Plan;
(iii) That any identified works required following the change to the age of admission to school are included and ranked within the Major Improvement Programme 2017-2019;	(iii) To ensure funding is identified to meet any works required;
(iv) That approval is given to minor changes to the scoring matrix used to prioritise investment in the Major Improvements Programme, to ensure that all projects are ranked fairly based on the risk to the Authority and to ensure Service continuity;	(iv) To ensure a transparent and fair allocation of capital funding;
(v) That the Authority commence discussions with schools identified in Appendix E around the removal of mobile classrooms due to surplus capacity in readiness for the	(v) To reduce the level of surplus capacity in schools

<p>2018-19 financial year;</p> <p>(vi) That the cost of removal is funded using funding currently delegated to schools through the premises elements of the formula; removal to be considered on a case by case basis through Portfolio Holder report.</p> <p>(vii) That those schools who have not spent 80% of their delegated Repairs and Maintenance budget on repairs and maintenance over a 5 year rolling period are required to make a contribution of up to 80% of their unspent delegated repairs and maintenance funding towards the cost of any project, including major improvement works. If Schools have received funding from other sources and providing it has been spent on the building it is to be included in the calculation.</p>	
---	--

County Councillor Rosemarie Harris did not vote having missed part of the debate.

6.	SCHOOLS MAJOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME	C39- 2017
-----------	--	------------------

Cabinet considered the Schools Service Major Improvements Programme for 2017-2020. The Portfolio Holder for Education noted the concern expressed by the Leader of the Liberal Democrat group at the capital spend required in some relatively new schools.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>1. That the Major Improvements Programme for financial year 2017-18 as set out in Sections 1.4, 1.8, 2.1 and Appendix A be approved.</p>	<p>To progress the School Modernisation Programme and meet Welsh Government fit for purpose objectives</p>
<p>2. That the Portfolio holder for education in consultation with the Head of Schools has delegated authority to make changes to the Major Improvements Programme</p>	

that are within budget.	
--------------------------------	--

County Councillor Rosemarie Harris did not vote having missed part of the debate.

7.	BRECON HIGH SCHOOL - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	C40- 2017
-----------	--	------------------

Cabinet considered a report on the budget position of Brecon High School. There was a substantial and unsustainable potential deficit £1.357m by 2018/19 in addition to the outstanding loan of £216k. The school had concluded that reductions required to produce a balanced budget for 2016/17, which would require a reduction of 10 members of staff, was not an acceptable option as it would have considerable impact across the school and would be detrimental to the progress made in improving standards and maintaining progress against the Estyn recommendations which had led to the school being removed from special measures.

County Councillor David Meredith spoke as the Chair of Governors. He advised that the school had already taken steps to reduce costs leading to increased class sizes and the Governors took the view that further reductions in staffing levels would leave the school unable to deliver the curriculum and risk putting it in special measures. He also noted that uncertainty created by school reorganisation proposals had led to the loss of Welsh medium pupils and consequent loss of funding. He asked the Leader and Portfolio Holder and senior officers attend a meeting of staff and parents to explain the decision.

County Councillor Matthew Dorrance spoke as a local member. He questioned whether the school was adequately funded noting that two independent reviews had concluded that savings could not be delivered without negatively impacting on learner outcomes. He asked if the reorganisation policy should be revisited and he called for meaningful discussions with the school and local members about what could be done in partnership.

County Councillor Gillian Thomas spoke as a local member. She noted that the budget issues in the school went back to 2010 when the LEA was slow to respond. She argued that reorganisation proposals had led to pupils leaving and the Welsh medium pupils moving to Builth at a cost of £100k per annum in transport.

Cabinet noted that Brecon was not the only high school facing financial pressures with projected deficits in the secondary sector of £2.5m by 2018/19. The Portfolio Holder for Finance cautioned that this was a problem that threatened the financial viability of the Council and was a consequence of not taking forward the schools reorganisation programme. It would not be equitable to put additional money into just one school, but to put Brecon High School on the same footing as other schools, payments on the loan would have to be set-aside for the time being.

The overspend in the current year was £353k equivalent to 7 teachers and projected deficit for next year was £529k equivalent to 10 teachers and the Head

of Schools advised that if these staffing cuts were implemented he doubted the school would be able to deliver the learning measure and there would be a significant impact on standards.

The Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) cautioned that projected schools deficits were a serious risk for the authority and that the Council could not afford to run the number of schools on the funding available.

Cabinet felt that with continued reductions in pupil numbers the secondary school reorganisation programme and the funding formula needed to be looked at again.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<p>That the report is noted</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Within 10 working days i.e. the 14th March 2017, the governing body of Brecon High School is required to submit a budget recovery plan which as a minimum brings the school budget into a balanced in-year position in 2017-18. <li>2. Should the above not be received, or should the budget recovery plan be unacceptable in the opinion of the section 151 Officer, the Director of Education will issue a warning notice to the governing body in accordance with the <i>School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and Welsh Government Statutory Guidance Document (202/2016) Schools Causing Concern.</i> <li>3. Officers are instructed to review plans and timetable for Secondary School reorganisation throughout Powys taking full account of falling pupil numbers and the requirement of Welsh medium and Post 16 Education and report to Cabinet no later than the end of Autumn term 2017. <li>4. That an in-depth review of the funding formula is carried out by early autumn 2017 for implementation in April 2018. 	<p>That an appropriate budget plan is submitted by the school;</p> <p>And to ensure that the school has a financial basis on which to ensure that the school continues to progress the recommendations for improvement.</p>

Councillor Arwel Jones left the meeting at 15.28.

8.	FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND FORECAST AS AT 31ST JANUARY 2017	C41- 2017
-----------	--	------------------

Cabinet received the financial overview and forecast for the period ended 31 January 2017. The projected overspend of £4,357k against the approved budget was an improvement of £493k on the December position. The Portfolio Holder for Finance advised that the Strategic Overview Board would be looking in further detail at the service budgets at its meeting on 21 March.

The Chair of the Audit Committee noted that 25% of the budget savings still had to be delivered and that the use of reserves needed to be kept under review.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contents of this report are noted by Cabinet; and 2. Cabinet supports appropriate action by services to curtail or reduce the reported forecasted service deficits. 3. The Capital virements set out in paragraph 14.2 are approved, and those over £500k be submitted to full council for approval. 	<p>To monitor the council’s financial performance and ensure that spending remains within approved limits and that the 3% minimum general fund reserve is maintained.</p>

9.	ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERSPEND	C42- 2017
-----------	------------------------------------	------------------

County Councillor John Morris, the Chair of the Finance Scrutiny Panel, presented the Panel’s report on the overspend in Adult Social Care. He thanked the members of the Panel and scrutiny officers for their work on the report and outlined the methodology used.

He welcomed the recovery plan and action plan which the Panel would report back on at a later meeting. However it was the Panel’s view that there had been a historical failure to achieve transformational, and cultural change in the service. The Panel was concerned about the strain on reserves and the impact on other Council services. The Panel wanted to see robust financial management introduced. The Panel felt that if not addressed, the current situation had the potential to overwhelm the whole Council. Any unforeseeable expenditure should be met from a budgeted, general contingency and should not be met from reserves which are at an unacceptably low level. A proper business case must be evidenced before any funds are accessed.

The Leader thanked the Panel for the report and its Chair for keeping him briefed.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care gave a personal response to the Finance Scrutiny Panel report. A formal response would be given at a future meeting.

The Portfolio Holder expressed disappointment at the report. He felt that there had been no analysis of the pressures on the service and he regretted that no recognition had been given to the actions taken by the service to address the overspend.

10.	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/20 - 2017 UPDATE	C43- 2017
------------	---	------------------

The Leader advised that the Corporate Improvement Plan would be considered by Council on 7 March. He said that he would prefer to see it come forward earlier in the year.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That the Corporate Improvement Plan 2016/20 - 2017 Update is recommended for approval at full council on 7 th March 2017.	This CIP clearly defines the council's vision, priorities and intended outcomes, clearly making links to the One Powys Plan, the MTFS and emerging workforce strategy. To facilitate effective engagement with staff, elected members, the public and stakeholders such as regulators.

11.	REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD - POPULATION ASSESSMENT	C44- 2017
------------	---	------------------

Cabinet received the population assessment produced for the Regional Partnership Board. Members noted that this was an important piece of work that services needed to have due regard when planning future delivery. It was suggested that it should be included in new Members' induction packs and given a wider circulation.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Population Assessment in Appendix attached to the report is recommended for approval at full council on 7th March 2017. 2. That the population assessment be included the new Members' induction pack and given wider distribution. 	<p>The population assessment provides an essential foundation for developing the statutory area plan by 31st March 2018.</p> <p>Approval by full council is a statutory requirement of the Act.</p>

--	--

12.	USE OF SITE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS UNITS AND RECYCLABLES BULKING CENTRE	C45- 2017
------------	---	------------------

Cabinet considered proposals for a site purchased by the Council in Abermule to be shared between the Commercial Property portfolio, which would develop around 53% of the site for new Business units, whilst approximately 47% of the site would be utilised by Highways Transport and Recycling (HTR) as a new Material Recycling Facility (MRF) for the northern part of the County. Approximately 15% of the site would be utilised as highway infrastructure, electricity substation and sewerage pumping station.

County Councillor Wynne Jones speaking as the local Member sought an assurance that capital funding allocated to Regeneration for the project would be retained and used to invest in the development of the site. The Head of Regeneration Property & Commissioning said that this would be subject to the capital programme agreed by Council but that she anticipated that it would be retained.

He asked for the timeframe for starting development of the site. The Head of Regeneration Property & Commissioning advised that the workshops would be developed at the same time as the recycling facility. Planning permission needed to be obtained and during this time the design for the site would be developed. It was confirmed that Welsh Government wanted to see the start of development on Plot B adjacent to Court Farm within two years.

Councillor Jones also asked for and received an assurance that no residual waste would be handled on the site.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That approval is given to use and develop the site for both business units and a Material Recycling Facility.	To enable a site to be developed as a prestige business park, and a new bulk recycling facility for the north of the County.

13.	TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 3	C46- 2017
------------	---	------------------

Cabinet considered the Treasury Management report for quarter 3.

RESOLVED	Reason for decision:
That the Treasury Management Quarterly Report be received	To ensure Cabinet remains informed about current Treasury Management performance

14.	POWYS SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS QUARTERLY UPDATE	C47- 2017
------------	--	------------------

Cabinet considered the safeguarding report for the second quarter. The Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Children’s Services noted criticism from the leader of the Liberal Democrat group that the information was 6 months old and did not contain any figures for Children’s Services. He explained that the Corporate Parenting Group saw the detailed figures. Future reports would incorporate data from the quality assurance performance framework that would show much more detail.

RESOLVED	Reason for Decision:
That Cabinet accepts the safeguarding update in line with its safeguarding responsibilities.	Safeguarding is everyone’s business and this report provides assurance to Cabinet of work that is underway both locally and regionally on important safeguarding matters.

15.	JOINT PARTNERSHIP BOARD	C48- 2017
------------	--------------------------------	------------------

Cabinet received the minutes of the Joint Partnership Board meeting held on 19 January 2017.

16.	CORRESPONDENCE	C49- 2017
------------	-----------------------	------------------

There were no items of correspondence reported.

17.	DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING	C50- 2017
------------	---	------------------

The Cabinet received details of delegated decisions taken since the last meeting.

18.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME	C51- 2017
------------	-------------------------------	------------------

The Leader asked Portfolio Holders to make sure that the forward work programme was kept up to date at least 8 months in advance.

County Councillor W B Thomas (Chair)

C60- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE 14 March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Stephen Hayes
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care

SUBJECT: Increase in charges for Community Based Services

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

The maximum charge for Community Based Social Care Services is set by the Welsh Government. It is currently £60 per week and was last increased from £55.00 to £60.00 in April 2015, and remained at £60 in April 2016 when the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 was implemented.

The Welsh Government have increased the maximum amount a Local Authority can charge to £70 per week with effect from April 2017.

The consultation undertaken on daytime activities made it clear that attendees at day centres would be willing to pay more for the service if that would support their ongoing sustainability.

2. Proposal

This report sets out and recommends that Powys increases its maximum weekly charge to £70 per week.

It also recommends a proposed uplift to charges for attendance at Older Day Centre and Day & Employment centre and an increase in charges for meals provided at Day Centres.

3. One Powys Plan

The One Powys Plan recognises that the Council is facing significant budget reductions and the estimated number of people aged over 80 in Powys is rising. The proportion of residents aged over 80 is predicted to increase from 6.5% in 2012 to 14% in 2036. If we are to make the service sustainable then we need to charge those residents who have the ability to contribute to the possible increased cost of care.

4. Options Considered/Available

Option 1

Maintain existing charges for Community Based Services:

- £10 per day for Daycentre attendance
- £5 for meals at the daycentre, which includes light refreshments and tea / coffee
- Maximum charge of £60 per week
- £20.50 per hour for home care up to the maximum charge.

Option 2

Increase the maximum charge for Community Based Services from £60 to £70 per week. This includes short term respite placements in a care home. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 stipulates the maximum charge, which the Welsh Government have increased to £70 per week from April 2017.

Option 3

Increase the daily charge for attendance at Older People's Day Centres and Day and Employment Daycentre from £10 to £15 per day.

Option 4

Increase the charge for meals provided at the Older Daycentre from £5 to £7.50 per day.

Option 5

Increase the hourly rate for Domiciliary Care (Home care), as set out in the table below, up to a maximum of £60 per week.

Service	2016/17	2017/18
Domiciliary Care (Home care)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £60 per week)	£21.00 per hour (up to a maximum of £70 per week)

5. Preferred Choice and Reasons

The recommended options are to fully implement Option 2, Option 3 and Option 4.

Adoption of these options would enable future charges to reflect inflationary cost pressures faced by the Council in providing care.

Option 2

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council accepts option 2 and increases the maximum charge for Community Based Services. Service Users will still have the option to undertake a means test which will look at their affordability to pay towards their care. Around one third of Community Based Service Users do not pay towards the cost of their services following a financial means test.

Option 3

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council accepts option 3 and increases the daily charge for Daycentre attendance to £15 per day. Service Users will still have the option to undertake a means test which will look at their affordability to pay towards their care. Around one third of Community Based Service Users do not pay towards the cost of their services following a financial means test. It is estimated this will increase income by £30.2k per annum.

Option 4

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council accepts option 4 and increases the charge for meals at Older Daycentres to £7.50 per day. This charge includes light refreshments such as tea / coffee with cake and biscuits. This is a flat rate and charge that falls outside of the scope of the means test.

The total cost of providing meals at day centres (using 2015/6 figures) is £244,932. The income at the current price of £5 per meal (this includes tea/coffee in the morning, 2 course meal, tea and cake in the afternoon) is £102,356. The average unit cost for each meal (as described above to include the teas/cake etc.) is £10.83.

Option 5

The recommendation of Adult Services is that the Council does not increase the hourly rate for home care from £20.50 to £21.00 per hour. In view of the £70 maximum charge the increased income would be negligible and the challenge of applying the increase would be significant.

6. Impact Assessment

6.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes

6.2 If yes is it attached? Yes

7. Local Member(s)

The impact of these proposals will be county wide.

8. Other Front Line Services

Does the recommendation impact on other services? Yes

This report was co-written between Adult Social Care and Income & Awards, upon whom there will also be an impact.

9. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

9.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

- 9.2 Finance: The Finance Business Partner can confirm
- That the increase to the maximum charge for Community Based Services from £60 to £70 per week is in line with Welsh Government legislation. This includes short term respite placements in a care home which is in line with the recommendation in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This will generate approximately £239k additional income and will mitigate the 2016/17 income shortfall in the baseline budget of changes around charging for a residential respite placement, previously assessed and charged under 'CRAG', but from April 6th 2016 must be treated as a Community Based Service. This means that service users following a financial assessment may receive a free service or pay up to a maximum charge of £70 per week for a single episode of care. Also services for carers being non chargeable. Previously estimated as a shortfall in income to baseline budget of £141k but in reality is approximately £250k.
 - The increase in Day Centre attendance charge will generate approximately £30k additional income.
 - The increase in charge for a meal at an Older Day Centre will generate approximately £50k, which will mitigate the current shortfall in the cost of producing and the additional inflationary costs re staffing, utilities and groceries in 2017/18.
- 9.3 Communications: The report is of public interest and requires the use of a news release and appropriate social media to publicise the recommendation/decision.
- 9.4 Corporate Property (if appropriate)
N/A
- 9.5 HR
No comment applicable from HR, no staffing issues.
- 9.6 ICT (if appropriate)
N/A

10. Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

There are no wider implications

11. Pre- Scrutiny

Comments from pre-scrutiny. (To be completed by Scrutiny Officers)

12. Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance and adds the increase takes advantage of the changes permitted by Welsh Government and is in line with the Council's income policy. The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

13. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
Fully implement options 2, 3 and 4	To take advantage of the opportunity provided by Welsh Government to provide additional income to support the funding of the service.

Relevant Policy (ies):	The Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Councillor Stephen Hayes
----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Dylan Owen
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	1st April 2017

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Email:
Dylan Owen	01597826578	dylan.owen@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Appendix A

Proposed new table of charges:

Service	2016/17	2017/18
Attendance at Day Centre/Day and Employment Centre	£10 per day	£15 per day
Domiciliary Care (Home Care)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £60 per week as set by Welsh Government)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £70 per week as set by Welsh Government)
Learning Disability services in the community	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £60 per week as set by Welsh Government)	£20.50 per hour (up to a maximum of £70 per week as set by Welsh Government)
24 hour Support (Supported Tenancy)	£70.00 per week	£70.00 per week
Shared Lives (long term placement)	£60.00 per week per single episode of respite care	£70.00 per week per single episode of respite care
Shared Lives (short term/respite placements)	£60.00 per week per single episode of respite care	£70.00 per week per single episode of respite care
Respite i.e. a stay not exceeding 8 weeks	£60.00 per week per single episode of respite care	£70.00 per week per single episode of respite care
Package of care i.e. a range of services - maximum	£60.00 per week (as set by Welsh Government)	Up to a maximum of £70.00 per week (as set by Welsh Government)

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit incorporating Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation. **Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.**

Service Area	Adult Services Commissioning	Head of Service	Dylan Owen	Strategic Director	Carol Shillabeer	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Stephen Hayes
Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving	Charges for Domiciliary Care, Residential Respite Care, Day Care and Meals within Day Care Services – in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014						
Outline Summary							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This report considers the proposed uplift to charges for Day Care and Meals within Day Care Services. 2. This report also considers the proposed increase in the maximum amount payable for community care services in line with recent Welsh Government guidance. 							

Page 51
Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
001	Dylan Owen	Strategic Commissioning Manager (Older People)	22.02.2017

2. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the council's strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the policy / change objective impact on this priority?	<u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Supporting people in the community to live fulfilled lives	To those affected financially this could be detrimental as they will pay more for services	Neutral	Charging policy and legislation determines charge but impact on social care users will vary. Where required reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Developing the economy	N/A	Good	N/A	Good	
Improving learner outcomes for all, minimising disadvantage	N/A	Good	N/A	Good	
Remodelling council services to respond to reduced funding	These proposals will increase the amount of income to Adult Social Care.	Good	Work will be required to ensure the best use of the income and aligning the income with the service area	Good	

3. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the Welsh Assembly's well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does the policy / change objective contribute this goal?	Inherent Judgement Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	Residual Judgement Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
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.	These proposals will generate greater income for the Council and Adult Social Care which will enable better targeting of resources and to make better use of them.	Good	Work will be required to ensure the best use of the income and aligning the income with the service area	Good	
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).	The increased income will support greater resilience for Adult Social Care services in order to increase service capacity.	Good		Good	
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.	The proposals are on services for supporting individuals with their physical and mental well-being. Respecting a service users preferences and promoting positive behaviour are central to the service.	Good	As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Good	

Page 52

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
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.	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	

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>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>Treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	

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>Age</i>	A high proportion of those affected by these proposals will be older people.	Poor	As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Neutral	
<i>Disability</i>	The service areas considered by the proposals are for people who have disabilities or are frail. These proposals will have an impact on those who depend upon such services.	Poor	As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements.	Neutral	

Page 53

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Gender reassignment	N/A	Unknown	N/A	Unknown	
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Race	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Religion or belief	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Sex	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Sexual Orientation	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Pregnancy and Maternity	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
Equality Impact on PCC Staff	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Good	

Page 54

4. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the policy / change objective impact on this principle?	<u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Sustainable Development Principle					
Long Term: The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.	These proposals will maximise the potential income for Adult Social Care, thus making the service more sustainable in the long term.	Good	Work will be required to ensure the best use of the income and aligning the income with the service area	Neutral	
Collaboration: Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



Page 55

<p>Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p> <p>Communication and Engagement</p>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<p>Prevention: How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<p>Integration: Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	N/A	Neutral	N/A	Neutral	
<p>Preventing Poverty: Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.</p>	From a service users perspective these changes could potentially impact their financial circumstances. A broader view of the person's whole circumstances from a Social Care perspective will help to understand any potential impact	Poor	From a financial assessment perspective a minimum income amount is always allowable when a financial assessment is undertaken. This minimum income amount should ensure some prevention of poverty. Service users will be supported by social care staff to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate welfare benefits.	Neutral	
<p>Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</p>	Individuals could refuse services and, therefore, have less monitoring.	Poor	Options of telecare via individual reviews could lead to 24/7 ongoing monitoring and support, mitigating risks.	Neutral	
<p>Corporate Parenting: Enabling our looked after children to fulfil their potential.</p>	N/A	Neutral		Neutral	

Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



5. Achievability of Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving?

Impact on Service / Council	Deliverability of Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving	Inherent Risk
High	High	Low

6. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving?

Description of risks			
Individuals decline service provision resulting in their wellbeing being compromised. The impact of this will vary dependent upon individuals' circumstances.			
Judgement (to be included in service risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
			√
Mitigating Actions			Residual Risk
As appropriate, reviews to be undertaken of the individuals affected to consider alternative solutions, which could include telecare and maximising financial entitlements. Options of telecare via individual reviews could lead to 24/7 ongoing monitoring and support, mitigating risks.			Low
Does the Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving have potential to impact on another service area?			
Income and Awards			

7. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:
The impact of this proposed change should be positive for the service, with varied impact upon residents who receive domiciliary care support and/or attend day care. The amount the Council can charge is capped and the proposal is to base this on the amount allowed by the Welsh Government Guidance.	

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

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
No

9. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?
Routine social care reviews will be undertaken in line with current policy.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

12 months.

10. Sign Off

		Signature	Date
Head of Service:	Dylan Owen		
Strategic Director:	Carol Shillabeer		
Portfolio Holder:	Clr Stephen Hayes		

FORM ENDS

This page is intentionally left blank

C61- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

14th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Wynne Jones
Portfolio Holder for Finance

SUBJECT: Business Rates High Street Rates Relief Scheme in
Wales 2017-18

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The independent Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has carried out a Business Rates revaluation of business properties across Wales. This is a national issue affecting the whole of England and Wales. The revaluation does not affect domestic properties that pay council tax.
- 1.2 Business rates are set by national legislation and are not under decision making powers of councils who merely collect the business rates and send the income to Welsh Government. This is then redistributed via the local government funding formula.
- 1.3 The VOA's new rateable values arising from the revaluation are assigned to each commercial property and will be used within the calculation of Business Rates liability from 1st April 2017. Whilst a revaluation exercise is "cost-neutral" there will inevitably be business rate-payers that see a significant increase to their current rateable value and thus a large change in their annual bill as a result of the national revaluation exercise.
- 1.4 The Welsh Government has introduced transitional relief to mitigate large increases in Business Rates liability, tapering the increase over a three year period. The small business rates relief scheme has also been extended for a further one year, to 31 March 2018. This assists rate-payers with a valuation up to £12,000.
- 1.5 The Welsh Government has further announced that a Business Rates high street rates relief scheme will be available for 2017-18 to support businesses within the retail sector in Wales. Targeting support in this way means the support will be available to eligible businesses. Eligibility will cover those businesses that have seen increases in their liability as a result of revaluation; businesses on high streets where rates are falling but are struggling as a result of economic conditions and competition from online and out-of-town providers. The maximum relief will be £1,500 per rate-payer.

- 1.6 The funding will be provided by Welsh Government Grant of up to £(not yet published) is being made available to the Council to award high street rates relief during the financial year 2017-18.

2. Proposal for High Street Rates Relief Scheme 2017-18

- 2.1 The Welsh Government will provide relief of up to **£500** (Tier 1) and **£1,500** (Tier 2) on the Business Rates bill for occupied retail properties with a rateable value of up to £50,000 in the financial year 2017-18, subject to State Aid limits.
- 2.2 The high street rates relief can be provided in addition to Small Business Rates Relief, transitional relief as well as any hardship or discretionary relief awarded by the local authority. The relief will be applied against the net bill after other reliefs have been applied. Where the net bill after all other reliefs is less than the £500 or £1,500 the relief granted will be equal to net rates bill for 2017-18. Once high street rates relief has been applied for and granted a revised business rates demand will be issued showing amount of relief and the reduced liability to pay for remainder of 2017-18.
- 2.3 Relief will be granted to businesses as a one-off payment based on occupation as at 31 March 2017 (provided the same occupier continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2017).
- 2.4 The scheme will be administered by Powys County Council as a 'reimbursing local authority' that uses discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988). It will be for individual local billing authorities to decide to grant relief under section 47 but the Welsh Government will reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided (using a grant under s31 of the Local Government Act 2003).
- 2.5 A "High Street Retailer" has not been prescribed by Welsh Government, the council will deem properties located in out of town retail parks, out of town shopping centres, and industrial estates as ineligible because they are not considered to comprise the "high street" for the purposes of this relief. Retailers that operate outside of retail parks and industrial estates will be eligible provided they meet criteria set out below.
- 2.6 The 'high street rates relief scheme' has **two tiers** of relief, both with qualifying criteria being:

Tier 1 - Maximum £500

- The Rateable Value is between £6,001 and £12,000*
- The property is occupied for retail purposes as at 31 March 2017 (and same occupier continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2017)
- In receipt of small business rates relief and/or transitional relief on 1 April 2017
- The maximum amount of relief is £500 within financial year 2017-18
- Any sum of this award and any other funding must be less than the state aid de minimis (currently 200,000 Euros over a three year period)

*There will be a small number of ratepayers with a rateable value of £12,000 or above who are in receipt of Transitional Relief. These ratepayers will also qualify for Tier 1 relief.

Tier 2 - £1,500

- The Rateable Value is between £12,001 and £50,000
 - The property is occupied for retail purposes as at 31 March 2017 and the same occupier continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2017)
 - Not in receipt of small business rates relief or transitional relief on 1 April 2017
 - Any sum of this award and any other funding must be less than the state aid de minimis (currently 200,000 Euros over a three year period)
- 2.7 The premises must be wholly or mainly being used as retail premises, within the “high street” and it is the intention that retail premises covers “shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments”.
- 2.8 There are certain types of properties that, in compliance with the Welsh Government guidance, the Council will exclude the rate-payer from high street rates relief, these are as follows:
- The property is not occupied on 1 April 2017
 - The property is not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public
 - The property is located in an out of town Retail Park or an industrial estate.
 - The property is in receipt of mandatory charitable relief (80%)

In addition, and in compliance with the Welsh Government guidance, the Council Will deem that the types of uses below (or those similar in use) are not considered to Be High Street retail use for the purpose of this relief. Therefore they would not be not to be eligible for the relief. Excluded uses covered by the Welsh Government guidance are:

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points / ATMs, bureau de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents / financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting office
- Tourism accommodation such as B&Bs, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
- Sports clubs
- Children’s play centres
- Day nurseries
- Outdoor activity centres
- Gyms
- Kennels and catteries

- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

2.9 The Council will be re-imbursed in full by Welsh Government for any relief that is awarded through the audited annual National Non Domestic Rates Return. In other words if correctly applied there will be no direct cost to the Council.

2.10 As the scheme has qualifying criteria and awards are to be granted under discretionary relief powers (contained within section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988) it is proposed that upon receipt of a valid application form for High Street rates relief the decision to award relief be made by the Portfolio Holder for Finance in consultation with the Strategic Director - Resources provided all terms of the scheme are met.

2.11 Guidance notes regarding the scheme are shown in **Appendix 1** to this report.

3. One Powys Plan

3.1 The high street rates relief scheme for 2017-18 proposes no risk to the Council, and supports the Councils aim to regenerate Town Centres by providing financial support through rates reduction to high street retail commercial premises.

4. Options Considered/Available

Two options to deliver the scheme are available as follows:

4.1 Option One – To adopt a high street relief scheme as detailed within section Two, and for the Portfolio holder for Finance in consultation with the Strategic Director – Resources (S151 Officer) to make decisions on valid applications received which meet all the terms of the scheme.

4.2 Option Two – To adopt a high street relief scheme as detailed within section Two and for the Income & Awards Manager to make decisions on valid applications received which meet all the terms of the scheme.

5. Preferred Choice and Reasons

5.1 **Option One** is the preferred choice as the relief is to be granted under the local authority's discretionary relief powers contained within section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. This is in-keeping with all other Business Rates discretionary relief decisions taken. Option One will also ensure the Portfolio Holder is involved in the decision making process whilst working within the policy framework with the advice of the statutory S151 Officer.

6. Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

6.1 There is no impact on Sustainability and Environmental issues/Equalities or Crime.

7. Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

7.1 There is no impact on children and young people

8. Local Member(s)

8.1 The relief scheme in respect of Business Rates will apply equally across the whole County.

9. Other Front Line Services

9.1 Front line services have been made fully aware of the new scheme and how rate payers submit an application to be considered for the relief.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

10.1 Finance commented: If delivered within the agreed policy framework the High Street rates relief scheme for 2017-18 proposes no risk to the Council and therefore is supported by the finance service

10.2 The Professional Lead-Legal notes “the aim of this report as being consistent with present legislation and policy and that the legal services will lend assistance when and where required to help implement its aims”

11. Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

11.1 There are no implications for Public Service Board/Partnerships or stakeholders.

12. Corporate Communications

12.1 Communication Commented “The report is of public interest and requires a proactive news release and use of social media to confirm the decision”.

13. Statutory Officers

13.1 The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by Finance and supports the proposed policy based approach.

13.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer)commented : I am satisfied with the report and have nothing to add

14. Members' Interests

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1. That a Business Rates High Street Rates Relief Scheme 2017-18 be established in accordance with section 2 of this report. 2. Applications for Business Rates High Street Rates Relief under the scheme referred to above shall be delegated to and determined by the Portfolio holder for Finance in consultation with the Strategic Director – Resources	To ensure the scheme meets the requirements to maximise funding available to support local businesses seeking rate relief and complies with Welsh Government guidance.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All Members
----------------------------------	--------------------

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Strategic Director - Resources
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediately

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
A M Griffiths	01874 623309		andrewg@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Appendix 1

Non-Domestic Rates High Street Rate Relief Guidance Note



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Non-domestic Rates

High Street Rate Relief

Guidance

DRAFT

Contents

About this guidance	3
Introduction.....	3
Section 1:.....	4
How will the relief be provided?	4
How will the scheme be administered?	4
Which properties will benefit from relief?	4
How much relief will be available?.....	9
Changes to existing hereditaments including change in occupier	9
State Aid	10
Section 2 – Calculation examples.....	11
Section 3 – State Aid.....	12
‘De Minimis’ declaration	13
Refusal of retail relief form	14

DRAFT

Non-domestic Rates– High Street Rate Relief

Guidance

About this guidance

1. This guidance is intended to support local authorities in administering the “High Street Rate Relief” scheme (“the relief”) announced by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government on 17 December 2016. This guidance applies to Wales only.
2. This guidance sets out the criteria which the Welsh Government will use to determine funding relief for high street retail properties. The Guidance does not replace any existing non-domestic rates legislation or any other relief.
3. Enquiries on the scheme should be sent to:
localtaxationpolicy@wales.gsi.gov.uk
4. The relief is being offered from 1 April 2017 and will be available until 31 March 2018.

Introduction

5. This relief is aimed at high-street retailers in Wales, for example, shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes – including those which have seen their rates increase significantly as a result of the 2017 revaluation undertaken by the independent Valuation Office Agency.
6. The Welsh Government will provide two tiers of non-domestic rates relief, of either £500 (Tier 1) or £1,500 (Tier 2), to eligible high street retailers occupying premises with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in the financial year 2017-18, subject to State Aid limits.
7. This document provides guidance on the operation and delivery of the scheme.

Section 1:

High Street Rate Relief

How will the relief be provided?

8. As this is a temporary measure, we are providing the relief by reimbursing local authorities that use their discretionary relief powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. It will be for individual local authorities to determine and adopt a scheme and decide in each individual case when to grant relief as a requirement of their section 47 powers. The Welsh Government will then reimburse local authorities for the relief that is provided in line with this guidance via a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

How will the scheme be administered?

9. It will be for local authorities to determine how they wish to administer the scheme to maximise take up and minimise administrative burden for ratepayers and for local authority staff. However, subject to State Aid considerations detailed in paragraphs 29-33, the Welsh Government believes that this relief could be directly applied to eligible ratepayers' bills after taking into account other relief schemes.
10. Local authorities are responsible for providing ratepayers with clear and accessible information on the details and administration of the scheme. If, for any reason, an authority is unable to provide this relief to eligible ratepayers from 1 April 2017 then consideration should be given to notifying eligible ratepayers that they qualify for the relief and that their bill will be re-calculated.
11. Local authorities will be asked to identify the total amount of relief provided under the scheme in their Non Domestic Rate Return 3 form (NDR3) return for data collection purposes only. A new line will be provided in the NDR3 return for this.

Which properties will benefit from relief?

12. Properties that will benefit from this relief will be occupied high street properties such as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments, with a rateable value of £50,000 or less on 1 April 2017. More detailed eligibility criteria and exceptions to the relief are set out in paragraphs 13 to 20.
13. Two tiers of relief will be provided depending on the rateable value of the property, whether liability is increasing from 1 April 2017 as a result

of the revaluation and whether the business is already entitled to any other Welsh Government support.

14. Relief should be granted to businesses as a one-off payment based on occupation as at 31 March 2017 (provided the same occupier continues to be in occupation on 1 April 2017). It is recognised that there may be some instances where a Local Authority is retrospectively notified of a change to the occupier, in such cases if it is clear that the occupier was in occupation on 1 April 2017 then the Local Authority may use its discretion in awarding relief.

Tier 1 – lower level of support: £500 (or the total remaining liability if this is less than £500)

Eligible ratepayers will be high street retailers whose property has a rateable value of between £6,001 and £12,000* for the financial year 2017-18 and who meet the following criteria:

- In receipt of Small Business Rates Relief on 1 April 2017; and / or
- In receipt of Transitional Relief on 1 April 2017.

*There will also be a small number of ratepayers with a rateable value of £12,000 or above who are in receipt of Transitional Relief. These ratepayers will qualify for Tier 1 relief.

It is recognised that there may also be a small number of ratepayers with a rateable value of £12,000 who are not in receipt of Transitional Relief and who are on the very upper threshold of the Small Business Rates relief taper and hence receive no SBRR relief. Such ratepayers will be eligible for Tier 1 relief.

Tier 2 – higher level of support: £1,500

Eligible ratepayers will be high street retailers whose property has a rateable value between £12,001 and £50,000 for the financial year 2017-18 and who meet the following criteria:

- Not in receipt of Small Business Rates Relief or Transitional Relief on 1 April 2017; and
- Have an increase in their liability on 1 April 2017.

15. It is intended that, for the purposes of this scheme, high street properties such as, “shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments” will mean the following (subject to the other criteria in this guidance):

i. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of goods to visiting members of the public:

- Shops (such as: florist, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off licence, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, etc)
- Opticians
- Pharmacies
- Post offices
- Furnishing shops/ display rooms (such as: carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
- Car/ caravan show rooms
- Second hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden centres
- Art galleries (where art is for sale/hire)

ii. Hereditaments that are being used for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

- Hair and beauty services
- Shoe repairs/ key cutting
- Travel agents
- Ticket offices e.g. for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Launderettes
- PC/ TV/ domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo processing
- DVD/ video rentals
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Cinemas
- Estate and letting agents

iii. Hereditaments that are being used for the sale of food and / or drink to visiting members of the public:

- Restaurants
- Drive through/drive in restaurants
- Takeaways
- Sandwich shops
- Cafés
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Wine Bars

16. To qualify for the relief a hereditament listed in i to iii should be wholly or mainly used as a shop, restaurant, café or drinking establishment. This is a test on use rather than occupation. Therefore, hereditaments which are occupied but not wholly or mainly used for the qualifying purpose will not qualify for the relief.
17. The list set out above is not intended to be exhaustive as it would be impossible to list the many and varied high street retail uses that exist. There will also be mixed uses. However, it is intended to be a guide for local authorities as to the types of uses that the Welsh Government considers for this purpose to be high street / retail. Local authorities should determine for themselves whether particular properties not listed are broadly similar in nature to those above and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief. Conversely, properties that are not broadly similar in nature to those listed above should not be eligible for the relief.
18. As the grant of the relief is discretionary, local authorities may choose not to grant the relief if they consider that appropriate, for example where granting the relief would go against the local authority's wider objectives for the local area.

Types of hereditaments that are not considered to be eligible for the high street relief

19. The list below sets out the types of uses that the Welsh Government does not consider to be high street retail use for the purpose of this relief and would not be deemed eligible for the relief. However it will be for local authorities to determine if hereditaments are similar in nature to those listed below and if they would not be eligible for relief under the scheme.

i. Hereditaments that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of the following services to visiting members of the public:

- Financial services (e.g. banks, building societies, cash points / ATMs, bureau de change, payday lenders, betting shops, pawn brokers)
- Medical services (e.g. vets, dentists, doctors, osteopaths, chiropractors)
- Professional services (e.g. solicitors, accountants, insurance agents / financial advisers, tutors)
- Post office sorting office
- Tourism accommodation such as B&Bs, hotel accommodation and caravan parks
- Sports clubs
- Children's play centres

- Day nurseries
- Outdoor activity centres
- Gyms
- Kennels and catteries
- Show homes and marketing suites
- Employment agencies

There are also a number of further types of hereditaments which the Welsh Government believes should not be eligible for the high street relief scheme

ii. Hereditaments with a rateable value of more than £50,000

It is recognised there are some high street retail businesses with rateable value above the £50,000 relief threshold who are also experiencing increases in their rateable values as a result of the 2017 Revaluation. These properties will not be eligible for this relief, however, local authorities have the option to use their discretionary powers to offer discounts to such businesses, if it is in the interests of the local community to do so.

iii. Hereditaments that are not reasonably accessible to visiting members of the public;

If a hereditament falls within paragraph 19 it will be ineligible for relief under the scheme even if there is ancillary use of the hereditament that might be considered to fall within the descriptions in paragraph 14 (i), (ii) or (iii).

iv. Hereditaments that are in out-of-town retail parks or industrial estates;

What constitutes a high-street retailer will vary significantly across local authority areas and as such it is left to the discretion of authorities to determine based on their local areas but hereditaments in out of town retail parks and industrial estates are not considered to comprise the high street for the purposes of this relief.

v. Hereditaments that are not occupied;

Properties that are not occupied on 1 April 2017 should be excluded from this relief, however under the Empty Property Relief scheme empty properties will receive a 100% reduction in their rates from the first three months (and in certain cases six) of being empty.

vi. Hereditaments that are in receipt of mandatory charitable rates relief.

These properties already receive mandatory charitable relief which gives an 80% reduction in liability and authorities may also choose to provide discretionary charitable relief which can reduce the remaining liability to nil.

How much relief will be available?

20. The total amount of government-funded relief available for each property for 12 months under this scheme is up to £1,500 for properties with a rateable value of up to £50,000 depending on whether the ratepayer is eligible for Tier 1 or Tier 2 support.
21. The relief can be provided in addition to Small Business Rates Relief and Transitional Relief as well as any hardship or discretionary relief awarded by the local authority which would be considered by the Local Authority once all other rate reliefs have been awarded. The relief will be applied against the net bill after all the other reliefs have been applied.
22. When calculating the relief, if the net liability after all other reliefs, but before High Street Rates relief, is £500 or less for Tier 1 or £1,500 or less for tier 2, then the maximum amount of this relief will be no more than the value of the net rate liability and so the liability will be reduced to zero. This should be calculated ignoring any prior year adjustments in liabilities which fall to be liable on the day.
23. Ratepayers that occupy more than one property will be entitled to high street relief for each of their eligible properties, subject to State Aid de minimis limits.

Changes to existing hereditaments including change in occupier

24. Eligibility for the relief will be calculated based on the circumstances of the property and ratepayer as at 1 April 2017. Changes to properties which occur after this date will have no impact on eligibility for this relief.
25. Empty properties becoming occupied after 1 April 2017 will not qualify for this relief.
26. If there is a change in occupier part way through the financial year, after relief has already been provided to the hereditament, the new occupier will not qualify for the relief.
27. This treatment is intended to simplify the administration of the scheme but also reflects that the relief is to help support those affected by the revaluation – it is assumed that the rateable values for properties being occupied after the 1 April 2017 will have been known in advance of occupation and hence would have been taken into account prior to occupation.

State Aid

28. State Aid law is the means by which the European Union regulates state funded support to businesses. Providing discretionary relief to ratepayers is likely to amount to State Aid. However High Street Rate Relief will be State Aid compliant where it is provided in accordance with the De Minimis Regulation (1407/2013).
29. The De Minimis Regulation allows an undertaking to receive up to €200,000 of De Minimis aid in a three year period (consisting of the current financial year and the two previous financial years). Local authorities should familiarise themselves with the terms of this State Aid exemption, in particular the types of undertaking that are excluded from receiving De Minimis aid, the relevant definition of undertaking and the requirement to convert the aid into Euros.
30. To administer De Minimis it is necessary for the local authority to establish that the award of aid will not result in the undertaking having received more than €200,000 of De Minimis aid. Note that the threshold only relates to aid provided under the De Minimis Regulations (aid under other exemptions or outside the scope of State Aid is not relevant to the De Minimis calculation).
31. Section 3 of this guidance contains a sample De Minimis declaration which local authorities may wish to use. Where local authorities have further questions about De Minimis or other aspects of State Aid law, they should seek advice from their legal department in the first instance.
32. Desk instructions covering the administration of De Minimis schemes are available at:

<http://gov.wales/funding/state-aid/de-minimis-aid/?lang=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/de_minimis_regulation_en.pdf

Section 2 – Calculation examples

SBRR – Small Business Rate Relief

TR – Transitional Relief

HSRR – High Street Rate Relief

Example 1	£
Rateable Value in 2010	= 6,000
2010 Base liability @ 0.486	= 2,916
2010 liability after SBRR	= 0

Rateable Value in 2017	= 8,000
Base liability @ 0.499	= 3,992
Liability after SBRR	= 1,331
Liability after TR	= 333
Tier 1 HSRR	= 333
2017 liability after Tier 1 HSRR	= 0

Example 2	£
Rateable Value in 2010	= 9,000
2010 Base liability @ 0.486	= 4,374
2010 liability after SBRR	= 2,187

Rateable value in 2017	= 14,000
Base liability @ 0.499	= 6,986
Liability after SBRR	= 6,986
Liability after TR	= 3,387
Tier 1 HSRR	= 500
2017 liability after Tier 1 HSRR	= 2,887

Example 3	£
Rateable Value in 2010	= 15,000
2010 Base liability @ 0.486	= 7,290
2010 liability after SBRR	= 7,290

Rateable value in 2017	= 24,000
Base liability @ 0.499	= 11,976
Liability after SBRR	= 11,976
Liability after TR	= 11,976
Tier 2 HSRR	= 1,500
2017 liability after Tier 2 HSRR	= 10,476

Section 3 – State Aid

Sample paragraphs that could be included in letters to ratepayers for 2017-18 about High Street Rate Relief

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government announced on 16 February 2017 that relief of up to £1,500 will be provided to eligible occupied retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less in 2017-18. Your current rates bill includes this High Street Rate Relief for 2017-18.

Awards such as High Street Rate Relief are required to comply with the EU law on State Aid¹. In this case, this involves returning the attached declaration to this authority if you have received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other High Street Rate Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill and letter relates, and confirming that the award of High Street Rate Relief does not exceed the €200,000 an undertaking² can receive under the De Minimis Regulations EC 1407/2013.

Please complete the declaration and return it to the address above. In terms of declaring previous De Minimis aid, we are only interested in public support which is De Minimis aid (State Aid received under other exemptions or public support which is not State Aid does not need to be declared).

If you have not received any other De Minimis State Aid, including any other High Street Rate Relief you are being granted for premises other than the one to which this bill and letter relates, you do not need to complete or return the declaration.

If you wish to refuse to receive the High Street Rate Relief granted in relation to the premises to which this bill and letter relates, please complete the attached form and return it to the address above. You do not need to complete the declaration. This may be particularly relevant to those premises that are part of a large retail chain, where the cumulative total of High Street Rate Relief received could exceed €200,000.

Under the European Commission rules, you must retain this letter for 3 years from the date on this letter and produce it on any request by the UK public authorities or the European Commission. (You may need to keep this letter longer than 3 years for other purposes). Furthermore, information on this aid must be supplied to any other public authority or agency asking for information on 'De Minimis' aid for the next three years.

1. Further information on State Aid law can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

2 An undertaking is an entity which is engaged in economic activity. This means that it puts goods or services on a given market. The important thing is what the entity does, not its status. Thus a charity or not for profit company can be undertakings if they are involved in economic activities. A single undertaking will normally encompass the business group rather than a single company within a group. Article 2.2 of the de minimis Regulations (Commission Regulation EC/ 1407/2013) defines the meaning of 'single undertaking'.

‘De Minimis’ declaration

Dear []

BUSINESS RATES ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

The value of the non-domestic rates High Street Rate Relief to be provided to [name of undertaking] by [name of local authority] is £ [] (Euros []).

This award shall comply with the EU law on State Aid on the basis that, including this award, [name of undertaking] shall not receive more than €200,000 in total of De Minimis aid within the current financial year or the previous two financial years). The De Minimis Regulations 1407/2013(as published in the Official Journal of the European Union L352 24.12.2013) can be downloaded at

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:352:0001:0008:EN:P DF>.

Amount of De Minimis aid	Date of aid	Organisation providing aid	Nature of aid
€	1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018	Local authorities (for the High Street Rate Relief total you do not need to specify the names of individual authorities)	High Street Rate Relief

I confirm that:

- 1) I am authorised to sign on behalf of _____ [name of undertaking]; and
- 2) _____ [name of undertaking] shall not exceed its De Minimis threshold by accepting this High Street Rate Relief.

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

POSITION:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

DATE:

Refusal of High Street Rate Relief form

Name and address of premises	Business rates account number	Amount of High Street Rate Relief

I confirm that I wish to refuse High Street Rate Relief in relation to the above premises.

I confirm that I am authorised to sign on behalf of _____ [name of undertaking].

SIGNATURE:

NAME:

POSITION:

BUSINESS:

ADDRESS:

DATE:

DRAFT

C62- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE 14 March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Barry Thomas
County Councillor Graham Brown
County Councillor Wynne Jones

SUBJECT: Partnership Agreement between Powys County Council
and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

1.1. Powys County Council and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) have been in discussions to negotiate and agree a Partnership Agreement. The draft Agreement is brought for Cabinet's consideration with the intention, if approved, for implementation from 1st April 2017.

2. Proposal

- 2.1. For the past twelve months, the Leader and Deputy Leaders and Senior Officers have met with the Chair and representatives of PAVO's Trustee Board and PAVO's Chief Executive Officer to discuss the formation of a Partnership or Framework Agreement.
- 2.2. Powys County Council has for many years funded PAVO through various grants and commissioned arrangements for the delivery of services in supporting the communities that both organisations serve. This agreement brings together in a more formalised and focused approach and will reflect the different areas of commissioned activity that PAVO will be providing either as a contractor or grant aided partner. The overarching Partnership Agreement will be supplemented by specific detailed areas of commissioned activity which will be agreed in advance by both partners.
- 2.3. Although this Partnership Agreements sets out the overarching joint working arrangements between the two organisations it is primarily a framework agreement. A suite of performance measures have been identified to enable effective monitoring of the extent to which PAVO is delivering against the outcomes. In addition to PCC's annual monitoring of the agreement with PAVO, bi-annual review meetings will take place providing an opportunity for a reciprocal consideration of performance and a mutual determination of any actions that need to be implemented, including ongoing funding arrangements.

- 2.4. This Agreement is based around the four pillars of third sector infrastructure support as informed by stakeholder engagement and as agreed with Powys CC, they are : Good Governance, Sustainable funding, Strategic Engagement and Volunteering.
- 2.5. The Partnership Agreement is a recognition of this Council's third sector support. PAVO will report on the full range and value of its work, thereby demonstrating to Powys CC the total return on its investment.

3. One Powys Plan

Powys County Council and PAVO have worked in partnership for many years. Both organisations are members of the Public Service Board and have key roles to ensure that the residents of Powys can live healthy and fulfilling lives, and to build stronger, resilient communities.

4. Options Considered/Available

- 4.1. Previously there has not been a focused and co-ordinated approach to funding PAVO. The advantage of the partnership Agreement is that clear outcomes, value for money and accountability are determined in advance and measured against. The effective use of financial resources will be based on outcomes based and citizen focused delivery as specified in the Partnership Agreement or as detailed in supplementary service specifications as appropriate.

5. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 5.1. The discussions over the past twelve months between Council and PAVO representatives have resulted in this final draft agreement presented to Cabinet for decision.

6. Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

- 6.1. The agreement requires PAVO to meet a number of terms and conditions to include equalities, welsh language health and safety, safeguarding.

7. Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

- 7.1. The agreement requires PAVO to meet a number of terms and conditions to include equalities, confidentiality, vulnerable people and safeguarding.

8. Local Member(s)

8.1. N/A

9. Other Front Line Services

9.1. The Agreement requires other services who allocate grant or commission services with PAVO to have due regard to the Agreement in order that the most effective use of resources both financial and non-financial are effectively deployed and to avoiding the potential for double funding.

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1. Finance support the framework agreement with PAVO, to ensure the Authority is able to demonstrate return on investment, transparency and value for money through the effective monitoring of the agreed performance measures and indicators set out in the outcomes framework. The bi-annual and annual reviews, will ensure that the on-going funding arrangements reflect the current budget position and the 3 year indicative funding agreement aligns with the Council's strategic priorities and budget plan.

10.2. Legal – The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

11. Public Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc.

11.1. Both Powys County Council and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations are members of the Public Service Board (PSB). Whilst there may be opportunities for future agreements to be undertaken jointly with other PSB partners when jointly commissioning services from PAVO however, this has not been explored at this time owing to the complexity in reaching the current agreement.

12. Corporate Communications

12.1. N/A

13. Statutory Officers

13.1. The Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments made by Finance.

13.2. The Monitoring Officer notes the legal comment and has nothing to add to the report

14. Members' Interests

14.1. The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

15. Future Status of the Report

15.1. Members are invited to consider the future status of this report and whether it can be made available to the press and public either immediately following the meeting or at some specified point in the future.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the Partnership Agreement between Powys County Council and Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (version dated 15 February 2017)	To invest in third sector infrastructure support in a more coherent, financially focused, and formalised approach.

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Yes
Within Budget:	Yes

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A - Countywide
----------------------------------	------------------

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Paul Griffiths Strategic Director Place Susan Simpson, Executive Support Manager
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	With effect from 01 April 2017

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Susan Simpson	01597 826593		Susan.simpson@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION 4



PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

between

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL (PCC)

and

**POWYS ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
(PAVO)**

Version Dated 15 February 2017

Joint Statement

This Partnership Agreement represents a major step forward in the relationship between PAVO and Powys County Council and is a reflection of a long history of joint working over many years.

We have worked closely together with other Public Service Board Members on the One Powys Plan, Joint Partnership Board, Wellbeing Assessment, and a range of other strategic plans and organisations.

With the effects of austerity increasing, it is essential that we further deepen and strengthen this partnership to ensure that the residents of Powys are supported and enabled to live positive and fulfilled lives. This includes encouraging active community participation in the shaping of local services, so that reliance on the public sector is minimised in order that critically important services can be provided to the most vulnerable.

Solutions for many of these pressures will need to be found within the County and by formalising our partnership arrangements we have the opportunity to increase our overall capacity.

With the enactment of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, work is progressing to ensure that partners input into how this legislation impacts on our communities for decades to come. Being clear about how Powys County Council and PAVO work together will help each to play their role to the full.

The County Council has committed to delivering a vision of 'Strong Communities in the green heart of Wales' for Powys residents. PAVO as an independent organisation representing the Third Sector across Powys is key to the Council achieving such a vision for the County.

We look forward to continuing our long history of partnership as we seek to address the many challenges the future presents for our communities. Our endorsement of the approach set out in the following document is a clear statement of our commitment to work together.

Cllr W Barry Thomas
Leader of Powys County Council

Gloria Jones Powell
Chair of PAVO

Introduction

Powys County Council and the Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) have worked in partnership for many years. Both organisations are members of the Public Services Board and have key roles to ensure that the residents of Powys can live healthy and fulfilling lives. This document sets out how the two organisations will work together to make sure that the needs and aspirations of the people of Powys are served effectively and that every pound spent from the public purse is used to maximum benefit.

The two organisations share many common aims that make working together an obvious and essential requirement.

This document will be reviewed on an annual basis in order to ensure it reflects the ever changing and increasingly challenging financial environment. This review will take place in the autumn of each year so that funding plans can be considered and put in place within an appropriate time scale.

Although this Partnership Agreement sets out the overarching joint working arrangements between the two organisations it is primarily a framework agreement. There are inevitably many different funding arrangements that exist between Powys County Council and PAVO that require more detailed and specific agreements. Through necessity, these agreements will require a range of formalised documents which will reflect the different areas of commissioned activity that PAVO will be providing as either a contractor or grant aided partner. These detailed agreements will set out the specific requirement of each area of work and will be supplementary to this document.

By reviewing this document on an annual basis it is expected that it will develop into a clear and effective partnership agreement that reflects best practice of a mature Public Sector and Third Party relationship.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: A TRANSFORMED APPROACH

1. The Benefits of Third Sector Support to Powys and Powys County Council

- 1.1.** The contribution of the third sector to Powys depends on active and involved citizens and thriving, sustainable and effective organisations. This means that citizens and organisations require access to a full range of support and development services to enable them to participate in and contribute to civil society and to the future wellbeing of communities, both through the medium of Welsh and English.
- 1.2.** PAVO's strategic purposes, as set out in its Strategic Plan, are to be a CATALYST of voluntary action, a HUB of essential information and a VOICE for the county's third sector. These crucial capacity-building functions are needed in order to enable people, communities and organisations to play their part in meeting need and developing community. The performance of PAVO's capacity-building will be monitored using the KPIs set out in appendix 1.
- 1.3.** Powys County Council (PCC) is committed to working with the local County Voluntary Council that represents, promotes, supports and develops the third sector within the county.
- 1.4.** PAVO is accountable to a trustee board elected by an open substantial membership of third sector organisations who, in turn, seek to meet the needs of individuals and communities through their broad membership and contacts. PAVO's reach in the third sector is unparalleled, with a membership in excess of 800 organisations and regular contact with over 1500 organisations across the county. The membership and reach underpins the critical role of PAVO in providing a legitimate, strategic and accountable voice that reflects the diverse interests of the diverse sector.
- 1.5.** PAVO ensures that organisations can access the support they need and want, and that the support is delivered in the most effective and efficient way, whether through in depth face-to-face support for individuals and groups; working through networks, events and other collective approaches; or through on-line digital services, resources and media.
- 1.6.** PAVO plays a significant role in changing the lives of disadvantaged communities. Its members work in all of Powys' communities, allowing it to reach and engage with the most marginalised, hard-to-reach and under-served people in the county. PAVO is improving the sustainability of community action. For every £1 received under this Partnership Agreement, on average PAVO is able to raise a further £15 in additional funding. Its Development Officers transfer valuable skills and know-how to its members, equipping them with the expertise they need to create sustainable, efficient and effective organisations. PAVO is uniquely placed to represent the views of grassroots communities. It fosters collaboration and the sharing of best practice.

2. Context

2.1. This Partnership Agreement is framed within the following environment, cognisant of and responsive to legislation, policy and the needs of Powys' people, communities and third sector organisations. Significant contextual drivers include:

- PCC Corporate Plan: Strong Communities in the Green Heart of Wales
- Well Being of Future Generations Act
- Social Services & Well Being Act
- Powys Well Being Plan
- Third Sector Futures Report
- Welsh Government Third Sector Scheme
- Needs of people & communities (data gathered via e.g. well-being assessments, joint strategic needs assessments, etc.)

2.2 The significant and ongoing reductions in Government funding for the provision of statutory and non-statutory public services creates a consequent imperative to support 3rd sector capacity.

3. Outcomes, Value for Money and Accountability

3.1. This Partnership Agreement is outcomes based and citizen focused. The outcomes relate directly to the four pillars of third sector infrastructure support, as informed by extensive stakeholder engagement and as agreed with Powys County Council:

- a) Good Governance
- b) Sustainable Funding
- c) Strategic Engagement
- d) Volunteering

3.2. Performance measures and indicators have been identified to enable effective monitoring of the extent to which PAVO is delivering the outcomes. The outcomes framework can be seen at Appendix 1.

3.3. In addition to PCC's annual monitoring of the agreement with PAVO, bi-annual review meetings will take place between PCC and PAVO. This will provide an opportunity for a reciprocal consideration of performance and a mutual determination of any actions that need to be implemented, including ongoing funding arrangements.

3.4. The agreement regards the Partnership Agreement Grant as investing in third sector support. PAVO will report on the full range and value of its work, thereby demonstrating to PCC the total return on its investment.

4. Funding Allocation

- 4.1. This agreement sets the context in which PAVO is funded to carry out its work in and for the communities and organisations of Powys. In addition to the grant that invests in the core work of Powys, there exists a diversity of funded relationships based on grants, SLAs, contracts etc. These are the product of a constantly changing environment and a result of a dynamic partnership between PCC and PAVO.
- 4.2. Funding arrangements between PCC and PAVO will be reviewed annually to reflect the Council's budget position alongside strategic priorities for the financial year to follow.
- 4.3. A current schedule of these funded relationships can be seen in Appendix 2.

5. Efficiencies through Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW) Collaboration

- 5.1. PAVO is committed to coordinating its work at local, regional and national level to achieve value for money, added value, agreed service levels across Wales and best practice through effective monitoring of outcomes and impact. In particular, as part of a national network of infrastructure bodies, Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), PAVO commits itself to implementing increased collaboration and efficiency in relation to:
 - Training and learning services
 - Information Services
 - Membership
 - Websites
 - CRM
 - Internal and Externally offered back-office services

6. Collaboration with Others

- 6.1. There are very many organisations outside TSSW with whom PAVO work. PAVO fully recognises that there is a range of other organisations that bring valuable expertise to the sector, largely in the third sector, but also in the public and private sectors. Creating and enabling links with other organisations is fundamental to the way in which PAVO works, in order to maximise their expertise and to improve services and support available to the sector.
- 6.2. A schedule describing some of these links is provided in Appendix 3.
- 6.3. Maximising the support available to the sector from all sources is a priority. PAVO is committed to seeking more formal agreements with other organisations where appropriate, for example in developing social enterprise or supporting fundraising.

Where PCC is considering the scope for new support services, it will consider whether this can be achieved by utilising and/or enhancing the services of PAVO to avoid any duplication and to maximise synergy and impact. Where PCC is funding other organisations whose work is directly relevant to PAVO, it agrees to consider if avoidable duplication exists, and how this can be minimised in order that resources are used to maximum efficiency.

- 6.4. PCC agrees to ensure that its relationship with and support for PAVO is collaborative across cabinet portfolios and council directorates.
- 6.5. PAVO must also be mindful of the need to provide services through the medium of Welsh according to the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) when working with organisations subject to those Standards.

7. PAVO and Service Provision

- 7.1. The issue of service delivery and infrastructure support is a constant matter of debate particularly where competition with members may be highlighted as a concern. It is acknowledged that PAVO is already engaged in both the support of service provision via its varied strategic and capacity building services, and direct service provision via Volunteer Centres, Training Teams and other specific projects. It is also recognised that, at times, membership organisations choose to duplicate and/or compete with Infrastructure core activity which is beyond the control of PAVO.
- 7.2. The third sector is a very large, diverse and ever-changing sector. As such, PAVO cannot adopt a policy that prevents it from competing with any member/third sector organisation, particularly in terms of scenarios that are less clear cut and require different judgements, for example:
 - Gaps in service
 - Leading collaboration
 - Enabling consistency and co-ordination
 - Supporting service quality and sector reputation
 - Members duplicating CVC offer
- 7.3. It would be clearer if PAVO were faced with a situation where an opportunity arose for service provision that was already being delivered by a member organisation. Normally, PAVO would not consider delivering such a service and would support organisations in service delivery.
- 7.4. PAVO, consequently, has adopted the following protocol to determine the approach it will take vis-à-vis service provision:

PAVO:

 - a) will both support the provision of services and, where appropriate, deliver direct services to people and communities.

- b) will not normally seek to deliver a non-core service¹ that is being effectively delivered by an existing third sector organisation. Any exception will be considered and justified by the board.
- c) will consider delivering a service to fill a gap in provision only when such gaps cannot be filled by existing third sector providers.
- d) will support collaboration between provider organisation in the building of consortia and the submission of partnership bids, even where this results in competition with other third sector organisations. Where helpful and appropriate, PAVO will act as lead body for consortium or partnership contracts.
- e) will deliver services that enable the third sector to bring greater co-ordination and consistency to service provision across the county.
- f) will consider delivering a service when the quality of service provision by a third sector organisation is poor and the reputation of the wider sector is at risk.

8. Agreement Stability and Viability

- 8.1. Most public sector and third sector organisations have faced funding reductions in recent years. This has largely been caused by austerity measures imposed by Government Policy, and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. The PAVO Third Sector core grant remained broadly stable for 2016/17 but has been cut by approximately 20% over the last 4 years. Reductions for other funded services have also been applied.
- 8.2. Future funding allocations will be based on a three-year indicative agreement that will be subject to annual review, dependent on PCC budget settlements from Welsh Government.
- 8.3. PCC agrees to support the viability and strengthening of PAVO in the adoption of three year agreement with indicative funding levels for years 2 and 3 subject to budget considerations at the time. Such funding will reflect the Council's own budget position.

9. Standard Terms and Conditions

9.1. It is recognised that within this agreement there are a number of arrangements that exist in terms of funding, commissioning and procurement. As such each arrangement will have conditions and requirements that will set out the terms and conditions applicable to each arrangement.

9.2. Such Terms and Conditions will cover areas such as:

¹ A non-core service is anything that does not directly deliver the specified services contained in the core services framework of the Infrastructure Partnership Agreement.

- Insurance
- Health and Safety
- Property Rights
- Complaints
- Equal Opportunities
- Freedom of Information
- Confidentiality
- Vulnerable People
- Audit and Scrutiny
- Other Organisations
- Disputes and Termination
- Employees
- Data Protection
- Gifts and Payments
- Variations
- Waiver
- Severance
- Acknowledgments

10. Appendices

- Appendix 1 -** Performance Measures and Indicators
Appendix 2 - Schedule of Funding Relationships
Appendix 3 - PAVO Links to Other Third Sector Organisations

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1 – Performance Measures and Indicators

Outcome indicators (%)	Delivery Indicators (Number of...)	15/16	16/17 to Nov 16
Trustees reporting increased confidence as a result of PAVO support	Trustee support enquiries dealt with.	532	308
	Trustee events delivered.	39	19
Organisations reporting working towards or achieving quality standards / quality marks	Attendees at trustee events	410	140
	Governance development support sessions delivered.	15	20
Third sector personnel reporting increased governance, leadership & management knowledge / skills as a result of PAVO support	Trustee information bulletins circulated.	12	7
	Trustee mediation sessions delivered.	12	1
	Trustee networks supported.	1	1
	Members of trustee network(s).	24	33

Outcome indicators (%)	Delivery Indicators (Number of...)	15/16	16/17 to Nov 16
Organisations reporting they have secured and/or generated adequate income to deliver their services due, in part, to PAVO support.	Funding enquiries responded to	586	379
	Funding events	34	20
	Activities that enable engagement with commissioning cycle	70	25
	Activities that support financial and business planning	DDA	DDA
	Activities that support the self-generation of income	33	22

... Continued **APPENDIX 1 – Performance Measures and Indicators**

Outcome indicators (%)	Delivery Indicators (Number of...)	15/16	16/17 to Nov 16
Third sector organisations reporting PAVO has helped them effectively contribute to policy development.	Strategic networks supported	20	21
	Activities that facilitate third sector voice at strategic level	137	65
People and organisations reporting PAVO support led to more effective third sector role in planning, delivering and scrutinising public services.	Times information from 3rd sector brought to attention of public sector partners	255	226
	3rd sector responses to policy engagement and consultation	76	8

Outcome Indicators (%)	Delivery Indicators (Number of...)	15/16	16/17 to Nov 16
People reporting PAVO has helped them benefit from volunteering	Volunteering enquiries responded to	345	353
	Volunteers recruited	DDA	DDA
Communities reporting PAVO has helped them benefit from volunteering	Volunteers placed	646	430
	Volunteering opportunities created	DDA	DDA
Organisations providing quality volunteering opportunities due, in part, to PAVO support.	Volunteering promotion activities delivered	22	6
	Activities delivered supporting good practice in volunteering	345	262

APPENDIX 2 – Schedule of Funding Relationships

Funding title	Purpose	PCC Department	Type	Reviewed	Amount (£)	Notes
Third Sector Capacity Building	To support PAVO's core work in building and developing the capability of the third sector in Powys. Services include funding advice, governance support, strategic/business planning and training. Generally, this enables support to organisations & groups on any aspect of safely starting, running & closing third sector organisations.	Corporate Services	Grant	Annually	78,650.00	This grant has been subject to successive reductions over recent years including a 10% cut in 16/17
Third Sector Mental Health Support	To support PAVO's support to Third Sector Mental Health organisations, particularly focusing on participation / involvement of service users & carers.	Adult Social Care	Grant	Annually	10,256.40	This grant has been subject to successive reductions over recent years including a 10% cut in 16/17
Third Sector Mental Health Information Service	To support PAVO's Information Service to third sector mental health organisations e.g. http://powymentalhealth.blogspot.co.uk/?zx=20d0a6f0ef6581bf http://www.powymentalhealth.org.uk/home.htm	Adult Social Care	Grant	Annually	2,138.40	This grant has been subject to successive reductions over recent years including a 10% cut in 16/17

... Continued **APPENDIX 2 – Schedule of Funding Relationships**

Funding title	Purpose	PCC Department	Type	Reviewed	Amount (£)	Notes
Families First, Third Sector Engagement Services	To enable the involvement of third sector children & families organisations in the work of the CYPP. To support participation of third sector in commissioning cycle.	Children & Families (Families First)	SLA	Annually	50,000.00	This funding was reduced by 17% in 16/17.
Transport	To support the sustainability & development of community transport schemes across Powys. To enable participation of CT schemes in strategic planning via CT Forum. To administer grants to CT schemes & to monitor delivery.	Transport	SLA	Annually	52,889.07 (PAVO officers)	This funding has been consistently under review. Following extensive and detailed review in 15/16 a decision was taken to continue supporting PAVO's CT service. The reductions over successive years are mainly due to Welsh Government decisions & PCC decision to adopt the minimum 5% allocation of WG funding to CT.
					105,250.93 (grants to CT schemes)	
Training	PAVO led consortium offering a range of training courses		Contract	Competitive Tender	6,270.00	The amount of income is determined by the number of courses that are actually delivered. This varies according to demand.

APPENDIX 3 – PAVO Links to Other Third Sector Organisations

PAVO works with a wide range of organisations whose expertise adds value to the services it provides to the sector. The following table sets out the external organisations PAVO works with most frequently. This not an exhaustive list and excludes the much wider range of organisations that PAVO works with on strategy and policy, as distinct from service delivery.

Organisation	Specialist expertise provided
Academi Wales	Leadership and management training programme and access to an annual Summer School programme for public service leaders.
Agored Cymru	Providing an opportunity to develop and deliver OCN accredited training modules
BIG Lottery Fund in Wales	Engaging the third sector in consultations on priorities for future Lottery funding programmes in Wales; information and support for applicants to Lottery programmes; joint work on providing local intelligence to Grant Panels to ensure that Lottery funding does not displace or duplicate existing activity
Business in the Community	Pro bono support for third sector organisations (although this service has now been almost completely withdrawn from the region)
Business Wales	Locally based Business Wales delivery partners provide specialist support on tendering and procurement
Care Council for Wales	Setting care standards; carer and service user involvement; training, events, consultations, etc.
NAVCO	Specialist support on PQASSO and outcomes/ impact assessment. PAVO has achieved PQASSO Level 2
Charity Commission	PAVO works closely with the Charity Commission in terms of providing specialist advice to third sector organisations on issues relating to registration, reporting, regulation, etc. There is very little capacity within the Charity Commission Wales Office and PAVO works with organisations on the ground to support good governance in the charity sector
Children's Commissioner for Wales	Expertise in all matters relating to the rights of children and young people in Wales
Children in Wales	Specialist support for third sector organisations providing services to children and young people including training; events and conferences; influencing national policy; research, etc.
Future Generations Commissioner	Developing a framework for embedding sustainable development as a central organising principle for policy and practice and implementing new legislation – Well-being of Future Generations Act
Community Transport Association Wales/Cymru	Specialist information, advice and support for community transport initiatives

(... Continued)

Organisation	Specialist expertise provided
Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)	Specialist support for third sector youth organisations including training, policy, legislation, etc.
Co-production Wales	Practical examples of co-production in action; exchange of learning and best practice through a network of co-production practitioners; evidence based research and tools to facilitate co-production in public services; specialist training and development
Cynnal Cymru	Current involvement in implementation of Well-being of Future Generations Bill Act; managing work around the Sustainable Development Charter; events/training; advice on community-led initiatives, such as Good Neighbour Schemes, etc.
DWP	Job Centre Plus officers provide advice on benefit entitlements whilst volunteering
Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner	Discussions are ongoing re the potential role of the third sector in delivering innovative services to support victims and reduce crime
Estyn Llaw	Support for third sector organisations to deliver bilingual services
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens	Support for community allotments; community growing schemes; encouraging use of local products; food alliances; food banks, etc.
Fundraising Standards Board	PAVO is a member of FRSB and promotes membership to local third sector organisations, as well as facilitating FRSB workshops for local/regional groups on the fundraising standards
HMRC	Specialist information on all issues relating to taxation and VAT
laith Cyf	Support for third sector organisations to deliver bilingual services (delivered through Estyn Llaw)
Institute of Fundraising	Specialist information on fundraising – fundraising training courses – regional networks for professional fundraisers
Keep Wales Tidy	Environmental volunteer opportunities, particularly opportunities for employee volunteering programmes
Menter a Busnes	Specialist support in tendering and procurement through the medium of Welsh (a Business Wales delivery partner)
Mentrau Iaith	Support for third sector organisations to deliver bilingual services – bilingual volunteer initiatives
National Charities	PAVO works closely with a wide range of national charities when providing development, funding and volunteering support for local branches– for example, Age Cymru; Mind Cymru; Barnardo's Cymru; Action for Children; Prince's Trust; etc.

(... Continued)

Organisation	Specialist expertise provided
Natural Resources Wales	Support for Environmental Partnerships (linked to PSB work); environmental volunteering initiatives; grant schemes, etc.
NHS Wales	Providing the framework for Standards for Health & Care in Wales – PAVO supports local third sector providers to meet the Standards
NIACE Dysgu Cymru	Adult Learners' Week; Learning Festivals; campaigns to encourage people to participate in Lifelong Learning; research; training, etc.
Office of the Regulator of Community Interest Companies	Specialist information and support for registering Community Interest Companies; governance structures; legislation, etc.
Older People's Commissioner for Wales	Expertise in all matters relating to the rights of older people in Wales, including advocacy and engagement
One Voice Wales	Support for town and community councils and their role in public service delivery
Participation Cymru	Training and development in public and citizen engagement methodologies
Public Health Wales	Specialist information on public health issues; sharing best practice on community-led action and citizen/service user engagement
Spice Innovation	Support for setting up time banking initiatives, including organisation to organisation time banking
The Trussell Trust	Specialist support for food banks, as part of a national UK Network; research linked to combating poverty; training; information, etc.
Wales Co-op Centre	Information, advice and support on setting up co-operatives and mutuals and training for Credit Unions
Wales Rural Network - LEADER	CVCs are members of LEADER Local Action Groups.
Welsh Language Commissioner	Support for the development and implementation of Welsh Language Schemes, including CVC staff development sessions and courses for third sector organisations on the new Welsh Language Measure/Standards. PAVO CEO is a member of the commissioner's advisory panel.

This list includes the organisations that PAVO liaises with most regularly in the course of delivering its work. It does not include organisations that it uses infrequently, such as Social Firms UK, Development Trusts Association Wales, Community Development Cymru and others.

Experienced PAVO Development Officers have a wide range of knowledge and expertise that they can use in their work with local third sector organisations without the need to call upon other organisations to assist.

For example, PAVO employs a number of Development Officers who are qualified Social Enterprise Advisors at ILM Level 5 and who have extensive experience of community development work.

Some national “specialist” organisations are very small; based in Cardiff and do not provide Wales-wide support, particularly to areas like Powys. Arguably, any funding provided by PCC for such organisations might be better channelled into developing a Powys centre of excellence based in PAVO.

-- END --

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank

C63- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE Date 14 March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor R Harris
Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing

SUBJECT: Corporate Asset Planning- Strategic Asset Management Plan (“StAMP”)

REPORT FOR: Decision

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report follows on from previous Cabinet decisions regarding the development of a Strategic Asset Management Plan (Cabinet Report dated 11 December 2015 C240-2015; and Cabinet Report dated 23 February 2016 C30-2016) in which it was recognised that the suite of corporate asset policies needed a refresh.
- 1.2 The first phase of “place” workshops have now been held and the Strategic Asset Management Plan (“StAMP”) has now been drafted. The plan provides an overall strategy to managing Council’s assets and sits above other policies which have already been approved by Cabinet:

One Powys Plan (OPP)	The One Powys Plan and Council Corporate Improvement Plan is our key corporate strategy document. It sets out our vision and what we should all be aiming to achieve.
Strategic Asset Management Plan (STAMP)	Overarching policy for dealing with our assets. It reduces risk and liability and supports the One Powys Plan; including regeneration and service improvement. This contains the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farms Estate Delivery Plan (FEDP)• Commercial Estate Delivery Plan (CEDP)• Service Asset Management Plans (SAMP) which detail the services view of its property and land holdings.
Corporate Asset Policy (CAP)	The framework within which the Council operates its property on a day-to day basis.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 To Adopt the attached Strategic Asset Management Plan.

3.0 One Powys Plan/Corporate Improvement Plan

- 3.1 The StAMP is aligned to the One Powys Plan/Powys 2020 Corporate Objectives, namely:
- Services delivered for less – remodelling Council services;
 - Supporting people in the community to live fulfilled lives;

- Developing the economy; and
 - Improved learning outcomes for all, minimising disadvantages
- 3.2 Each objective is addressed in so far as property and assets support their achievement. That said, the returns that are able to be achieved through the effective management of our estate, will contribute to the Council's capital reserves or revenue income thereby supporting the Council to achieve all its objectives and remain sustainable.
- 3.3 The risks to the Council relate to not having a StAMP which would prejudice the achievement of the above objectives.

4.0 Options Considered/Available

- 4.1 Cabinet (11 December 2015) has already decided to refresh the suite of policies/ plans to reflect a "Place" based approach. This is the preferred option as the focus on 'Place' should ensure local relevance and easier identification of opportunity which in turn means a faster and more flexible way of addressing a range of asset related issues. It also addresses regeneration and economic development issues and opportunities.

5.0 Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

- 6.1 Property represents a large investment for the Council that needs to be managed effectively to ensure that Council services remain sustainable.

7.0 Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

- 7.1 The proposed approach sees services to communities, including schools, in the round and this facilitates achieving wider objectives in respect of children and young people.

8.0 Local Member(s)

- 8.1 Not applicable as this proposal affects all electoral divisions.

9.0 Other Front Line Services

- 9.1 The StAMP relies on input and engagement from all front line services to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved for the Council and its citizens.

10.0 Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, BPU)

- 10.1 Legal – The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 10.2 Finance- The Capital and Financial Planning Accountant supports the approval of the Strategic Asset Management Plan (StAMP).
- 10.3 Corporate Property- Corporate Property sees this as pivotal to the pro-active and effective management of the Council’s assets and to ensure opportunities are realised.

11.0 Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

11.1 The StAMP relies on input and engagement from the PTHB and other stakeholders/ partners.

12.0 Corporate Communications

12.1 Senior Communications Manager has stated “no proactive communications action at this stage.”

13.0 Statutory Officers

13.1 The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the report’s contents. A strategic approach to asset management is required in order to support the transformation of council services and help meet the financial challenge outlined in the Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed by Council on 23rd February.

13.2 The Monitoring Officer has commented “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.”

14.0 Members’ Interests

14.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
The attached Strategic Asset Management Plan is approved	This provides the Council with a clear strategy regarding its assets which should in turn support the Council to achieve its corporate objectives and obtain the best outcomes (whether financial or regenerative) for the Council and its citizens.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y /N	Within Budget:	Y /N

Relevant Local Member(s):	n/a
----------------------------------	-----

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Susan Bolter
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	14 March 2017

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Natasha Morgan	01597 82 7560		Natasha.morgan@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Cabinet Report 11 December 2015
Cabinet Report 23 February 2016

**Powys County Council's
Strategic Asset Management
Plan (StAMP)
2017-2020**

Why do we need a Strategic Asset Management Plan?

It has been recognised that local authorities need to manage their assets more effectively in order to deliver better services in a more efficient manner. In the context of a challenging financial environment, the Council needs to make the most of the assets that it already has and look to enhance them where opportunities arise.

Rather than the traditional reactive approach to property asset management, we need to get on the front foot and re-examine our assets holistically and make them work harder for our citizens.

Taking a more strategic approach sees the Council adopting a pro-active and dynamic stance to maximising capital receipts and identifying investment opportunities. It will also ensure that the assets we keep are fit for purpose and are maintained to a good standard.

This plan therefore sets out our 3 year plan for our asset portfolio. This plan will be reviewed annually.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris

Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing

February 2017

The “place” approach

Rather than looking at each Council service area separately, we have looked at each geographic “place” across Powys instead so we can better understand our portfolio in the round, identify regional opportunities e.g. co-locations and better plan for the future.

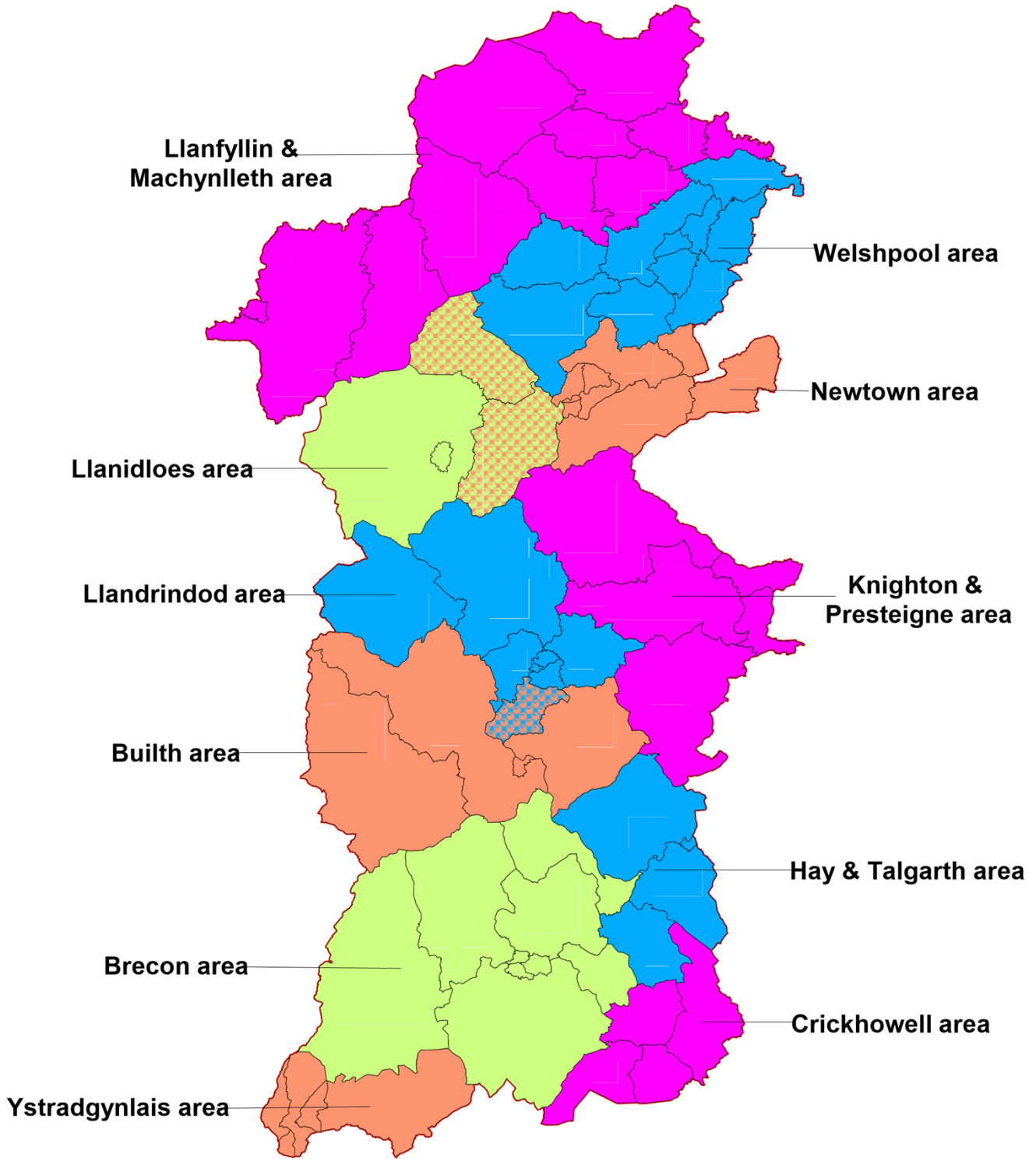
The “Place” based approach also enables us to include regeneration and economic development projects within this plan. This has clear benefits, since many regeneration and economic development initiatives have property implications. It also ensures development of “Places” and explicitly considers the local economy, which can vary from area to area. For example, some places may be more dependent on tourism whilst others are more dependent on industry or agriculture.

Importantly this approach enables opportunistic and evolutionary change, facilitating early wins in a number of areas concurrently.

We have split the County into 11 “places” as shown on the plan below:

- 1. Welshpool area**
- 2. Newtown area**
- 3. Knighton & Presteigne area**
- 4. Hay & Talgarth area**
- 5. Crickhowell area**
- 6. Llanfyllin & Machynlleth area**
- 7. Llandrindod area**
- 8. Llanidloes area**
- 9. Ystradgynlais area**
- 10. Builth area**
- 11. Brecon area**

© Crown copyright and database rights 2016 Ordnance Survey 100025371
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2016 Arolwg Ordans 100025371
Additional information © Powys County Council 2016 No additional copies should be made without the permission of the Council.
Gwybodaeth ychwanegol © Cyngor Sir Powys 2016 Ni ddylid gwneud unrhyw gopïau ychwanegol heb ganiatâd y Cyngor.



Ordnance Survey MasterMap manbase for

Corporate Context

This StAMP is aligned to the One Powys Plan/Powys 2020 Corporate Objectives, namely:

- **Services delivered for less – remodelling Council services;**
- **Supporting people in the community to live fulfilled lives;**
- **Developing the economy; and**
- **Improved learning outcomes for all, minimising disadvantages**

Each objective will be addressed in so far as property and assets support their achievement. That said, the returns we are able to achieve through the effective management of our estate, will contribute to the Council's capital reserves or revenue income thereby supporting the Council to achieve all its objectives and remain sustainable.

Statutory Context

The StAMP is aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Of the seven goals, the StAMP directly contributes to:

- **A prosperous Wales** – development of our commercial estate
- **A Wales of cohesive communities**- taking a “place” approach recognises the importance of communities and should improve community involvement and engagement
- **A healthier Wales** –working with Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) to share assets to enable better service delivery; also providing opportunities for those who seek employment
- **A resilient Wales**- community green spaces/ increased energy efficiency

In addition the StAMP by its nature contributes to the sustainability principles set out in the Act:

- Long-term- protecting assets for long-term needs rather than short term gains
- Integration- working with PTHB and other partners
- Collaboration-working with all services, PTHB, communities and other partners
- Engagement- the StAMP workshops provide a forum for engagement with stakeholders
- Prevention- providing opportunities for employment/ business start up

Objectives of the StAMP

The overriding objective is to make sure that the Council's property portfolio is efficiently used, fit for purpose and is sustainable for the future whilst (where appropriate) producing the best possible return for the citizens of Powys. This will include the following key elements:

- Seeking opportunities for the rationalisation of properties and co-location
- Increasing revenue from the commercial property portfolios
- Maintaining the long term viability of the Farms Estate which we recognise as a key asset for the Council in both in financial and environmental terms
- Acquiring and/or developing new fit for purpose property where all other avenues have been exhausted within our existing stock
- A clearer rationale for deciding which assets may be suitable for Community Asset Transfers so that assets can be retained where there is a compelling strategic reason to do so
- A process for dealing with minor disposals which often detract from more strategic work

Engagement

In order to achieve the above objectives, engagement is key. We seek engagement from:

- Services
- Members
- Communities
- PTHB and other partners
- Cross-border partners especially in our border towns such as Machynlleth, Presteigne, Knighton and Hay
- Complementary External Organisations

Role of Corporate Property

To maximise tangible benefits and exploit opportunities, properties need to be viewed as corporate assets. This is because the Council needs to be able to look across its entire property portfolio and adopt rational, consistent and asset group approaches allowing it to efficiently multi-use property and to respond to local opportunities and pressures.

The scope of this plan extends to all of the Council's owned or leased land and property assets. It excludes the Council Housing stock which is dealt with through the Council's Housing Strategy and land forming the highway.

Powys County- an overview

Powys is the largest County in Wales (2,000 sq m) representing a quarter of its total land mass. The county is bounded to the north by Gwynedd, Denbighshire and Wrexham; to the west by Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire; to the east by Shropshire and Herefordshire; and to the south by Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Neath Port Talbot.

The majority population of Powys lives in villages and small towns. The largest towns are Newtown, Ystradgynlais, Brecon, and Welshpool. Our smallest town (and also the smallest in Wales) is Llanwrtyd Wells. Powys has the lowest population density of all the principal areas of Wales.

- The total population is 132,705 (projected increase of 2.3% by 2020 and then to decline towards 2036)
- Average age 44
- 58,753 households projected growth of 4300 extra homes by 2036
- 3% unemployment (Wales average 4.5%)
- 38% of Powys residents are economically inactive

Our Portfolio- an overview

Powys County Council owns over 700 land and building assets (excluding Council houses)- see **Appendix 1** for a detailed breakdown. These can be broadly split into the following categories:

Operational e.g. Schools *, Offices, Depots

Commercial Estate e.g. Business units, Livestock Markets

Farms Estate We own about 150 farms. This is distinct from the commercial estate as it has other regenerative objectives and long term capital appreciation.

Community Assets e.g. War memorials, Outdoor recreation

Surplus Estate These are properties which have been declared surplus by a service and are in the process of being sold. There are in the region of 30- 40 of these at any one time.

* – Schools The Council’s School Service currently develops and maintains its own Asset Management Plan, in line with the 21st Century Schools Programme, which aims to ensure that all of our schools are fit for purpose and are in the right location and are of adequate size to deliver the current and future educational needs of all users . Whilst the document stands slightly separate from the other strategic policies relating to Council owned property, Strategic Corporate Property Officers have a supporting role to the Schools asset management process, working across the Authority to ensure that all services are informed of future developments and any co-location opportunities that may exist, now and in the future.

In many areas it could be that schools form Community Hubs, which could include a range of services that will support the wider community. We will also look to identify income opportunities.

This is an area of work which we will continue to support.

Operational Estate

Our overall strategy involves us challenging whether we need to retain assets or not, rather than assuming that we do. In order to test this, the following questions will be asked:

Is it necessary to own or hold this asset in order to deliver a service?	i.e. could the service be delivered in a different way or could space be leased in more cost effectively instead, considering current hours of operation – does the asset enjoy full or limited use and if the latter, can co-location of services be developed?
Is it necessary to own or hold this asset for a wider-regenerative purposes or to meet the Council's priorities?	e.g. as in the case of the Farms estate- to provide opportunity for young farmers to enter or progress in the sector, which in turn has a knock-on effect on our local economy
Does or could the asset generate a useful income?	In looking to make the best use of our assets we will look at income-producing opportunities for the Council
Is the asset fit for purpose? Is it cost-effective to repair?	Many of our assets have outgrown their useful life and it may therefore be that the asset is no longer suitable for its designated use and it would be impossible or uneconomic to adapt it

Acquisitions

Our overall strategy involves seeking opportunities to acquire assets where one or all of the following criteria apply:

<p>Do we need to acquire an asset for a service delivery priority? E.g. Where existing asset is no longer fit for purpose or the energy efficiency of the existing building is such as that it will be more expensive for the Council to run in the long term</p>	<p>We recognise that in certain circumstances it may be preferable (economically and environmentally) to acquire a new property rather than spend money on an asset which is no longer fit for purpose or requires extensive refurbishment works or is simply in the wrong place.</p>
<p>Could the asset generate a useful income as an investment? ¹</p>	<p>This Council needs to take opportunities to increase income and become more self-sufficient so that it becomes less dependent on Welsh Government allocations. We would look at market yields to assess whether or not the income was acceptable. This will also be a key consideration in those circumstances where the Council needs to consider new premises for its own business use.</p>
<p>Do we need to acquire assets to improve the overall yield of our commercial estate?</p>	<p>We need to review our commercial portfolios to ensure that they are achieving a market yield. This may involve acquiring assets when opportunities arise as well as releasing assets which are not performing or have extensive backlog maintenance.</p>

¹ Under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003 local authorities are given the power to invest. It provides that local authorities may invest:

- a) For any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or
- b) For the purposes of the prudent financial management of its financial affairs

Review, Retain or Release?

Attached to this plan is a live appendix detailing all of the Council's holdings set out on a "place" by "place" basis. Each asset will be assessed using the above challenges. These designations will be reviewed on an ongoing basis but in any event, at least once a year.

Where it is decided to release an asset, there is a need to maximise returns. We will therefore (where appropriate):

- Seek advice from our real estate partner
- Make a business case for capital to enable pre-sale work to be carried out (e.g. planning or essential works)

We anticipate being able to achieve corporate property asset sales of at least £1m per year for the lifetime of this plan and a further £1m from the Farms Estate for the next two years (see Farms Estate Strategy below). These receipts will contribute to the Council's priorities e.g. supporting people in the community and learning:

Capital Receipts Target for the Corporate Property Estate		
17/18	18/19	19/20
£1m	£1m	£1m

Capital Receipts Target for the Farms Estate		
17/18	18/19	19/20
£1m	£1m	£500k

THE CORE ESTATE- overarching principles

At present, the strategic property team has direct management control of the following assets:

- Offices
- Depots
- Commercial estate
- Farms Estate

We set out our strategies for these assets below:

Office Accommodation

Our overall strategy is to make sure that we are using our buildings as efficiently as possible and to look for income- producing opportunities to increase overall income from our assets.

We will therefore:

- Continue to promote Agile Working to get the best use out of our office accommodation
- Explore opportunities to take in tenants where we are not using all of an office (which we have decided to retain)
- Explore co-location opportunities with other services e.g. library service
- Consider the purchase of part occupied freehold properties where we need to restructure our current service delivery
- Work closely with our strategic partner, the PTHB, to share space where feasible

Aim

- To get to a position where overall we are working at a ratio of an average in the region of 6 desks for every 10 staff in our core open plan buildings (where physical factors make it viable).
- To increase income from our offices by at least 10% (currently c. £60k pa)

Commercial Estate Strategy

There is a separate Commercial Estates Strategy.

Our overall principle guiding the management of this portfolio is to maximise the rental income from our current portfolio as well as looking for opportunities to acquire income-producing assets. From a regeneration perspective, we will also exploit and extend our commercial estate to grow high quality jobs. This would provide a return on investment, a growth in asset value and economic development (jobs) benefits.

We will therefore:

- Review our current portfolio with a view to:
 - Disposing of assets where we are losing money/ there is an onerous maintenance backlog/ the property is in an unsuitable location to achieve economic benefits
 - Subject to the overall needs of the Council's capital programme, re-investing disposal proceeds in the current estate to make it fit for purpose
 - Ensuring rent is reviewed as often as possible
 - Making sure lease terms are as beneficial as possible to protect the Council
- Look for opportunities to buy:
 - Land and Units to expand our current portfolio of business units with a focus on job creation.
 - Income-producing assets as an investment (see footnote 1 above)
 - Land for the benefit, improvement or development of an area within the County e.g. if it will enhance an existing site that the Council already owns (subject to an approved business case)²

Aim

- To increase income from our commercial estate. The current income is c. £400k pa.
- We will also aim to make sure that the entire portfolio is fit for purpose to de-risk our investment.

² Under section the Local Government Act 1972, principal councils are empowered to acquire by agreement any land inside or outside its area for the purposes of:

- a) Any of their functions under this or any other enactment, or
- b) For the benefit, improvement or development of their area

Farms Estate Strategy

There is a separate Farms Estate Development Plan.

Our overall strategy for this portfolio acknowledges that whilst our farms cannot achieve the return expected from a commercial estate, they generally provide good capital appreciation and have an opportunity value- e.g. a source of development land as settlements expand. They are held to enable people to enter and progress within the agricultural sector.

To preserve a reliable supply of land and improve the viability of our holdings we need to:

- Invest in the estate to enhance asset value (this may mean re-investing more than the current nominal 10% of disposals value). We will therefore need to make proposals to Cabinet for capital funding as and when appropriate.
- Invest in building maintenance to ensure the farm buildings are safe and fit for habitation
- Re-invest in and rationalise where appropriate the core estate. This approach contemplates selected local developments (barns and houses) and sales of outlying non-core holdings.

It is recognised that by disposing of non-core Farms Estate assets it can provide capital receipts to the Council to contribute towards its priorities e.g. learning. However, if the integrity of the estate is to be retained there is only a finite number of non-core assets that can be disposed of.

Where it can be avoided, the sale of core estate land and holdings will not be pursued. However, where there are examples of regenerative benefits –e.g. the sale of areas of core land to enable established businesses to expand, each case will be considered not only from the effect such a sale may have on the retained estate, but also the wider Powys economy in line with the Council’s key priorities.

Aim

- To dispose of £1m worth of assets from our Farms Estate each year until 19/20 when this will fall to £500k

Capital Receipts Target for the Farms Estate
--

17/18	18/19	19/20
£1m	£1m	£500k

Community Asset Transfers (CATs)

There is a separate policy set out in our Corporate Asset Plan detailing the procedure for CATs.

Our overall strategy encourages communities to take on services whilst ensuring that they do so in a responsible way and also protect the long term interests of the Council and Powys's citizens generally.

Our overall strategy therefore supports CATs where:

- The asset is not required for the Council's long-term needs
- A genuine community activity will be carried out at the property
- The activity cannot be carried out in a more efficient/ sustainable location such as. co-locating with another service
- The group are able to demonstrate that they can sustain the activity and property (including statutory compliance) into the long term future
- The asset does not have a high capital/ strategic opportunity value to the Council which would provide a useful capital receipt/ opportunity to benefit/ improve or develop an area to the Council

Minor Disposals

Our staff are also an asset which must show a return and be deployed efficiently and effectively. This means, focusing on strategic and high value work. In this regard minor disposals, say of small pieces of land in order for residents to extend gardens, where such disposals are initiated by requests from those residents are disruptive and of limited benefit.

Aim

We will therefore:

Grant licences to prospective occupiers and only agree to minor disposals where there is demonstrable community benefit, or consequential gains to the Council – e.g. revenue budget savings from grounds maintenance, or where the minor disposal has been initiated by genuine Service rationalisation proposals.

TRANSLATING THESE PRINCIPLES INTO A “PLACE” CONTEXT

We have carried out a number of workshops covering each geographical “place” within Powys in order to facilitate discussion about issues and opportunities in each area. This helped staff to formulate a short, medium and long term plan for each area.

IMMEDIATE TERM OPPORTUNITY

These are areas where, following our “place” workshops, we have identified the most immediate opportunity for making the greatest return on our assets and achieving regenerative outcomes for the County. Given the opportunity level, we will look to safeguard our assets from transfer until firm plans have been made.

Newtown and surrounding area:

Featuring our largest town (c.12k people), this is an area of high opportunity with the current construction of the by-pass and improving train links. There is an established commercial centre (linked to jobs) and also a further education college (one of two in Powys). This is a key location for our partner PTHB.

The opportunities we need to take forward are:

- Working with the PTHB to establish new bases in the area
- Review of our office accommodation, some of which is no longer fit for purpose, in conjunction with the purchase of a central regional office which will ultimately provide a strong revenue income stream as well as internal service delivery benefits for the Council
- Invest in our workshop estate as this seems to be the most dynamic area for growth in the County
- Working with our highways colleagues to identify and maximise opportunities resulting from their depot review
- Work with Housing and Social Services to ensure that potential for developing future housing needs for all ages can be met either by utilising our own land/buildings or working with partners organisations/individuals.

Welshpool and surrounding area:

Whilst there are similar opportunities here to Newtown, the Council does not own as much property in this area and is therefore less able to capitalise on these opportunities. We are aware that our office Neuadd Maldwyn is no longer fit for purpose and has backlog maintenance of at least £1m which needs to be reviewed, recognising we need to retain a presence in the town.

Brecon and surrounding area:

This is another area of high opportunity, with the coming of the Cultural Hub and the number of Council-owned assets in the centre of Brecon. One of the two further educational centres is located here and we will seek to work with them to explore opportunities. There is a plan (by a private developer) to build 100 new homes in the area.

The opportunities we need to take forward:

- Working with our partners in the Brecon Beacons National Park to align our regenerative ambitions with theirs
- Looking for areas where we could expand our business unit portfolio
- Working with local education providers to deliver a more local service
- Reviewing all options, particularly in relation to the central properties which will become vacant when the Cultural Hub is built e.g. the library
- Working with our highways colleagues to identify and maximise opportunities resulting from their depot review

MEDIUM TERM OPPORTUNITY

These are areas which are not as fast-paced as the ones above in terms of imminent change/ requirement. They are therefore areas which need further review over the term of this plan.

Llandrindod Wells and surrounding area

This is an area of medium opportunity with some businesses, schools and our main County building. It is also an area identified with a need for affordable housing.

We will therefore look to:

- Work with our housing colleagues to identify suitable land for development
- Review our assets to produce the best outcome for the Council e.g. our old library building

- Demolish buildings that are beyond economic repair e.g. our archives building and Southfields and develop plans for future use of those assets e.g. including (where possible) supporting other services e.g. our primary school which lies close to our office building
- Continue to work with partner organisations to ensure our operational stock is working to the Council's best advantage
- Continue to work alongside and support our front line services in the development of their service rationalisation requirements – e.g. Rhayader Library

Hay & Talgarth area

With the famous Hay festival and plans to develop the castle, this area is lively with activity. The area comprises the market towns of Hay on Wye and Talgarth which together with the surrounding villages of Three Cocks, Glasbury, Felindre, Llanigon and Clyro currently provide a wide range of public services including a High School at Gwernyfed, A popular area providing plenty for visitors and residents to enjoy.

Hay on Wye has completed a Town Plan and this will inform and shape the initiatives and demand for the medium to long future. The area has seen a number of successful Community Asset Transfers completed and reshaping of service delivery is ongoing. School modernisation within the catchment will see a new school built in Hay, Clyro, Talgarth and Llangors which will provide re-development opportunities on a number of sites.

We will therefore:

- Develop a comprehensive strategy for affordable housing and employment (noting that much of the area is located within the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority and part was adjacent to Herefordshire County Council)
- Review the Town Plan to see how the Council can contribute towards its success
- Support the library service with their strategy for Hay and Talgarth Library

Builth area

Home to the world famous Royal Welsh Showground, this central Powys area is naturally constrained by its topography but has good road links in all directions and is close to the Central Wales Railway at Builth Road. There have been a number of successful CAT applications from different organisations within the community. It is hoped that ongoing service delivery reviews will lead to more effective use of properties and sustained service provision.

We will look to:

- Review the long term future of our cattle market
- Review further options for the Library and Antur Gwy
- Work with the regeneration team to exploit opportunities for tourism/ events

Ystradgynlais area

Our second most populous area, this area of historic industry is home to our largest estate of workshops (c.80). We would look to retain this location for our business units given the high levels of occupancy and the fact that this contributes to one of our corporate priorities- developing the economy, although we will continue to strive to ensure that the stock will be of an acceptable standard and fit for purpose. This may lead to some proposals for site reconfiguration in the future. We also have an office building which is not fit for purpose.

Ystradgynlais, in the context of the “place” agenda, has already successfully completed a Schools Modernisation Programme, seeing 13 primary schools reduced to 4 area schools, with resultant redevelopment opportunities (mainly for residential use) arising from this initiative.

We will:

- Review the workshop accommodation to make sure it is fit for purpose and sustainable long-term
- Review the future of our Hendre Ladus office building
- Work to provide a solution to the sustainability of the library by working with our partners
- Work with Social Care to formulate their property strategy in the area

Crickhowell area

Crickhowell town currently provides a wide range of public services including a High School, it has a busy town centre supported by many individual shops in an area of picturesque countryside providing plenty for visitors and residents to enjoy. Surrounding Crickhowell are the villages of Llangynidr, Llangattock, Llanbedr, Llangenny, Glangrwyney, Tretower and Cwmdru, each with its own special character.

Work on the Town Plan will inform the initiatives and demand for the medium to long future. The initial STAMP workshop highlighted the need to develop employment in the area noting that industrial areas exist in adjacent out of County locations whilst acknowledging that the Council through its partners had utilized its own land for the provision of affordable housing.

We will:

- Review the Town Plan once it has been formulated to see how the Council can support the area's aspirations

LONGER TERM OPPORTUNITY

These are areas where we own minimal property. We will therefore keep these areas under review and explore any opportunities which may arise over the lifetime of this plan:

Knighton & Presteigne area

A number of CAT applications have been received and officers are working closely with Town Council representatives certainly in Presteigne towards the establishment of a Community Delivery model.

We will continue to support this process to ensure that services can continue to be delivered in this area in the most cost effective and efficient way.

We will support Knighton Library with their relocation to the Community Centre.

Llanidloes area

The relocation of a local coach operating company to third party land will enable a key town centre site to be redeveloped. The site is currently identified as a mixed use development opportunity, although with the high social housing demand in the area, there is a real opportunity to assist with the Council's housing priority, and its intention to recommence its own house building programme.

Llanfyllin & Machynlleth area

Machynlleth, in the heart of the Dyfi Valley and Llanfyllin near the Berwyn mountains, are the two main market towns in this sparsely populated area of North Powys.

These two towns are edge of County towns and as a result, residents often utilise services over the border if they are not provided in the area in which they live.

Llanfyllin is a relatively small town, but has a thriving primary, high school, sports centre and library. We will:

- assist the under-utilised library building to seek interest from other complimentary internal/external organisations to co-locate within the building to realise its full potential.

Machynlleth is a traditional market town with a wide range of Council services. There are many ongoing service strategies within the town which include -

- New all-through school. Welsh Government have approved plans to build a brand new all-through school in Machynlleth.
- Library service are exploring potential co-location opportunities within their building.
- Older Persons Accommodation Strategy.

We will provide strategic service advice to ensure that all the above strategies have a joined up approach to service delivery in the community.

This page is intentionally left blank

Powys County Council Master Building List

Building Asset Summary

CORRECT AS AT 20/02/2017

OPERATIONAL SERVICE	OPERATIONAL BUILDING	NO. OF SITES	
Adult Services	Day Centre	16	
	Day Service - Adult Learning Disabilities	5	
	Elderly Peoples Home	13	
	Office Accommodation	1	
	Storage Building	1	
	Supported Tenancy Building	2	38
Children's Services	Residential Building	1	1
Regeneration, Property and Commissioning	Car Park	1	
	Cattle Market	5	
	Cemetery	16	
	Cemetery Toilets	1	
	Chapel of Rest	3	
	Clock Tower	4	
	Closed Landfill Sites	3	
	Commercial Asset	2	
	Farm Assets	149	
	Lead Mine	1	
	Leased Asset	11	
	Monument	1	
	Office Accommodation	17	
	Residential Building	3	
	Storage Building	1	
	Tourist Information Centre	2	
	Vacant - Storage Building	1	
Village & Community Hall	41		
Workshop	26		
Surplus Asset	19	307	
Leisure and Recreation	Arts Facility	1	
	Cenotaph / War Memorial	1	
	Indoor Bowls Centre	1	
	Leisure Centre	14	
	Library	14	
	Museum	11	
	Outdoor Pursuit Centre	1	
	Outdoor Recreation	26	
	Outdoor Recreation / Monument	1	
	Outdoor Recreation / Toilet	1	
	Theatre	2	
	Leased Asset	7	
	Youth Centre	6	86
Housing	Commercial Asset	4	
	Gypsy Traveller Site	2	
	Office	1	
	Leased Asset	2	9
Highways, Transport and Recycling (HTR)	Café	1	
	Car Parks	74	
	Cenotaph	1	
	Compound	4	
	Depot	14	
	Depot / Office Accommodation	2	
	Feature	1	
	Leased Asset	6	
	Market Hall	1	
	Public Convenience	34	
	Waste Asset	1	
	Storage Building	1	
Salt Barn	11	151	
Schools Service	Early Years	4	
	High School (including PRU and Youth Wing)	18	
	Primary School	88	
	Leased Asset	2	
	Library	1	
	School House	12	
	Special School	2	
	Residential School	1	
	Sports Hall	1	
	Leisure Centre	1	
	Swimming Pool	1	
	Public Convenience	1	
	Outdoor Recreation	1	133
TOTAL			725

This page is intentionally left blank

C64- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

14th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: The Leader
The Solicitor to the Council

SUBJECT: Llanfyllin High School

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1** Cabinet will recall that on 22nd July 2016, the Cabinet heard an Appeal from the 4 LEA Governors at Llanfyllin High School. During the course of the Appeal Hearing, many, if not all, of the LEA Governors suggested that the investigation report by Jonathan Walters into the knowledge of Governors and PCC Officers of the use by the Governing Body of delegated budgets for Home to School Transport purposes was incomplete or invalid. It was suggested that it had not taken into account the content of a Report by Price Waterhouse Coopers dated June 2014 into Secondary School Financial Viability ("PWC Report").
- 1.2** Some, if not all, of the LEA Governors suggested at the Appeal Hearing that contrary to the conclusions reached by Jonathan Walters in his Investigation Report, that certain Senior Officers of the Council must have known about the school's use of delegated budget for Home to School Transport purposes having had sight of the PWC Report. In particular the LEA Governors relied upon the table contained on page 28 of the PWC Report which includes a reference to the high transport costs at Llanfyllin High School when compared with other schools.
- 1.3** In the circumstances I instructed the Solicitor to the Council to ask Mr Jonathan Walters to read the PWC report and to consider whether the PWC Report contained any new evidence which would cause him to

alter any of the findings or recommendations contained within his original investigation Report.

2. The Report

2.1 I attach a copy of the redacted further Investigation Report from Jonathan Walters dated 1st February 2017.

2.2 Cabinet will see from pages 16 - 17 of the further Investigation Report that Jonathan Walters came to the following findings: -

- a. In about early 2014 PWC were commissioned by the council to write a report in order to assist the council in moving forward with an agenda of school reorganisation
- b. The report was not commissioned to focus on the budgets of particular schools
- c. There was a meeting between PWC and xxxxx and xxxxx in the early summer of 2014.
- d. PWC were told by xxxxx that the school had used its delegated budget to fund transport costs
- e. PWC were not aware of the significance of the same and did not alert any council officer to that fact
- f. There were discussions between PWC and council officers about a draft of the report
- g. There is no evidence that during the discussion there was mention of the misuse of the school budget by Llanfyllin High School
- h. The final report was completed in June 2014 and it was widely distributed within the council in October 2014
- i. The final report was read by senior officers and by some councillors
- j. The final report could have alerted senior council officers and councillors to the potential misuse of the school budget
- k. The final report was a missed opportunity to discover the breach of the council's scheme and to address the issue of home to school transport in October 2014

- l. The final report did not in fact alert **anyone** to the misuse of the school budget
- m. Had it done so then it would have been actioned at that time
- n. The report to cabinet in January 2015 did not raise the matter as the author of the report was unaware of the significance of the issue
- o. There was genuine shock and surprise when the matter finally emerged as an issue at senior officer and member level in January 2016

2.3 On pages 18 - 19 of the Further Investigation Report, Mr Walters came to the following conclusions:

“6.1 It has been contended by a number of people that by no later than October 2014 senior officers and councillors of the council must have known that Llanfyllin High School was misusing its delegated budget by funding the cost of home to school transport for certain pupils in breach of the council’s Scheme for the Financing of Schools. It follows that if true all the expressions of shock and surprise in January 2016 were faked and deceitful. These are serious allegations because, if true, a number of senior officers and councillors have told innumerable lies about the matter.

6.2 Whilst I can readily understand the suspicion of interested parties that the PWC report in 2014 did alert senior officers and councillors to the breach of the council’s scheme, there are a number of factors which militate against such a finding:

- a. no one picked the matter up at the material time including the LEA governors of Llanfyllin High School
- b. no one advanced this matter or referred to this report during the first investigation which suggests that no one was aware of its potential significance
- c. if the allegation is true there would have been a collective decision by a number of senior officers and councillors to withhold the PWC report

from consideration by me in the hope that it would not materialise and that is not a credible contention

c. the genuine reactions of senior officers and councillors when the matter finally emerged in January 2016

6.3 On the evidence I have obtained, therefore, I do not consider that the PWC report alters the conclusions I reached in the first investigation report concerning the actions of governors, councillors or officers of the council.

6.4 It follows that I do not consider that the PWC report alters any of the recommendations I made in the first investigation report and there are no further recommendations necessary as a result of this second investigation report.”

3. Proposal

3.1 That Cabinet notes the Report and resolves that no further action is required.

4. Support Services (Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, BPU)

4.1 Finance: There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation.

4,2 Legal – The Recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view

5. Statutory Officers

5.1 The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comment made by Finance.

5.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”

6. Members’ Interests

- 6.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
1. To note the contents of the Investigation Report from Jonathan Walters dated February 2017 and resolves that no further action is required	To address the concerns raised by the LEA Governors and to draw a line to the matter

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	
----------------------------------	--

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	The Solicitor to the Council
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	Immediately

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Clive Pinney	01597 826746		Clive.pinney@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

This page is intentionally left blank

**FURTHER INVESTIGATION
ON BEHALF OF
POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
CONCERNING
HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT
AT LLANFYLLIN HIGH SCHOOL
BY JONATHAN WALTERS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION NUMBER	SECTION HEADING	PAGE NUMBERS
1	The independent investigator	3
2	The background to the investigation	4
3	Terms of Reference	5
4	Methodology	6-8
5	The Evidence and Findings of Fact	9-17
6	Conclusions	18-19

SECTION 1

THE INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR

- 1.1 My name is Jonathan Walters. I am a practising barrister having been called to the Bar in 1984. I am based in Swansea.
- 1.2 I was appointed as the independent investigator by Powys County Council in August 2016.
- 1.3 I have prepared this report which sets out the evidence I have obtained and the conclusions I have made in accordance with the terms of my instruction.

SECTION 2

THE BACKGROUND TO THE INVESTIGATION

- 2.1 In May 2016 I reported on the issues which arose as a result of the breaches of Powys County Council's Delegated Scheme for the Financing of Schools. I need not set out the contents of that report here.
- 2.2 As a result of my report action was taken by Powys County Council against four of the LEA Governors on the board of governors at Llanfyllin high School. All four LEA Governors were Powys County Council councillors.
- 2.3 During the appeal process one of the councillors Mr. Peter Lewis happened upon a report prepared by PWC in 2014 which revealed that there were significant transport costs at Llanfyllin High School.
- 2.4 It has subsequently been contended by the LEA Governors that had I been aware of the additional information when conducting my investigation that my conclusions as to who in Powys County Council knew of the breaches of the Scheme might have been very different.
- 2.5 As a result of the above, I have been asked by Powys County Council to consider whether the content of the PWC report and the fact of its circulation to senior officers and all the councillors of Powys County Council in October 2014 would have made a difference to the conclusions in my initial report. Accordingly, I have investigated the matter and prepared this report in accordance with my terms of reference.

SECTION 3

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 These are the Terms of Reference upon which I have acted.

To consider whether the PWC report of October 2014 would materially alter the findings and conclusions set out in the first investigation report.

SECTION 4

METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 In advance of the taking of oral evidence I was provided with the terms of reference.
- 4.2 Having considered the limited documentation made available to me at the outset I required some preliminary enquiries to be made with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) concerning their involvement in the matter. I received a response to the same in September 2016. I was also able to identify a number of people who I considered could provide meaningful evidence to the investigation.
- 4.3 Ultimately, I interviewed the witnesses. No one asked to be accompanied. The interviews took place at Powys County Council premises in Llandrindod Wells and Welshpool and I also spoke to two witnesses by telephone. I emailed one witness and received a response by email from him.
- 4.4 The decision as to who to interview was mine alone. I consider my duty is to conduct a proportionate investigation. In considering who I wished to interview I decided to only interview those people who I believed could realistically offer evidence of relevance to the investigation.
- 4.5 When conducting interviews I informed the subjects of the interview of the fact that I was conducting a further investigation and that I would type what they had told me but that I would only manage to capture the gist of what I was being told. I informed them that I would email the draft notes of their evidence to them for approval or amendment or addition of material which they had failed to recollect at the time of the meeting. I duly provided the drafts to all the witnesses. All the

drafts were returned to me either unamended or with the necessary amendments thereon which then stood as their statements to the investigation.

4.6 In the case of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I had received an email which he had sent to Mr. Darren Mayor. I then emailed him a further question and he provided his answer to me by email.

4.7 It was reassuring to note that there was little if any meaningful difference between the contents of the drafts and the perfected statements in so far as the issues were concerned.

4.10 As mentioned above at the outset of the investigation I had asked the solicitor to the council to make enquiries of PWC concerning their involvement in this matter. The response is in the bundle of documentation. As a result of interviewing Mr. Mayor he alerted me to the fact that it would be likely that PWC employees would have kept notes of meetings with council officers when discussing earlier drafts of their report for the council. In addition, he alerted me to the likely existence of a draft report.

4.11 I duly asked that further enquiries be made with PWC and I established that no notes were available but an earlier draft of the PWC report was available and that is included in the documentation bundle.

4.12 I now set out the names of the persons I have interviewed or of whom I have asked written questions.

- [REDACTED]
- b. Councillor Barry Thomas
 - c. Councillor Arwel Jones
 - d. Councillor Darren Mayor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

i. [REDACTED]

4.13 The evidence of the witnesses is contained in a separate bundle.

4.14 I have also obtained a small amount of additional documentation. I have placed the documentation into a bundle. The bundle has been paginated. Where I have referred to a document in this report I have included the page reference in brackets and in bold type as follows **(B.15)**.

CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENTATION BUNDLES

- Bundle A the witness evidence
- Bundle B contains the documents

THE STANDARD OF PROOF WHICH HAS BEEN APPLIED

4.15 Although there is no material dispute of fact as such between witnesses I am mindful that I am applying the civil standard of proof to my fact finding namely the balance of probabilities. Of course, this is an inquisitorial and not an adversarial process and the evidence of witnesses has not been fully tested and I have to bear that in mind when reaching my conclusions.

SECTION 5

THE EVIDENCE AND FINDINGS OF FACT

- 5.1 I now propose to set out the relevant parts of the evidence and to make findings of fact. I do not propose to set out each and every passage of relevant evidence as it is not proportionate to do so. I have simply set out the facts which allow me to reach conclusions as to whether the contents of the PWC report commissioned by Powys County Council would alter the conclusions I reached in the first report because (so it is alleged) it had alerted members of the council and senior officers to the breach of the Delegated Scheme for Financing of Schools and they did nothing to address it.
- 5.2 The PWC report prepared for the council concerning the cost of the provision of education in Powys was provided to the council in the summer of 2014. I have read the report dated June 2014. [B.1-66] I have also read the draft report which is almost identical to the final version of the report. [B.67-122] I accept the evidence of ██████████ that *"the rationale for the work was that PCC needed to start secondary school modernisation and rationalisation..... we decided we needed someone to come in and provide an independent baseline position in terms of pupil numbers and the impact those numbers would have on secondary school budgets."*
- 5.3 I also accept ██████████ evidence that he did not want to focus on individual schools: he wanted a strategic approach and, therefore, he wanted a general overview of the position. He intended to use the report as evidence in order to support moves for reorganisation. The report was intended to establish whether the numbers of pupils attending the schools would continue to decrease and whether there would be an increase in deficit budgets. It is clear that PWC cooperated and worked with the schools, the schools service and the finance

department at the council to prepare the report. The report was shared with the secondary schools head teachers and also, on the 21st October 2014, the report was shared with all the council's directors and members of the council. [B.139]

The report was also seen by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- 5.4 The evidence given by all the witnesses I interviewed is that absolutely no one noticed that in the report the analysis of Llanfyllin High School's budget revealed that it was consistently using a substantial amount of money for school transport. When one compares it to the other secondary schools its expenditure is significant and stands out clearly. Furthermore, it is even more significant when one considers the assertion by PWC at page 23 of the report that in all schools:

"Home to school transport for all pupils is funded directly by the Council, with schools only funding in-school transport for educational and extra-curricular trips. However, there is an inconsistent cost recovery of school trips amongst the schools. Some schools do not charge pupils, whilst others ask for donations." [B.23]

- 5.5. I find that it was remiss of PWC not to mention this anomaly in its observations on the budget of Llanfyllin High School which might have drawn attention to the detailed line for transport in the budget of the school.

- 5.6 In order to obtain the information for its report, PWC employees attended at Llanfyllin High School in the summer of 2014 and spoke to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- 5.7 After instructions in this matter were received in August 2016 I indicated that I would want to see PWC's views on the content of the report and particularly whether they alerted anyone within the council as to the likely breach of the council's financial policies. [REDACTED] sent a number of questions to PWC and

they responded by letter on the 2nd September 2016. [B.176-17] In short, it is clear that PWC were unaware of the content of the council's Scheme for the Financing of Schools and the transport expenditure did not of itself raise any alarm bells. The PWC partner confirmed that he had made enquiries of the PWC employee who attended at Llanfyllin High School and there was no recollection of being told that the school was using its delegated budget to fund home to school transport.

5.8 When I interviewed Mr. Mayor in December 2016 he indicated to me that [REDACTED] had confirmed that there had been a discussion with PWC around the use of the school's budget. The email from [REDACTED] makes it clear that he told the PWC employees that the school was using its budget to subsidise school transport. It is alleged by [REDACTED] that PWC were taking notes of what as being said. [B.183-184] I therefore asked [REDACTED] to write to PWC asking them to produce any notes of the meeting with [REDACTED]. Their response was by email on the 30th January 2017. [B.185] In effect, they indicated that they held a very short note of the discussion around transport costs. In their email PWC state this:

"1 - an extract from the notes taken during our meeting with Llanfyllin High School:

"The school is constrained by their budget. For example, they would like to use their funding to put on a bus to support their intake model and use it for marketing"

This is the only note that we have, that could relate to the issue in question. It was captured during a broad discussion on the financial pressures the school was facing, which included topics such as Special Educational Needs funding and the pressures from loss of specific grants.

The comment was not included in the draft or final report, as the focus of our engagement was to report on the actual financial feasibility of all the secondary schools in Powys, and not to suggest potential cost saving or income generating measures."

5.9 Mr. Mayor also alerted me to the fact that prior to the preparation of the final report there would have been discussions and earlier drafts of the PWC report. I therefore asked for notes of any such discussions and prior drafts. PWC confirmed in the above email that there were no notes retained by them but they did produce a draft report which is included in the bundle of documentation.

5.10 The draft report in fact does not reveal that there was further information which was omitted from the final report or that there was any different approach taken by PWC to the question of transport costs between the two reports. This is not surprising bearing in mind the evidence provided to me by PWC in their earlier letter of the 2nd September 2016.

5.11 I have little doubt that there was discussion between [REDACTED] and PWC about the use of the school's budget to fund transport costs. That would be entirely consistent with my conclusions contained in the first report. I do not believe that the fact was being hidden. I also accept that that would have been of no consequence to PWC bearing in mind the instructions they had received and the lack of knowledge of the council's scheme for financing of schools. Furthermore, I note that there are two income lines in the budget which does not rule out the school recouping some or all of the transport costs from parents. Without investigation by PWC the position would be unclear to them or to the reader of the report.

5.12 Furthermore, on receipt of the final report, Councillor Arwel Jones, the education portfolio holder was required to present a paper to the cabinet of the council on school reorganisation. [B.143-150] He told me this about his involvement with the PWC report:

"1. I received a copy of the report and I confirm I read through it in the autumn of 2014. I didn't pick up the transport costs in Llanfyllin. Nothing was said to

highlight it in the report that was provided to me. Nothing in the report highlighted me to improper use of monies.

2. However, the issue which I was focussing on was financial deterioration and that there needed to be a reorganisation. In January 2015, the report which went to cabinet was designed to achieve this result. I believe [REDACTED] would have prepared the report on my behalf. My report highlighted the salient points which was an appraisal of the PWC report. I was not looking at schools individually but just as a whole. The re-organisation of the provision of education would lead to costs savings generally and I was not looking at the circumstances of individual schools. As a consequence of the above I was really not interested in what the school budgets were being expended on in individual schools: I was concentrating on the bottom lines and I simply missed the fact that Llanfyllin High School was spending a substantial amount of its budget on transport."

5.13 In view of the fact that the report to cabinet did not mention the likely misuse of the school's budget and that the report itself was not written by councillor Jones I interviewed the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

5.14 [REDACTED] told me this:

"1. In about early January 2015 I drafted a report for cabinet on behalf of Councillor Arwel Jones who was the Education Portfolio holder. The report went before cabinet on the 27th January 2015.

2. In order to prepare my report I had to consider the contents of the PWC report which had been commissioned by PCC into secondary school provision in Powys.

3. *I can say I did not notice the line in the Appendices concerning transport costs for Llanfyllin. At that time I was not aware of clause 5.2 of the Scheme for Financing of Schools so it would not have been of any significance to me anyway. I was aware that some pupils were coming to the school from across the border but nothing more than that. Furthermore, my focus was on the picture generally and not on an individual school's expenditure.*
4. *I remember seeing the PWC report and some further spreadsheets from PWC on transformation modelling. I worked closely with PWC. I wasn't aware of them asserting that the transport was being funded from the school's delegated budget. In any event that is not something I had involvement with. I was looking at the overall strategic picture.*
5. *When I prepared my report for Councillor Jones I simply took from the PWC report the information necessary for discussion of the relevant issues by the cabinet. The use of delegated budgets was not of relevance."*

5.15 [REDACTED] told me this about his knowledge of the content of the PWC report and how he discovered the misuse of the school's budget:

- "4. *I read the PWC report at the time to prepare for the secondary heads meeting on 10th September and I took the information out of it which I felt was useful. I've looked again at the line in the PWC report concerning transport costs at Llanfyllin. I didn't pick it up because I was looking at it in terms of the total expenditure and at surplus or deficit positions, pupil number projections and premises costs. I wasn't particularly focussing on the other budget lines. I was not interested in the transport budget figures as this was going to be looked at separately.. I have a great sense of frustration that we didn't pick it up. I feel I was close to getting there with my references to taxis but I didn't quite make the link. At the time I had no*

reason to. The 'penny only dropped' in August 2016 when I was alerted to the entry for transport for Llanfyllin in the PWC report. I had completely forgotten about the report and could not recollect seeing the entry at the time. With hindsight it is now clear but as I have already said in 2014 transport was not an issue.

5. *When I eventually discovered what had been happening at Llanfyllin it was a total surprise and I took immediate action. If in 2014 it had become known to me then I would have taken the same action. There would be no reason from me to react differently."*

5.16 I also asked [REDACTED] about the reaction of [REDACTED] in January 2016 when the misuse of the school budget became common knowledge and she said this:

"I remember in January 2016 or thereabouts when the issue of the misuse of the delegated budget first arose. I remember being surprised and my recollection is that [REDACTED] was equally surprised."

5.17 I interviewed [REDACTED]. He was on the periphery of this matter due to the nature of his portfolio. As he says in his evidence (and I so find) that it is unlikely he read the report or its appendices. I asked him about what he, as a somewhat dispassionate observer, had noticed of the reactions of senior officers and members of the council to the apparent revelation of a breach of clause 5.2 in January 2016 and he said this:

"4. *I became aware of the home to school transport issue when matters blew up at the beginning of 2016. I observed the conversations of cabinet members and senior officers. I listened to the debate but I don't think I've really been asked to comment. As an observer, I witnessed what I believed to be extreme surprise, shock and concern on the part of both cabinet members and officers.*

5. *I have been asked whether perhaps the response of cabinet members and officers was feigned. In my view their reactions were genuine: otherwise it would have taken a prolonged and inordinate amount of effort designed and intended to deceive me. I think that is most unlikely."*

5.18 I need not set out any further part of the evidence. It is abundantly clear that until Mr. Peter Lewis noticed the transport line in the PWC report no one had mentioned this matter in any of the debates and discussions nor in the interviews I conducted for the first investigation.

5.19 On the evidence that I have obtained I make the following findings of fact:

- a. In about early 2014 PWC were commissioned by the council to write a report in order to assist the council in moving forward with an agenda of school reorganisation
- b. The report was not commissioned to focus on the budgets of particular schools
- c. There was a meeting between PWC and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the early summer of 2014.
- d. PWC were told by [REDACTED] that the school had used its delegated budget to fund transport costs
- e. PWC were not aware of the significance of the same and did not alert any council officer to that fact
- f. There were discussions between PWC and council officers about a draft of the report
- g. There is no evidence that during the discussion there was mention of the misuse of the school budget by Llanfyllin High School
- h. The final report was completed in June 2014 and it was widely distributed within the council in October 2014
- i. The final report was read by senior officers and by some councillors

- j. The final report could have alerted senior council officers and councillors to the potential misuse of the school budget
- k. The final report was a missed opportunity to discover the breach of the council's scheme and to address the issue of home to school transport in October 2014
- l. The final report did not in fact alert **anyone** to the misuse of the school budget
- m. Had it done so then it would have been actioned at that time
- n. The report to cabinet in January 2015 did not raise the matter as the author of the report was unaware of the significance of the issue
- o. There was genuine shock and surprise when the matter finally emerged as an issue at senior officer and member level in January 2016

SECTION 6

CONCLUSIONS

6.1 It has been contended by a number of people that by no later than October 2014 senior officers and councillors of the council must have known that Llanfyllin High School was misusing its delegated budget by funding the cost of home to school transport for certain pupils in breach of the council's Scheme for the Financing of Schools. It follows that if true all the expressions of shock and surprise in January 2016 were faked and deceitful. These are serious allegations because, if true, a number of senior officers and councillors have told innumerable lies about the matter.

6.2 Whilst I can readily understand the suspicion of interested parties that the PWC report in 2014 did alert senior officers and councillors to the breach of the council's scheme, there are a number of factors which militate against such a finding:

a. no one picked the matter up at the material time including the LEA governors of Llanfyllin High School

b. no one advanced this matter or referred to this report during the first investigation which suggests that no one was aware of its potential significance

c. if the allegation is true there would have been a collective decision by a number of senior officers and councillors to withhold the PWC report from consideration by me in the hope that it would not materialise and that is not a credible contention

c. the genuine reactions of senior officers and councillors when the matter finally emerged in January 2016

- 6.3 On the evidence I have obtained, therefore, I do not consider that the PWC report alters the conclusions I reached in the first investigation report concerning the actions of governors, councillors or officers of the council.**
- 6.4 It follows that I do not consider that the PWC report alters any of the recommendations I made in the first investigation report and there are no further recommendations necessary as a result of this second investigation report.**

1st February 2017

Jonathan Walters

River Chambers

Swansea

Delegated Decision List

22 February	Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning	Approval to purchase site in Abermule
22 February	Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing Portfolio Holder for Education Portfolio Holder for Finance	Approval to purchase an additional 450m2 of land in Llyswen to enable the construction of the new primary school.
1 March	Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing	Approval to sell Goppas Woodland, Leighton
3 March	Leader Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning	Approval of draft response to the Welsh Government's Call for Evidence and Projects for a new National Development Framework.
3 March	Portfolio Holder for Property, Buildings and Housing Portfolio Holder for Education	Approval of the Community Asset Transfer of the freehold of Llanfechain Recreation Field to Llanfechain Community Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

Cabinet/ Management Team	Cabinet	Matter for Decision	Portfolio Holder/ Officer	Decision Maker Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Pre- Scrutiny	Comments
	March	Policy for the installation of mobility scooters in HRA properties	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Housing Income Collection and Recovery policy	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Resident Involvement strategy	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
Page 159	March	Adaptations to council homes policy	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Anti-social behaviour policy	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Fire safety policy in HRA homes	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Repairs and maintenance	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Estate Management Policy	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Simon Inkson	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Trade waste price increase	Cllr John Powell Ashley Collins	Portfolio Holder		
	March	Outcome of Rosfolio Closed landfill site	Cllr John Powell Nia Hughes	Portfolio Holder		

C69-2017

Cabinet/ Management Team	Cabinet	Matter for Decision	Portfolio Holder/ Officer	Decision Maker Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Pre- Scrutiny	Comments
21 March		Corporate Improvement Plan Tracker	All Portfolio Holders	Strategic Overview Board		
21 March		Risk Register	Caroline Evans	Strategic Overview Board		
21 March		Regulatory Recommendation Tracker		Strategic Overview Board		
28 March	11 April	Budget Outturn report for February	Cllr Wynne Jones Jane Thomas	Cabinet		
28 March	11 April	Brecon Cultural Hub	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Cllr Graham Brown Cllr Wynne Jones Jim Swabey	Cabinet		
28 March	11 April	School Modernisation Progress Report	Cllr Arwel Jones Marianne Evans	Cabinet		
28 March	11 April	Response to Scrutiny Review Group report into unlicensed school budgets	Cllr Arwel Jones Ian Roberts	Cabinet		
	April	Sale of Cattle Market Site	Cllr Rosemarie Harris Natasha Morgan	Portfolio Holder		Deferred from November for further work
6 June	20 June	Older Persons Accommodation	Cllr Stephen Hayes Emma Palmer	Cabinet	Pre Scrutiny May	
6 June	20 June	Domiciliary Care Future Commissioning of External Services	Cllr Stephen Hayes Lee Anderson	Cabinet		Moved from 20 December
6 June	20 June	Home to school Transport policy	Cllr Arwel Jones Gareth Jones	Cabinet	Pre Scrutiny February	

Cabinet/ Management Team	Cabinet	Matter for Decision	Portfolio Holder/ Officer	Decision Maker Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Pre- Scrutiny	Comments
6 June	20 June	Llanbister and Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP Schools	Cllr Arwel Jones Ian Roberts	Cabinet		
6 June	20 June	Outcome of Consultation on admission numbers at Llangorse CP School	Cllr Arwel Jones Gareth Jones	Cabinet		
6 June	20 June	Outcome of consultation on supply teachers pay and conditions	Cllr Arwel Jones Gareth Jones	Cabinet		Deferred from December to await Welsh Govt guidance
13 June		Corporate Improvement Plan Tracker	All Portfolio Holders	Strategic Overview Board		
13 June		Risk Register	Caroline Evans	Strategic Overview Board		
13 June		Regulatory Recommendation tracker		Strategic Overview Board		
27 June	11 July	Treasury Management Quarter 4	Portfolio Holder for Finance Ann Owen	Cabinet		
Page 161	11 July	Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Cllr John Powell Mark Stafford-Tolley	Cabinet		
5 September	19 September	Treasury Management Review 2016/17	Portfolio Holder for Finance Ann Owen	Cabinet		
5 September	19 September	Treasury Management Quarter 1	Portfolio Holder for Finance Ann Owen	Cabinet		
12 September		Corporate Improvement Plan Tracker	All Portfolio Holders	Strategic Overview Board		
12 September		Risk Register	Caroline Evans	Strategic Overview Board		
12 September		Regulatory Recommendation tracker		Strategic Overview Board		

Cabinet/ Management Team	Cabinet	Matter for Decision	Portfolio Holder/ Officer	Decision Maker Cabinet Portfolio Holder	Pre- Scrutiny	Comments
26 September	10 October					
24 October	7 November	Treasury Management Quarter 2	Portfolio Holder for Finance Ann Owen			
21 November	5 December					

C70- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET EXECUTIVE

14th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd November 2016, consultation has been carried out on the authority's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20, in-line with the requirements of The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013.

The Plan has been updated to take account of the responses received during the consultation period.

This report requests Cabinet approval of the updated Plan, for submission to Welsh Government.

The report is supported by the following appendix:

Appendix A – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20

Appendix B – Consultation responses

Background

Consultation

Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd November 2016, consultation on the authority's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 was carried out between the 23rd November 2016 and the 25th January 2017.

39 responses were received to the consultation. Copies of all consultation responses received are provided in Appendix B.

Detailed responses were received from the following organisations and individuals:

- The Welsh Language Commissioner
- RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh-medium Education)

- Mid Powys branch of RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh-medium Education)
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Mudiad Addysg Gymraeg Gogledd Ddwyrain Powys / North East Powys Welsh-medium Education Movement
- Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed
- Menter Maldwyn
- Powys branch of Cymdeithas yr Iaith (The Welsh Language Society)
- The Governing Body of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr
- County Councillor Sandra Davies
- Tamsin Cathan Davies

The remaining 27 responses were received from individuals from all over Powys.

14 of the responses related to the ongoing proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. These are included in Appendix B, however the issues raised in these responses have been addressed as part of the school reorganisation process in relation to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School which is ongoing in-line with the School Organisation Code (2013).

Welsh-medium Education Forum

As stated in the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20, the Objectives outlined within the Plan will be monitored by the council's Welsh-medium Education Forum.

Work is currently ongoing to agree a new terms of reference for the Welsh-medium Education Forum, and to clarify links between the Forum and other groups which consider issues relating to the Welsh language. A further report outlining revised terms of reference for each of these groups and the relationship between them will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for approval.

Proposal

The proposal to Cabinet is as follows:

- i) To approve the post-consultation version of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 in Appendix, for submission to Welsh Government.

Following submission to Welsh Government, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 states that Ministers may:

- Approve the Plan as submitted;
- Approve the Plan with modifications; or
- Reject the Plan and prepare another one

Should the Welsh Ministers require the authority to do further work on the Plan, any revised versions will be presented back to Cabinet for approval.

One Powys Plan

N/A

Options Considered/Available

N/A

Preferred Choice and Reasons

N/A

Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan outlines the authority's priorities for developing Welsh-medium education during the period 2017-20.

Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

N/A

Local Member(s)

N/A

Other Front Line Services

N/A

Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

Finance: The Schools Finance Manager notes the contents of the report, it is essential that any changes arising from the objectives with the plan are costed at the earliest opportunity to ensure affordability within budgets available.

Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

N/A

Corporate Communications

Communications Comment: The report is of public interest and requires use of news release and social media to publicise the decision.

Statutory Officers

The **Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer)** has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

The **Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer)** notes the comments made by finance.

Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
To approve the post-consultation version of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 in Appendix A, for submission to Welsh Government.	To meet the statutory requirement to prepare a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan every three years.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All members
----------------------------------	-------------

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	End of March 2017

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Sarah Astley	01597 826265	N/A	sarah.astley@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:



Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20

Powys County Council

Contents

	Page
SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Powys County Council's vision for Welsh-medium education	4
1.2 Welsh-medium Education Forum	5
1.3 Statement on home to school transport	6
1.4 Policy context and Welsh Government priorities	6
SECTION 2 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN	9
Outcome 1: More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh	9
Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school	15
Outcome 3: More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh	20
Outcome 4: More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh	20
Outcome 5: More learners with higher-level Welsh-language skills	23
Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	28
Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuing professional development (CPD)	30
ANNEX 1 DATA	32

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013¹ requires all local authorities in Wales to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which sets out how the local authority will improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh. Further to this, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh Medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013² set out the requirements for all local authorities in Wales to submit WESPs to the Welsh Ministers every three years.

The Regulations also require local authorities to carry out consultation on their draft plan before it is submitted to the Welsh Ministers. Consultation on this plan took place in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, from the 23rd November 2016 and the 25th January 2017. The draft plan has been amended to take account of issues raised during the consultation period.

Powys County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20 will be considered and approved by the Council's Cabinet before being submitted to the Welsh Ministers for their approval. Following submission, the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 states that Ministers may:

- Approve the Plan as submitted
- Approve the Plan with modifications; or
- Reject the Plan and prepare another one.

Once approved by the Welsh Ministers, progress on the Objectives outlined within the Plan will be monitored by the Council's Welsh-medium Education Forum, which will meet on a termly basis, and through the Schools Service's Accountability Framework.

The Council will be required to report annually on progress to the Welsh Government. This progress report will be shared with the Council's Cabinet before being submitted to the Welsh Government.

The Council's WESP for 2017-20 is aligned to the Council's Schools Reorganisation Policy (2015). Any school reorganisation proposals required in order to achieve the objectives of the WESP will be subject to the formal process as outlined in the policy and the School Organisation Code (2013).

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/1/contents/enacted>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3048/contents/made>

1.1 Powys County Council's vision for Welsh-medium education

To provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys

The Welsh Government has recently launched an ambitious new strategy to create a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. The council welcomes this ambitious strategy, and acknowledges the key role Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim, and the need for the council to be proactive in order to stimulate growth in the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh.

The current method of delivering Welsh-medium education in Powys has led to a situation where access to this provision is a 'postcode lottery', where the type and level of provision available to pupils at each phase of their education varies significantly depending on where they live. This does not provide equality for Welsh-medium learners compared with English-medium learners. This lack of equality is exacerbated in the secondary phase, in particular in Key Stages 4 and 5. In the south of the county, Welsh-medium pupils in the Ystradgynlais area can access Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, a Welsh-medium secondary school located in Neath Port Talbot County Borough, however the opportunity to access full Welsh-medium secondary provision in a designated Welsh-medium school is not available to pupils living in other parts of Powys.

The authority fully agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly when they come from non-Welsh speaking homes³, and acknowledges that designated Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model of delivery for Welsh-medium education. The authority acknowledges that a fundamental change is required to the method of delivering Welsh-medium education in Powys, to ensure that all learners can access high quality, robust provision from the early years onwards. In order to move towards a new delivery method, the authority is fully committed to establishing new designated Welsh-medium schools in both the primary and secondary sectors, and will direct capital investment to support this commitment, where appropriate. In addition, the authority will work in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin in order to provide access to high quality Welsh-medium early years provision.

Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys have remained fairly stagnant over recent years – in fact, over the period of the authority's previous Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2014-17), the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh first language at the end of the Foundation Phase decreased. The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers. It is recognised that this is a long term vision, and it will not be possible to change everything within the period of this WESP. However, the authority is fully committed to the long term vision to provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys, and to the development of an infrastructure that will enable all pupils to access full provision in either Welsh or English throughout all stages of education, in order to provide the best possible opportunities for our children and young people, to ensure an increase in the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh, and a thriving future for the Welsh language.

³ Welsh-medium Education Strategy – <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en>

Objectives for 2017-20

The Council's main Strategic Objectives during the period of this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Objective 1 | To increase the opportunities for pupils to access Welsh-medium early years provision |
| Objective 2 | To establish, and identify opportunities to establish, new designated Welsh-medium provision in the primary sector |
| Objective 3 | To provide equitable and sustainable linguistic progression for Welsh-medium pupils from Key Stage 2 into Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 |
| Objective 4 | To provide improved opportunities for latecomers to transfer to the Welsh-medium sector in all stages of education |

In addition to these main objectives, the council acknowledges the need to promote the opportunities available for pupils to access Welsh-medium education within Powys. The council is currently working on the production of a Welsh-language Promotion Strategy, and the promotion of Welsh-medium education will be taken forward as part of this strategy.

1.2 Welsh-medium Education Forum

The council will facilitate meetings of the Welsh-medium Education Forum, which will meet on a termly basis.

The Forum's primary role will be to monitor progress in relation to the Objectives outlined in this WESP. The Forum's Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.

Membership of the Forum will also be reviewed annually, however it is expected that membership will include the following:

- County councillors, including the Portfolio Holder for Education
- The council's Head of Schools
- Council officers whose role is linked to the outcomes stated in the WESP
- Representatives of schools within Powys
- Representatives of Welsh language organisations

1.3 Statement on Home to School Transport

Powys County Council provides school transport to the following pupils:

- primary school pupils living 2 miles or more from their nearest allocated school or centre, measured by the shortest available route
- secondary school pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 living 3 miles or more from the nearest allocated secondary school or centre, measured by the shortest available route
- 16-19 year olds living 3 miles or more from the nearest allocated secondary school or further education college site within the County boundary offering post-16 provision

Transport is provided to the nearest school or centre offering provision in the language of their choice – for pupils who wish to access Welsh-medium provision, free transport is provided to the nearest Welsh-medium school or stream to their home.

Qualifying Welsh-medium pupils living in the Ystradgynlais area are entitled to free transport to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

The most recent review of the authority's transport policy was undertaken following the publication of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008. Following this review, the authority has continued to provide free transport to enable pupils to attend the closest school providing Welsh-medium education. However, in order to ensure equality for all learners, the policy was amended to include the provision of transport for pupils to their nearest English-medium provision, where their nearest school is a Welsh-medium school. It is acknowledged that this change to the transport policy has had an impact on the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in some traditional Welsh-speaking areas.

The authority is currently reviewing the transport policy, and it is expected that the revised version will be considered by Cabinet before the end of 2016/ early 2017. However, the authority remains committed to providing transport to enable pupils to access Welsh-medium provision.

1.4 Policy Context and Welsh Government Priorities

Welsh-medium Education Strategy⁴

In 2010, the Welsh Government published the first ever Welsh-medium Education Strategy, which set out the national strategic direction for Welsh-medium education. The Strategy sets out the Welsh Government's vision:

⁴ <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en>

'To have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.'

Powys County Council's WESP for 2017-20 sets out how the Council will respond to the 7 key outcomes outlined within the Welsh-medium Education Strategy.

A million Welsh speakers by 2050⁵

The Welsh Government has recently carried out consultation on a new strategy to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Education is one of the 6 priorities outlined in the draft strategy, and in relation to Education, the draft strategy states that

'We need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh-medium education and who have Welsh language skills, as it is only through enabling more people to learn Welsh that we will reach a million speakers. Early years provision is also essential, as the earlier a child comes into contact with the language, the more opportunity he or she has to become fluent.'

The authority acknowledges the key role that Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim.

Rewriting the Future – Raising Ambition and Attainment in Welsh Schools⁶

The council is committed to raising aspiration and attainment in Powys schools and to breaking down the barriers faced by learners from deprived backgrounds. This WESP sets out the authority's vision to provide equality of provision to Welsh-medium learners, this includes ensuring that learners from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access Welsh-medium provision throughout all phases of education.

Successful Futures⁷

The Successful Futures document makes many references to the Welsh language and Welsh-medium schools. The authority is committed to the development of Welsh-medium schools and the teaching of Welsh in line with the recommendations outlined in the document.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015⁸

⁵ <http://gov.wales/betaconsultations/welshlanguage/welsh-language-strategy-consultation/?lang=en>

⁶ <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/deprivation/rewriting-the-future-schools/?lang=en>

⁷ <http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150225-successful-futures-en.pdf>

⁸ <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

The aim of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act includes 7 Well-being Goals, which provide a shared vision for the public bodies affected by the Act to work towards. One of these Goals is 'A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language'. The authority's WESP for 2017-20 will be a key contributor to the long term achievement of this goal, through providing improved access to Welsh-medium education throughout all phases of education, ensuring a greater number of Welsh speakers in the future.

SECTION 2 WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Outcome 1 More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

Current Position

18.5% of Year 2 pupils in Powys were assessed in Welsh (First Language) in the 2015/16 academic year. This is a decrease compared with the % of Year 2 pupils taught through the medium of Welsh in 2014/15 (19.1%) and 2013/14 (19.3%).

The following targets have been set for the life of this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan:

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in Year 2	18.5%	19.0%	19.5%	20.0%	20.5%

Whilst these targets may not appear to be aspirational, the authority's view is that this is a realistic reflection of the current position. The authority has recognised that 'significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'. However, the authority has also recognised that it will take time for these changes to take effect. This indicator relates to the % of pupils assessed in Welsh in Year 2, therefore it will be some years before this indicator reflected any changes in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in the foundation phase following any changes in the way Welsh-medium education is delivered.

Current Welsh-medium primary provision

Welsh-medium primary provision in Powys is provided through a combination of Welsh-medium schools and dual stream schools. There are currently 10 Welsh-medium primary schools, and a further 13 schools deliver Welsh-medium primary education through dual stream provision. All schools which offer Welsh-medium primary provision are either Welsh-medium schools or dual stream schools, therefore the authority's expectation is that pupils are in separate Welsh-medium classes.

However, the authority recognises that the current budgetary situation is causing some dual schools to merge classes, for example merging Welsh-medium and English-medium groups in the foundation phase. The authority's expectation would be for the language of delivery of any such 'merged' classes to be predominantly Welsh-medium.

Capital plans

As part of Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme, there has been capital investment in the following schools which provide education through the medium of Welsh:

- Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, Ystradgynlais – a 300 pupil Welsh-medium primary school which opened in 2012-13
- Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Newtown – a new building, with capacity for 270 pupils which opened in January 2016 to replace Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd's previous accommodation

In addition, the authority is planning the following capital developments within Band A:

- New Welsh-medium primary school in Welshpool
- Replacement building for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth

The authority is in the initial stages of planning for capital investment as part of Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme. Full consideration will be given to the objectives included in this WESP when planning the priorities for Band B.

Capacity and S106 agreements

The authority has identified that Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, the only Welsh-medium provision in the Ystradgynlais catchment area has reached capacity. Demand for places at the school is expected to increase in the future due to a proposed new housing development in close proximity to the school. The authority has been successful in securing a S106 agreement for the expansion of the school following the completion of part of the proposed development. Reviewing the Welsh-medium provision available in the Ystradgynlais catchment will be a key a focus of this WESP, to ensure that the provision available meets the current demand for Welsh-medium provision and stimulates further growth in the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh in this area.

Federations

There is currently only one federation within Powys. This is a federation of Ysgol Glantwymyn, Ysgol Llanbrybmair and Ysgol Carno, three Welsh-medium primary schools in the Machynlleth area. The federation has been successful in terms of ensuring the continued provision of Welsh-

medium education in a rural, traditionally Welsh speaking area. The federation has secured permanent leadership, which has enabled standards within the three schools to improve.

There are no current plans for any further federations involving Welsh-medium provision, however federation and merger / amalgamations are options which are taken into consideration when reviewing school provision within the authority.

Assessing demand

The last survey to assess the demand for Welsh-medium education took place in 2010, and the results have helped to inform the primary and secondary modernisation programmes. The authority has been prepared to carry out a further survey since 2014 in line with the requirements of the 2013 Regulations, however there have been difficulties with accessing the information required to conduct this survey due to the fact that babies living in Powys are born in hospitals located in a number of local authority areas, and therefore their births are registered by these authorities. The authority remains committed to carrying out this work, and during the period of this WESP, will focus on carrying out assessments of individual areas as part of any work to establish new Welsh-medium provision.

The authority has also been looking at alternative methods of assessing potential latent demand for Welsh-medium education. This work remains at an early stage, however information provided by this work will be taken into consideration when planning future developments.

Providing information to parents

Information about Welsh-medium education is provided to parents in the Council's Admissions book, which all parents receive before applying for a primary school place for their child. In addition, information is available on the authority's website. Information is also provided by the Council's Family Information Service. The authority will work with key stakeholders, such as the Mentrau Iaith, to implement a Communications / Marketing Strategy in conjunction with the establishment of any new Welsh-medium provision, in line with the authority's Welsh-language Promotion Strategy, which is expected to be approved during 2017.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 1

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
1.1	Conclude the restructuring of early years education and ensure that a minimum of 24 Welsh-medium settings are commissioned	The authority's review of early years provision has been ongoing for a number of years, and is now nearing completion. The authority's proposal to raise the age of admission in Powys schools, which will be implemented from the 1st September, has been incorporated into the final stages of this review.	Settings to be commissioned and operating by 1st September 2017

		One of the aims of the review of early years provision is to ensure that all settings are funding at a viable level, and the authority responds to the increase in demand for Welsh-medium early years provision.	
1.2	Establish and build a Welsh-medium primary school in Welshpool	<p>The authority has been working on a review of primary provision in the town of Welshpool for a number of years, and is pleased that this project is now nearing completion.</p> <p>The authority anticipates that the establishment of a new Welsh-medium primary school in Welshpool will lead to an increased awareness of Welsh-medium education within the catchment area, and an increase in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education.</p>	<p>School to open in September 2017 on the current Ardwyn site</p> <p>New building to open in 2018/19</p>
1.3	Support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth to move along the language continuum	<p>The number of pupils accessing English-medium education within the Bro Hyddgen catchment area has decreased significantly over recent years.</p> <p>The authority will support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to move along the language continuum in order to provide a more viable model of delivery for the school, and to ensure that all pupils in the catchment area are fully bilingual by the time they leave school.</p>	Seek initial Cabinet approval by September 2017
1.4	Support Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys to move along the language continuum	<p>The number of pupils accessing English-medium education at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon has decreased significantly over recent years.</p> <p>The authority will support Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon to move along the language continuum in order to provide a more viable model of delivery for the school.</p>	Seek initial cabinet approval by September 2017
1.5	Review Welsh-medium primary provision in the Mid Powys area	There has been an increase in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in the Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells catchment areas.	Review to commence during the autumn term 2017

		The authority will review the current Welsh-medium provision in the area and will consider how to build on this growth, in order to ensure that the provision meets the aspiration of this WESP.	
1.6	Review Welsh-medium primary provision in the Ystradgynlais area	<p>There has been an increase in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in the Ystradgynlais area, which has put pressure on the places available at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, the only Welsh-medium primary provider in the catchment area.</p> <p>Whilst the authority has been successful in securing a S106 agreement for the expansion of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr following the completion of part of the proposed development, the authority recognises that the linguistic background of the Ystradgynlais area makes this a key strategic area in terms of growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers.</p> <p>The authority will review the current provision within the catchment area to identify opportunities to provide improved access to Welsh-medium education, in order to meet the evidenced demand for Welsh-medium education in the catchment area, and to promote further growth.</p>	<p>Short term measures to be agreed before the end of the 2016-17 academic year to ensure that the school can accommodate all prospective Welsh-medium pupils.</p> <p>A wider review of Welsh-medium provision in the area to agree a long term solution to commence during 2018.</p>
1.7	Establish provision for latecomers in Powys	<p>In contrast to other areas, there is currently no centre for latecomers in Powys.</p> <p>Support is provided to latecomers to Welsh-medium schools in the primary sector in response to requests from individual schools. Priority is given to pupils in year 2 and above. The support is delivered through a combination of teacher support and classroom assistant support. The support is normally for a period of 2 years, by which time the pupils are expected to be able to follow the whole curriculum through the medium of Welsh. The aim is that every pupil will follow the Welsh first language programme of study.</p> <p>The authority acknowledges that the opportunities for latecomers to</p>	Provision for latecomers to be established by the end of the 2018/19 academic year

		<p>Welsh-medium education to access Welsh language immersion provision are limited in Powys compared with the opportunities available in other areas. The authority will seek to address this during the period of this WESP.</p>	
--	--	---	--

The authority's view is that the objectives listed in relation to Outcome 1 can realistically be achieved within the 3 year period of this WESP.

However, it is acknowledged that there are other catchment areas within Powys where action needs to be taken to improve access to Welsh-medium primary provision. In particular, there are large areas of mid and south Powys, such as the Gwernyfed, John Beddoes / Presteigne and Crickhowell catchments, where there is currently no Welsh-medium primary provision, and there are other Powys towns where there is no designated Welsh-medium primary provision. It is anticipated that these areas will be the focus of the authority's next WESP.

Outcome 2 More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school

Current Position

14.1% of Year 9 pupils in Powys were assessed in Welsh (first language) in the 2015/16 academic year. This is an increase compared with the percentage of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in 2014/15 (12.5%) and 2013/14 (10.5%).

The percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) is much lower than the % of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in Year 2, however it must be noted that Welsh-medium pupils in the Ystradgynlais area transfer out of county to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for their secondary provision. In addition, historically a number of pupils from outside Powys have transferred into the county to access English-medium secondary provision, which has also impacted on the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language).

The data indicator refers to the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) rather than the percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education. It is likely that the percentage of pupils receiving Welsh-medium education is slightly lower than this. This is due to some pupils in dual stream schools choosing to access English-medium secondary provision but continuing to study Welsh (first language), and also due to some pupils choosing to transfer to their local English-medium secondary rather than the designated Welsh-medium secondary provider for their area, but continuing to study Welsh (first language).

The following targets have been set for the life of this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan:

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in Year 9	14.1%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%

Whilst these targets do not appear to be aspirational, the authority's view is that this is a realistic reflection of the current position. The authority has recognised that 'significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'. However, the authority has also recognised that it will take time for these changes to take effect. This indicator relates to the % of pupils assessed in Welsh in Year 9, therefore it will be many years before this indicator reflects any changes in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in the primary sector phase following any changes in the way Welsh-medium education is delivered. In

addition, it is possible that the authority's plans to provide equitable provision for Welsh-medium learners in the secondary sector will lead to a reduction in the proportion of pupils continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school in the short term.

Current Welsh-medium provision

Welsh-medium secondary provision is currently provided through a number of dual stream schools located throughout Powys. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils and the range of subjects provided at each school varies significantly, and decreases as pupils move through the schools. The authority's WESP for 2014-17 stated the authority's aim that all dual stream secondary schools would become category 2B secondary schools by September 2020, to ensure that pupils are able to access sufficient Welsh-medium provision to enable them to continue to develop their Welsh-medium skills during their time at secondary school. However, progress towards achieving this aim has been limited, particularly in respect of Key Stage 4 provision, and this is compounded by the challenging financial situation faced by the authority, which will make it increasingly difficult to achieve this target by 2020.

The authority is now keen to identify alternative options in order to improve the opportunities available to Welsh-medium pupils through all key stages. In January 2015, Cabinet approved the commencement of a Secondary Reorganisation Programme, which has two key objectives:

- **Reconfiguration of secondary and post-16 education** to create a sustainable infrastructure of schools and sixth forms across Powys, enabling a broader range of subjects to be provided from each school site, whilst minimising the need for inter-school travel and transport
- **Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education** with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units. This will enable schools to provide the appropriate curriculum offer and progression routes for Welsh-medium learners.

Subsequently, in March 2015, cabinet agreed that the Secondary Reorganisation Programme would be taken forward based on the following four priorities:

- Priority 1: Establishment of new Beacons Learning Campus, Brecon
- Priority 2: Review of secondary education in Mid Powys
- Priority 3: Review of Post-16 Education in Ystradgynlais
- Priority 4: Review of Secondary Education in North Powys, with a focus on Welsh medium provision

Priorities 1 and 2 have included consideration of Welsh-medium secondary provision. Work on Priority 4 has focussed on the establishment of one or more category 2A secondary schools in North Powys.

Pupil transfer

Overall, the number of pupils who do not transfer from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision is fairly small, although the authority acknowledges that there are issues in some areas, in particular Welshpool and Llandrindod Wells. The authority will seek to address these issues as part of its strategy to increase access to dedicated Welsh-medium provision.

However, it must be noted that the work that is ongoing to provide more robust linguistic progression in the secondary phase could lead to a reduction in Welsh-medium pupil numbers / the number of pupils continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school in the short term. Any such risks, as well as proposed actions to mitigate these risks, will be identified in the documentation issued as part of the statutory process outlined in the School Organisation Code, which the authority would be required to undertake in relation to any school reorganisation proposals.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 2

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
2.1	Continue with the work to establish one or more category 2A schools in north Powys	<p>In September 2015, the Council’s Cabinet determined that it ‘was desirable to establish a bi-lingual, category 2A school or schools in North Powys’, and for ‘a business case to be produced accordingly’.</p> <p>Work on the business case is ongoing, and it is expected to be considered by Cabinet in due course.</p>	<p>Business case to be considered by Cabinet during 2017</p> <p>Further actions to be determined following Cabinet’s decision</p>
2.2	Centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision for south and mid Powys	<p>The authority is concerned that the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is unviable. Currently there are 19 pupils in the stream. The authority has twice carried out consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, with provision for south and mid Powys being centralised in Builth Wells. However, due to legal reasons relating to other proposals that were also ongoing, it has not been possible to proceed with these proposals.</p> <p>On the 27th September 2016, Cabinet approved reconsulting on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. This process is currently ongoing.</p>	<p>A final decision is expected by June 2017 at the latest.</p> <p>If approved, Welsh-medium stream to close from the 31st August 2017.</p>

		<p>The authority's view is that centralising the provision for south and mid Powys in Builth Wells would ensure a larger critical mass of learners, which would improve the level of provision that could be offered to the Welsh-medium pupils currently attending both Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School, and would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.</p>	
2.3	<p>Formalise the arrangement with Neath Port Talbot in relation to pupil transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera</p>	<p>Free transport is provided to enable Welsh-medium learners in the Ystradgynlais area to access dedicated Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, located in Neath Port Talbot. However, there is no formal arrangement with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to support this arrangement.</p> <p>The authority's previous WESP for 2014-17 included a commitment to formalise this arrangement, however this was not achieved. It is now essential that this agreement is formalised, in order to ensure continued access to a full Welsh-medium curriculum for Powys learners.</p> <p>Should the council's Cabinet approve the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, as outlined in Outcome 2.2, the agreement with Neath Port Talbot County Borough would need to include pupils in the Sennybridge area. Therefore this will be taken forward once a final decision has been made in respect of the Welsh—medium stream at Brecon High School.</p>	<p>Formalising the arrangement with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to commence once a final decision has been made in respect of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.</p> <p>To commence before the end of December 2017 at the latest.</p>
2.4	<p>As part of the establishment of a new Welsh-medium primary school in Welshpool, increase the number of pupils from Welshpool continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to</p>	<p>The number and proportion of Welsh-medium pupils attending Ysgol Maesydre that transfer to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion to access Welsh-medium secondary provision is low.</p> <p>In conjunction with the establishment of a new Welsh-medium primary school in Welshpool, the authority will work with the headteacher and governing body of the new school to establish transition links with the</p>	<p>Work to commence following the establishment of the new Welsh-medium school in Welshpool in September 2017.</p>

	secondary school.	designated Welsh-medium secondary provider for the Welshpool area.	
2.5	Identify opportunities to establish late immersion provision	<p>The council does not currently provide any opportunities for pupils who have been educated through the medium of English in the primary sector to transfer to the Welsh-medium sector for their secondary education, however in the past, this provision was available at Builth Wells High School and Llanfyllin High School.</p> <p>During the lifetime of this WESP, the authority will identify opportunities to re-introduce this type of provision in Powys.</p> <p>The authority acknowledges that dedicated Welsh-medium secondary provision provides the best opportunity for pupils to be immersed in the Welsh language and the best opportunity for this type of scheme to be successful. Therefore, the establishment of provision for latecomers in the secondary phase will be a key consideration as part of any move to establish category 2A secondary provision.</p>	<p>During 2017/18, the authority will plan for the establishment of late immersion provision in Builth Wells in conjunction with the establishment of the new dual sited secondary school in mid Powys.</p> <p>The establishment of late immersion provision in north Powys will be taken forward as part of the work to establish one or more category 2A secondary schools in north Powys, as outlined in 2.1</p>

Outcome 3 More students aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 4 More students aged 14-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work-based learning

Current Position

In 2015/16, 85.19% of learners entered for GCSE Welsh First Language were entered for at least two further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

The following targets have been set for the live of this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan:

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of learners entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) entered for at least two further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh	85.19%	85.5%	86%	86.5%	87%

Whilst these targets do not appear to be aspirational, the authority's view is that this is a realistic reflection of the current position. The authority has recognised that 'significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'. However, the authority has also recognised that it will take time for these changes to take effect.

Current Welsh-medium provision

As outlined in relation to Outcome 2, Welsh-medium secondary provision through all phases of education is provided through a number of dual stream schools located throughout Powys. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils and the range of subjects provided at each school varies significantly. Due to the small number of pupils at some dual stream schools, it is particularly challenging to provide Welsh-medium subjects in Key Stages 4 and 5. The authority's WESP for 2014-17 stated the authority's aim that all dual stream secondary schools would become category 2B secondary schools by September 2020, to ensure that pupils are able to access sufficient Welsh-medium provision to

enable them to continue to develop their Welsh-medium skills during their time at secondary school. However, progress towards achieving this aim has been limited, particularly in respect of Key Stage 4 provision, and this is compounded by the challenging financial situation faced by the authority, which will make it increasingly difficult to achieve this target by 2020. The authority is now keen to identify alternative options in order to improve the opportunities available to Welsh-medium pupils through all key stages, which are outlined in Outcome 2.

Welsh-medium and bilingual sixth form provision is provided by four schools – Builth Wells High School, Caereinion High School, Llanfyllin High School and Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. Courses are commissioned by the authority through the North Powys Collaboration and the South Powys Collaboration.

The majority of vocational provision in Powys is provided by NPTC Group of Colleges at their campuses in Newtown and Brecon. However, there is currently no Welsh-medium provision at either campus. Some vocational courses are provided in Welsh or bilingually at some secondary schools, however the range of courses available is small.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcomes 3 and 4

The authority’s objectives in order to increase the number of GCSE subjects available, and therefore the number of students studying for GCSE subjects through the medium of Welsh are provided within the objectives for Outcome 2.

The authority’s objectives in order to increase the post-16 provision available, and therefore the number of students studying post-16 subjects through the medium of Welsh are also provided within the objectives for Outcome 2. This includes access to Welsh-medium vocational provision.

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
3/4.1	Continue to support schools to increase post-16 opportunities for Welsh-medium learners	The authority acknowledges that Welsh-medium opportunities at post-16 vary significantly throughout the county, and the situation is expected to worsen due to the continued decrease in pupil numbers, and subsequently the post-16 funding that the authority receives from Welsh Government. The authority receives a Welsh-medium post-16 uplift grant from the Welsh Government to support the funding of Welsh-medium post-16 courses. This is allocated to schools that offer Welsh-medium post 16 provision. The schools that receive this funding provide courses through the medium of Welsh, however the number and range of courses provided is limited.	Throughout the period of the WESP

		<p>Because of the small numbers involved, schools are increasingly looking for opportunities to merge classes and provide subjects bilingually, which does not meet the aspirations of this WESP.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth have a successful Post-16 partnership with Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig to provide enhanced subjects for the 14-19 year olds at the school. Builth Wells High School is currently collaborating with Coleg Sir Gar to provide Agriculture KS4 through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The authority will explore opportunities to collaborate with vocational providers to introduce new Welsh-medium vocational subjects.</p>	
--	--	---	--

Outcome 5 More students with advanced skills in Welsh

5.1 Welsh First Language

Current Position

Data relating to pupil attainment in Welsh First Language and targets for the life of this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are provided in Annex A.

Powys County Council supports all schools to improve Welsh language literacy standards by ensuring that the requirements of the National Curriculum, the National Literacy Framework and the new WJEC syllabus for Welsh First Language are met. Support for Welsh First Language is provided by the authority's Challenge Advisors, and in particular by the lead Challenge Advisor for Welsh. Training opportunities are provided by the local authority and ERW.

ERW officers work collaboratively to support local authorities across the region by identifying priorities for improving Welsh language and literacy skills across the region. An effective menu of support is agreed, and training resources are developed and used to deliver training across the region, in order to ensure consistency in the approach across the ERW region.

Local priorities are identified annually in the Level 3 plan for Literacy within the Schools Service's Accountability Framework, following a detailed evaluation of standards. Measurable targets and a clear timescale are identified and progress is monitored quarterly.

Opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils to use the language in formal and non-formal settings are provided by schools themselves, as well as Menter Maldwyn and Menter Brycheiniog, the Urdd and the YFC. During the period of the previous WESP, a wide range of opportunities were provided for all Powys schools to take part in Welsh language activities during the period leading up to the National Eisteddfod, which was held in Meifod in 2015. During the period of this WESP, the Urdd National Eisteddfod will be held near Builth Wells in 2018. This will provide many opportunities for pupils, particularly those in Mid and South Powys, to take part in Welsh language activities, and the authority will work with the Urdd and Menter Brycheiniog to ensure that opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils to take part in activities through the medium of Welsh are maximised.

The authority does not currently operate a Welsh Language Charter for Welsh-medium schools, however this will be introduced across Powys once further information is received from the Welsh Government. One school, Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, located in the Ystradgynlais area, is already taking part in 'Tanio'r Ddraig', the Welsh Language Charter introduced by Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and its feeder schools in 2014.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 5 – Welsh First Language

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
5.1.1	Increase the % of schools performing in the higher 50% of similar schools in Welsh First Language by providing training on aspects of Welsh and encouraging school to school support	<p>Currently, 41% (9 schools) are performing in the lower 50% of similar schools.</p> <p>School and local authority data is analysed annually and individual schools are targetted for support and challenge by Challenge Advisors during annual visits in the autumn term.</p> <p>School performance is evaluated annually through data analysis and visits to every school in the local authority.</p>	By 2020
5.1.2	<p>Increase the % of pupils that achieve the highest level with regard to Welsh First Language at the end of each Key Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foundation Phase – increase the % of pupils attaining Outcome 6 to 48% - Key Stage 2 – increase the % of pupils attaining Level 5 to 55% - Key Stage 3 – increase the % of pupils attaining Level 6 to 65% - GCSE – Increase the % of pupils achieving A* - B to 	<p>Foundation Phase The current percentage is 39.3%. This is above the national average of 36.2%</p> <p>Key Stage 2 The current percentage is 44.3%. This is above the national average of 38.0%. Powys is ranked 4th when compared with other authorities in Wales</p> <p>Key Stage 3 The current percentage is 52.8%. This is below the national average of 57.3%. However, small cohorts are a significant factor and result in fluctuations in percentages from year to year.</p> <p>Key Stage 4 The current percentage is 63.7% (provisional)</p>	<p>Increase the % of pupils achieving the higher outcomes / levels by 2020. (Consideration must be given to the changes in assessment arrangements as from September 2018 at Foundation Phase, key stage 2 and key stage 3)</p> <p>Key stage 4 – 80% to achieve the Level 2 by 2020.</p>

	80%		
5.1.3	Implement the Welsh Language Charter for Welsh First Language, with the aim that all primary schools that teach through the medium of Welsh are part of the scheme.	<p>The Council has observed the positive impact Welsh Language Charters have had on the use of Welsh outside the classroom in areas such as Gwynedd and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and its feeder schools.</p> <p>The Council is keen to provide opportunities for Powys schools to offer similar opportunities for pupils, and is currently awaiting guidance from the Welsh Government in relation to the national Welsh Language Charter.</p>	Timescale to be identified when further guidance is received from the Welsh Government.

5.2 Welsh Second Language

Current Position

Data relating to pupil attainment in Welsh Second Language and targets for the life of this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan are provided in Annex A.

Powys County Council supports all schools to improve Welsh second language through the Athrawon Bro service. This consists of 5 Athrawon Bro and 1 Uwch Athrawes Fro. Schools are categorised based on a set of criteria which is used to determine their support needs, and a greater level of support is provided to category 2 and 3 schools. The Athrawon Bro support the teaching and learning of Welsh as a Second Language and the development of pupils' bilingual skills from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4 in settings where Welsh is delivered as a second language. The team provide additional targeted support to schools pre and post inspection and provide standardization, moderation support for clusters to improve practice in primary schools and to raise standards. The team also provide a range of training courses for schools; these concentrate on improving language skills and teaching methodology. Follow-up support and mentoring sessions are also provided for teachers and learning support assistants who have completed Sabbatical Schemes.

Local priorities are identified annually in the Level 3 plan for Literacy within the Schools Service's Accountability Framework, following a detailed evaluation of standards. Measurable targets and a clear timescale are identified and progress is monitored quarterly.

Schools teaching Welsh as a Second Language are expected to provide a range of opportunities for pupils to use Welsh within the school day. There are also opportunities for pupils to access activities provided by Menter Maldwyn and Menter Brycheiniog, the Urdd and the YFC. A wide range of opportunities were provided for all Powys schools to take part in Welsh language activities during the period leading up to the National

Eisteddfod, which was held in Meifod in 2015. During the period of this WESP, the Urdd National Eisteddfod will be held near Builth Wells in 2018. This will provide many opportunities for pupils, particularly those in Mid and South Powys, to take part in Welsh language activities.

The authority has been working with other authorities within ERW to establish a Welsh Language Charter for schools teaching Welsh as a Second Language. 46 schools in Powys have received appropriate training to enable them to implement the Welsh Language Charter in their schools starting in September 2016/17.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 5 – Welsh Second Language

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
5.2.1	<p>Increase the % of pupils that achieve the highest level with regard to Welsh Second Language at the end of each Key Stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key Stage 2 – increase the % of pupils attaining Level 5 to 35% - Key Stage 3 – increase the % of pupils attaining Level 6 to 53% - GCSE – Increase the % of pupils achieving A* - B 	<p>Key Stage 2 The % of pupils achieving level 5+ in 2016 is 33.7%. This is well above the national average of 23.3%. The data evidences a significant upward trend over the last three years, with a 10.9 percentage point increase since 2014.</p> <p>Key Stage 3 The % of pupils achieving a level 6+ in 2016 is 52.1%. This is well above the national average of 44.6%. Again, the data evidences a significant upward trend over three years, with a 22 percentage point increase since 2014.</p>	<p>Key Stage 2 – increase the % of pupils attaining Level 5 to 35% by 2019</p> <p>Key Stage 3 – Increase the % of pupils attaining Level 6 to 53% by 2019</p> <p>Key Stage 4 – Increase the % of pupils achieving A*-B by 2019</p>
5.2.2	<p>Implement the Welsh Language Charter for Welsh Second Language schools, with the aim that all second language schools adopt the Charter and</p>	<p>The authority has been working with other authorities within ERW to establish a Welsh Language Charter for schools teaching Welsh as a Second Language. The aim for the Charter is to ensure that additional opportunities are provided for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom.</p>	<p>All schools teaching Welsh as a Second Language to adopt the Charter and achieve the bronze award by 2020.</p>

	achieve the bronze award during the period of the WESP.	46 schools in Powys have received appropriate training to enable them to implement the Welsh Language Charter in their schools starting in September 2016/17.	
--	---	---	--

Outcome 6 Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)

Current Position

Demand for Welsh-medium provision for additional learning needs in mainstream education is met through Welsh-medium schools or streams. Support is provided via the authority's Welsh-medium Special Educational Needs Advisory Teacher, and through informal networks of ALN support teachers who share resources.

Specialist Welsh-medium provision for pupils with ALN is available at the Specialist Centre at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, Ystradgynlais, and bilingual provision is available at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth. There are no facilities to provide Welsh-medium or bilingual provision at any other Specialist Centres throughout Powys.

There are no opportunities to access Welsh-medium Special School provision in Powys, however there are opportunities to access provision in neighbouring authorities where there is accessible provision available. Any request for a Powys pupil to access Welsh-medium provision in a Special School located in another authority would be considered by the authority's SEN Statutory Panel.

The authority collaborates with other authorities within the ERW consortium. This work has included pooling the support resources that are available to provide Welsh-medium ALN support.

The authority has no formal collaboration arrangement with any other authority with regard to ALN support, however there is an opportunity to work with Ceredigion local authority to access Welsh language support, particularly with regard to education psychology support.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 6

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
6.1	Carry out an audit of ALN provision	Whilst demand for Welsh-medium ALN provision is monitored on an on-going basis, and the authority aims to respond to individual requests, the authority has not carried out a formal audit of the provision available in order to identify areas which need to be developed further.	Audit to be carried out during 2017. Findings of audit to be shared with stakeholders through the Welsh-medium Education Forum and Welsh Language Forums during the 2017/18 academic year.

			Further actions to be identified following completion of the audit.
6.2	Ensure that consideration is given to the need to provide access to Welsh-medium provision as part of the review of Special Schools in North Powys which is currently ongoing	<p>There is currently no Welsh-medium Special School provision in Powys.</p> <p>The authority is currently reviewing Special School provision in North Powys. As part of this review, the authority will consider the need to provide access to Welsh-medium provision.</p>	Initial feasibility study to be completed by April 2017.

Outcome 7 Workforce planning and continuing professional development

Current position

Individual schools are responsible for recruiting teachers that have the appropriate skills to meet the school's needs. Where a school is seeking to appoint a teacher to teach through the medium of Welsh, this will be an essential requirement of the position. Overall, there doesn't appear to be a problem with recruiting teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh in the primary sector, however in some areas of Powys, recruitment is becoming increasingly challenging. Schools in some areas of Powys do have difficulty finding Welsh-speaking supply teachers.

However, there are significant difficulties with recruiting Welsh-speaking headteachers in the primary sector in Powys. Where schools are unable to appoint permanent headteachers, temporary arrangements are made, such as acting headships, which vary in length. Recruiting Welsh-speaking headteachers can be a particular issue in dual stream schools, and a number of dual stream schools have appointed headteachers who have limited Welsh language skills as they have been unable to recruit a Welsh-speaking headteacher. This is a concern, and does not meet the authority's aim to provide full immersion to Welsh-medium pupils. The authority aims to address this issue through the stated objectives in relation to Outcome 1.

In the secondary sector, the authority is aware that some schools have had difficulty recruiting teachers to teach through the medium of Welsh in certain subject areas. The authority aims to address these issues through the stated objectives in relation to Outcome 2.

The authority works in conjunction with Aberystwyth University to offer opportunities for staff working in English-medium schools and streams to attend the Welsh-language Sabbatical Scheme, in order to improve their Welsh language skills.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 7

Ref	Objective	Supporting Statement	Timescale
7.1	In conjunction with Aberystwyth University, offer an opportunity for teachers and teaching assistants throughout Powys to improve their Welsh language skills by offering Sabbatical courses at strategic locations across	49 teachers and 52 teaching assistants have attended Sabbatical courses since 2012. During the 2016/17 academic year, the course is being offered in Newtown.	Courses to be provided annually up until 2020

	Powys		
7.2	Provide post-course support for all Powys staff that participate in the Sabbatical scheme.	<p>Post-course support is provided by the Athrawon Bro service for Powys staff that participate in the Sabbatical scheme.</p> <p>This support consists of a revision course during the year after they completed the Sabbatical course. In addition, all staff that have attended Sabbatical courses receive regular support from the Athrawon Bro team during their regular visits to schools. Regular discussions take place with the headteachers of schools where staff have attended the Sabbatical scheme and targets are agreed to ensure that opportunities are provided for past participants in the scheme to continue to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>	<p>Post-course support to be provided for all staff that participate in Sabbatical courses.</p> <p>Support to planned annually in accordance with EIG funding.</p>

Annex 1 Data

Outcome 1 More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in Year 2	18.5%	19.0%	19.5%	20.0%	20.5%

The authority does not expect to see a significant increase in the percentage of seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh during the lifetime of this WESP.

Outcome 2 More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) in Year 9	14.1%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%

The authority does not expect to see a significant increase in the percentage of year 9 pupils taught through the medium of Welsh during the lifetime of this WESP.

How does this figure compare with percentage of learners in Year 6 who were assessed in Welsh (First Language) three years earlier?

% of learners in Year 6 assessed in Welsh (First Language) – 2012/13	% of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh (first language) – 2015/16	Difference in percentage
17.3% (229 pupils)	14.1% (176 pupils)	3.2% (53 pupils)

Whilst this appears to show that a large number of pupils do not continue to be assessed in Welsh (first language), it must be noted that Welsh-medium pupils from the Ystradgynlais area, and increasingly pupils from the Sennybridge area, transfer out of county to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. In 2012/13, there were 34 year 6 pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, in the Ystradgynlais area. 30 of these pupils transferred to Welsh-medium secondary provision out-of-county, however these pupils are not reflected in the figures above.

Effective transfer and linguistic continuity

i) Number and percentage of pupils attending non-maintained Welsh-medium settings and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings who transfer to Welsh-medium schools/streams

The following table provides data received from Mudiad Meithrin on the number and percentage of children attending Cylchoedd Meithrin in Powys that transferred to a Welsh-medium school or stream.

Cylch Meithrin	Number of pupils that transferred to a	% that transferred to a Welsh-medium
-----------------------	---	---

	Welsh-medium school or stream from September 2015 to July 2016	school or stream
Arch yr Enfys (Rhayader)	8	50%
Brecon	13	100%
Carno	10	90.91%
Dyffryn Banw	4	100%
Glantwymyn	10	100%
Llanbrynmair	9	100%
Llandrindod	13	76.47%
Llanfair Caereinion	11	64.71%
Llanfyllin	8	88.89%
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant	1	25%
Llansilin	1	100%
Machynlleth	44	64.71%
Newtown (Red)	0	0%
Newtown (Yellow)	21	87.50%
Penybontfawr	9	100%
Pontrobert	4	80%
Sennybridge	11	40.74%
Welshpool	12	80%

- ii) **Number and percentage of pupils studying through the medium of Welsh at the end of the Foundation Phase who continue to access Welsh-medium provision in Key Stage 2**

	Total number of year 2 pupils in Welsh-medium education (PLASC January 2016)	Total number of year 3 pupils in Welsh-medium education (Sept. 2016)	% of pupils continuing in Welsh-medium education at the school

Ardwyn Nursery and Infants School / Ysgol Maesydre	10	10	100%
Builth Wells CP School	14	14	100%
Llanfair Caereinion CP School	11	11	100%
Llanfyllin CP School	9	9	100%
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant CP School	9	9	100%
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	24	23	96%
Rhayader C in W School	7	7	100%
Sennybridge CP School	6	5	83%
Ysgol Carno	6	6	100%
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	27	27	100%
Ysgol Dolafon	2	1	50%
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	4	4	100%
Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon	16	16	100%
Ysgol Glantwymyn	12	12	100%
Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr	30	33	110%
Ysgol Llanbrynmair	7	7	100%
Ysgol Llanerfyl	4	4	100%
Ysgol Pennant	5	6	120%
Ysgol Pontrobert	3	3	100%
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	11	11	100%
Ysgol Trefonnen	9	8	89%
Ysgol y Bannau	16	15	94%
Powys Total	242	241	99.5%

iii) **Number and percentage of pupils in Welsh-medium schools/streams transferring to Welsh-medium secondary schools/streams at the end of Key Stage 2**

	Total number of year 6 pupils	Total number of pupils	% of pupils transferring to
--	-------------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------------

	in Welsh-medium education (PLASC January 2016)	transferring to Welsh-medium secondary schools/streams (Sept. 2016)	Welsh-medium schools/streams
Ardwyn Nursery and Infants School / Ysgol Maesydre	3	0	0%
Builth Wells CP School	20	17	85%
Llanfair Caereinion CP School	12	12	100%
Llanfyllin CP School	5	4	80%
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant CP School	5	5	100%
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	19	18	95%
Rhayader C in W School	6	6	100%
Sennybridge CP School	6	4	67%
Ysgol Carno	4	2	50%
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	23	23	100%
Ysgol Dolafon	0	N/A	N/A
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	8	5	63%
Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon	8	7	88%
Ysgol Glantwymyn	7	2	71%
Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr	33	23	70%
Ysgol Llanbrynmair	8	6	75%
Ysgol Llanerfyl	8	6	75%
Ysgol Pennant	10	9	90%
Ysgol Pontrobert	8	8	100%
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	3	2	66%
Ysgol Trefonnen	12	2	17%
Ysgol y Bannau	20	13	65%
Powys Total	228	174	76%

iv) **Number and percentage of pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in Key Stage 3 who continue to study through the medium of Welsh in Key Stage 4**

	Total number of year 9 pupils	Total number of year 10 pupils	% of pupils continuing in
--	-------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------

	in Welsh-medium/ bilingual education (Welsh-medium returns 2015-16)	in Welsh-medium/ bilingual education (Information provided by schools, November 2016)	Welsh-medium/ bilingual education
Brecon High School	4	3	75%
Builth Wells High School	31	30	97%
Caereinion High School	50	49	98%
Llanfyllin High School	22	21	95%
Llanidloes High School	16	15	94%
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	36	43	119%

Outcome 3 More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 4 More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work-based learning

Increasing the percentage of learners aged 14 -16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of Year 11 learners who are entered for GCSE Welsh First Language who are studying for 5 or more <u>further</u> Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh	51.85%	52%	52.5%	53%	53.5%
% of Year 11 learners who are entered for GCSE Welsh First Language who are studying for 2 or more <u>further</u> Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh	85.19%	85.5%	86%	86.5%	87%

The authority does not expect to see a significant increase in the percentage of year 11 pupils studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh during the lifetime of this WESP.

Increasing the percentage of learners aged 16-19 who study subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools

	Current Position – 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of learners aged 16-19 who study 2 or more subjects through the medium of Welsh	1.76% (22 pupils)	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.1%
% of learners aged 16-19 who study 2 or more subjects through the medium of Welsh or bilingually	2.16% (27 pupils)	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.5%

The authority does not expect to see a significant increase in the percentage of learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh or bilingually during the lifetime of this WESP.

Outcome 5 More learners with higher skills in Welsh

5.1 Improving provision and standards in Welsh First Language

	Current Position 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
% of learners at the end of the Foundation Phase who reach at least Foundation Phase	93.8%	94%	94.2%	94.6%	94.8%

Outcome 5 in Language, Literacy and communication skills					
% of learners at the end of Key Stage 2 who reach at least Level 4 in teacher assessment in Welsh	95.6%	96.5%	96.7%	96.8%	97%
% of learners at the end of Key Stage 3 who reach at least Level 5 in teacher assessment in Welsh	94.3%	94.5%	95%	95.5%	96%
% of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A* - C in GCSE Welsh first language	65.2%	77%	77%	77%	77%

5.2 Improving provision and standards in Welsh Second Language

	Current Position 2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20

% of learners at the end of Key Stage 2 who reach at least Level 4 in the teacher assessment of Welsh Second Language	81.8%	82%	82.5%	83%	83.5%
% of learners at the end of Key Stage 3 who reach at least Level 5 in the teacher assessment of Welsh Second Language	86.6%	87%	87.3%	87.6%	88%
% of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A* - C in GCSE Welsh Second Language Full Course	71.7%	75%	75%	75%	75%
% of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A* - C in GCSE Welsh Second Language Short Course	58.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

More learners with higher-level Welsh language skills

Number of GCSE Welsh First Language Entries in 2014	Number of A Level Welsh First Language Entries in 2016
150	15

Number of GCSE Welsh Second Language Entries in 2014	Number of A Level Welsh Second Language Entries in 2016
Full Course – 575 Short Course – 518	19

Outcome 6 Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs

No data required

Outcome 7 Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development

No data required

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix B

Consultation Responses



Cyngor Sir Powys
school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

24/01/2017

Annwyl gyfai!l

Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg – ymgynghoriad ar gynllun drafft

1.1 Mae Comisiynydd y Gymraeg yn croesawu'r cyfle i gynnig sylwadau ar eich Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg drafft.

2 Comisiynydd y Gymraeg

2.1 Prif nod y Comisiynydd yw hybu a hwyluso defnyddio'r Gymraeg. Mae dwy egwyddor yn sail i waith y Comisiynydd

- Ni ddylid trin y Gymraeg yn llai ffafriol na'r Saesneg yng Nghymru;
- Dylai personau yng Nghymru allu byw eu bywydau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg os ydynt yn dymuno gwneud hynny.

2.2 Un o amcanion strategol y Comisiynydd yw dylanwadu ar yr ystyriaeth a roddir i'r Gymraeg mewn datblygiadau polisi. Darperir y sylwadau isod i'r perwyl hwnnw, ac yn unol â rôl y Comisiynydd fel eiriolwr annibynnol ar ran siaradwyr Cymraeg yng Nghymru y gallai'r ymgynghoriad hwn effeithio arnynt. Un o'r pwerau statudol a roddir i Gomisiynydd y Gymraeg gan Fesur y Gymraeg (Cymru) 2011 yw cynnig cyngor a / neu sylwadau i unrhyw berson a cyfiwynir y sylwadau isod yn unol â hynny.

3 Cyd-destun

3.1 Nod Llywodraeth Cymru yw sicrhau miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Er mwyn cyflawni hynny bydd angen creu llawer yn fwy o siaradwyr Cymraeg ac mae consensws mai'r gyfundrefn addysg fydd yr allwedd i hynny. Lle fo mwyafrif o siaradwyr Cymraeg hŷn wedi dysgu'r Gymraeg gartref, yn yr ysgol mae 4 allan o

Comisiynydd y Gymraeg
Siambrau'r Farchnad
5-7 Heol Eglwys Fair
Caerdydd CF10 1AT

0845 6033 221
post@comisiynyddygybraeg.org
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

comisiynyddygybraeg.org

Welsh Language Commissioner
Market Chambers
5-7 St Mary Street
Cardiff CF10 1AT

0845 6033 221
post@welshlanguagecommissioner.org
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

welshlanguagecommissioner.org



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

bob 5 o siaradwyr Cymraeg ifanc wedi dysgu'r iaith. Noda'r Llywodraeth y canlynol yn ei strategaeth newydd ar gyfer yr iaith Gymraeg:

"Rydym yn cydnabod mai'r system addysg statudol yw'r prif ddull ar gyfer sicrhau bod plant yn gallu datblygu eu sgiliau Cymraeg, ac ar gyfer creu siaradwyr newydd. Mae data ysgolion yn dweud wrthym faint o blant sy'n cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Ar hyn o bryd mae tua 22 y cant (sef 7,900) o ddysgwyr ym Mlwyddyn 2 yn cael eu hasesu yn Gymraeg (iaith gyntaf). Petai'r ganran hon yn codi i 50 y cant yna byddai hyn yn oddeutu 18,000 o ddysgwyr (ar sail maint y garfan o ddysgwyr ym Mlwyddyn 2 yn 2015), sef tua 10,000 yn ychwanegol o blant. Mae hyn yn cyfateb i oddeutu 331 o ddosbarthiadau newydd cyfrwng Cymraeg drwy Gymru gyfan. Mae hyn yn dangos pwysigrwydd ymrwymiad y system addysg i greu miliwn o siaradwyr."

- 3.2 Mae ychydig dros chwarter o ysgolion Cymru yn rhai cyfrwng Cymraeg ac mae 16% o blant Cymru yn derbyn eu haddysg yn yr ysgolion hyn, gyda mwyafrif y gweddill yn derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Saesneg. Ers 1999 mae'n ofynnol i bob plentyn yng Nghymru ddysgu'r Gymraeg hyd at 16 oed ac addysgir y Gymraeg fel pwnc o fewn yr ysgolion hyn i gyd. Bu cryn felniadaeth yn ddiweddar o lwyddiant y ddarpariaeth honno i greu siaradwyr Cymraeg rhugl, yn enwedig o ran y rheini sy'n dilyn y cwrs byr Cymraeg ail iaith, ac mae galw wedi bod am addysgu pob plentyn o leiaf yn rhannol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Nodwyd o fewn Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg Llywodraeth Cymru

"Derbynnir yn gyffredinol y dylai o leiaf tua 70% o amser y cwricwlwm fod drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg er mwyn i ddysgwyr feistrolï'r iaith yn ddigon cadarn i'w galluogi i'w defnyddio mewn amrywiaeth eang o gyd-destunau yn hyderus ac yn rhugl."

- 3.3 Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, ni welwyd cynnydd gwirioneddol yn y nifer o blant 0-3 oed sy'n derbyn eu gofal trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a'r nifer o blant sy'n derbyn addysg statudol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Aros yn ei unfan wnaeth y canran o blant Cymru sy'n cael eu hasesu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym Mlwyddyn 2 yn yr ysgol a cwmpo wnaeth nifer y plant sy'n cael eu hasesu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym Mlwyddyn 9. Yn 2014/15, 5.1% yn unig o fyfyrwyr sefydliadau addysg uwch Cymru wnaeth dderbyn rhywfaint o'u haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Yn yr un flwyddyn, cyflawnwyd llai nag 0.1% o weithgareddau dysgu mewn colegau addysg bellach trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a llai na 8% ohonynt yn rhannol trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Isel iawn hefyd yw nifer y prentisiaid sy'n dysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog. Ar sail y wybodaeth uchod, gellir ond casglu y bydd angen newid sylweddol iawn i gyfrwng iaith gofal ac addysg ein plant a phobl ifanc dros y blynyddoedd nesaf, os am gyflawni'r targed o greu miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Bydd angen i bob sir yng Nghymru gyfrannu at hynny trwy gynyddu'r ddarpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymru a / neu ddenu mwy o blant i ddysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ymhob cyfnod addysg.

- 3.4 Bellach mae'n ofynnol ar rhai sefydliadau gan gynnwys awdurdodau lleol Cymru i gyfrannu at gyflawni'r nodau llesiant a bennwyd yn Neddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015. Un o'r rheini yw '*Cymru â diwylliant bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu*'. Un ffordd y gall awdurdodau lleol gyfrannu at gyflawni'r nod hwnnw yw drwy gryfhau eu darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg a thrwy hynny greu mwy o siaradwyr Gymraeg. Mae Mesur y Gymraeg (Cymru) 2011 wedi arwain at osod dyletswyddau iaith statudol ar awdurdodau lleol ar ffurf Safonau'r Gymraeg. Er nad yw'r safonau hynny'n ymwneud yn benodol â'r ddarpariaeth addysgol, mae dyletswydd ar awdurdodau i hybu'r Gymraeg ac eto mae cryfhau'r ddarpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg a thrwy hynny greu mwy o siaradwyr Gymraeg yn un ffordd o wneud hynny. Wrth baratoi Cynlluniau Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg, awgrymaf y dylai awdurdodau lleol roi ystyriaeth i botensial y cynlluniau hyn i gyfrannu at weithredu'r dyletswyddau uchod, yn ogystal â gofynion penodol Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013.

4 Cynlluniau Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg

- 4.1 Ers cyhoeddi'r Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Gymraeg yn 2010, bu'n ofynnol ar awdurdodau lleol i baratoi Cynlluniau Strategaeth Gymraeg Mewn Addysg a'u cyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru. Rhoddodd Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 sylfaen statudol i'r cynlluniau hynny. Gwerthuswyd llwyddiant y cynlluniau hyn gan amryw sefydliadau yn ddiweddar.
- 4.2 Yn yr adroddiad ar ei werthusiad o lwyddiant y Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Gymraeg daw Arad i'r casgliad bod cynlluniau strategol wedi gwella'r modd y cynllunnir addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg a'u bod wedi codi proffil y ddarpariaeth honno. Er hynny, casglwyd nad yw'r cynlluniau wedi cyflawni cynnydd ar y raddfa y dymunwyd ei gyflawni ac mai anghyson fu effaith y cynlluniau o un awdurdod lleol i'r llall.
- 4.3 Yn sgil ymchwiliad i'r cynlluniau strategol, daeth Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg y pedwerydd Cynulliad Cenedlaethol i'r casgliad bod cryn botensial i'r cynlluniau hyn lwyddo ond mai siomedig fu eu heffaith ar y gyfundrefn addysg yn ôl mwyafrif yr ymatebwyr i'w hymchwiliad. Tynnodd y pwyllgor sylw hefyd at ddiffyg cysondeb rhwng amcanion cenedlaethol ar gyfer addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg a'r cynlluniau strategol sirol.
- 4.4 Wrth adrodd ar effaith a dylanwad y cynlluniau strategol ym mis Medi eleni, daeth Estyn i gasgliadau tebyg i'r uchod, gan gydnabod potensial sylweddol y cynlluniau i lwyddo ond hefyd anghysondeb o ran eu heffaith hyd yma o un awdurdod lleol i'r llall.
- 4.5 Eleni gofynnwyd i awdurdodau lleol ddiwygio'u cynlluniau yn unol â chanllawiau newydd a gyflwynwyd gan y Llywodraeth a cynhelir yr ymgynghoriad hwn yn unol â'r broses a sefydlwyd er mwyn gwneud hynny.
- 4.6 Derbynnir yn gyffredinol mai twf mewn addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg fydd yr allwedd i gyflawni'r targed o filiwn o siaradwyr Gymraeg. Mae canfyddiadau'r rheini sydd wedi



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

gwerthuso llwyddiant y cynlluniau strategol hyd yma yn cadarnhau na fu llawer o gynnydd i'r cyfeiriad hwnnw dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf ar draws y cyfnodau addysg. Bydd angen i'r cynlluniau strategol newydd sy'n cael eu paratoi ar hyn o bryd arwain at gynnydd ar raddfa uchel iawn ymhob cwr o Gymru, os am ddod yn agos at gyflawni targed uchelgeisiol y Llywodraeth. Dyna'r cyd-destun ar gyfer paratoi'r cynlluniau hyn eleni a'u gweithredu dros y blynyddoedd nesaf.

- 4.7 Yn ddiweddar cyhoeddais fy adroddiad 5-mlynedd cyntaf ar sefyllfa'r iaith Gymraeg ar sail dadansoddiad o ystod eang o dystiolaeth a data. Rhoddir cryn sylw yn yr adroddiad hwnnw i sefyllfa addysg cyfrwng Gymraeg a'r heriau sy'n ein wynebu wrth geisio cryfhau'r ddarpariaeth honno. Un o ganfyddiadau'r adroddiad yw bod angen gwella dilyniant mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o un cyfnod addysg i'r llall. Dengys y dystiolaeth nad yw canolbwyntio ar gryfhau addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn un cyfnod addysg yn llwyddo i greu niferoedd sylweddol o slaradwyr Cymraeg newydd a rhugl. Yn hytrach, mae angen cryfhau'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg o'r cychwyn cyntaf ac hefyd ymhob cyfnod dilynol, er mwyn sicrhau bod mwy o unigolion yn dilyn taith gyfan o ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg gydol eu cyfnod mewn gofal ac addysg. Dengys yr adroddiad gydberthynas glir rhwng pa mor gynnar mewn bywyd y mae rhywun yn dysgu'r Gymraeg a'u rhuglder ar ddiwedd y daith. Mae'r adroddiad hefyd yn nodi'r golled mewn sgiliau Cymraeg ymysg llawer o unigolion wedi iddynt adael yr ysgol ac un rheswm posib am hynny yw diffyg dysgu ac addysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg o fewn addysg ôl-16. Mae'r dystiolaeth yma'n ategu'r angen i Gynlluniau Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg roi sylw digonol i gryfhau'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ymhob cyfnod addysg, o'r cyfnod gofal plant i'r ddarpariaeth ôl-16. Yn amlwg mae gafaél awdurdodau lleol yn gryfach dros rhai o'r cyfnodau addysg hyn nac eraill. Felly bydd cydweithio ag eraill wrth gynllunio a rhoi mesurau ar waith i gryfhau'r ddarpariaeth addysg a gofal cyfrwng Cymraeg ymhob cyfnod yn allweddol.

5 Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg Cyngor Sir Powys 2017-2020

- 5.1 Ymysg pethau eraill, mae Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 yn nodi y dylai Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg Mewn Addysg gynnwys:
- Cynigion i wella'r broses o gynllunio'r modd y mae addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ("addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg") yn cael ei darparu yn ei ardal;
 - Cynigion i wella safonau addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a safonau addysgu Cymraeg yn ei ardal.
 - Targedau'r awdurdod lleol ar gyfer gwella'r broses o gynllunio'r modd y mae addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cael ei darparu yn ei ardal ac ar gyfer gwella safonau'r addysg honno ac addysgu Cymraeg yn ei ardal.
- 5.2 Cynigir yn adran 1 y cynllun hwn weledigaeth glir ar gyfer tyfu a gwella'r ddarpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys. Ceir esboniad eglur o'r gwendidau yn y dull presennol o ddarparu addysg, yn enwedig y diffyg cydraddoldeb i ddysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg, a chynigir gweledigaeth o sicrhau



Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner

darpariaeth gyfartal ar gyfer dysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys. Mae'r adran hon yn ymateb i ofynion canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru, gan gynnwys cynnig gwybodaeth am y Fforwm Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg, a'r cyd-destun polisi a blaenoriaethau Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r amcanion a nodwyd ar gyfer 2017-2020 yn eglur ac yn ystyried nifer o agweddau allweddol o ddatblygu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, gan gynnwys darpariaeth blynyddoedd cynnar, darpariaeth yn y sector cynradd a dilyniant leithyddol trwy bob cyfnod allweddol.

- 5.3 Mae'r cynllun yn ymateb i bron holl ofynion canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru, ac mae'r holl ddata sy'n ofynnol wedi ei gynnwys. Mae'r gofynlon prin hynny nad ydynt wedi eu diwallu gan y cynllun yn gynnwys, er enghraifft, cofnodi'r union ysgolion sydd o fewn trothwy capasiti o 10% neu'n agosáu at hynny, o dan ddeiliant 1.
- 5.4 Mae adran 2 y cynllun yn cynnig dadansoddiad ffeithiol o sefyllfa bresennol addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys, y gwendidau yn y ddarpariaeth bresennol a'r heriau sydd yn wynebu'r awdurdod wrth geisio gwella a thyfu darpariaeth. O dan bob deiliant, cynigir trosolwg o'r sefyllfa sydd ohoni, a hynny mewn ffordd strwythuredig, eglur. Yn ogystal, dangosir ymwybyddiaeth o'r prif dueddiadau o ran niferoedd disgyblion dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Gellir cryfhau'r drafodaeth o dan ddeiliant 6 gan gynnig sylwadau ar ddigonolrwydd y ddarpariaeth bresennol, ac unrhyw fyfychau sydd eisoes wedi eu nodi, er y nodir y bydd archwiliad ffurfiol yn cael ei gynnal yn 2017.
- 5.5 Cynigir cynllun heriol o ganolf darpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gyfer de a chanolbarth Powys. Mae'r cynllun hwn yn amcan allweddol o dan ddeiliannau 2 a 7, ac yn debygol o ddylanwadu ar amcanion deiliannau 3 a 4 yn ogystal. Fel y mae'r Cynllun Strategol yn cydnabod, fe fydd cyfres o heriau yn cyd-fynd â chanoli darpariaeth fel hyn. Er enghraifft, nodir y bydd y "gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo i ddarparu llwybr dilyniant mwy cadarn yn y cyfnod uwchradd yn debygol o arwain ar leihad yng nghyfran y disgyblion sy'n trosglwyddo i ddarpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y tymor byr". Gan dderbyn bod pwysau ar awdurdodau lleol i wneud penderfyniadau anodd ynghylch ad-drefnu addysg ar hyn o bryd, rhaid cydnabod y disgwyliad ar bob awdurdod i gynyddu dros amser nifer y plant a phobl ifanc sy'n derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Yn unol â hynny, dylid cefnogi unrhyw fwiadau sy'n peri risg i nifer y blant sy'n derbyn eu haddysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg gyda mesurau cadarn i liniaru ac i wrthbwysu'r risg hwnnw. Byddai'r awdurdod yn gweithredu'n groes i ofynion Deddf Safonau a Threfnladaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 trwy wneud penderfyniadau a fyddai'n lleihau'r nifer o blant mewn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, heb gymryd camau ar yr un pryd i sicrhau twf ar y cyfan, dros amser.
- 5.6 O ystyried targed cenedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050, disgwyliar i awdurdodau fod yn uchelgeisiol wrth anelu at gynydd.



Cynigir rhai targedau uchelgeisiol yn y cynllun, er enghraifft mewn perthynas â deilliant 5. Ar yr un pryd, cynigir rhai targedau eraill sydd yn amcanestyniadau yn hytrach na thargedau ar gyfer twf. Nodir bod yr awdurdod yn cynllunio i drawsnewid y dull o ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys a bod hynny'n annhebygol o arwain at gynnydd yn y ffigyrau dros gyfnod y cynllun hwn. Dylai'r cynllun ddangos yn glir sut bydd y cynlluniau hynny yn arwain at dwf hirdymor. Os na ellir dangos hynny, rhaid cwestiynu priodoldeb y cynlluniau hynny, yng nghyd destun gofynion Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgollon (Cymru) 2013.

- 5.7 Ar y cyfan, mae'r amcanion a gynigwyd o dan bob deilliant yn dangos dealltwriaeth o bwysigrwydd cynllunio ar gyfer gwella a thyfu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Cynigir amcanion sydd yn ffocysu ar ddatblygu darpariaeth newydd, gwella safon yr hyn sydd eisoes yn cael ei ddarparu a gwella cyrhaeddiad. Yn ogystal, mae nifer o'r amcanion yn cynnig cynlluniau pendant ar gyfer y cyfnod 2017-2020, er enghraifft sefydlu ac adelladu ysgol gynradd yn y Trallwng a chytuno ar leoliad ar gyfer darpariaeth drochi i hwyrddyfodiad. Croesewir yr amserlen a gynigir ar gyfer yr amcanion. Cynigir ond dau amcan o dan ddeilliannau 6 a 7. Tybiwn fod rhai cynlluniau o dan ddeilliant 6 yn ddibynnol ar ganlyniadau'r archwiliad ffurfiol a gaiff ei gynnal yn 2017. Gan dderbyn hynny, credwn y gallasai'r awdurdod bennu rhai amcanion ar gyfer gwella'r ddarpariaeth ADY cyfrwng Cymraeg ar sail tystiolaeth sydd eisoes ar gael. O dan ddeilliant 7, cynigir amcanion eglur a phenodol ynglŷn â'r cynllun sabothol. Nodir hefyd rhai heriau o dan deilliant 7 a dylai'r cynllun gynnwys mesurau clir a chadarn i fynd i'r afael â'r heriau hynny.
- 5.8 Gellir cryfhau adran 2 y cynllun trwy gynnig camau pendant i wireddu'r nod cyffredinol o welliant. Er enghraifft, o dan ddeilliant 1 gellir nodi sut yn union fydd yr awdurdod yn cefnogi Ysgol Bro Hyddgen i symud ar hyd y continwmm ieithyddol, ac ymhelaethu ar gynlluniau buddsoddiad cyfalaf fel rhan o Fand B rhaglen Ysgollon yr 21ain Ganrif. O dan ddeilliant 2, gellir egluro sut yn union y byddwch yn ffurfioli'r trefniant trosglwyddo disgyblion â Chastell-nedd Port Talbot.
- 5.9 Ni roddir pwyslais digonol ar gynlluniau i wella a thyfu'r ddarpariaeth o dan ddeilliannau 5 a 7. Yn hytrach canolbwyntir ar ddisgrifio'r ddarpariaeth bresennol. Gellir cryfhau'r adran hon drwy esbonio pa gamau gweithredu y bydd angen eu cymryd er mwyn gwireddu'r amcanion. O dan ddeilliant 7, gellir cryfhau'r testun drwy nodi'n eglur y camau gellir eu cymryd i wneud defnydd mwy strategol o'r cynllun sabothol, yn enwedig o ran hybu diddordeb ymysg y gweithlu addysg.
- 5.10 I grynhoi'r sylwadau uchod, cynigir yn y cynllun strategol weledigaeth glir ar gyfer gwella a thyfu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys, ac arddangosir dealltwriaeth dda o'r sefyllfa bresennol a'r heriau sydd ynghlwm â thyfu'r ddarpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Cynigir rhai cynlluniau pendant a rhai targedau uchelgeisiol ar gyfer twf. Wrth ddatblygu'r cynllun ymhellach, awgrymwn i dylid cysoni holl adrannau'r cynllun trwy sicrhau bod ei holl dargedau ac amcanion yn rhannu uchelgais Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer twf. Yn ogystal, dylid pennu mesurau lliniaru



**Comisiynydd y
Gymraeg
Welsh Language
Commissioner**

cadarn ar gyfer mynd i'r afael ag unrhyw heriau neu risgiau sydd wedi eu hadnabod wrth geisio sicrhau twf.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

Huw Gapper
Ar ran Comisiynydd y Gymraeg

24/01/2017

Dear friend

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan – consultation on draft plan

1.1 The Welsh Language Commissioner welcomes the opportunity to comment on your draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

2 The Welsh Language Commissioner

2.1 The principal aim of the Commissioner is to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language. Two principles underpin the Commissioner's work:

- o In Wales, the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than the English language
- o Persons in Wales should be able to live their lives through the medium of the Welsh language if they choose to do so

2.2 One of the Language Commissioner's strategic objectives is to influence the consideration given to the Welsh language in policy developments. The comments below are provided for that purpose, in accordance with the Commissioner's role as an independent advocate on behalf of Welsh speakers in Wales who could be affected by this consultation. One of the statutory powers afforded to the Welsh Language Commissioner by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 is to offer advice and/or comments to any person, and the comments below are presented in accordance with that power.

3 Context

3.1 The Welsh Government's aim is to ensure a million Welsh speakers by 2050. In order to achieve this, many more Welsh speakers will need to be created, and there is consensus that the education system will be the key to that. Where the majority of older Welsh speakers have learned the language at home; 4 out of every 5 young Welsh speakers have learned the language in school. In its new strategy for the Welsh Language, the Government states the following:

"We recognise that the education system is the main way for ensuring that children are able to develop their Welsh skills, and for creating new speakers. Data from schools tells us how many children are educated through the medium of Welsh. Currently around 22 per cent (about 7,900) of learners in year 2 are assessed in Welsh (first language). If this were to increase to 50 per cent, this would mean approximately 18,000 learners (on the basis of the size of the year 2 cohort in 2015), which would mean about 10,000 additional children. This equates to about 331 new Welsh-medium classes across

Wales, and shows the importance of the education system's commitment to creating a million speakers”.

3.2 A little over quarter of schools in Wales are Welsh medium schools, and 16% of children in Wales are educated in these schools, with the majority of the remainder being educated through the medium of English. Since 1999 it is mandatory for every child in Wales to learn Welsh up to 16 years of age, and Welsh is taught as a subject in all these schools. There has been considerable criticism recently of the success of that provision in regard to creating fluent Welsh speakers, especially by parents following the second language short Welsh course, and there has been demand to teach each child at least partially through the medium of Welsh. Within the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy, it was stated:

“It is generally accepted that at least 70% of the curriculum time should be through the medium of Welsh in order for learners to master the language to such a level that they can use it in a variety of contexts confidently and fluently.”

3.3 Over recent years, there has been no real increase in the number of children 0-3 years of age who receive Welsh medium care and the number of children receiving statutory education through the medium of Welsh. The percentage of children in Wales who are assessed through the medium of Welsh in Year 2 at school stayed the same, and the number of children who are assessed through the medium of Welsh in Year 9 fell. In 2014/15, only 5.1% of students at higher education institutions in Wales received some of their education through the medium of Welsh. In the same year, less than 0.1% of teaching activities in further education colleges were undertaken through the medium of Welsh and under 8% of those were partially through the medium of Welsh. Also the number of apprentices learning through the medium of Welsh or bilingually is very low. Based on the information above, it could be concluded that substantial change will be needed to the language medium of our children's and young people's care and education over the coming years if we are to reach the target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Every county in Wales will need to contribute to that target by increasing Welsh medium education provision and / or attracting more children to learn through the medium of Welsh at every key stage.

3.4 Now it is mandatory for some institutions, including Welsh local authorities, to contribute to achieving the welfare aims outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. One of those aims is to secure a 'Wales with a lively culture where the Welsh language is flourishing'. One way in which local authorities can contribute to achieving that aim is by strengthening their Welsh medium education provision, thus creating more Welsh speakers. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 has led to local authorities having statutory language duties placed upon them in the form of Welsh Language Standards. Although these standards are not directly connected with education provision, authorities have a duty to promote the Welsh language and strengthening Welsh medium education provision and thus creating more Welsh speakers is one way of achieving that. When drawing up Welsh in Education Strategic Plans, I suggest that local authorities should consider the potential of these plans to contribute to fulfilling the above duties, in addition to the specific requirements of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

4 Welsh in Education Strategic Plans

4.1 Since publishing the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in 2010, it has been mandatory for local authorities to draw up a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and present them to the Welsh Government. A statutory basis to these plans was provided through the Schools Standards and Organisations (Wales) Act 2013. The success of these plans was recently evaluated by various institutions.

4.2 In its evaluation report on the success of the Welsh Medium Education Strategy, Arad concluded that strategic plans have improved the way in which Welsh medium education is planned and had raised the profile of that provision. However, it concluded that the plans have not achieved progress on the desired scale and that the impact of plans was inconsistent from one authority to the next.

4.3 Following an inquiry into strategic plans, the Committee for Children, Young People and Education of the fourth National Assembly concluded there was considerable potential for these plans to succeed but that their impact on the education system was disappointing according to the majority of respondents to their inquiry. The committee also pointed out the lack of consistency between national objectives for Welsh medium education and counties' strategic plans.

4.4 While reporting on the impact and influence of the strategic plans in September this year, Estyn came to similar conclusions to those above, whilst recognising the substantial potential for the plans to succeed, but also inconsistency with regard to their impact to date from one authority to the next.

4.5 This year local authorities were asked to amend their plans according to the new guidelines introduced by the Government, and this consultation is being undertaken according to the process established to do that.

4.6 It is generally accepted that growth in Welsh medium education will be key to achieving the target of reaching a million Welsh speakers. The findings of those who have evaluated the success of strategic plans to date, confirm there has not been much progress in that direction over recent years across the key stages. The new strategic plans which are being drawn up at the moment will need to lead to progress at a much higher rate in every corner of Wales, if we are to come close to achieving the Government's ambitious target. This is the context in relation to preparing these plans this year and implementing them over the coming years.

4.7 Recently, I announced my first 5 year report on the state of the Welsh Language based on an analysis of a wide range of evidence and data. Considerable attention is paid in that report to the state of Welsh medium education and the challenges facing us in relation to attempting to strengthen that provision. One of the findings of the report is that better progression is needed in Welsh medium education from one key stage to the next. The evidence shows that concentrating on strengthening Welsh medium education in one key stage does not succeed in creating substantial numbers of new and fluent Welsh speakers. Instead, Welsh medium provision needs to be strengthened from the very beginning as well as in each subsequent phase, in order to ensure more individuals follow the path of Welsh medium provision throughout their time in care and education. The report shows the clear connection between how early in life an individual learns Welsh and his/her fluency at the end of the journey. The report also notes the loss of Welsh skills amongst many individuals after leaving school, and one possible reason for this is the lack of teaching and learning in Welsh within post 16-education. This evidence confirms the need for Welsh in Education Strategic Plans to pay sufficient attention to

strengthening Welsh medium provision in every phase of education, from the childcare phase to post-16 provision. Obviously, local authorities' hold over some of these education phases is stronger than others. Therefore the need to co-operate with others when planning and implementing measures to strengthen Welsh medium education and care provision in every phase is key.

5 Powys County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

5.1 Amongst other things, the Schools Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 states that a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan should include:

- Proposals to improve the process for planning how Welsh medium education ("Welsh medium education") is provided in the area;
- Proposals to improve Welsh medium education standards and Welsh teaching standards in the area.
- The local authority's targets for improving the process of planning how Welsh medium education is provided in its area and how to improve the standards of that education and Welsh teaching in the area.

5.2 In Section 1 of this plan, a clear vision is proposed for growing and improving Welsh medium education provision in Powys. A clear explanation of the weaknesses of the current education provision is given, especially the lack of equality for Welsh medium learners, and a vision of ensuring equal provision for Welsh medium learners in Powys is presented. This section responds to the Welsh Government requirements guidelines, including offering information on the Welsh Medium Education Forum and in context of policy and priorities of the Welsh Government. The objectives stated for 2017-2020 are clear and consider a number of key aspects of developing Welsh medium education, including early years provision, primary sector provision and linguistic progression through each key stage.

5.3 The plan responds to more or less all the Welsh Government guidelines, and all the required data has been included. Those few requirements that have not been met by the plan include for example, recording exactly which schools are within the capacity threshold of 10% or approaching that, under outcome 1.

5.4 Section 2 of the plan offers factual analysis of the current state of Welsh medium education in Powys, the weaknesses in the current provision and the challenges facing the authority as it tries to improve and grow provision. Under every outcome, an overview is presented of the current situation, in a clear and structured way. Also, an awareness of the main tendencies in regard to pupil numbers of recent years is apparent. The discussion under outcome 6 could be strengthened by offering comments on the adequacy of the current provision, and any gaps which have already been identified, although it is noted that a formal inspection will take place in 2017.

5.5 A challenging plan is proposed which centralises Welsh medium secondary provision for south and mid Powys. This scheme is a key objective under outcomes 2 and 7, and is likely to influence the objectives of outcomes 3 and 4 as well. As recognised by the Strategic Plan, a series of challenges will go hand in hand with centralising provision in this way. For example, it is stated that the "work currently happening to provide a stronger path of progression in the secondary phase will probably lead to a reduction in the proportion of pupils transferring to Welsh medium secondary provision in the short term". Accepting the pressure on local authorities to make difficult decisions in regard to

restructuring education at this time, the expectation on every local authority to increase the number of children and young people receiving Welsh medium education over time, must be acknowledged. Accordingly, any intentions which are a risk to the number of children receiving Welsh medium education must be supported with strong measures to mitigate and counter that risk. The authority would be going against the Schools Standards & Organisations (Wales) Act 2013 in making decisions which would lead to a reduction in the number of children receiving Welsh medium education, without taking steps at the same time to ensure overall growth, over time.

5.6 Considering the national target set by the Welsh Government of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050, authorities are expected to be ambitious when aiming for progress. Some ambitious targets are proposed in the plan, for example in relation to outcome 5. At the same time, other targets are proposed which are estimates rather than targets for growth. The authority's plans to restructure the method of providing Welsh medium education in Powys is noted, and that it is unlikely to lead to an increase in figures during the life of this plan. The plan should clearly show how those plans will lead to long term growth. If that cannot be shown, then the appropriateness of those plans should be questioned, in the context of the requirements of the Schools Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

5.7 On the whole the proposed objectives under each outcome show understanding of the importance of planning for improving and growing Welsh medium provision. Objectives which focus on developing new provision are proposed, improving the standards of the current provision and improving attainment. In addition, a number of the objectives propose definite plans for 2017-2020, for example establishing and building a new primary school in Welshpool and agreeing a location for immersion provision for latecomers. The proposed timetable for these objectives is welcomed. Only two proposals under outcomes 6 and 7 are proposed. We suspect that some plans under outcome 6 depend on the results of the formal inspection to be held in 2017. Accepting that, we believe the authority could stipulate some objectives for improving the Welsh medium ALN provision based on evidence which is already available. Under outcome 7, clear and definite objectives are proposed in relation to the sabbatical programme. Some challenges under outcome 7 are also noted, and the plan should include clear and firm measures to address those challenges.

5.8 Section 2 of the plan could be strengthened by suggesting definite steps to accomplish the general aim of improvement. For example, under outcome 1 it could be noted how exactly the authority is supporting Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to move along the linguistic continuum, and expand on capital investment plans as part of the Band B programme for 21st Century Schools. Under outcome 2, an explanation could be given on how exactly you will formalise the arrangements for transferring pupils with Neath Port Talbot.

5.9 There is not enough emphasis on plans for improving and growing provision under outcomes 5 and 7. Instead, the plan concentrates on describing the current provision. This section could be improved by explaining what actions will be needed in order to accomplish the objectives. Under outcome 7, the response could be improved by noting clearly the steps which could be taken to make more strategic use of the sabbatical scheme, especially with regard to promoting interest amongst the education workforce.

5.10 To summarise the above comments, in the strategic plan a clear vision is proposed for improving and growing Welsh medium education in Powys, and a good

understanding of the current situation and the challenges associated with growing Welsh medium education provision is apparent. Some definite plans are proposed along with some ambitious targets for growth. In developing the plan further, we suggest all sections of the plan should be reconciled by ensuring that all targets and objectives share the Welsh Government's ambitions for growth. In addition definite mitigation measures should be stipulated for dealing with any identified challenges or risks whilst attempting to secure growth.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Gapper

On behalf of the Welsh Language Commissioner



CYNLLUN STRATEGOL Y GYMRAEG MEWN ADDYSG

Cyngor Sir Powys

2017-20

Cyswllt:

Ceri McEvoy

Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg
Tŷ Cymru
Greenwood Close
Parc Busnes Porth Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF23 8RD
ceri@rhag.net
07912175403

Ionawr 2017

RHAG

Mudiad yw Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg sy'n cynrychioli rhieni sydd â phlant mewn ysgolion Cymraeg.

Nod RhAG fel mudiad yw cefnogi datblygiad addysg Gymraeg ledled Cymru.

—

Mae RhAG yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i ymateb i ddrafft ymgynghorol Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg, Cyngor Sir Powys.

—

Adran 1

Gweledigaeth yr awdurdod

Mae RhAG yn gwerthfawrogi bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn ymwybodol o'r rôl bwysig sydd ganddi o hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg, yng nghyd-destun amcanion a thargedau cenedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru. Serch hynny, nodwn nad yw hyn gyfystyr â'r disgwyliad bod siroedd bellach yn mabwysiadu ymagwedd rhagweithiol ac yn symbylu a hyrwyddo twf yn y sector. Byddai'n dda nodi hynny yn y weledigaeth fydd yn llywio'r Cynllun hwn.

Awgrymwn bod angen cyd-berthynas llawer agosach rhwng y CSGA, Safon Iaith 145 (cynyddu nifer siaradwyr) a'r Strategaeth iaith: miliwn o siaradwyr. Mae angen gosod targedau penodol ar gyfer tyfu niferoedd siaradwyr iaith: mae'n amlwg mai'r sector addysg yw'r prif beiriant ar gyfer cynhyrchu siaradwyr yr iaith.

Hefyd, awgrymwn y gellir cryfhau'r weledigaeth i gadarnhau swyddogaeth y CSGA o ran hyrwyddo a chynyddu defnydd y Gymraeg o fewn peuoedd y teulu a'r gymuned.

Mae angen i'r Cynllun wneud mwy na 'anelu at ddatblygu seilwaith sy'n galluogi pob disgybl i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg drwy gydol eu gyrfaoedd addysgol'.

Mae angen datganiad polisi diamwys sy'n mabwysiadu'r egwyddor mai Ysgolion Cyfrwng Cymraeg Dynodedig yw'r model a ffeirir wrth gyflwyno addysg Gymraeg yn y sector cynradd a'r uwchradd.

Er pob tegwch, mae'r amcanion (t.5) yn gymeradwy ond nid yw swmp a sylwedd y Cynllun yn gosod y sylfaen i'w gwireddu.

Nodwn bod y Cynllun yn cydnabod yr holl wendidau a methiannau presennol; ond yn syrthio'n brin o fod yn erfyn i ddatrys y sefyllfa. Dylai'r Cynllun hwn fod yn ddatblygiadol ac nid yn ddisgrifiadol. Dim ond rhwydwaith o ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg dynodedig fydd yn llwyddo i fynd i'r afael â'r 'loteri cod post' presennol o ran darpariaeth. Mae sicrhau cydraddoldeb o ddewis a chyfle gwirioneddol i deuluoedd sy'n dymuno i'w plant dderbyn addysg uwchradd gyflawn drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym Mhowys yn llwyr ddibynnu ar hynny.

Mae'r Cynllun yn nodi bod niferoedd disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys wedi aros yn eithaf disymud dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, gan nodi bod gostyngiad yng nghanran y disgyblion a aseswyd mewn Cymraeg iaith gyntaf ar ddiwedd y Cyfnod Sylfaen. Mae angen mwy na chydabod yr angen am newidiadau sylweddol i'r modd o ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y sir. Mae angen gweithredu ar hyn yn awr. Rydym yn cydnabod na fydd y newid sydd ei angen yn digwydd dros nos, ond mae'n bwysig fod y Cynllun hwn yn gosod y sylfeini cadarn sydd eu hangen er mwyn gwireddu hyn o fewn y blynyddoedd nesaf. Rhaid i'r siwrmai ddechrau gyda'r Cynllun hwn.

Cludiant rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol

Ydy'r Cyngor yn fodlon bod rhieni'n ymwybodol o'r polisi cludiant ac yn deall eu hawliau mewn perthynas â chludiant i gael Addysg Gymraeg? Cafwyd problemau mawr yn y gorffennol oherwydd methiannau'r Cyngor i rannu gwybodaeth mewn modd hygyrch a thryloyw, ac nad oedd y wybodaeth oedd ar gael yn gywir a chyfredol. Mae hyn yn wir am y sector cynradd ac uwchradd ym mhob rhan o'r sir.

Mae'r Cynllun yn cydnabod bod yr adolygiad diweddaraf o'r polisi wedi effeithio ar nifer y disgyblion sy'n manteisio ar y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn rhai ardaloedd Cymraeg. Dylid nodi faint yn union o ddisgyblion â effeithwyd.

Mae'n amlwg bod hyn wedi arwain at ganlyniad anfwriadol sy'n andwyol i addysg Gymraeg.

Mae'n bryder bod cryn amryfusedd ac anghysondeb yn parhau'n gyffredin o ran gweithredu'r polisi. Nodwn bod cynseillau a sefydlwyd gan apeliadau llwyddiannus ers 2008 wedi eu hanwybyddu yn ddiweddar. Mae hyn yn peri gofid.

Pwysleisiwn bod sicrhau cysondeb yn arbennig o bwysig yn y cyfnod trosiannol hwn wrth gyflwyno newidiadau posibl o ran y ddarpariaeth uwchradd a datblygiadau newydd yn y cynradd e.e. y Trallwng

Awgrymwn bod angen i'r adolygiad llawn arfaethedig fod yn gam cyntaf yn y gwaith o flaengynllunio'r ddarpariaeth.

Mewn sir wledig fel Powys, mae'n gwbl allweddol sicrhau eglurder i rieni ar bolisi cludiant y Cyngor.

Adran 2

Deilliant 1:

Nid yw'r canlyniadau, allbynnau na'r targedau yn cyd-fynd â'r datganiad yn y weledigaeth sy'n cytuno â Llywodraeth Cymru bod disgyblion yn fwy tebygol o ddod yn gwbl ddwyieithog ar ôl mynychu ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Cyfeiriwn at lythyr gan Alun Davies AC, Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, a anforwyd at bob ALI ym mis Awst 2016, sy'n nodi:

"Mae eich CSGA yn hollbwysig o ran cyflawni ein nod o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050. Rwy'n disgwyl cynlluniau cadarn gyda thargedau uchelgeisiol, heriol ond cyraeddadwy."

Mae'r Cynllun yn ei ffurf bresennol, yn methu â dangos cynnydd clir ac uchelgeisiol fydd yn cyfrannu at gyflawni targedau cenedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru.

Mae'n cyfeirio at yr angen i fesur a chreu galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, ond nid yw'n dangos sut y caiff hyn ei gyflawni, gyda chammau gweithredu clir ac ymarferol.

Bellach, ceir nid yn unig ddisgwyliad i ddarparu ar gyfer y galw presennol ond hefyd i ysgogi twf. Ar wahân i'r bwriad i sefydlu ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg gynradd hir-ddisgwyliedig yn y Trallwng, mae methiant i dyfu'r sector yn rhagweithiol ac i fynd y tu hwnt i gwrdd â'r galw presennol yn unig. Mae'r Cynllun yn arddangos diffyg dyhead i dyfu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn yr Awdurdod .

Mae'r Cynllun yn cyfeirio at fonitro a mesur y galw ond does dim manylion ynghylch pryd y caiff yr arolwg nesaf ei gynnal, methodoleg arfaethedig na sut y bydd yn cyfrannu at allu'r sir i flaengynllunio darpariaeth ac ymateb yn rhagweithiol i'r galw cynyddol am addysg Gymraeg. Byddai'n dda i'r Sir roi gwybodaeth benodol am fanteision addysg Gymraeg cyn mesur y galw.

Mae'r Cynllun yn cyfeirio at anhawsterau cael gafael ar ddata rhieni er mwyn cynnal arolygon. Dylai'r Llywodraeth ymyrryd yn y sefyllfa yma er mwyn cysoni'r trefniadau a hwyluso'r gwaith.

Mae'r Cynllun hefyd yn cyfeirio at 'ddulliau amgen' o asesu galw cudd posibl am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Byddai'n fuddiol cynrwys mwy o fanylion am hyn.

Mae'n anorfod bod angen cyllid ychwanegol sylweddol i ehangu Addysg Gymraeg. Nid oes unrhyw groesgyfeirio penodol yn yr adran hon at flaenoriaethau'r Sir mewn perthynas â phrosiectau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ystod cyfnod ariannu nesaf Rhaglen Ysgolion 21G ar ôl 2019/20. Mae disgwyl i'r Sir nodi manylion ynghylch hyn.

Hefyd, mae'n allweddol bod croesgyfeirio clir ac eglur rhwng y Cynllun a'r Cynllun Datblygu Lleol er mwyn dangos pa waith sydd wedi'i gynnal i asesu digonolrwydd lleoedd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr ardaloedd hynny ble mae disgwyl datblygiadau tai newydd.

Nodwn gyfeiriad amwys at Strategaeth Gyfathrebu / Marchnata ond nid yw'n manylu ar sut y bydd y Cyngor yn rhoi gwybodaeth am fanteision addysg Gymraeg i rieni.

Dylai'r elfen hollbwysig hon gael lle llawer amlycach yn y Cynllun.

Yn ei hanfod mae angen i'r CSGA fod yn gynlluniau hyrwyddo, sef bod yr elfen hyrwyddo yn ganolog ac yn gyrru pob agwedd o'r ddogfen.

Mae angen i'r Cyngor arwain ar y gwaith o hyrwyddo ac ysgogi diddordeb ac ymwybyddiaeth o Addysg Gymraeg, drwy gamau eraill megis:

- sicrhau bod gwybodaeth am y ddwy drefn yn cael eu danfon yn gyfochrog at grwpiau Dechrau'n Deg, cylchoedd meithrin Saesneg a Chymraeg, grwpiau gofalwyr a phlant, ac at rieni gyda'r ffurflenni cofrestru, a bod y wybodaeth honno yn cynnwys gwybodaeth am drefniadau cludiant, gan fod ysgolion Cymraeg yn gwasanaethu dalgylchoedd mwy o faint nag ysgolion Saesneg
- sicrhau bod gwybodaeth am y ddwy drefn ar gael i werthwyr tai ac asiantaethau rhentu yn yr ardal i'w darparu i deuluoedd sy'n symud i mewn
- sicrhau bod y wefan a'r Llyfryn Gwybodaeth i Rieni yn gytbwys yn ei gwybodaeth
- darparu hyfforddiant ymwybyddiaeth iaith a manteision addysg Gymraeg / dwyieithrwydd i weithwyr rheng-flaen y Cyngor ac i weithio gyda'r Bwrdd Iechyd er mwyn darparu'r un hyfforddiant i fydwragedd ac ymwelwyr iechyd a chanfod ffyrdd o rannu negeseuon cadarnhaol mewn modd cyson a thrylwyr.
- hybu'r cysyniad o 'Daith iaith' a bod hyn yn rhan ganolog o waith hyrwyddo y Cynllun yn ei gyfanrwydd. Gall hyn gyfrannu at gryfhau a gwella cyfraddau pontio rhwng Cylchoedd Meithrin ac Ysgolion.
- gweithio yn agos gyda'r Cynllun Cymraeg i Blant.

Yn y Cynllun blaenorol roedd targed i sefydlu gwefan i ddarparu gwybodaeth am addysg Gymraeg ym Mhowys er mwyn cyfeirio rhieni at amrywiol fudiadau a'r ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg. Dylid cynnwys y targed pwysig hwn yn y Cynllun.

Mae angen mwy o eglurder i rieni mewn perthynas â deilliannau ieithyddol yr amrywiol fodolau addysgol sy'n bodoli ym Mhowys. Rhaid sicrhau bod rhieni'n ymwybodol mai addysg Gymraeg gyda dilyniant cadarn drwy bob Cyfnod Allweddol fydd yn greu'r amodau gorau i'w plant feddu ar sgillau ieithyddol cyfartal yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg, yn unol â pholisi Llywodraeth Cymru.

Nodwn fod Cyngor Powys yn rhan o Gonsortia ERW. Oes grŵp penodol wedi'i sefydlu sy'n medru trafod materion penodol o ran darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Byddai grŵp o'r fath yn medru mynd i'r afael â materion traws-sirol allweddol, gan gynnwys cynllunio lleoedd; ceisiadau arian cyfalaf yn y dyfodol; darpariaeth uwchradd; ADY ayb? Gellid ffurfioli'r trefniadau hyn o fod yn 'drafodaethau anffurfiol' er mwyn sefydlu proses rhagweithiol o adnabod cyfleoedd i gydweithio yn y dyfodol?

Amcan 1.1

Mae diffyg targedau penodol o ran cynyddu plant yn y sector cyn ysgol a thargedau twf mewn cydweithrediad â Mudiad Meithrin. Yn y Cynllun blaenorol roedd targed pendant i weithio gyda Mudiad Meithrin i adnabod cyfleoedd i ddatblygu darpariaeth newydd mewn ardaloedd lle nad oes unrhyw ddarpariaeth ar hyn o bryd. Byddai'n dda ymgorffori yn y Cynllun dargedau clir, penodol, mesuradwy i ddatblygu'r ddarpariaeth.

Mae dalgylchoedd sydd heb unrhyw ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ar hyn o bryd, yn cynnwys Crughywel, Gwernyfed a John Beddoes. Wrth gyflawni hyn dylid rhoi ystyriaeth i amcan strategol 1.6 (t.14) y Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg, sy'n nodi y dylid cynyddu mynediad i ddarpariaeth yn y blynyddoedd cynnar a chynradd statudol yng nghymuned y plentyn.

Beth yw'r sefyllfa presennol o ran lleoedd gofal plant Dechrau'n Deg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Sir? Byddai'n fuddiol nodi hyn a'r gyd-berthynas gydag amcanion Deilliant 1.

Amcan 1.2

Rydym yn llongyfarch y sir ar y bwriad i agor ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg hir-ddisgwylliedig yn y Trallwng. Mae profiad Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glöwyr a gafodd ei gartrefu mewn adeilad oedd yn rhy fach i ddiwallu'r galw yn canu clychau. Rhybuddiodd RhAG ac eraill ynghylch hyn yn ystod cyfnod ymgynghori. Mae cyflwyno addysg Gymraeg mewn adeilad newydd sbon yn gyfuniad deniadol sy'n creu galw syfrdanol. Rhaid gofalu na fydd hanes yn alladrodd ei hun yn y Trallwng a bod y sir yn dysgu'r gwersi anghenrheidiol. Rydym hefyd yn annog y sir i edrych ar lwyddiant Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd fel esiampl o arfer dda wrth hybu a chefnogi trosglwyddiant disgyblion o'r cynradd i'r uwchradd.

Amcan 1.3

Mae'r nod o gefnogi Ysgol Bro Hyddgen i symud ar hyd y continwrm ieithyddol i'w groesawu. Byddai'n dda cynnwys mwy o fanylion ynghylch y broses a'r amserlen yn y Cynllun.

Byddai'n dda i'r Sir fabwysiadu polisi swyddogol o symud ysgolion cynradd ar hyd y continwrm ieithyddol (tebyg i Gyngor Sir Gâr) a chynyddu'r ddarpariaeth Gymraeg yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen fel man cychwyn. Dylid cynnwys hwn fel un o egwyddorion craidd y Cynllun.

Amcan 1.4

Amcan 1.5

Amcan 1.6

Rydym yn croesawu'r bwriad i adolygu'r ddarpariaeth mewn tair ardal er mwyn datblygu darpariaeth ychwanegol mewn ardaloedd newydd, ond yn cwestiynu amserlen y gwaith dan sylw. Oes angen edrych eto ar y rhaglen waith?

Un pryder mawr o safbwynt oedi ynghylch cynnal adolygiad yng Nghanolbarth Powys yw bod y ddarpariaeth yno mewn gwirionedd yn lleihau, gyda'r ffrwd Gymraeg yn Ysgol Dolafon wedi cau ac Ysgol Rhaeadr ac Ysgol Trefonnen wedi lleihau nifer eu dosbarthiadau yn y ffrwd Gymraeg yn 2016.

Os yw'r sefyllfa yn Ystradgynlais yn golygu perygl o wrthod plant o'r unig ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yn yr ardal, yna mae lle i ddadlau y dylid cynnal adolygiad yno ar fyrder. Yn y cyfamser mae angen rhoi mesurau tymor byr yn eu lle i leddfu'r pwysau ar leoedd nes y bydd unrhyw adolygiad wedi penderfynu ar ddatrysiad tymor hir.

Amcan 1.7

Mae'n siomedig nodi bod Powys yn un o'r ychydig siroedd sy'n parhau heb ganolfan i hwyrddfyodiaid.

Beth fyddai'n digwydd mewn sefyllfa lle mae teulu yn symud o Loegr i Bowys gyda phlant 5 oed a 7 oed, ac yn awyddus iddynt fynychu ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg? Y gwir yw y byddai eu dewisiadau yn gyfyngedig iawn.

Nid yw aros tan ddiwedd oes y Cynllun yn dderbyniol, mae angen mynd ati ar unwaith i unioni'r sefyllfa.

I oresgyn yr heriau sy'n wynebu Awdurdod Lleol wledig, dylai Powys gael rhwydwaith o ddarpariaeth ranbarthol neu 'hyb', naill ai fel canolfannau annibynnol, neu sy'n gysylltiedig ag ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg lleol fel canolfannau lloeren. Mae'r ysgol gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd yn y Trallwng yn cynnig cyfle i ddatblygu'r ddarpariaeth hon. Gallai hyn gael ei ailadrodd mewn rhannau eraill o Bowys e.e. cynigion i ehangu/cynyddu'r ddarpariaeth yn ardal Ystradgynlais.

Deilliant 2

Ers peth amser mae wedi dod yn amlwg nad yw'r gyfundrefn bresennol yn y sector uwchradd ym Mhowys yn gynalladwy; naill ai'n addysgol, ieithyddol nac yn ariannol. Nid yw'r drefn fel ag y mae yn darparu cyfleoedd cyfartal i ddisgyblion Powys gael addysg gyflawn, di-dor drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg; ar hyn o bryd, teithio allan o'r sir yw'r unig ffordd o gael mynediad at ddarpariaeth o'r fath. Yn ne'r Sir mae nifer cynyddol o ddisgyblion yn gwneud y daith honno: ni all hyn fod yn sefyllfa dderbyniol.

Bu ymdrechlon y Cynllun blaenorol i droi ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn ysgolion categori 2B erbyn 2020 yn fethiant.

Mae'n rhaid i Ysgolion Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg (Categori 2A) fod yn rhan o'r datrysiad ac mae'n rhaid cynnwys yn y Cynllun hwn ymrwymiad clir i weithredu ar hynny gyda thargedau pendant ac amserlen gadarn er mwyn ei wireddu.

Byddai sefydlu ysgolion o'r fath ym Mhowys yn torri'r cylch caeth presennol ac yn gweddnewid y tirlun o safbwynt addysg Gymraeg yn y sir, yn unol â disgwyliadau Llywodraeth Cymru i gryfhau dwyieithrwydd. Mae angen mwy nag un ysgol er mwyn gwireddu'r weledigaeth hon.

Nodwn fod adolygiad o ddarpariaeth addysg uwchradd yng Ngogledd Powys yn cynnig opsiwn i sefydlu ysgol neu ysgolion dwyieithiog, categori 2A yn yr ardal. Yn yr un modd mae angen cynnig cyfleoedd cyfatebol ar gyfer Canol a De'r sir. Mae hyn yn fater sylfaenol o gydraddoldeb. Fel man cychwyn, cyfuno ac atgyfnerthu'r ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg bresennol sy'n cynnig y siawns orau o wireddu hynny.

Byddai sefydlu Ysgolion Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg Categori 2A yn:

- symbylu twf yn y sector cyfrwng Cymraeg, ac yn arwain at gynyddu'r nifer yn yr Ysgol Uwchradd dros gyfnod. Dyma yw'r profiad cyffredinol mewn rhannau eraill o Gymru. Hefyd, byddai'n rhwym o gael effaith gadarnhaol ar dwf niferoedd yn y sector cynradd a chyn-ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg

- rhoi'r un profiad addysgol i ddisgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg o'i gymharu â disgyblion yn y ffrwd Saesneg, trwy gynnig ystod llawn a di-dor o bynciau ym mhob cyfnod allweddol;
- cael effaith gadarnhaol ar wella a chynyddu'r dilyniant rhwng cyfnodau allweddol (gweler data Atodiad 1);
- atal disgyblion rhag symud o'r ffrwd cyfrwng Cymraeg i'r ffrwd cyfrwng Saesneg;
- creu sefyllfa a fydd yn caniatáu i'r Ysgol newydd ddenu staff cymwys ar draws yr ystod llawn o bynciau;
- creu Ysgol fydd ag ethos gwbl Gymraeg a Chymreig, fydd yn gosod yr amodau gorau i feithrin a datblygu hyder a sgiliau'r disgyblion yn y Gymraeg;
- cyd-fynd â pholisi cenedlaethol o safbwynt cryfhau, ehangu a datblygu addysg Gymraeg ac yn caniatáu i Gyngor Powys gyrraedd targedau cenedlaethol sydd wedi'i pennu gan Lywodraeth Cymru.

Mae'r angen i sefydlu Ysgolion Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg hefyd yn allweddol er mwyn cyflawni Deilliannau 3 + 4, sef mwy o fyfyrwyr yn astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a mwy o fyfyrwyr ôl-16 yn astudio pynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae'r alwad hon yn gyson â chasgladau cyfres o arolygon diweddar a gynhaliwyd gan Mudiad Addysg Gymraeg Gogledd Powys (2011) a RhAG (2016 a 2011), sy'n cadarnhau dyhead rhieni Powys i'r egwyddor o sefydlu Ysgolion Uwchradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg categori 2A.¹

Mae gwaith darbwylo eto i'w wneud, ond mae angen i'r Cyngor fod yn ddigon dewr i gymryd y gam tyngedfennol hwn yn awr.

Cytunwn yn llwyr bod angen ffurfioli'r trefniant â CNPT ynglyn â throsglwyddo disgyblion i Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. Mae hyn yn holl bwysig o ran diogelu trefniadau presennol trwy sefydlu cytundeb traws-sirol i'r rhai sydd am barhau i dderbyn addysg Gymraeg yn eu hysgol agosaf, yn arbennig o safbwynt darpariaeth ôl 16, a'u galluogi i deithio i ysgolion Cymraeg mewn siroedd cyfagos. Bydd yn rhoi sicrwydd ac eglurder i ddisgyblion a rhieni.

O ran darpariaeth trochi hwyr yn y sector uwchradd, nodwn bod esiamplau llwyddiannus eisoes wedi bodoli ym Mhowys, sef darpariaeth a ariannwyd yn rhannol gan y Llywodraeth yn Llanfyllin a Llanfair-ym-muallt. Roedd cyfeiriad hefyd yn y Cynllun blaenorol at 'ddosbarth Cymraeg' yn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen (Bro Ddyfi yn y Cynllun hwnnw). Daeth y ddarpariaeth i ben oherwydd diffyg cyllid.

¹

http://rhag.net/dogfennau/ADRODDIAD%20AR%20GANFYDDIADAU%20AROLWG%20RHAG%20DE%20POWYS_terfynol.pdf

Credwn bod dadl gref i lunio achos busnes ar gyfer ail-sefydlu'r ddarpariaeth honno a bod y ddarpariaeth wedi'i ariannu yn llawn gan yr ALI i sicrhau hyfywedd a chynaliadwyedd. Dylai hyn fod yn broses gymharol syml ac nid oes angen aros am gyflwyno ysgol uwchradd Categori 2A fel sydd wedi'i awgrymu yn y Cynllun.

Deilliant 3

Deilliant 4

Rydym yn bryderus am y diffyg dewis pynciau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn y cyfnod ôl-16 ledled Powys.

Sefydlu ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg dynodedig ledled Powys fydd y gyrrwr allweddol wrth greu mäs critigol o ddysgwyr sydd eu hangen i ddatblygu darpariaeth uwchradd ac ôl-16 yn y sir.

Mae'r Cynllun yn crybwyll bod y mwyafrif o ddarpariaeth alwedigaethol ym Mhowys yn cael ei ddarparu gan Grŵp Colegau CNPT yn eu campysau yn Y Drenewydd ac Aberhonddu. Eto nid oes darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn un o'r ddau gampws ar hyn o bryd. Yn y Cynllun blaenorol roedd targed i weithio gyda Grwp Colegau CNPT i adnabod ffyrdd o ddatblygu mwy o gyrsiau galwedigaethol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae angen cynnwys targed tebyg yn y Cynllun hwn. Dylid cytuno ar strategaeth gyda'r Coleg a gosod targedau i ddatblygu cyrsiau mewn meysydd allweddol e.e. lechyd a Gofal, Twristiaeth, Blynyddoedd Cynnar ac ati. Gallai Hyrwyddwr Dwyieithrwydd y Coleg arwain ar hyn ar y cyd â'r Awdurdod Lleol. Dylai hyn gael ei gynnwys yn y Cynllun. Gellir canfod enghreifftiau o arferion da yng Ngholeg Pen-y-bont sy'n gweithio'n agos gydag ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg cyfagos i ddatblygu a darparu cyrsiau.

Gyda datblygiadau cyffrous ar y gweill ar gyfer addysg ôl-16 yn y sector Saesneg, mae'n bwysig iawn buddsoddi yn y sector Gymraeg hefyd fel bod cynnig yr un mor ddeniadol ar gael trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg a'r ystod ehangaf posib o gyrsiau cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gael i fyfyrwyr.

Mae angen hefyd datblygu cyfleoedd i gydweithio gyda'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol er mwyn hyrwyddo llwybrau astudio yn y sector Addysg Uwch.

Mae angen i'r Cyngor arwain ar y gwaith hwn, fel prif gyflogwr yr ardal, a chymryd rôl rhagweithiol wrth hyrwyddo cyfleoedd i ymuno â'r gweithlu ar draws holl ystod gwasanaethau'r Cyngor.

Deilliant 5

Cafwyd cydnabyddiaeth yn y Cynllun blaenorol fod "creu ethos Gymreig yn yr ysgol yn allweddol". Ydy'r Cynllun hwn yn cefnogi'r un weledigaeth?

Unwaith eto amlygir anghysondeb yn y Cynllun ble ceir datganiad yn y weledigaeth sy'n cytuno â'r Llywodraeth mai ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg yw'r ffordd mwyaf effeithiol o feithrin sgiliau dwyieithog llawn, ond nid oes modd cysoni hyn gyda

cynnwys gweddill y ddogfen sy'n tansellio'r datganiad hwnnw, yn arbennig o safbwynt targedau'r sector uwchradd.

Rhaid pwysleisio na fydd cynnal ffrwd Gymraeg mewn ysgol Saesneg neu gynnig canran o bynciau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn ysgol nad yw'n cynnal ethos, gweinyddiad ac ymagwedd drwyadl Gymraeg a Chymreig yn bolisi llywyddiannus yn yr hir dymor. Mae hynny'n fwyfwy anhebygol mewn cyd-destun ble mae'r Gymraeg fel iaith gymunedol yn crebachu. (gw. datganiad yn y weledigaeth).

Deilliant 6

Dyma un o adrannau gwannaf y Cynllun.

Mae'n amlwg bod y ddarpariaeth yn syrthio'n brin o'r hyn sy'n ddisgwyliedig a bod y gwasanaeth ar draws y sir yn dameidiog a darniog.

Roedd y Cynllun blaenorol yn crybwyll cynnal awdit ffurfiol o'r ddarpariaeth. Mae'n amlwg na fu unrhyw gynnydd yn y maes ers y Cynllun blaenorol.

Mae angen i'r gwaith hwn fod yn flaenoriaeth yn ystod oes y Cynllun dan sylw. Mae'n fater sylfaenol o gydraddoldeb.

Dylai'r Cynllun presennol gynnwys mwy o dargedau caled, mesuradwy.

Rhai materion i'w nodi:

- Pryd bydd canfyddiadau'r adolygiad yn hysbys?
- Beth fydd blaenoriaethau'r newidiadau hyn o safbwynt cefnogaeth i ddarpariaeth ADY cyfrwng Cymraeg?
- Beth yw'r sefyllfa gyfredol o safbwynt arbenigedd personél cyflogedig gan y sir e.e Seicolegwyr Addysg, Therapyddion Iaith a Lleferydd, cefnogaeth ar gyfer Dyslecsia ayb? Dylid nodi hyn yn y Cynllun.
- Oes bwriad i sefydlu Canolfan (nau) er mwyn cronni arbenigedd a chefnogaeth er mwyn darparu'r gefnogaeth angenrheidiol i ysgolion?
- Beth yw'r bwriad o ran symud at gydweithio rhanbarthol ac ystyried ffurfioli trefniant o'r fath? Ydy hwn yn faes ble y gall ERW ddarparu arweiniad?

Deilliant 7

Mae angen arweiniad gan Llywodraeth Cymru er mwyn cynyddu capasiti ond mae gan bob ALI gyfraniad i'w wneud er mwyn cyrraedd y nod.

Mae angen datblygu cyrsiau hyfforddi cyfrwng Cymraeg i athrawon, a chynnig cyrsiau gloywi dwys i athrawon sy'n fodlon trosi i addysg Gymraeg, eto trwy gynlluniau rhyddhau o'r gwaith a thrwy ddatblygu'r Cynllun Sabothol. Mae sicrhau cyflenwad o benaethiaid ar gyfer y dyfodol yn flaenoriaeth bwysig.

Oes modd datblygu trafodaethau rhwng yr ysgolion, yr Undebau Athrawon a'r consortia i ymchwilio i'r posibiliadau?

Mae angen hyrwyddo cyfleoedd i ddysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ymhlith disgyblion sy'n dewis gyrfaoedd

Mae'r Cynllun yn cyfeirio at anawsterau sylweddol wrth recriwtio penaethiaid sy'n siarad Cymraeg yn y sector cynradd ym Mhowys.

Aiff ymlaen i nodi bod hyn yn broblem benodol wrth geisio penodi penaethiaid mewn ysgolion dwy ffrwd, ac oherwydd hynny bod yn rhaid penodi unigolion sydd â sgilliau ieithyddol 'cyfyngedig'. Mae hyn yn sefyllfa cwbi anfoddhaol ac yn tanseilio unrhyw ymdrechion i gynnal ethos Gymraeg.

Mae'r un heriau yn wynebu'r sector uwchradd, lle mae nifer o ysgolion yn ei chael yn anodd recriwtio athrawon i addysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg mewn pynciau penodol. Mae hynny'n her gyffredin yn genedlaethol ond gall fod yn broblem ddwysâch mewn sir gyda nifer helaeth o ysgolion dwy ffrwd cyfochrog.

Byddai sefydlu ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg dynodedig (cynradd ac uwchradd) yn cyfrannu'n fawr at ddatrys y sefyllfa hon.

Yn y cyfamser mae angen cynllun gweithredu mentrus a beiddgar er mwyn denu penaethiaid ac athrawon sydd â'r sgilliau ieithyddol angenrheidiol i weithio ym Mhowys.

RhAG

**WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN
Powys County Council
2017-20**

Contact:

**Ceri McEvoy
Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg
Tŷ Cymru
Greenwood Close
Parc Busnes Porth Caerdydd
Cardiff
CF23 8RD
ceri@rhag.net
07912175403**

January 2017

RHAG

RhAG is an organisation which represents parents of children in Welsh schools.

As an organisation RhAG's aim is to support the development of Welsh education across Wales.

--

RhAG appreciates the opportunity to respond to Powys County Council's consultation draft of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

--

Section 1

The authority's vision

RhAG appreciates that Powys County Council is aware of its important role in regard to promoting the use of the Welsh language, in the context of the Welsh Government's national objectives and targets. However, we note that this doesn't correspond to the expectation that counties are now expected to adopt a proactive approach and stimulate growth in the sector. It would be good to see that in the vision, which will guide this Plan.

We suggest that a much closer connection is needed between the WESP, Welsh Language Standard 145 (increase the number of Welsh speakers) and the language Strategy: 1 million Welsh speakers. Specific targets need to be set for increasing the number of Welsh speakers: it's obvious that the education sector is the main mechanism for producing Welsh speakers.

Also, we suggest that the vision could be strengthened to confirm the purpose of the WESP with regard to promoting and increasing the use of Welsh within the domain of the family and community.

The Plan needs to do more than 'aim to develop an infrastructure which enables every pupil to take advantage of full provision in Welsh or English throughout their educational career'.

An unequivocal policy statement is needed which adopts the principle that Designated Welsh Medium Schools are the favoured model for delivering Welsh medium education in the primary and secondary sectors.

In all fairness, the objectives (p.5) are creditable, but the substance of the Plan does not lay down the basis to accomplish these.

We note that the Plan acknowledges all the current weaknesses and failings; but falls short of addressing the situation. This plan should be developmental rather than descriptive. Only a network of designated Welsh medium schools will succeed in getting to grips with the current 'post code lottery' in regard to provision. Equality of choice and real opportunities for families who want their children to receive full secondary Welsh medium education in Powys is totally dependent on that.

The Plan notes that the numbers of Welsh medium pupils in the Powys education system has barely changed over recent years, and further notes a reduction in the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh first language at the end of the Foundation Phase. More needs to be done than simply acknowledge the need for substantial changes to the way Welsh medium education is offered in the County. Action needs to be taken now. We acknowledge that the changes that are needed will not happen overnight, but it's important that the plan lays down firm foundations which are necessary to ensure this happens over the coming years. The journey must begin with this Plan.

Home – School Transport

Is the Council happy that parents are aware of its transport policy and understand their rights in regard to transport to Welsh Education provision? There have been major problems in the past because of the Council's failure to share information in an accessible and transparent way, and that information was not correct or current. This is true of the primary and secondary sectors in every part of the county.

The Plan acknowledges that the latest policy review has affected a number of pupils taking advantage of the Welsh medium provision in some Welsh speaking areas. The exact number of pupils affected should be stated.

It's obvious that this has led to an unintentional result which is harmful to Welsh education.

It's a cause for concern that considerable errors and inconsistencies are still common with regard to implementing this policy. We note that the precedents established by successful appeals since 2008 have recently been ignored. This does cause concern.

We emphasise that ensuring consistency is especially important during this transitional phase when implementing potential changes to secondary provision and new developments in the primary sector e.g. Welshpool

We suggest that the proposed full review needs to be the first step in the work of forward planning the provision.

In such a rural county as Powys, it's key to ensure that parents are fully aware of the Council's transport policy.

Section 2

Outcome 1:

The results, outputs and targets do not correspond with the statement in the vision which agrees with the Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become completely bilingual by attending Welsh medium schools.

We refer to the letter from Alun Davies AM, Minister for Welsh and Lifelong Learning, sent to every LA in August 2016, which states:

“Your WESP’s are critical in achieving our aim of a million Welsh speakers by 2050. I now expect robust, well thought out plans with ambitious, challenging yet achievable targets.”

In it’s current form, the Plan fails to show clear and ambitious progress which will contribute to achieving the Welsh government’s national targets.

It refers to the need to measure and create demand for Welsh medium education, but doesn’t show how this will be achieved, using clear and practical actions.

Now, there is not only an expectation to provide for current demand, but also to initiate growth. Apart from the intention to establish a long awaited Welsh medium primary school in Welshpool, there is failure to be proactive in regard to growing the sector and to go above and beyond meeting current demand only. The Plan demonstrates a lack of desire to grow Welsh medium education on the part of the Authority.

The Plan refers to monitoring and measuring demand, but there are no details as to when the next survey will be undertaken, the proposed methodology nor how it will contribute to the county’s ability to forward plan provision and respond proactively to the growing demand for Welsh medium education. The County would be wise to offer specific information on the advantages of Welsh medium education prior to assessing demand.

The Plan refers to the difficulties associated with getting hold of parent data in order to undertake a survey. The Government should intervene in this situation in order to standardise the arrangements and facilitate this work.

The Plan also refers to ‘alternative methods’ for assessing potentially hidden demand for Welsh medium education. It would be beneficial to include more details on this.

It’s inevitable that substantially more funding would be needed to expand Welsh medium Education. There is no specific cross-reference in this section to the County’s priorities in relation to Welsh medium projects during the next funding period of the 21st Century Schools programme after 2019/20. The County is expected to note these details.

Also, it’s essential that there is clear and transparent cross-referencing between the Plan and the Local Development Plan in order to show what work has been done to assess the adequacy of Welsh medium settings in those areas where new housing developments are expected to take place.

We note a vague reference to the Communications / Marketing Strategy but there are no details on how the Council will pass on information to parents on the advantages of Welsh medium education.

This critical element should be afforded far higher attention in the Plan.

Basically, the WESP needs to be a promotional plan, i.e. the promotional element should be central to it and drive every other aspect of the document.

The Council needs to lead the work of promoting and initiating interest and awareness of Welsh medium education through other means, such as:

- ensuring that parallel information on the two systems are sent to Flying Start groups, English and Welsh medium play groups, childminders and children groups, and to parents with registration forms, and that those details contain information on transport arrangements, as Welsh medium schools service larger catchment areas than English medium schools
- ensuring that information on the two systems is available for estate agents and rental agencies in the area to be given to families moving to the area
- ensuring that the content of the website and Information Booklet for Parents are balanced
- providing language awareness and the benefits of Welsh medium education / bilingualism training for front-line Council staff and work with the Health Board to provide the same training for midwives and health visitors and discover ways of sharing positive messages in a consistent and thorough way.
- promoting the concept of a 'Language Journey' that is central to the work of promoting the Plan as a whole. This could contribute to strengthening and improving the bridging ratios between the Cylch Meithrin and Schools.
- working closely with the Welsh for Children Scheme.

The previous Plan included a target to establish a website to provide information on Welsh medium education in Powys to refer parents to the various organisations and Welsh medium schools. That important target should be included in this Plan.

More clarity is needed for parents in relation to the linguistic outcomes of the various educational models that exist in Powys. It must ensure that parents are aware that Welsh medium education with steady progression through each Key Stage creates the best conditions for their children to acquire equal linguistic skills in Welsh and English, in accordance with the Welsh government's policy.

We note that Powys Council is a member of the ERW Consortium. Has a specific group been established which can discuss particular matters in relation to Welsh medium provision. Such a group would be able to deal with key cross-county matters, including planning school places; future capital funding applications; secondary provision; ALN etc? These arrangements could progress from being 'informal discussions' in order to establish a proactive process for identifying opportunities to work together in the future?

Objective 1.1

There is a lack of specific targets for progressing children in the pre school sector and growth targets in co-operation with the Mudiad Meithrin. In the previous Plan, there was a definite target to work with the Mudiad Meithrin to identify opportunities to develop new provision in areas where no provision currently existed. It would be good to incorporate clear, specific, measurable targets in this Plan to develop provision.

There are catchments where there is currently no Welsh medium provision at all, including Crickhowell, Gwernyfed and John Beddoes. Consideration should be given to including a strategic objective 1.6 (p.14) in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy, which states that access to early years and primary statutory provision should be increased in the child's community.

What is the current situation with regard to child care places for Welsh Medium Flying start children in the County? It would be beneficial to state this, and the correlation with the objectives of Outcome 1.

Objective 1.2

We congratulate the county on the intention to open a long awaited Welsh medium primary school in Welshpool. The experience of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glöwyr which was located in a building which was too small to satisfy demand rings bells. RhAG and others issued warnings about this during the consultation stage. Providing Welsh medium education in a brand new building is an ideal combination which creates astonishing demand. Care must be taken to ensure history doesn't repeat itself in Welshpool and that the county has learned essential lessons. We would also encourage the county to look at the success of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd as an example of good practice in promoting and supporting the transition of pupils from primary to secondary school.

Objective 1.3

The aim of supporting Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to move along the linguistic continuum is to be welcomed. It would be good to include more details about this process and the timetable in the Plan.

It would be good to see the County adopt an official policy to move primary schools along the linguistic continuum (like Carmarthenshire County Council) and increase Welsh provision in the Foundation Phase as a starting point. This should be included as one of the Plan's core principles.

Objective 1.4

Objective 1.5

Objective 1.6

We welcome the intention to review provision in three areas to develop additional provision in new areas, but question the timetable for the work in question. Does the work programme need looking at again?

One big concern in regard to a delay in reviewing provision in Mid Powys is that the provision there is in effect reducing, with the closure of the Welsh stream at Ysgol Dolafon, and Rhayader School and Ysgol Trefonnen having seen a reduction in Welsh medium classes in 2016.

If the situation in Ystradgynlais means there is a danger of refusing children admission to the only Welsh medium school in the area, there is room to argue that that review should be held as a matter of urgency. In the meantime, short term measures should be implemented to reduce the pressure on places until any review has decided on a long term solution.

Objective 1.7

It is disappointing to note that Powys is one of a small number of counties which is still without a centre for latecomers.

What would happen in a situation where a family moves from England to Powys with children of 4 and 7 years of age, who are keen for them to attend a Welsh medium school? In reality, their choices would be very limited.

Waiting until the end of the life of this Plan is not acceptable, the situation needs rectifying immediately.

To overcome the challenges facing a rural Local Authority, Powys should have a network of area provision or 'hub', either as independent centres, or associated with a local Welsh medium school as satellite centres. The new Welsh medium primary school in Welshpool offers an opportunity to develop this provision. This could be repeated in other parts of Powys e.g. proposals to extend/increase provision in the Ystradgynlais area.

Outcome 2

For some time now, it has been apparent that the present education system in the secondary sector in Powys is unsustainable; from an educational, linguistic or financial point of view. The current arrangements do not offer equal opportunities to pupils in Powys to receive full, unbroken education through the medium of Welsh; currently the only way to access such provision is by travelling out of county. In the south of the County an increasing number of pupils are making that journey: this cannot be an acceptable scenario.

Attempts in the previous Plan to turn dual stream schools into Category 2B schools by 2020 were a failure.

Welsh Medium Secondary Schools (Category 2A) have to be part of the solution, and this Plan needs to contain a clear commitment to act on that with definite targets and a firm timetable in order to achieve this.

Establishing such schools in Powys would break the current restrictive circle and would completely change the landscape in regard to Welsh medium education in the county, in accordance with the Welsh Government expectations to strengthen bilingualism. More than one school is needed to achieve this vision.

We note that a review of secondary education provision in North Powys offers an option to establish bilingual Category 2A school or schools in that area. In the same way, corresponding opportunities need to be offered in Mid and South Powys. This is a basic matter of equality. As a starting point, combining and strengthening the current Welsh medium provision offers the best chance of achieving this.

Establishing Category 2A Welsh Medium Secondary Schools would:

- stimulate growth in the Welsh medium sector and lead to increasing the numbers in Secondary schools over time. This is the common experience in other parts of Wales. It would also be bound to have a positive impact on the growth of numbers in the Welsh medium primary and pre-school sectors;

- offer the same educational experience to Welsh medium pupils compared to English stream pupils, by offering a full and unbroken range of subjects in every key stage;
- have a positive impact on improving and increasing progression between key stages (see data in Appendix 1);
- stop pupils moving from the Welsh stream to the English stream;
- create a situation which would allow the new school to attract qualified staff across the full range of subjects;
- create a school with a totally Welsh ethos, which would set the best conditions to nurture and develop pupils' confidence and skills in the Welsh language;
- match national policy in regard to strengthening, extending and developing Welsh medium education and would allow Powys County Council to reach national targets set by the Welsh Government.

The need to establish Welsh Medium Secondary Schools is also key in order to achieve Outcomes 3 + 4, i.e. more students studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh and more post-16 students studying subjects through the medium of Welsh.

This demand is consistent with the conclusions of a series of recent surveys undertaken by Mudiad Addysg Gymraeg Gogledd Powys (North Powys Welsh Education Movement) (2011) and RhAG (2016 and 2011), which confirms the desire of Powys parents in favour of the principle of establishing Category 2A Welsh Medium Secondary Schools. ¹

The work of convincing has yet to be done, but the Council needs to be brave enough to take this fateful step now.

We completely agree that the arrangements with NPTC need to be formalised in regard to transferring pupils to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. This is crucial in respect of safeguarding current arrangements by establishing a cross-county agreement for those wishing to continue to receive Welsh medium education at their closest school, especially with regard to post-16 provision, and enable them to travel to Welsh schools in adjoining counties. It will give pupils and parents certainty and clarity.

With regard to immersion provision for latecomers in the secondary sector, we note the existence of successful examples already in Powys, i.e. provision funded partly by the Government in Llanfyllin and Builth Wells. There was also reference in the previous Plan to a 'Welsh class' at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen (Bro Ddyfi in that Plan). The provision ended because of a lack of funding.

¹ http://rhag.net/dogfennau/ADRODDIAD%20AR%20GANFYDDIADAU%20AROLWIG%20RhAG%20DE%20POWYS_terfy_nol.pdf

We believe there is a strong argument in favour of formulating a business case to re-establish that provision and that it is fully funded by the LA to ensure its viability and sustainability. This should be a fairly simple process and there is no need to wait to introduce a Category 2A school as suggested in the Plan.

Outcome 3

Outcome 4

We are concerned about the lack of subject choice through the medium of Welsh in post-16 provision across Powys.

Establishing designated Welsh Medium schools across Powys would be the key driver in order to create a critical mass of learners which is needed to develop secondary and post-16 provision in the county.

The Plan mentions that the majority of vocational provision in Powys is provided by NPTC Group of Colleges at Campuses in Newtown and Brecon. Again there is no Welsh medium provision at either campus at the moment. In the previous Plan, there was a target to work with NPTC Group of Colleges to identify ways of developing more Welsh medium vocational courses. A similar target needs to be included in this Plan. A strategy with the College should be agreed, and targets set to develop courses in key areas e.g. Health & Care, Tourism, Early Years etc. The College's Bilingualism Champions could lead this jointly with the Local Authority. This should be incorporated in the Plan. Examples of good practice at Bridgend College can be demonstrated, where the college works closely with local Welsh medium secondary schools to develop and provide courses.

With exciting developments on the horizon for post-16 education in the English sector, it's important to invest in the Welsh sector as well in order that an equally attractive offer is available through the medium of Welsh and the widest possible range of Welsh medium courses are available to students.

Also, opportunities to work with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol need to be developed to promote study pathways in the Higher Education sector.

The Council needs to lead this work, as the main employer in the area, and assume a proactive role in regard to promoting opportunities to join the workforce across the whole range of Council services.

Outcome 5

The previous Plan acknowledged that "creating a Welsh ethos in school was key". Does this plan support the same vision?

Again, the Plan demonstrates inconsistency – there is a statement in the vision which agrees with the Government that Welsh Medium schools is the most effective way of nurturing fully bilingual skills, but that cannot be reconciled with the contents of the rest

of the document which undermines that statement, especially with regard to the secondary sector.

We must emphasise that maintaining a Welsh stream in an English school, or offering a percentage of subjects through the medium of Welsh in a school where the ethos, administration and attitudes are not totally Welsh is not a policy which succeeds in the long term. That is more and more unlikely in a context where Welsh as a community language is diminishing. (see: the statement in the vision).

Outcome 6

This is one of the weakest sections of the Plan.

It's obvious that provision is falling short of expectations, and that the service across the county is fragmented and piecemeal.

The previous plan referred to carrying out a formal audit of provision. Obviously no progress has been made on this matter since the previous Plan.

This work needs to be prioritised during the life of the current Plan. It's a basic matter of equality.

The current Plan should include more hard, measurable targets.

Some matters to note:

- When will the findings of the review be known?
- What will be the the priorities of these changes in regard to support for Welsh medium ALN provision?
- What is the current situation with regard to the county's employed personnel specialisms e.g Educational Pshychologists, Language and Speech Therapists, support for Dyslexia etc? This should be included in the Plan.
- Does the county intend establishing a Centre (Centres) to centralise specialities and support, to provide essential support to schools?
- What is the plan in regard to moving to regional working and considering formalising such an arrangement? Is this an area where ERW could provide leadership?

Outcome 7

Leadership from the Welsh Government is needed to increase capacity, but every LA has a contribution to make to fulfil the aim.

Welsh medium training courses for teachers need to be developed, and intense language proficiency courses should be offered to teachers willing to transfer to teach in Welsh, again through release schemes and developing the Sabbatical Scheme. An important priority is ensuring a supply of headteachers for the future.

Would it be possible to develop discussions between schools, Teaching Unions and the consortia to consider the possibilities?

Opportunities to teach through the medium of Welsh need promoting amongst Welsh medium pupils choosing a career.

The Plan refers to considerable difficulties in regard to Welsh speaking headteachers in the primary sector in Powys.

It goes on to note that this is a specific problem when appointing heads in dual stream schools, and because of that it has been necessary to appoint individuals with 'limited' linguistic skills. This is a totally unacceptable situation and undermines any efforts to maintain a Welsh ethos.

The same challenges face the secondary sector, where a number of schools have difficulty recruiting teachers to teach specific subjects through the medium of Welsh. That is a common challenge at a national level, but it could be a more intense problem in a county with a considerable number of parallel dual stream schools.

Establishing designated Welsh medium schools (primary and secondary) would contribute hugely to resolving this situation.

In the meantime, an enterprising and bold action plan is needed to attract headteachers and teachers with the necessary linguistic skills to work in Powys.

Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1PD

Ffôn/Tel: 01970 639639
Ffacs/Fax: 01970 639638



25 Ionawr 2017

Cyngor Sir Powys

Spa Road East

Llandrindod

Powys

LD1 5LG

Annwyl Syr / Madam,

Dyma ymateb i ymgynghoriad Cyngor Sir Powys ar ddogfen CSGA ar ran Mudiad Meithrin. Mae atodiad o bwyntiau gweithredol ynghlwm.

Tra'n cydnabod cryfderau'r ddogfen (yn enwedig tua'r cychwyn) wrth adnabod cyfraniad Powys tuag at y targed o filiwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050, pwysigrwydd denu teuluoedd nad sy'n siarad Cymraeg i ddewis addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg i'w plant a'r berthynas rhwng gofal plant ac addysg statudol, mae'r ddogfen yn siomedig yn ei diffyg gweledigaeth.

Tra fod diffyg ysgolion penodedig uwchradd Cymraeg yn dylanwadu ar waith ein cylchoedd meithrin (gan nad oes llwybr neu daith iaith glir ar gael i'r plentyn o 3/4 oed-16/18 oed), prif fyrddwn yr ymateb hwn yw dylanwad y blynyddoedd cynnar ar y cynllun strategol (deiliant 1).

Cynigir y sylwadau canlynol:

- Mae bodolaeth cylch meithrin neu ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn brawf o'r galw cymunedol am addysg Gymraeg. Pa waith hybu a hyrwyddo a wneir gan y Cyngor i ddenu rhieni a gofalwyr i ystyried addysg Gymraeg?;
- Pa ystyriaeth a roddir i'r angen am ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y blynyddoedd cynnar mewn ardaloedd gwledig dwfn?
- Tra'n croesawu cydnabyddiaeth y ddogfen o rôl ddiarnheuol y Mentrau Iaith yn hybu a hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg gyda rhieni a gofalwyr, mae gan y cylchoedd meithrin, y Cylchoedd Ti a Fi a'r grwpiau 'Cymraeg i Blant' rôl y dylid ei arddel hefyd gan fod hwn yn gyfrwng allweddol i gyfathrebu gyda theuluoedd;
- Mae diffyg sylweddol yn y modd yr eir ati i fesur ac adnabod y galw am ofal plant Gymraeg drwy'r CSAs – ceir dros 80 o gwestiynau (rhai ohonynt yn gymhleth) yn yr holiadur i rieni/gofalwyr. Mae diffyg ystyried y gyd-berthynas rhwng y CSA a'r CSGA;

www.meithrin.co.uk

arbenigwyr y blynyddoedd cynnar Welsh early years specialists

Page 246

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive: Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies

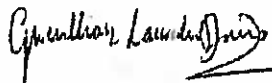
Elusen Gofresredig/Registered Charity 1022320. Cwmni Cyfyngedig dan Warant/Company Limited by Guarantee 2164058. Cofresrwyd yng Nghymru/Registered in Wales

- Nid oes cydnabyddiaeth o ddylanwad y cynnig 30 awr o ofal plant rhad ac am ddim arfaethedig (a'r Cyfnod Sylfaen yn greiddiol i hynny) ar ddewisiadau addysg rhieni a gofalwyr;
- Os oes gwir ymlyniad i'r uchelgais o filiwn o siaradwyr fel a nodir ar gychwyn y ddogfen (a chyfraniad Powys i hynny) dylid ymgeisio mapio beth fyddai'r cyfraniad drwy'r gyfundrefn addysg gan ystyried pa fath o ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg fyddai'n angenrheidiol i'r pwrpas;
- Pa fewnbwn ystyrion a gafwyd gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol megis cynrychiolwyr Mudiad Meithrin yn y broses o fathu'r CSGA?
- Croesewir yr angen i sicrhau darpariaeth deg yn y Gymraeg i blant ag anghenion ychwanegol (tudalen 27) a'r ymrwymiad i agor ysgol benodedig yn y Trallwng.

Ystyrir fod cyfleoedd pendant ar gael ym Mhowys i ddylanwadu ar ardrawiad ieithyddol a hynny drwy'r gyfundrefn addysg.

Tra'n derbyn nad all y Cyngor Sir weithredu mewn gwagle wrth ystyried cynnwys y CSGA, mae'r diffyg uchelgais (a gydnabyddir yn y ddogfen ei hun) yn siomedig.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,



Dr Gwennllian Lansdown Davies

Prif Weithredwr

Rhagair i'r Deiliant:

- 1) Drwy'r ddogfen draw, nid oes unrhyw gyfeiriad at ardal Pontsenni nac Ysgol y Bannau, Aberhonddu, sydd â'r hawl i gludiant am ddim i ddilyn addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Ysgol Ystalyfera. Yr unig gyfeiriad sydd yw at ardal Ystradgynlais, ond yn hanesyddol, o fewn y 10 mlynedd diwethaf, mae rhieni ardal Pontsenni wedi ennill yr hawl i gludiant am ddim er mwyn dilyn Addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Ystalyfera. Beth yw'r sefyllfa bresennol?
- 2) A yw gwybodaeth am nifer addysg Cyfnod Sylfaen yn cyd-fynd â data Mudiad Meithrin a ddarperir i Lywodraeth Cymru? Ymddengys nad yw holl ddata ein Cylchoedd Meithrin ar draws Powys o fewn y ddogfen. 'Does dim sôn am Gylch Meithrin Dechrau'n Disglair, Ystradgynlais, yma. Pam?
- 3) A yw Cynllun tender Addysg 3 a 4 oed Powys yn anelu at ymateb i Ddeiliant 1?
- 4) O ran ysgolion penodedig Cyfrwng Cymraeg, 'does dim cyfeiriad at yr ysgolion Cyfrwng Cymraeg gwledig sydd ar hyd a lled gogledd y Sir.
- 5) Fe ddywedwyd wrth yr Awdurdod yn nol yn 2012 fod safle ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr, Ystradgynlais, yn rhy fach ar y pryd. Mae costau Cytundebau S106 yn ychwanegol yn nawr yn lle eu bod wedi cynllunio yn llawn o'r dechrau.
- 6) Pam nad oes ymrwymiad i ddilyn y galw mewn ardaloedd yn Ne'r Sir, sy'n agos at Ystradgynlais, i droi ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn Gyfrwng Cymraeg?
- 7) Ffederasiwn - a yw'r unig fferderasiwn yn gweithio o ran addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg?

Deilliannau

1.1 A yw'r Awdurdod yn mynd i sicrhau fod cefnogaeth i addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn eu hadrannau e.e Tîm y Cyfnod Sylfaen - dim ond 1 athrawes ymgynghorol Cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd o fewn y tîm ac felly y mae pob sefydliad o ran Cylchoedd Meithrin a Dosbarth Meithrin yn colli'r cyfle i hyfforddiant ac unrhyw ddatblygiad proffesiynol drwy Gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

1.2 Carem ganmol yr awdurdod ar y deiliant hwn sef codi ysgol Gymraeg yn y Trallwng.

1.3 Pam fod dewis ieithyddol addysg 3 a 4 oed yn bodoli yn ardal Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth? Onid ddylai'r Sir ymrwymo i Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg yn unig gan eu bod yn nodi fod niferoedd Addysg Cyfrwng Saesneg yn disgyn yn yr ardal?

1.7 Onid yw lleoliad o'r fath yn bwysig ar draws y Sir ac nid yn ganolog i un ardal o'r Sir? Fe ddatblygwyd yr elfen hon o ran hwyrdyfodiad ar un cyfnod yn ardal Llanfair ym Muallt ac yng Nghaereinion - pam nad yw'r sir yn sicrhau ei fod yn ran naturiol o addysg ac nid yn gorfod dibynnu ar gyllid?

Deilliant 2 - Pam ond sefydlu 1 ysgol uwchradd benodedig ar draws y Sir? Powys yw'r Sir fwyaf o ran maint yng Nghymru ac felly nid yw sefydlu 1 ysgol yng ngogledd y Sir yn unig yn gwneud unrhyw synnwyr.

2.5 Fel nodwyd yn 1.7, roedd Caereinion a cysgol uwchradd Llanfair ym Muallt yn darparu gwasanaeth o drochi i hwyrddyfodiaid - pam nad yw'n parhau? Beth ddigwyddodd i'r peilot? Oes angen edrych yn fanylach ar lwyddiant/diffyg llwyddiant y peilot?

Yn dilyn o hyn, y mae rhieni yn parhau i gael yr hawl i newid cyfrwng rhwng symud o'r cynradd i'r uwchradd ac rhwng diwedd Cyfnod Allweddol 3 a Dechrau Cyfnod Allweddol 4. Pam nad oes polisi cadarn gan y Sir i sicrhau lleihad i hyn ddigwydd?

Tud 36 - Ble mae Ysgol Uwchradd Llandrindod ar y rhestr? Ar hyn o bryd mae soô am gau Llandrindod a Llanfair ym Muallt er mwyn agor un ysgol ar ddwy safle - pam nad all yr awdurdod fod yn eglur a nodi o'r dechrau mai canoli addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg ar safle Llanfair ym Muallt yw ei nod?

Ffôn/Tel: 01970 639639
Ffacs/Fax: 01970 639638

25 January 2017

Powys County Council

Spa Road East
Llandrindod
Powys
LD1 5LG

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please see below the response on behalf of Mudiad Meithrin to the Powys County Council consultation document on the WESP. Attached is an appendix showing action points.

Whilst acknowledging the strengths of the document (especially at the beginning) in identifying Powys' contribution to the target of reaching a Million Welsh speakers by 2050, the importance of attracting non Welsh speaking families to opting for Welsh medium education for their children, and the relationship between child care and statutory education, the document is disappointing from the point of a lack of vision.

Whilst the lack of designated Welsh medium secondary schools influences our work in the Cylchoedd Meithrin (due to the lack of a clear linguistic path for children 3/4 -16/18 years of age), the main message in this response is the influence of early years on the strategic plan (outcome 1).

We offer the following comments:

- The existence of a Cylch Meithrin or Welsh medium provision is evidence of the growing demand for Welsh education. What promotional work does the Council undertake to attract parents and carers to consider choosing Welsh medium education?;
- What consideration is given to the need for Welsh medium early years provision in the deeply rural areas?
- Whilst we welcome the fact that the document undoubtedly acknowledges the work of the Language Initiatives in relation to promoting Welsh medium education to parents and carers, the Cylch Meithrin, Welsh Mother & Toddler groups (Cylch Ti a Fi) and the 'Welsh for Children' groups ('Cymraeg i Blant') also have a role to play which should be recognised, as this is also a key vehicle for communicating with families;
- There are significant weaknesses in the way that the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) goes about measuring and identifying demand for Welsh medium child care – there are over 80 questions (some complicated) in the questionnaire for parents/carers. The connection between the CSA and WESP has not been considered sufficiently;

- There is no acknowledgement of the influence the proposed offer of 30 hours of free child care (and the Foundation Phase which is central to that) will have on parents' and carers' choice of education;
- If there truly is a commitment to the ambition to reach a million of Welsh speakers as noted at the start of the document (and Powys' contribution to that figure) then an attempt should be made to map the contribution via the education system and considering what type of Welsh medium provision would be necessary for that purpose;
- What meaningful input was received from key stakeholders, such as representatives of Mudiad Meithrin to the process of drawing up the WESP?
- The need to ensure fair Welsh medium provision for children with additional needs is welcomed (page 27) as is the commitment to open a designated Welsh medium school in Welshpool.

We consider there are definite opportunities in Powys to influence the linguistic impact through the education system.

Whilst we accept that the County Council cannot operate in a vacuum when considering the WESP, the lack of ambition (which is acknowledged in the document itself) is disappointing.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies

Chief Executive

Foreword to the Outcomes:

- 1) Throughout the document there is no reference to pupils from the Sennybridge area nor Ysgol y Bannau, Brecon, who are entitled to free transport to receive Welsh Medium education at Ysgol Ystalyfera. The only reference is to the Ystradgynlais area, but historically within the last 10 years, parents from the Sennybridge area have won the right to free transport to send their children to Welsh medium Education in Ystalyfera. What is the current situation?
- 2) Does the information about the number in Foundation Phase education correspond to the Mudiad Meithrin data which is sent to the Welsh Government? It appears that not all data from the Cylchoedd Meithrin across Powys have been included in the document. There's no reference to Cylch Meithrin Dechrau'n Disglair, Ystradgynlais, at all. Why?
- 3) Does the Tender Plan for 3 & 4 year olds education in Powys aim to respond to Outcome 1?
- 4) With regard to designated Welsh Medium schools, there's no reference to rural Welsh Medium schools spread over the north of the County.
- 5) The Authority was told back in 2012 that the Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr site at Ystradgynlais, was too small at that time. The costs of S106 Agreements are now extra; whereas they should have been fully planned for from the beginning.
- 6) Why is there no commitment to follow the demand in the South of the County, close to Ystradgynlais, to turn dual stream schools into Welsh Medium schools?
- 7) Federation – is the only Federation working in the Welsh Medium sector?

Outcomes

1.1 Is the Authority going to ensure support for Welsh Medium education within their own departments e.g. The Foundation Phase Team – there is only 1 Welsh Medium Advisory Teacher in the team, thus every institution from the Cylchoedd Meithrin and Nursery Classes miss out on the chance of training and any professional development through the medium of Welsh.

1.2 I would like to praise the authority on this outcome, i.e. opening a Welsh primary school in Welshpool.

1.3 Why is there a linguistic choice of education for 3 & 4 year olds in the Bro Hyddgen catchment, Machynlleth? Shouldn't the County commit to Welsh Medium education only in this area in view of the fact that they refer to a drop in numbers in English medium education in the area?

1.7 Isn't such a location important across the county, and not central to one area of the County? This element with regard to latecomers was developed in the Builth Wells and

Caereinion areas at one time – why doesn't the county ensure it's a natural part of education and not totally dependent on funding?

Outcome 2 – Why establish only 1 designated secondary school in the County. Powys is the largest county in Wales, so establishing 1 school in the north of the County makes no sense.

2.5 As noted in 1.7 above, Caereinion and Builth Wells high schools provided an immersion programme for latecomers - why is this no longer in existence? What happened to the pilot programme? Should the success/lack of success of the pilot scheme be looked at in more detail?

Following on from this, parents continue to have the right to change language medium when children move from primary to secondary school and at the end of Key Stage 3 and starting Key Stage 4. Why does the County not have a definite policy to ensure that this happens less frequently?

Page 36 – Where is Llandrindod High School on the list? At the moment, it's possible that Llandrindod and Builth High schools will close with a single school on two sites opening instead – why can't the authority be clear about this and state from the start that its aim is to centralise Welsh Medium education provision on the Builth Wells site?

Ymateb Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed i ymgynghoriad y CSGA

Cyswllt: bethan.jones1@powys.gov.uk

Mae Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed yn gwerthfawrogi'r cyfle i ymateb i ddogfen CSGA Cyngor Sir Powys. Fel y mae'r Cyngor yn cydnabod yn y ddogfen ddrafft yma, bydd angen newidiadau mawr o fewn addysg yn y Sir os ydym am gwrdd â tharged heriol y Llywodraeth o filiwn o siaredwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050.

Mae'r Fenter yn cytuno gyda phrif amcanion strategol y Cyngor:

1. Mae'n bwysig iawn cynyddu'r cyfleoedd i ddisgyblion fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth blynnyddoedd cynnar cyfrwng Cymraeg. O'n profiad ar hyn o bryd, mae'n debyg bod proses tendro yn peri effaith negyddol ar ddarpariaeth mewn rhai ardaloedd, felly mae na beryg bydd y cyfleoedd i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth blynnyddoedd cynnar yn lleihau. Mae angen i'r Cyngor annog darpariaeth uniaith Cymraeg yn y llefydd mae'n bodoli yn barod, a chefnogi darpariaethau uniaith Saesneg i weithredu'n ddwyieithog.
2. Rydym yn falch o weld bod sefydlu darpariaeth cynradd cymraeg dynodedig newydd yn amcan strategol i'r Cyngor. Mae'n bwysig i'r Cyngor cydnabod bod bylchau mawr yn y darpariaeth ddaearyddol o addysg Gymraeg ar hyn o bryd, gydag ardaloedd Gwernyfed, Tref y Clawdd/Llanandras a Chrughywel heb unrhyw ddarpariaeth. Hoffwn hefyd weld y Cyngor yn ystyried modelau gwahanol o wella darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg, er enghraifft cynnig mwy o ddarpariaeth Cyfnod Sylfaen cyfrwng Cymraeg.
3. Mae dilyniant cryf a chlr yn oll bwysig i lwyddiant darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ar bob cam. Mae'r effaith o ganoli darpariaeth gyda niferoedd uwch mewn un lleoliad yn helpu'r Fenter wrth adeiladu cynllun o weithgareddau allgyrsiol oherwydd bod y plant yn nabod ei gilydd yn barod ac yn gyfarwydd gyda'r un lleoliadau. Mae hyn yn gwneud hi'n haws i redeg clybiau cinio neu ôl ysgol a chael niferoedd digonol.
4. Rydym yn falch o weld hwyrdyfodiaid yn cael eu hystyried yn y cynllun. Mae pobl ifanc o'r ffrwd trochi yn Llanfair ym Muallt wedi cymryd rhan mewn nifer o weithgareddau'r Fenter neu glybiau ieuenctid yn y gorffennol ac yn parhau i fod yn rhan o gymuned cymraeg yr ardal. Mae'n dda gallu cynnig y cyfle i bobl sy'n symud i'r ardal iddynt deimlo eu bod yn gallu cael mynediant at iaith y wlad – bwysig i nodi mewn sir lle mae ond 49.8% wedi'u geni yng Nghymru yn ol cyfrifiad 2011. Wedi dweud hyn, mae'n llawer haws denu pobl o'r cychwyn cyntaf, felly credwn bod marchnata addysg Cymraeg yn holl bwysig.

Hoffwn hefyd awgrymu bod hyrwyddo a marchnata addysg Gymraeg i rieni hefyd yn cael ei gynnwys fel un o brif amcanion strategol y Cyngor. Mae'n hanfodol i'r Cyngor gydnabod bod diffyg marchnata yn un o'r prif resymau dros y twf bychain iawn yr ydym wedi gweld yn yr ardal, wrth i addysg Gymraeg dyfu'n gyflym iawn mewn ardaloedd eraill. Dylai'r Cyngor felly adnabod y maes yma fel un craidd er

mwyn gwyrddroi'r niferoedd o blant Powys sy'n derbyn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.
Awgrymw'n felly ychwanegu:

Amcan 5 - Sefydlu cynllun i hyrwyddo a marchnata cyfleoedd addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws Bowys.

1.2

Credwn ei fod yn holl bwysig i gynnal Fforwm Addysg er mwyn dod a rhanddeiliaid ynghyd i drafod materion sy'n ymwneud ag addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ar draws y Sir.

Deilliannau

Deilliant 1

Mwy o blant 7 oed yn derbyn eu haddysg drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg Rydym yn deall bod y targedau yn adlewyrchu sefyllfa presennol plant dan saith oed sy'n derbyn addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Oherwydd hyn, credwn ei fod yn hanfodol bod y Cyngor yn edrych ar y niferoedd yn dewis addysg Gymraeg yn syth - mae angen marchnata addysg Cymraeg a sicrhau bod pob rhiant yn deal bod dewis iaith i gael ac yn derbyn manylion y ddarpariaeth agosaf. Bwysig hefyd edrych ar hyrwyddo'r ffaith bod hi ddim rhy hwyr i ddewis addysg Gymraeg yn y blynyddoedd cyntaf o ysgol gynradd, a bod rhieni ac athrawon yn ymwybodol o'r gefnogaeth sydd ar gael i rieni a phlant sy'n pontio i'r ffrwd Gymraeg yn hwyrach. Bydd yn bwysig ystyried addysg Cymraeg yn ardal Ystradgynlais i sicrhau bod pob rhiant sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg i'w plentyn yn parhau i allu gwneud hynny - nid ydym yn teimlo bod amcan 1.6, o edrych ar y pwnc yn 2019, yn rhoi digon o bwyslais ar y mater. Hoffai'r Fenter weld datblygiant o'r Cylch Canu a'r Ti a Fi llwyddiannus yn Ysgol y Cribarth, Abercraf, lle mae nifer fawr o'r teuluoedd yn rhai lle mae defnydd y Gymraeg yn naturiol, ond mae yna batrwm clir o fynychu'r ysgol leol, sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cynnig darpariaeth cyfrwng Saesneg yn unig. Does dim un ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yn gwasanaethu ardal canolbarth Powys, ond nifer o ffrydiau gweddol mawr. Mae'n bwysig i'r Cyngor ystyried a yw hynny'n cynnig darpariaeth teg yn yr ardal yna - hoffwn weld amcan 1.5 yn cael ei gwlbhau yn ystod 2018, nid ei gychwyn.

Rydym yn falch iawn o weld bod y Cyngor yn ymrwymo i asesu'r galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg am fod hyn yn rhan hanfodol o gynllunio at ddatblygu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Bydd y Fenter iaith yn barod i gefnogi'r Cyngor yn y broses yma.

Rydym yn cydnabod bod y Cyngor yn barod i gydweithio gyda'r Mentrau iaith leol i hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg ac yn edrych ymlaen i allu gweithredu.

Rydym yn falch o weld bod ystyriaeth yn cael ei roi i hwyrdyfodiaid (1.7 a 2.5)

Deilliant 2

Mi fydd y Fenter yn parhau i gynnig cyfleon allgyrsiol i alluogi pobl ifanc i wella'u sgiliau iaith Gymraeg.

Deilliant 3 a 4

Rydym yn falch iawn o weld bod y Cyngor yn ystyried hyn, am nad oes tegwch ar hyn o bryd yn nifer y pynciau cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd yn cael eu cynnig i ddisgyblion CA4 a 5 o gymharu a'r nifer o bynciau cyfrwng Saesneg.

Deilliant 5

5.2.2 – Mae'r Fenter yn croesawu'r nod o roi'r Siartr Iaith ar waith ym mhob ysgol sy'n addysgu'r Gymraeg fel ail iaith yn ystod cyfnod y CSGA ac rydym yn awyddus i weld sut all y Fenter gefnogi ysgolion sy'n rhan o'r cynllun.

Deilliant 6

6.1 – Mae'r Fenter yn falch o weld bod yr amcan yma i'w gyflawni erbyn Gwanwyn 2017. Hoffwn felly weld ymrwymiad gyda dyddiad pendant er mwyn rhannu canfyddion yr asesiad yma.

Deilliant 7

7.2 – Mae'r Fenter yn falch o weld ymrwymiad parhaus y Cyngor i'r Cynllun Sabathol i staff ysgolion. Mae'r Fenter yn edrych mlaen at weithio gyda'r Cyngor i gefnogi y staff sydd wedi gwneud y gorau o'r cyfle yma drwy gynnig sesiynau siarad a gweithgareddau addas iddynt allu ymarfer eu sgiliau iaith.

Sylwadau Pellach

Hoffai'r Fenter awgrymu hefyd bod y Cyngor yn cynnwys yn y CSGA rhestr o bartneriaid y Cyngor yn y maes, fel y mae rhai Mentrau Iaith eraill ar draws Gymru yn bwriadu gwneud. Y bwriad yw y bydd hyn yn helpu dangos cryfder cynllunio lleol o fewn y CSGA ac yn dangos y pethau cyffredin ar draws y Cynghorau. Awgrymwn:

Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed

Nod Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed yw i gynyddu defnydd y Gymraeg ymysg oedolion a phlant yn Ne Powys er mwyn sicrhau bod yr iaith yn rhan annatod o gymuned yr ardal, yn galluogi pobl i fyw a gweithio yn Gymraeg.

Sefydliadau brwd sy'n gweithio gyda gwirfoddolwyr ar lefel gymunedol ydy'r Mentrau Iaith, yn hybu defnydd y Gymraeg. Rydym yn gwneud hynny drwy drefnu gweithgareddau cymdeithasol a chydweithio gyda sefydliadau a busesau eraill er mwyn gwneud y Gymraeg yn fwy hygyrch a gweladwy ar draws de Powys.

Mae'r Fenter yn edrych 'mlaen at allu weithio gyda'r Cyngor drwy'r Fforwm Iaith a'r Fforwm Addysg er mwyn sicrhau tecwch cyfleon ac addysg i blant Cyngor Sir Powys.

Response from Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed to the WESP Consultaiton

Contact: bethan.jones1@powys.gov.uk

Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Powys County Council WESP document. As the Council acknowledges in this draft document, big changes will be needed to the education system in the County if we are to meet the challenging target set by the Government of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Menter BaM agrees with the Council's main strategic objectives:

1. It's very important to increase opportunities for pupils to take advantage of Welsh medium early years provision. Based on our current experience, it appears that the tender process is having a negative effect on provision in some areas, therefore there is a danger that opportunities to take advantage of early years provision will reduce. The council needs to encourage Welsh medium only provision in places where it already exists and support English only medium settings to work bilingually.
2. We are pleased to see that the Council has identified establishing designated Welsh medium primary provision as a strategic objective. It's important that the Council acknowledges the major gaps in the current geographical provision in regard to Welsh medium education, with the following areas lacking any such provision: Gwernynyfed, Knighton/Presteigne and Crickhowell. We would like to see the the Council consider different models for improving Welsh medium provision, such as offering more Welsh medium Foundation Phase provision.
3. Solid and clear progression is essential for Welsh medium provision at every stage. The effect of centralising provision with higher numbers in one location helps MBaM to draw up a programme of extra-curricular activities because children know each other already and are familiar with the same locations. This makes it easier to run lunch time or after schools clubs and ensure sufficient numbers.
4. We are pleased to see that latecomers are considered in the plan. Young people from the immersion stream at Builth Wells have taken part in a number of activities arranged by MbaM or youth clubs in the past and are still part of the area's Welsh community. It's good to be able to offer people moving to the area this opportunity, so that they have access to the language – this is important to note in a county where only 49.8% were born in Wales according to the 2011 Census. Having said that, it's much easier to attract people from the very start, so we believe that marketing Welsh medium education is critical.

We would also like to suggest that promoting and marketing Welsh medium education to parents should be included as one of the Council's main objectives for the Plan. It's essential the Council acknowledges that lack of marketing is one of the main reasons for the very small growth that has happened in the area,

whereas Welsh medium education is growing very quickly in other areas. The Council therefore should identify this as a core area in order to reverse the number of Powys children receiving Welsh medium education. We therefore suggest adding:

Objective 5 - Establish a plan to promote and market Welsh medium educational opportunities across Powys.

1.2

We believe it's very important to maintain the Education Forum in order to bring stakeholders together to discuss matters related to Welsh medium education across the county.

Outcomes

Outcome 1

More 7 year olds to be educated through the medium of Welsh

We believe that the targets reflect the current situation with children under 7 who are being educated through the medium of Welsh. Because of this, we believe it's essential that the Council looks at the numbers choosing Welsh medium education straight away – Welsh medium education needs to be marketed, and every parent needs to understand there is a language option and should receive details of the nearest provision. It's important also to look at promoting the fact that it's not too late to opt for Welsh medium education in the early years at primary school, and that parents and teachers are aware of the support which is available for parents and children who transfer to Welsh medium at a later stage. It will be important to consider Welsh medium education in the Ystradgynlais area to ensure that every parent who opts for Welsh medium education for their child can continue to do that – we don't feel that objective 1.6, with the review to commence in 2019, puts enough emphasis on the matter. MBaM would like to see the successful Cylch Canu (Singing Circle) and Cylch Ti a Fi at Ysgol y Cribarth, Abercrave being developed, where a large number of families who naturally use Welsh, but there is a clear pattern of attending the local school which currently only offers English medium provision. There is no Welsh medium school serving the mid Powys area, only a number of fairly large Welsh streams. It's important that the Council considers whether that is fair provision for the area in question – we would like to see objective 1.5 being fulfilled during 2018, not starting then.

We are pleased to note that the Council is committed to assessing demand for Welsh medium education because this is an essential part of planning Welsh medium education. The Language Initiative is ready to support the Council with this process. We acknowledge that the Council is ready to work with local Language Initiatives to promote Welsh medium education and look forward to acting on this.

We are pleased to see that consideration is given to latecomers (1.7 and 2.5)

Outcome 2

MBaM will continue to offer extra-curricular opportunities to enable young people to improve their Welsh language skills.

Outcomes 3 and 4

We are pleased to see the Council is considering this, because at the moment the number of Welsh medium subjects offered to KS4 & 5 pupils is not fair compared to the English medium subjects available.

Outcome 5

5.2.2 – MBaM welcomes the aim to implement the Language Charter in every school where Welsh is taught as a second language during the life of the WESP and we are keen to see how MBAM could support schools involved in the scheme.

Outcome 6

6.1 – MBaM is pleased to see that this objective is to be achieved by Spring 2017. We would like to see a commitment with a definite date in order to share the findings of this assessment.

Outcome 7

7.2 – MBaM is pleased to see the Council's continued commitment to the Sabbatical Scheme for school staff. MBaM looks forward to working with the Council to support staff who have made the most of this opportunity by offering appropriate conversation and activity sessions for them to practice their language skills.

Further Comments

MBaM would like to suggest that the Council includes in the WESP a list of the Council's partners in this field, as some other Language Initiatives across Wales do. The intention is that this will help show the local planning strength in the WESP and shows common methods across the Councils. We would suggest:

Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed

Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed's aim is to increase the use of the Welsh language amongst adults and children in South Powys in order to ensure that the language is an integral part of the local community, enabling people to live and work through the medium of Welsh.

The Language Initiatives are enthusiastic organisations who work with volunteers at community level, promoting the use of the Welsh language. We do this by organising social activities and working with other organisations and businesses to make Welsh more accessible and visible across south Powys.

MBaM looks forward to being able to work with the Council through the Language Forum and the Education Forum to ensure equal education and opportunities for children in Powys.

menter Maldwyn

YMATEB I WESP

Credwn yn fod y Gymraeg yn berchen i bob person ifanc yng Nghymru ac i Bowys gyfan.

Mae angen gweithio tuag at alluogi pob disgybl i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg, ac mae angen sicrhau dros amser bod pob dysgwr yn cael y cyfle i lwyr-ymdrochi yn y Gymraeg, gan fod bod yn gwbl ddwyieithog ac yn hyderus i gyfathrebu yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg pan maent yn gadael yr ysgol yn rhywbeth na ddylid eu hamddifadu neb ohono. Hawl i bawb dylai Addysg Gymraeg fod, nid opsiwn amgen, ac mae angen targedau llawer iawn mwy uchelgeisiol er mwyn adlewyrchu hynny.

Yn ymarferol, mae hyn yn meddwl bod angen:

- (i) targedau uchelgeisiol er mwyn cynyddu'r niferoedd sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg;
- (ii) symud pob ysgol yn y Sir, gan gynnwys yr holl ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg a dwy ffrwd, ar hyd y continwrm iaith.
- (iii) agor ysgol statws 2A i wasanaethu Gogledd Ddwyrain y Sir

Ymateb i bwyntiau penodol yn y cynllun

Mae'r ddogfen yn nodi: "Mae'r rhan fwyaf o Benaethiaid Ysgolion wedi adnabod amseroedd penodol ar gyfer ymwybyddiaeth iaith Gymraeg a/neu wella sgiliau iaith Gymraeg yn eu Rhaglenni Dysgu ar gyfer 2014-15." Mae angen gwybod yn union beth yw'r cynlluniau ar gyfer gweithredu hyn gan nad yw'r ddogfen yn nodi hyn. Mae angen buddsoddiad er mwyn cynyddu nifer staff ysgolion sy'n gwella eu sgiliau iaith, a darparu cyrsiau dwys yw'r unig ateb.

Mae'r ddogfen hefyd yn nodi "Mae ysgolion wedi adrodd am anawsterau wrth recriwtio cynorthwywyr sydd â sgiliau iaith Gymraeg addas" ac felly mae angen buddsoddiad yn y maes gofal plant ym Mhowys ac yn wir ar draws y sbectwm dysgu.

Gallai hyn ddigwydd drwy gydweithio'n agosach gyda Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Cenedlaethol sydd wedi derbyn £3m ychwanegol ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf i ddarparu dysgu dwys i'r sector gyhoeddus.

Roedd y Cyngor wedi torri gwasanaeth 'Cam Wrth Gam' oedd yn darparu dysgu Gofal Plant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym mlynnyddoedd 10, 11 a'r Chweched Dosbarth. Roedd hyn yn sicrhau bod myfyrwyr yn cael trosglwyddiad syth i'r maes fel gweithwyr cymwysedig yn y sector Gofal Plant yn eu cymunedau lleol. Daeth y cynlluniau hyn i ben yn 2013 yn ysgol Llanfyllin a Llanfair Caereinion, ac yn 2016 yn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Machynlleth. Mae tystiolaeth felly yn dangos bod Cyngor

Sir Powys wedi dileu cynnydd yn y maes yma yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf ac mae angen gweithredu ar frys i sicrhau gwyrddroi hyn.

Yn wyneb colli gwasanaeth TWF mae angen sicrhau bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn creu ymgyrch hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg o'r crud yn ogystal â thargedu rhieni ysgolion cynradd ar draws Powys ond yn benodol yn Trallwng a Drenewydd i gyd fynd gyda sefydlu ysgolion cynradd newydd yn yr ardal.

Gan fod nifer o drigolion Pwylaidd yn byw yn yr ardaloedd hyn, mae angen hefyd gwneud siwr bod yna ddeunydd hyrwyddo yn yr iaith Bwyleg.

Siomedig iawn yw'r cynnydd disgwylidig mewn addysg Gymraeg yn yr adroddiad, ac mae angen bod yn llawer mwy uchelgeisiol. Mae'r cynnydd o 0.5% yn flynyddol o blant 7 oed yn cael eu hasesu yn Gymraeg yn y cynllun drafft yn rhy geidwadol o lawer – fyddai'n cymryd dros 160 o flynyddoedd i ddarparu addysg gynradd Gymraeg i blant y Sir ar y gyfradd yna.

Yn waeth na hynny, mae'r cynllun yn rhagweld na fydd unrhyw gynnydd o gwbl yn y ganran o blant sy'n cael eu hasesu yn Gymraeg ym mlwyddyn 9 rhwng 2016 a 2020 – mae hynny'n annerbyniol.

Rhaid pwysleisio'r angen ar frys i agor canolfan hwyrddyfodiaid ym Mhowys, ar gyfer disgyblion cynradd ac uwchradd gan ddilyn esiampl Gwynedd wrth gynnwys y teulu cyfan yn eu darpariaeth.

Dengys y ffigyrau ar dudalennau 36-37 fod gwendidau sylweddol yn y ddarpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg presennol yn ogystal, gyda 98% o ddysgwyr 16-19 oed mewn ysgolion yn astudio yn uniaith Saesneg a dim ond 22 unigolyn y flwyddyn yn gwneud hynny yn Gymraeg. Dim ond 52% o fyfyrwyr sy'n astudio'r Gymraeg fel Iaith Gyntaf ar lefel TGAU yn astudio eu pynciau eraill trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Eto, mae angen anelu at gynnydd llawer cyflymach na 0.5% yn flynyddol – mae'r rhain yn wendidau systematig sy'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â nhw.

Rydym yn croesawu'r amcan i ddarparu gwell gyfleoedd i hwyrddyfodiaid, ac yn benodol i sefydlu darpariaeth trochi; ond mae angen ymrwymiad mwy pendant, ac amserlen llawer iawn yn gynt na'r hyn a roddir yn 2.5 – mae angen cytuno cyn gynted â phosib ar leoliad canolfan, a gosod dyddiad y bydd y ddarpariaeth ar gael, a hynny o fewn oes y cynllun.

Ymhellach, mae angen hyrwyddo astudio pynciau 'anhraddodiadol' drwy'r Gymraeg ar lefel TGAU a Safon Uwch, megis Mathemateg, Ffiseg, Bioleg, Cyfrifiadura a Chemeg. Mae ymchwil yn dangos nad yw bobl ifainc sy'n cyrraedd y brifysgol heb astudio pwnc eu gradd drwy'r Gymraeg ar gyfer TGAU a Safon Uwch yn dewis y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg iddynt yn y Brifysgol. Mae hyn yn eu

hamddifadu o fanteision addysg uwch drwy'r Gymraeg, megis ysgoloriaethau sy'n agored i fyfyrwyr sy'n astudio drwy'r Gymraeg (gan sefydliadau addysg uwch unigol a'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol), cynllun profiad gwaith y Coleg Cymraeg a buddion gyrfaol.

Er enghraifft, mae ystadegau DHLE (Cyrchfannau Ymadawyr Addysg Uwch) yn dangos bod graddedigion sy'n astudio drwy'r Gymraeg yn fwy tebygol o fod mewn gwaith/addysg bellach a mewn swydd raddedig/addysg ôl-raddedig chwe mis ar ôl graddio na myfyrwyr sy'n medru'r Gymraeg sydd ddim wedi astudio'n Gymraeg a myfyrwyr di-Gymraeg.

Felly, mae angen mwy o bwyslais ar ddilyniant i addysg uwch a'r byd gwaith. Mae'r ddogfen yn crybwyll hyrwyddo'r buddion gyrfaol o gael addysg drwy'r Gymraeg ond nid yw'n gwneud yn glir bod y buddion hyn yn gysylltiedig â pharhau ag addysg Gymraeg hyd lefel ôl-raddedig. Mae angen gwneud rhieni yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd dilyniant.

Er mwyn llenwi bylchau o safbwynt creu gweithlu mae angen i Gyngor Sir Powys mynd i'r afael ar frys i ddenu staff sy'n siarad Cymraeg ond dysgu dros Glawdd Offa (Swydd Henffordd neu Amwythig er enghraifft) yn ôl i Bowys a'u cefnogi i feithrin hyder dysgu yn y Gymraeg.

Er mwyn bod yn llawer mwy llwyddiannus mewn allbynau mae angen gweithredu continiwwm addysg Gymraeg. Bydd angen gweld ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn newid i fod yn ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg/dwyieithog llawn.

Yn ogystal â chodi statws yr iaith, bydd hyn yn gwella'r sylfaen i fedru darparu addysg uwchradd gwell a chodi hyder a dileu ofnau posib rhieni. Mae'n hanfodol nad yw toriadau ariannol yn arwain at uno dosbarthiadau Cyfnod Sylfaen mewn ysgolion dwy ffrwd - er enghraifft Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, Llanfyllin a Trefonnen. Yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen gosodir sylfaen gadarn ar gyfer eu haddysg Gymraeg ac felly mae canlyniad o'r fath yn hollol anfoddhaol.

Casgliad

Mae'n hanfodol bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn sicr, uchelgeisiol a hyderus o ran ei ymrwymiad i addysg Gymraeg yn y Sir, ac nid yw hyn yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn y ddogfen hon fel y mae.

Mae angen buddsoddiad mawr er mwyn gweld addysg Gymraeg yn ffynnu ym Mhowys – gan gynnwys cynllun hyrwyddo gyda thargedau penodol; ymrwymiad i symud holl ysgolion y Sir ar hyd y continiwwm iaith; a chynlluniau o fewn oes y cynllun i sefydlu rhagor o ysgolion Cymraeg a chanolfannau trochi gydag amserlen bendant.

RESPONSE TO WESP

We believe the Welsh language belongs to every young person throughout Wales and Powys.

We need to work towards enabling every pupil to take advantage of full provision in English and Welsh, and ensure that every learner has the opportunity to completely immerse him/herself in the Welsh language over a period because being completely bilingual and confident to communicate in Welsh and English when they leave school is a right that no-one should be denied. A right to a Welsh Education should be everyone's right rather than an alternative option, and far higher ambitious targets are needed in order to reflect that.

On a practical level, this means the following are needed:

- (i) Ambitious targets to increase the numbers receiving Welsh medium education;
- (ii) Move every school in the county, including all English medium and dual stream schools, along the language continuum.
- (iii) A category 2A school should be opened to serve North East Powys.

Response to specific points in the plan.

The document states: "The majority of Headteachers have identified specific times for Welsh language awareness and/or improving Welsh Language skills in their Teaching Programmes for 2014-15." We need to know exactly what the plans are for implementing this because the document does not state this. Investment is needed to increase the number of staff in schools improving their language skills, and the only answer is providing intensive courses.

The document also states "Schools have reported difficulties in recruiting assistants with suitable Welsh language skills" therefore investment is needed in the child care sector in Powys, and across the whole of the teaching spectrum.

This could happen by closer working with the Welsh National Centre for Learning Welsh which has received an additional £3m for the next financial year to offer intensive learning for the public sector.

The Council ended the service with 'Cam Wrth Gam' who provided Welsh medium Child Care learning in years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form. This ensured that students could transfer immediately to the field as workers qualified in the Child Care sector within local communities. These schemes came to an end in 2013 in Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion, and in 2016 in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Machynlleth. Such evidence shows that Powys County Council has written off

progress in this field during recent years, and we need to act urgently to ensure this is reversed.

Having lost the TWF service, Powys County Council needs to formulate a campaign to promote Welsh medium education from birth, as well as targeting primary school parents across Powys, but specifically in Welshpool and Newtown areas to go hand in hand with establishing new primary schools in these areas.

As a number of Polish citizens now live in these areas, Polish language promotional materials are also needed.

The expected progress in Welsh medium education in the report is very disappointing, and it needs to be far more ambitious. The annual increase of 0.5% of 7 year old pupils assessed in Welsh in the draft plan is far too conservative – it would take over 160 years to provide Welsh medium primary education to the County's children at that rate.

And worse than that, the plan foresees that there will be no increase at all in the percentage of children being assessed in Welsh in year 9 between 2016 and 2020 – that is unacceptable.

The urgency to open a centre for latecomers in Powys must be emphasised, for primary and secondary pupils, following the Gwynedd example of including the whole family in the provision.

The figures on pages 36-37 show substantial weaknesses in the current Welsh medium secondary provision in addition, with 98% of learners aged 16-19 in schools studying in English only with only 22 individuals studying through the medium of Welsh each year. Only 52% of students studying Welsh as a first language at GCSE study other subjects through the medium of Welsh. Again, the progress needs to be much faster than 0.5% annually – these are systematic weaknesses which must be addressed.

We welcome the aim of providing better opportunities for latecomers, and specifically the establishment of Immersion provision; but a more definite commitment is needed and a much earlier timetable than that noted in 2.5 – the location of the centre needs to be agreed as soon as possible, and a date set for commencing provision, all within the life of this plan.

Further, the study of Welsh medium 'non-traditional' subjects need to be promoted at GCSE and A level such as Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computing and Chemistry. Research shows that young people who get to university without studying their degree subject through the medium of Welsh at GCSE or A level do not opt for Welsh medium provision at University. This denies them the advantages of higher education through the medium of Welsh, such as scholarships

which are open to Welsh medium students (offered by individual higher education institutions and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol), the Welsh College work experience scheme and career benefits.

For example, DHEL (Destination of Higher Education Leavers) statistics show that graduates studying through the medium of Welsh are more likely to be in work/further education and a graduate job/post-graduate education six months following graduation, than students who can speak Welsh but have not studied through the medium of Welsh, and non-Welsh speaking students.

Therefore, more emphasis is needed on progression to higher education and the world of work. The document refers to promoting career benefits of Welsh medium education but does not make clear the benefits connected with continued Welsh medium education to post graduate level. Parents need to be made aware of the importance of progression.

In order to fill in gaps with regard to creating a workforce, Powys County Council needs to deal urgently with the matter of attracting Welsh speaking staff who currently teach the other side of Offa's Dyke (for example in Herefordshire or Shropshire) back to Powys and offer support in regaining their confidence to teach in Welsh.

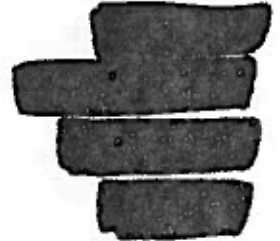
In order to be much more successful in regard to outcomes, a Welsh education continuum needs to be implemented. Dual stream schools need to change to become Welsh medium schools/fully bilingual.

In addition to raising the status of the language, this will improve the basis for providing better secondary education and increase confidence and allay parents' potential fears. It's essential that financial cuts do not lead to combining Foundation Phase classes in dual stream schools – such as Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llanfyllin and Trefonnen. The solid foundation for Welsh medium education is laid in the Foundation Phase, therefore such a result would be totally unsatisfactory.

Conclusion

It's essential that Powys County Council is certain, ambitious and confident in regard to it's commitment to Welsh medium education in the County, and that is not reflected in the document in its current form.

Large investment is needed for Welsh medium education to flourish in Powys – including a promotion plan with specific targets; a commitment to move all schools in the County along the language continuum; and schemes during the life of this plan to establish more Welsh schools and immersion centres with a definite timescale.



24^{ain} Ionawr 2017

Tîm Trawsnewid Ysgolion

Cyngor Sir Powys

Neuadd y Sir

Llandrindod

LD1 5LG

Annwyl Fadarn / Syr,

Ymateb i Ymhyngoriad ar ddrafft CSGA 2017-2020

Rwy'n sgwennu atoch ar ran RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg) Canolbarth Powys Canol i ymateb i'ch ymhyngoriad am ddrafft Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg (CSGA) 2017-2020

Yn gyntaf, hoffem ni ddweud ein bod ni'n ddiolchgar am y cyfle i sylwi ar CSGA yn ei ffurf gyfredol. Byddwn ni cychwyn â sylwadau cyffredinol ar CSGA cyn canolbwyntio ar ymatebion i cynigion penodol.

Rydym yn croesawi y gweledigaeth hir-tymor am gynddu'r niferoedd o blant a phobl ifainc sy'n cael eu haddysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg, ac am i'r bobl ifainc hynny gael cyfle cyfartal i ddarpariaeth led led Powys. Serch hynny, rydyn ni'n sytyried na fydd y Deilliannau a'r Amcanion cyfredol, fel y gwelir yn CSGA yn arwain at yr amcanion hyn

A bod yn benodol, rydyn nin'n credu'n gryf y dylai darpariaeth yng Ngogledd, Canolbarth a De Powys fod yn gyfartal. Mae nifer o rannau yn CSGA lle bydd llai o uchelgais yn y cynigion am Ganolbarth Powys, ardal sydd eisoes yn didoddef o ddiffyg ysgolion cyfrwng Gymraeg detholedig, ac ardaloedd helaeth lle mae mynediad i ddarpariaeth ffrydiau deuol yn annichonol. Bydd y diffyg uchelgais hwn dros Ganolbarth Powys yn golygu bod yr agendor hwn mewn darpariaeth yn mynd yn fwy, yn hytrach nag yn llai, fel yr awgrymir gan eich gweledigaeth.

Rydyn ni'n ystyried y dylai fod targedau mwy manwl a mesuradwy trwy CSGA i gyd, yn arbennig parthed cau'r bwch hwn mewn darpariaeth.

Mae CSGA yn ei ffurf bresennol yn methu dangos cynydd clir ac uchelgeisiol tuag at gyflawni targedau y Strategî Addysg Gyfrwng Cymraeg wedi'u gorchymyn gan y llywodraeth. Mae CSGA yn cyfeirio at angen mesur a chreu galwad am addysg Gyfrwng Cymraeg, ond dyw e ddim yn esbonio sut bydd hynny yn cael ei gyflawni. Disgwylir bellach nid yn unig darparu dros y galw presennol, ond hefyd symbylu tyfiant. Ac eithrio ymrwymiad i sefydlu ysgol gynradd gyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Trallwng, mae methiant amlwg i dyfu'r sector yn flaenweithredol na mynd tu hwnt i gwrdd â'r galw presennol. Felly mae CSGA yn dangos diffyg dyhead i dyfu addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg y tu fewn i'r Awdurdod.

Cyd-destyn arall lle rydyn ni'n ystyried bod rhaid datbygiad sylweddol o CSGA yw hyrwyddo addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg ymhlith rhieni ym Mhowys. Tra bod y weledigaeth yn cydnabod angen newidadau sylweddol i ddarpariaeth, dylai hefyd trafod yr angen i newid y ffordd bod y ddarpariaeth hon yn cael ei hybu a'i chynnig.

Tra bod sôn ar dudalen 11 o'r drafft am Strategaeth Gyfathrebu / Farchnata parthed addysg gynradd, rydyn ni'n ystyried dylai'r gwaith hwn gael mwy o flaenoriaeth yn CSGA dwyddi draw.

Hoffen ni weld yr Awdurdod Lleol yn datblygu ac arwain strategaeth effeithiol i hybu addysg gyfrwng Gymraeg o enedigaeth i'r brifysgol; "cynnig gweithgar a bywiog", yn gwithio'n fewnol ac ar draws asiantaethau i hysbysebu a hyrwyddo addysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Byddai "cynnig gweithredol a bywiog" yn golygu byddai, er enghraifft, cyfleoedd a buddlon mynediad cynnar ac hwyr i mewn i ddarpariaeth gyfrwng Cymraeg yn cael eu hyrwyddo yn gryf ymhlith rhieni sy'n holi'r Awdurdod Lleol am fynediadau.

Rydym ni'n ystyried byddai hyn yn arwain at ganran llawer mwy o ddysgwyr Cymraeg nag yw eich targedau cyfredwl yn awgymu ei bod nhw'n bossibl

I sicrhau bod y cynnig gweithredol a bywiog yn cael sylw dilys yn CSGA, rydyn ni'n awgrymu'r ychwanegiadau canlynol; prif Amcan (5) newydd a Deilliant (8) ategol.

Amcan 5: Sefydlu cynnig gweithredol a bywiog ar gyfer addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg,

Deilliant 8: Cynigir yn actif addysg trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg if i bob person ifanc.

Byddwn ni nawr yn trafod rhai o'r Canlyniadau a'r is-amcanion wedi'u cynnwys yn y draft.

Deilliant 1: Mwy o blant saith oed yn cael eu dysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

1.1. Cwblhau'r adolygiad o'r blynyddoedd cynnar a sicrhau bod o leiaf 24 o sefydliadau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cael eu comisiynu.

Rydyn ni'n bryderus iawn nad yw'r CSGA cyfredol yn cydnabod yn llawn yr anawsterau 'r heriau wedi'u hwynebu gan sefyllfaoedd blynyddoedd cynnar ym Mhowys, hyd yn oed cyn i'r newid i fynediad i ysgolion cynradd yn digwydd eleni.

Mae hyn yn arbennig o arwyddocaol yng Nghanolbarth Powys, lle mae hi'n anodd ricriwtio i rolau,

a diffyg cynigion gan ymgeiswyr sydd yn meddiannu'r sgiliau a'r cymwysterau dilys, neu hyd yn oed gan y rhai sydd yn fodlon gweithio tuag at y cymwysterau hynny.

Mae amodau ychwanegol yn cael eu gosod ar y gosodiadau yn sgîl y newid mewn oedran mynediad, megis angen dau ddsbarth lle mae plant dwy a phedair oed yn mynychu'r un ysgol. Mae hyn yn golygu bod pryderon gwirioneddol am y recriwtio ychwanegol fyddai'n angenrheidiol; pe bai'r gosodiadau yn llwyddiannus yn y proses tendro. Gallai hyn arwain at rai gosodiadau yn dewis peidio ag ail-dendro, neu i fynd yn ddwyieithog – a byddai'r naill ganlyniad fel y llall yn gam yn ôl o ran y weledigaeth wedi'i hamlinellu yn CSGA.

Byddai hi'n bositif gweld amcan yn hybu a chefnogi darparu addysg Gymraeg flynyddoedd cynnar mean ardaleodd lle nad os dim byd o gwbl ar hyn o bryd megis yn Nwyrain sir Faesyfed..

1.5. Adolygu'r ddarpariaeth gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn nalgylch Canolbarth Powys

Flely dwywedwyd uchod, hoffen ni weld cydraddoldeb uchelgais i ddatblygu addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg yng Nogledd, Canolbarth a De Powys. Hoffen ni gan hynny groesawu'r ffaith bod CSGA yn cynnwys arolwg ar ddarpariaeth ysgol gynradd yng Nghanolbarth Powys, ond rydyn ni'n gwrthwynebu'r bwrui=ias i'w ystyried yn 2018. Byddai hyn ar ôl ystyriaeth o dair ardal yng Nogledd Powys, lle mae ysgolion Cymraeg eisoes ar gael.

Pryder o bwys am adael arolwg ar Ganolbarth Powys i ddiweddarach yw body ddarpariaeth yma mewn gwirionedd yn lleihau, a'r ffrwd Gymraeg yn Ysgol Dolafon wedi cau, a Rhaeadr a Threfonnen fel ei gilydd wedi lleihau'r nifer o ddsbarthiadau ffrwd Gymraeg yn 2016.

Rydyn ni'n ystyried gallai lleihau'r ddarpariaeth fel hyn achosi argyfwng mewn addysg Gymraeg yng Nghanolbarth Powys, sef byddai rhieni allasai fod wedi ystyried addysg gyfrwng Cymeraeg i'w plant yn ffeindio'r syniad o lei o ddsbarthiadau a dosbarthiadau mwy yn gynnig annymunol.

Rydyn ni'n deall bod hyn wedi digwydd oherwydd y sefyllfa ariannol bresennol syd yn ei wneud yn anodd iawn i ysgolion ffrydiau deul gadw'r gallu i dyfu yn eu ffrydiau Cymraeg. Fodd bynnag rydyn ni'n awgrymu bod hyn yn groes i'r weledigaeth yn CSGA am godi derbyiad o addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg.

Fel rhan o'r arolygiad ar Ganolbarth Powys, hoffen ni i'r Awdurdod Lleol ystyried nifer o opsiynau am gynyddu darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg, gan gynnwys ond ddim wedi'i gyfyngu i:

- cymorth ariannol ychwanegol i ffrydiau cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Rhaeadr, Llandrindod a Llanfair-ym-Muallt,
- adeiladau un neu fwy ysgol gynradd gyfrwng Cymraeg, a
- gweithredu pob cyfnod sylfaen dros ysgolion iau ym Mhowys, fel y gwnaethpwyd mewn rhai awdurdodau lleol cyfagos.

Fel y dywedwyd, rydyn yn credu taw hon yw adeg holl-bwysig i Ganolbarth Powys, ac fe hoffen ni sicrhau bod modd i unrhyw ysgolion newydd arfaethedig gael eu cynnwys yn Rhaglen Ysgolion yr 21^{ain} Ganrif Llywodraeth Cymru ar dudalen 10 o CSGA.

1.7. Sefydlu darpariaeth ar gyfer hwyr-ddyfodiaid ym Mhowys

Bydden ni'n croesawi'n fawr iawn ariannu ychwanegol ar gyfer hwyr-ddyfodiaid mewn addysg gyfrwng Cymraeg, ac rydyn ni'n credu bydd diddordeb cynyddol yn y ddarpariaeth rydyn ni wedi'i chynnig.

Fodd bynnag, rydyn yn ystyried efallai nad yw'r cynigion cyfredol an 'ganolfannau' i hwyr-ddyfodiaid yn addas i sir â daearyddiaeth a dwysedd poblogaeth fel Powys, ac efallai bydd yr angen i blant ifanc orfod trafaelio pellteroedd helaeth ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth hon yn annymunol i rieni.

Bydden ni'n awgrymu dyild ystyried posibiliadau eraill, fel cymorth peripatetig i hwyr-ddyfodiaid tu fewnni'r sefyllfaoedd presennol, neu ddarpariaeth ychwanegol yn uniongyrchol i'r ysgolion.

Deilliant 2:

Mwy o ddysgwyr yn parhau i wella eu sgiliau iaith wrth symud o'r ysgoll gynradd i'r ysgol uwchradd.

2.1. Parhau â'r gwaith i sefydlu un neu fwy o ysgolion Categori 2A yn Ngogledd Powys

2.2. Canoli darpariaeth gyfrwng Cymraeg uwchradd yn Ne a Chanolbarth Powys

Rydyn ni'n dymuno eto ddatgan ein dymuniad am gyfartaledd o ddarpariaeth yng Nghanolbarth Powys i'w chymharu â darpariaeth ar y gweill yng Ngogledd Powys, Os caiff ysgol gyfrwng Cymraeg Categori 2A ei sefydlu yng Ngogledd Powys, rydyn ni'n dadlau dylid yr un ddarpariaeth gael ei chynnig i Dde a Ngholbarth Powys.

Gan ystyried hyn oll, dymunwn ddatgan taw ein model dewisach ar gyfer Canolbarth Powys yw datblygiad ysgol uwchradd gyfrwng Cymraeg Categori 2A, ac rydyn ni'n ystyried dylid ailgysgrifennu Amcan 2.2 i weithio tua'r amcan hwn.i. Fe brofwyd mewn araloedd eraill pan fydd darpariaeth Categori 2A ar agel, mae'r gofyn am y ddarpariaeth honno yn tfyu'n sylweddol.

2.5 I Nodi cyfleoedd i sefydlu darpariaeth trochi i hwyrddyfodiaid

Fel yn achos Amcan 1.7., bydden ni'n croesawi'n gynnes unrhyw ddarpariaeth ar gyfer ddarpariaeth drochi hwyrddyfodiaid Fodd bynnag, dydyn ni ddim yn cytuno â'r dyddiad arfaethedig, sef diwedd blwyddyn academaidd 2019/20 cyn cytuno ble dylai'r ddarpariaeth hon fod yng Nghanolbarth/De Powys.

Noder, bod y ddarpariaeth hon eisoes wedi bod ar gael yn Ysgol Uwchradd Llanfair-ym-Muallt yn eitha llwyddiannus, ac rydyn ni'n ystyried bod dadl fusnes i adfer y ddarpariaeth hon yn eitha rhwydd i'w chflawni, heb angen oedi cyn sefydlu ysgol uwchradd Categori A.

Deilliant 3: Mwy o ddysgwyr 14-16 oed yn astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

Deilliant 4: Mwy o ddysgwyr 16-19 oed yn astudio ar gyfer cymwysterau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

3/4.1 Parhau i gefnogi ysgolion i gynyddu cyfleoedd ôl-16 ar gyfer dysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg

Rydyn ni'n pryderu am ddiffyg dewis o destunau trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ôl 16 yng Nghanolbarth Powys, Fel hynny, rydyn ni'n ystyried bod y sefyllfa wedi'i ddisgrifio yn y Datganiad Ategol yn groes

i'r amcan i *ddal* i gefnogi ysgolion i *gynyddu* cyfleoedd ôl 16 yn y Gymraeg, gan ni ymddengys bod y gefnogaeth honno mewn bodolaeth.

Rydyn ni'n ystyried bod angen buddsoddi i achosi darpariaeth Gymraeg yn is i lawr y system dyfu, a dyma beth fydd yn caniatáu tyfiant nifer y testunau cyfrwng Cymraeg ôl 16, trwy gyrsiau lefel A a chyrsgiau galwedigaethol el ei gilydd.

Deilliant 5: Mwy o fyfyrwyr â sgilliau uwch yn y Gymraeg

5.1.3 Rhoi'r Siarter Iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer Cymraeg iaith gyntaf, gyda'r nod bod pob ysgol gynradd sy'n addysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn rhan o'r cynllun.

Mae gweithredu Siarter iaith Cymraeg â'r amcan y bydd pob ysgol sy'n addysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn cymry, gan gynnwys Tor-faen, Castell Nedd Port Talbot a Chasnewydd wedi mabwysiadu a ngweithredu'r cynllun. Ni ddylid oedi bellach, a dylai hyn fod yn flaenoliaeth yn ystod bywyd y Cynllun hwn.

Deilliant 6: Darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gyfer dysgwyr ag Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol (ADY)

6.1 Cynnal archwiliad o'r ddarpariaeth anghenion dysgu ychwanegol

Fel riheni, rydyn ni'n ymwybodol o ddiffyg darpariaeth o Therapi Lleferydd ac iaith a mathau nraill o gymorth i ddysgwyr trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Tra ein bod ni'n croesawi cynnwys archwilio darpariaeth o ADY Cyfrwng Cymraeg, rydyn ni'n ysryied bod y datganiad am weithredoedd pellach yn rhy annelwig, a dylai'r deilliant sicrhau cymorth sydd yn gyfartal â darpariaeth trwy gyfrwng y Saesneg o fewn amser diffimiedig

Unwaith eto, hoffen ni ailadrodd ein diolch am gael cymryd rhan yn yr ymgynghoriad hwn, ac edrychwn ni ymlaen ar gydweithio gyda chi ar ddatblygu hyrwyddiad, argaeledd ac ymroddiad mewn addysg Gyfrwng Cymraeg ynn Nghanolbarth Powys

Yn gywir,

Freddy Greaves
Cadeirydd
RhAG Canolbarth Powys



24th January 2017

School Transformation Team
Powys County Council
Powys County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 5LG

Dear Madam / Sir,

Response to consultation on draft WESP 2017-2020

I am writing on behalf of RhAG Canolbarth Powys (Parents for Welsh Medium Education in Mid-Powys) to respond to your consultation on the draft Powys WESP (Welsh in Education Strategic Plan) 2017 – 2020.

First of all, we would like to state that we are grateful for the opportunity to comment on the WESP in its current form. We will begin with some general comments on the WESP before focussing on some responses to specific proposals.

We would like to welcome the long term vision around increasing the numbers of children and young people being educated through the medium of Welsh, and for those young people having equal access to provision throughout Powys. However, we feel that the current Outcomes and Objectives as laid out in the WESP will not result in you moving towards these aims.

To be specific, we believe there should be a parity in offer of provision across the North, South and Mid areas of Powys. There are a number of parts in the WESP where there seems to be less ambition in the proposals for Mid-Powys, an area which is already lacking any dedicated Welsh medium primary schools and with large parts where access to dual-stream provision is impractical. This lack of ambition for Mid-Powys will lead to the provision gap widening, not closing as the vision suggests is desired.

We believe that there should be more specific, measurable targets throughout the WESP, particularly with regard to closing this provision gap.

The WESP in its present form, fails to demonstrate a clear and ambitious increase towards achieving the targets of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, as required by government guidelines. The WESP makes reference to the need for measuring and creating demand for Welsh medium education, but doesn't demonstrate how this will be achieved, with clear, practical actions. There is now not only an expectation to cater for current demand but also to stimulate growth. Other than the existing commitment to establish a Welsh medium primary school in Welshpool, there is an apparent failure to proactively grow the sector and to go beyond only meeting current demand. Therefore we believe the WESP demonstrates a lack of aspiration to grow Welsh Medium education within the Authority.

Another area in which we feel the WESP needs significant development is around the promotion of Welsh Medium education to parents within Powys. While the vision recognises the need for significant changes to delivery, it should also talk about the need to change the way in which that delivery is promoted and offered.

While there is mention of a Communications / Marketing Strategy in relation to primary education on page 11 of the draft, we believe this work needs to be given more prominence throughout the WESP.

We would like to see the Local Authority develop and lead on an effective communications strategy to promote Welsh medium education from birth to university; an "active offer", working internally and across agencies to advertise and promote education through the medium of Welsh. An active offer would mean that, for example, the opportunities and benefits of early and late entry into Welsh medium provision would be actively promoted to parents making any admissions enquiries to the Local Authority.

We believe this could lead to a much larger percentage increase in Welsh medium learners over the life of the WESP than your current targets would suggest are possible.

To ensure that this active offer is given due regard in the WESP, we are suggesting the following additions; a new main Objective (5) and an accompanying Outcome (8):

Objective 5: To establish an active offer around Welsh medium education.

Outcome 8: all young people are actively offered an education through the medium of Welsh.

We will now address some of the Outcomes and sub-objectives included in the draft.

Outcome 1: More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

1.1. Conclude the early years review and ensure that a minimum of 24 Welsh-medium settings are commissioned

We are very concerned that the current WESP does not appear to fully recognise the difficulties and challenges being faced by the early-years Welsh medium settings in Powys, even before the change to primary school admission age takes affect this year.

This is especially the case in Mid-Powys where settings have difficulty recruiting to roles, with limited applications from candidates who have the appropriate language skills and qualifications, or even from those willing to work towards such qualifications.

Additional conditions are being imposed on settings as a result of the change in admission age, such as requiring two classes when two and four year olds are in attendance. This means that there are real concerns about the additional recruitment that would be required if the settings are to be successful in the tendering process. This could lead to some settings choosing to not re-tender or to become bilingual, either of which outcomes would be a backwards step in relation to the vision outlined in the WESP.

It would also be positive to see a goal around encouraging and supporting the delivery of Welsh medium early years provision where there isn't currently any, such as in East Radnorshire.

1.5. Review Welsh-medium primary provision in the Mid Powys area

As we have stated, we would like to see parity of ambition around proposals to develop Welsh medium education in North, Mid and South Powys. We would therefore like to welcome the inclusion in the WESP of a review into Welsh-medium primary provision in Mid Powys, but oppose the current timescales where it would be considered in 2018. This would be after consideration of 3 separate areas in North Powys, where Welsh medium schools are already available.

A major concern with leaving the review of Mid-Powys to later is that provision here is actually decreasing, with the Welsh stream in Ysgol Dolafon having closed and both Rhayader and Ysgol Trefonnen having reduced the number of their Welsh stream classes in 2016.

We believe that this reduction in capacity could precipitate a real crisis in Welsh medium education in Mid-Powys, with the offer of larger, fewer classes being an unattractive offer to those parents who might previously have considered Welsh medium education for their children.

We understand that this has been done because of the current funding situation, which makes it particularly difficult for dual-stream schools to retain any capacity for growth in their Welsh streams. However we suggest that this puts the current situation starkly at odds with the vision in the WESP around growing the take-up of Welsh medium education.

As part of the review into Mid-Powys, we would like the Local Authority to consider a number of options for increasing the amount of local Welsh medium provision, including but not limited to:

- extra financial support for existing Welsh medium streams in Rhayader, Llandrindod and Builth Wells,
- the building of one or more Welsh medium primary schools and/or junior schools, and
- the implementation of all-Welsh foundation phases across Powys primary schools, as in certain neighbouring local authorities.

As we have stated, we believe this is a time-critical situation for Mid-Powys and we would like to ensure that any new schools planned are able to access the 21st Century Schools funding programme you refer to on page 10 of the WESP.

1.7. Establish provision for latecomers in Powys

We would very much welcome additional funding for latecomers in Welsh Medium education and we believe that an increased interest in this provision will occur from the focus on the promotion of Welsh medium education we have proposed.

However, we feel that the current proposals for latecomer 'centres' may not be the most appropriate for a county with the geography and population density of Powys and that the requirement for their young children to travel great distances to access this provision may put off prospective families.

We would suggest that as part of this process full consideration be given to alternatives such as peripatetic support for latecomers based within current settings or additional resource given directly to the schools.

Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school

2.1. Continue with the work to establish one or more category 2A schools in north Powys

2.2. Centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision for south and mid Powys

We again wish to state our desire for equality of ambition around development of provision in Mid Powys in relation to any proposals being developed in North Powys. If a Category 2A Welsh Medium school established in the North, then we would argue that it would be a fundamental issue of equality that equivalent linguistic provision be offered to learners in both Mid and South Powys.

In light of this, we would like to state our preferred model in Mid-Powys as the development of a Category 2A Welsh Medium High School and we believe that Objective 2.2 should be rewritten to work towards this goal. It has been shown in other areas that if Category 2A Welsh Medium secondary provision is made available, then the demand for that provision will grow significantly.

2.5 Identify opportunities to establish late immersion provision

As with objective 1.7, we would warmly welcome any resource allocated to late immersion provision. However, we do not agree with the target date of the end of the 2019/2020 academic year for agreeing where this provision should be in Mid/South Powys.

We would like to note that this provision has previously been available with some success in Builth Wells High School and we believe that a business case for the re-establishment of that provision would be relatively straightforward and need not wait for the introduction of a Category 2A secondary school as is suggested in the supporting statement.

Outcome 3: More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 4: More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh

3/4.1 Continue to support schools to increase post-16 opportunities for Welsh-medium learners

We are concerned at the lack of subject choice through the medium of Welsh at post-16 in mid Powys. As such we believe that situation described in the Supporting Statement is at odds with the objective to “*continue to support schools to increase post-16 opportunities in Welsh*”, as that support does not appear to be present.

We believe there needs to be investment to grow the Welsh provision lower down the school system and this is what will allow the growth of the number of Welsh medium subjects offered at post-16, both through A-Levels and vocational courses.

Outcome 5: More learners with higher-level Welsh-language skills

5.1.3 Implement the Welsh Language Charter for Welsh First Language, with the aim that all primary schools that teach through the medium of Welsh are part of the scheme.

The Implementation of a Welsh Language Charter, with the aim that all primary schools that teach through the medium of Welsh taking part in the scheme, is to be welcomed. However, other local authorities including Torfaen, Neath Port-Talbot and Newport have already adopted and implemented the scheme. This should not be delayed and should be another key priority during the lifetime of this Plan.

Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

6.1 Carry out an audit of ALN provision

As parents we are aware of a lack of provision for Speech and Language Therapy and other types of learner support through the medium of Welsh. While we welcome the inclusion of an audit of Welsh-medium ALN provision in the WESP, we believe that the statement around further actions is too vague and that the outcome should be to ensure full parity of support with English language provision within a defined time-scale.

Again, we would like to reiterate our thanks for being able to participate in this consultation, and we look forward to working with you on developing the promotion, availability and take-up of Welsh Medium education in Mid-Powys.

Yn gywir,

Freddy Greaves
Cadeirydd
RhAG Canolbarth Powys

Sylwadau am CSGA Powys 2017-20

Cyflwyniad.

Dywed Awdurdod Addysg Powys mai pwrpas pob CSGA yw "manyly ar sut bydd yr awdurdod yn cynllunio'i ddarpariaeth addysg gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn well".

A wnaethpwyd hyn yn ystod cyfod CSGA 2014-17?

Datganiadau CSGA 2017-20 Awdurdod Powys. (Tudalen 3)

"Dros gyfnod CSGA 2014-17 cafwyd gostyngiad yng nghanran y disgyblion a aseswyd mewn Cymraeg iaith gyntaf ar ddiwedd cyfnod sylfaen".

"Mae'n eglur nad yw'r dull presennol o ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys yn cynnig cydraddoldeb i ddysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg â dysgwyr cyfrwng Saesneg. Mae'n gwaethygu yn y cyfnod uwchradd, yn enwedig cyfnodau allweddol 4 a 5."

"Mae'r dull darparu presennol wedi arwain at sefyllfa lle mae math a lefel y ddarpariaeth sydd ar gael i ddisgyblion yn ystod pob cyfnod o'u haddysg yn amrywio'n sylweddol".

"Mae'r awdurdod" "yn sylweddoli bod angen newid sylfaenol ym Mhowys i sicrhau bod pob dysgwr yn gallu manteisio ar ddarpariaeth gadarn" a bod "hyn yn fwy tebygol ar ôl mynychu ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg".

"Mae'r cyngor yn cydnabod bod angen newidiadau sylweddol i'r modd o ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg".

"Mae'r awdurdod yn dyheu am ddatblygu seilwaith sy'n galluogi pob disgybi i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg gydol eu gyrfaoedd addysgol gan sicrhau'r cyfle i lwyr-ymdrochi yn y Gymraeg".

Casgliad.

Casgliad unrhyw ddarllenwr o CSGA Powys 2017-20 yw bod yr awdurdod wedi sylweddoli nad yw ysgolion dwy ffrwd ym Mhowys yn effeithiol. Y cwestiwn wedyn yw a yw'r awdurdod yn mynd i weithredu mewn ffordd effeithiol i "ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn well" ?

Sylwadau ar 1.1

Cyffredinol

Gan fod yr awdurdod wedi dod i'r casgliad bod polisi o ysgolion dwy ffrwd wedi bod yn fethiant ym Mhowys (tudalen 4), a ydynt yn ymroddedig i newid y polisi yma?

Mae angen newid polisi ar frys er tegwch i ddysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg y dyfodol ym Mhowys, ond nid yw son am "gweledigaeth hirdymor" (tudalen 5) yn dderbyniol. Esgus ac ymdrech i gyfiawnhau diffygion sylfaenol yn y ffordd mae'r awdurdod yn gweithredu yw hyn.

Gan mai ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg cynradd ag uwchradd sydd eu hangen, nid oes gan yr awdurdod unrhyw reswm i osgoi eu cyfrifoldeb o gyflawni hyn.

Amcanion.

Nid yw'r amcanion (tudalen 5) yn ddigon uchelgeisiol nac yn ddigon pendant i ddangos bod yr awdurdod o ddifrif. Yn CSGA 2014-17 dywedwyd "Nod strategol 3 i sicrhau bod yr holl bobl ifanc yn cael cyfle i fynychu ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg dynodedig o fewn neu'r tu allan i'r sir, os ydynt yn dymuno". Beth sydd wedi digwydd i'r nod strategol yma mewn tair blynedd? Nid oes son amdano yn y CSGA yma. Mae'r awdurdod bellach wedi gosod amcanion llai eglur mwy niwlog mewn ymgais i osgoi cyfrifoldeb am y methiant maent yn disgwyl yn ystod 2017-20.

Sylwadau ar 1.3 Cludiant

Mae'r awdurdod wedi cydnabod na fu rheolaeth ddigonol ar gludiant disgyblion i ysgolion uwchradd dwy ffrwd yn y gogledd ddwyrain o Bowys. Mae'r trefniadau ymarferol yma yn groes i reoliadau'r awdurdod ac yn golygu bod effaith negyddol sylweddol ar ddarpariaeth addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd hefyd yn groes i bolisi'r awdurdod.

Mae'r awdurdod yn esgeuluso eu cyfrifoldebau ac mae'r gwastraff adnoddau yma'n parhau. Mae darllen yn y CSGA bod yr awdurdod wedi diwygio'r polisi "i gynnwys cludiant ar gyfer disgyblion i'w darpariaeth cyfrwng Saesneg agosaf, os mai ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yw eu hysgol agosaf" (tudalen 6) yn hollol resymol oni bai yr ystyrir nad yw'r gwrthwyneb i'r disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn wir. Mae'r awdurdod yn gorfodi rhieni disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg i fynd i apêl i gael mynychu ysgolion cynradd Cymraeg yn hytrach nag ysgol dwy ffrwd.

Mewn ateb i gwestiwn dan amodau deddf rhyddid gwybodaeth mae'r awdurdod yn datgan 22/5/15 "Mae Cyngor Sir Powys yn credu fod ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg a dwy ffrwd yn gyfartal ac ar y sail yna yn darparu cludiant i'r disgyblion sy'n amodi o dan reoliadau cludiant ysgol i'r arlwy agosaf".

Mae'n enghraifft glasurol o sut mae Powys yn chwilio am resymau ac yng ngwrth ddweud polisiau wrth weithredu dros fuddiannau'r disgyblion cyfrwng Saesneg fel blaenoriaeth dros hawliau disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg ar bob cyfle.

Sylwadau ar 1.4

Mae'n hollol amlwg bod rhaid cael ysgolion cynradd ag uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn cyrraedd pellter rhesymol i bob disgybl ym Mhowys os am wireddu blaenoriaethau'r Llywodraeth. Dyma oedd nod strategol 3 Powys yn CSGA 2014-17. Ond os nad yw'r awdurdod bellach yn mynd i weithredu ar hyn yn syth, esgus fydd y CSGA newydd yma i gyflawnhau esgeulustod Awdurdod Powys o barhau i roi blaenoriaeth i gyfleoedd addysg i'r dysgwyr cyfrwng Saesneg ar draul disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg. Yr eironi yw bod polisi ysgolion uwchradd dwy ffrwd yn cyfyngu ar gyfleoedd disgyblion cyfrwng Saesneg hefyd bellach.

Adran 2. Deilliant 1. Sylwadau.

Mae dehongliad yr Awdurdod yn dangos nad yw'r polisi presennol i gynyddu'r nifer o ddisgyblion Cymraeg eu hiaith yn gweithio. O'r ysgolion cynradd sy'n cynnig darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys mae'r mwyafrif yn rhai dwy ffrwd (tudalen 9). Nid yw'r ysgolion yma yn ddull effeithiol o ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae'r awdurdod yn cydnabod hyn. Felly mae angen newid polisi i ddileu ysgolion dwy ffrwd.

"Mae'r awdurdod yn disgwyl y bydd disgyblion mewn dosbarthiadau cyfrwng Cymraeg ar wahân" "mewn ysgolion dwy ffrwd"(tudalen 10). Yn ymarferol nid dyma sydd yn digwydd. Bellach mae nifer o ysgolion cynradd, gan gynnwys Llanfyllin a Llanrhaeadr-ym-mochnant yn gosod disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg a chyfrwng Saesneg yn yr un dosbarth. Yn amlwg mae hyn yn tansilio'r holl drefn o gyflwyno addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol yn yr oedran pwysicaf i greu dinasyddion dwyieithog.

Pam nad yw'r awdurdod yn ymyrryd? Mewn ysgolion dwy ffrwd mae'r staff a'r llywodraethwyr yn ymdrechu plesio dau feistr, addysg cyfrwng Saesneg ag addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Nid yw'n bosib gweithio i ddau feistr. Mewn ysgol benodedig cyfrwng Cymraeg mae'r nod yn glir, sef addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a dyma paham mae'r ysgolion yma yn llwyddo a'r ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn aneffeithiol.

Y rheswm a roddir gan ysgolion am beidio cadw ffrydiau cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg ar wahân yw diffyg cyllid gan yr awdurdod. Datganiad yr awdurdod yn 2010 oedd bod ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn llawer iawn mwy costus i'w cynnal nag ysgol un ffrwd. Os felly paham nad yw'r awdurdod eisoes wedi gwneud trefniadau i arbed costau, darparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol a rhoi gwir ddewis i rieni drwy ddileu ysgolion dwy ffrwd?

Yn ysgol uwchradd dwy ffrwd Llanfyllin cynhelir Clwb Cymraeg ar ôl ysgol. Pam bod rhai o'r disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn ateb yr arweinydd yn Saesneg? A yw hyn yn digwydd yn y gwersi cyfrwng Cymraeg? Mae'r pwnc Ffrangeg yn cael ei ddysgu yn y ffrwd Gymraeg gan athrawon cyfrwng Cymraeg a chyfrwng Saesneg. Nid addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yw hyn

Dim rhyfedd bod polisi addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg Powys yn aneffeithiol. Yn ieithyddol ni all ysgol dwy ffrwd wireddu "disgwyliadau'r " awdurdod.

Roedd 'asesu'r galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn 2010' (tudalen 10) gan yr awdurdod yn cynnwys y tuedd i ragfarn wrth Gymraeg a gogwydd i gynnal y polisi o ysgolion dwy ffrwd i warchod buddiannau'r disgyblion cyfrwng Saesneg. Nid oedd yr asesiad yma'n deg nac yn gywir. Dyma'n union y rheswm pam y bu i fudiadau rieni fel MAGGDdP a RhAG orfod paratoi holiaduron eu hunain i ddangos y gwir alw am ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn 2011.

Mae'r awdurdod yn son "am asesu galw cudd posibl am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg" (tudalen 11). Fe fydd rhieni yn gweld hyn fel datganiad ffuantus. Gwrthod derbyn canlyniadau holiaduron MAGGDdP a RhAG wnaeth yr awdurdod am flynyddoedd er i'r holiaduron brofi bod digon o alw am ysgol uwchradd benodedig yn y gogledd ddwyrain ac yn y de/canol o Bowys i feddwl o ddifrif am bosiblwydd o ddwy ysgol uwchradd benodedig.

Paratoi holiadur arall wedyn wnaeth Powys gan ddefnyddio ymadroddion a chwestiynau aneglur ym marn rhieni MAGGDdP yn fwiadol i gael yr atebion roeddynt eisiau dderbyn i gadw ysgolion dwy ffrwd. Yr un yw'r dacteg gan Bowys erioed. Yn 1989 cytunodd yr Ombwdsmon gyda'r rhieni bod holiadur Powys 1989 wedi bod yn gam arweiniol hefyd.

Yr hyn sy'n ddiddorol yw bod mwy o rieni wedi ateb holiadur MAGGDdP yn 2011 na holiadur diweddaraf Awdurdod Powys. Roedd holiadur y rhieni felly'n adlewyrchiad cywirach o'r galw am addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg .

Nid oes amheuaeth bod y galw am addysg lawn cyfrwng Cymraeg yn bodoli ym Mhowys. Yr awdurdod sydd yn araf i weithredu ar hyn ac yn chwilio am bob esgus i osgoi ymateb yn gadarnhaol i ddymuniadau a dyheadau rhieni

Da o beth yw gweld cynlluniau i sefydlu ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg yn Y Trallwng (tudalen 11). Os oes 10 o ysgolion cynradd Cymraeg ac 13 o rai dwy ffrwd ym Mhowys (tudalen 10) sut mae cyrraedd y rhif 24 (tudalen 11,1.1)? Os cynnwys ysgol newydd Y Trallwng yw'r ateb oni ddylid gostwng y rhif i 22 gan fod Maesydre ac Ardwyn yn cau?

Pam nad oes unrhyw amcan o gwbl i gyflawni deilliant 1 yn nalgylch ysgol uwchradd Llanfyllin (tudalen 13)? Pam bod yr ardal yma'n cael ei anwybyddu'n llwyr? Oni ddylai pob dalgylch ysgol uwchradd bresennol ym Mhowys gynnwys o leiaf un ysgol gynradd benodedig cyfrwng

Cymraeg. Mae eisiau mwy o ysgolion cynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg a dileu ysgolion dwy ffrwd sydd yn llesteirio twf addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Deilliant 2 i 6 Sylwadau (tudalennau 14-28)

Diffyg gweledigaeth ac ymroddiad i'r hyn sydd angen ei wneud yw'r cynnwys yn y rhan yma.

Mae Powys wedi rhoi blaenoriaeth lwyr i addysg cyfrwng Saesneg yn y gorffennol ac erioed wedi ystyried addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg fel rhyw fath o atodiad neu ychwanegiad funud olaf. Mae cefnogwyr addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn lleiafrif ac mae'r rhai sydd am gadw'r sefyllfa fel y mae yn gweld twf addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn fygythiad i fodolaeth ysgolion uwchradd presennol ble mae darpariaeth cyfrwng Saesneg yn cael ei gynnal mewn sawl ysgol uwchradd ar draul addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg. Un o sylwadau Estyn yw bod cynghorwyr Powys yn blaenoriaethu darpariaeth leol dros ansawdd addysg.

Mewn democratiaeth mae hyn yn broblem i awdurdod Powys oherwydd nid yw ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn mynd i ddewis newid eu hunain. Mae'r drefn o ddethol llywodraethwyr yn galluogi'r mwyafrif presennol i gynnal y statws fel mae. Felly mae'n rhaid i rywun dderbyn cyfrifoldeb ac os nad yw'r awdurdod yn barod i wneud fe fydd rhaid i'r llywodraeth sicrhau bod disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg yn derbyn yr un hawliau addysgol a disgyblion cyfrwng Saesneg.

A'i bygythiad yw datganiad yr awdurdod "mae'n bosib y bydd cynlluniau'r awdurdod i gynnig darpariaeth deg i ddysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector uwchradd yn arwain at leihad yng nghyfran y disgyblion a fydd yn parhau i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg pan fyddant yn trosglwyddo i'r ysgol uwchradd yn y tymor byr"(tudalen 15)? Os felly pam bod yr awdurdod yn cyflwyno'r cynlluniau yma mewn CSGA sydd i fod i "ddarparu addysg Cymraeg yn well".

Mae hwn yn ddatganiad hollol hurt. Mae'n ystyriaeth ddrysiyd, aneglur a cham arweiniol. A yw "cynlluniau'r awdurdod" yn cynnwys cyfle i bob disgybl fynychu ysgolion uwchradd penodedig neu ddim? Heb unrhyw eglurdeb o'r cynlluniau ni ellir gwneud datganiad fel hyn. Pa dystiolaeth sydd gan yr awdurdod? Onid y dystiolaeth yw mai dim ond nifer fach o'r disgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg sy'n trosglwyddo i'r ffrwd Saesneg wrth fynd i'r yr ysgol uwchradd ond bod llawer mwy yn trosglwyddo yn ystod eu cyfnod mewn ysgol uwchradd dwy ffrwd sydd â mwyafrif o ddisgyblion cyfrwng Saesneg. Dyma'r gwir reswm. Esgus i godi bwganod yw'r ystyriaeth yma ac i'r awdurdod ei ail ddatgan eto (tudalen 16) heb unrhyw dystiolaeth, nid yw'n dderbyniol. Heb ysgolion uwchradd penodedig ym Mhowys i'w cymharu, sut all Powys wneud y fath ddatganiad? Esgus i egluro eu methiant a dryswch sylfaenol y CSGA yma yw'r fath ddatganiad.

"Datganwyd yn CSGA yr awdurdod ar gyfer 2014-2017 mai nod yr awdurdod oedd y byddai ysgolion uwchradd dwy ffrwd yn dod yn ysgolion uwchradd categori 2B erbyn mis Medi 2020" (tudalen 19). "Bu'r cynnydd tuag at gyflawni'r nod hwn yn gyfyngedig"(tudalen 20). Y gwir yw

nad oes yr un ysgol uwchradd category 2B yn cynnig ystod lawn o bynciau hyd at gyfnod allweddol 5 yn bodoli ym Mhowys ac ni fydd yr un fath o ysgol yn gallu bodoli yn y dyfodol.

Fel mae'r llywodraeth wedi datgan, addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg mewn ysgolion penodedig Cymraeg yw'r dull mwyaf effeithiol i greu dinasyddion dwyieithog. Heb y sylfaen gadarn yma nid oes disgwyl i fudiadau eraill ysgwyddo'r baich yn effeithiol (tudalen 22).

Deilliant 7. Sylwadau

Mae synnwyr cyffredin yn dweud bod athrawon a chymwysterau i ddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn llawer llai tebygol o ddewis gweithio mewn ysgol dwy ffrwd dros ysgol cyfrwng Cymraeg.

"Mae nifer o ysgolion dwy ffrwd wedi penodi penaethiaid sydd â sgilliau Cymraeg cyfyngedig" (tudalen 29). Pam nad ydynt yn cyfaddef bod ysgolion dwy ffrwd a phenaethiaid uniaith Saesneg? Sut mae disgwyl i ddisgyblion Cymraeg dderbyn bod y Gymraeg yn iaith fyw, ymarferol pan mae'r pennaeth a nifer o athrawon eraill mewn ysgol dwy ffrwd yn hollol ddi-Gymraeg?

Mae'r CSGA yma'n lled awgrymu nad yw'r awdurdod yn sylweddoli'r gwahaniaeth rhwng athrawon sydd a'r cymwysterau i ddysgu pwnc drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ag athrawon sydd yn Gymraeg eu hiaith. Ni fuasai hyn yn dderbyniol i ddisgyblion Saesneg mewn ysgol cyfrwng Saesneg ac nid yw'n dderbyniol i ddisgyblion cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Atodiad 1. Data. (Tudalen 31-40)

Yn lle gwneud esgusion am y gostyngiad yn y nifer o ddisgyblion Cymraeg rhwng blwyddyn 6 a 9 oherwydd bod nifer yn mynychu ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg tu allan i'r sir (tudalen 32), dylai'r awdurdod nodi mai dyma yw dewis y rhieni ac mai ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg sydd ei hangen o fewn y sir i ddiwallu'r galw.

Fe fuasai'r wybodaeth yn y rhan yma'n llawer mwy dadlennol pe bai modd cymharu data Phowys a data awdurdodau ble mae dilyniant llawn mewn ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd penodedig Cymraeg. Fel mae dydi'r wybodaeth fawr o werth.

Tabl iii. Tudalen 35

Ysgol Glantwymyn. Ni all 2 o 7 disgybl sy'n trosglwyddo i addysg Cymraeg fod yn 71%.

Casgliadau cyffredinol am CSGA Powys 2017-20.

O holl awdurdodau addysg Cymru, Awdurdod Addysg Powys yw'r awdurdod mwyaf cyndyn, ers degawdau, i ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg effeithiol. O ganlyniad mae darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg Powys ym mhell ar ôl gweddill Cymru, sydd yn golygu bod angen gwelliannau mawr ar frys os yw disgyblion Powys i dderbyn yr un cyfleoedd addysgol ac ieithyddol ac i gyflawni nod y llywodraeth o greu dinasyddion dwyieithog ym Mhowys.

Gan nad oes digon o welliannau effeithiol yn y CSGA yma, yn enwedig i ddilyniant uwchradd llawn mewn ysgollon uwchradd penodedig nid yw'r CSGA yn dderbyniol. Y diffyg amlwg yma yw'r cylch caeth sy'n bennaf llesteirio datblygu darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys ac fe ddylal unrhyw CSGA o werth gynnwys cynlluniau i weithredu ar hyn yn syth.

Y cwestiwn felly yw, a yw awdurdod Powys yn gymwys i fod yn gyfrifol am ddarparu addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sir?



Comments on Powys WESP 2017-20

Introduction.

According to Powys Education Authority, the purpose of every WESP is “give details on how the authority will better plan Welsh medium education provision”.

Did that happen during the period of the 2014-17 WESP?

Powys Education Authority’s Statements from WESP 2017-20. (Page 3)

“Over the period of the authority’s previous Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2014-17), the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh first language at the end of the Foundation Phase decreased”.

“It is clear that the current method of delivering Welsh-medium education within Powys does not provide equality for Welsh-medium learners compared to English-medium learners. This deteriorates in the secondary phase, particularly in Key Stages 4 and 5.”

“The current method of delivery has led to a situation where access to Welsh-medium education is a ‘postcode lottery’, with the type and level of provision available to pupils at each phase of their education varying significantly”.

“The council recognises that significant changes are needed to ensure every learner is able to take advantage of strong provision “ and “that this is more likely after attending Welsh medium schools”.

“The council recognizes that substantial changes are needed to the way in which Welsh medium education is delivered”.

“The authority’s desire is to develop an infrastructure that enables all pupils to access full provision in either Welsh or English throughout their educational careers, ensuring opportunities for latecomers to be fully immersed in the Welsh language”.

Conclusion.

Anyone reading the Powys WESP for 2017-20 would conclude that the authority has realised that dual stream schools in Powys are not effective. The next question then would be, is the authority going to act in an effective way to “provide better Welsh medium Education”?

Comments on 1.1

General

As the authority has concluded that the policy of dual stream schools in Powys has failed (page 4), are they committed to changing this policy?

The policy needs to change urgently to be fair to future Welsh medium learners in Powys, but the reference to a "long term vision" (page 5) is not acceptable. This is an excuse and attempt to justify the basic failings in the way in which the authority is acting.

Considering Welsh medium primary and secondary schools are needed, the authority has no reason to shirk their responsibility to fulfil this.

Objectives.

The objectives (page 5) are not ambitious enough, nor definite enough to show that the authority is serious about this. In the 2014-17 WESP, it was stated "The 3rd strategic aim is to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to attend a designated Welsh medium secondary school in/outside of the county, if they so wish". What happened to this strategic aim over the three years? There is no mention of it in this WESP. The authority has now set less clear and more nebulous objectives in an attempt to avoid responsibility for the failure which they anticipate during the 2017-20 plan.

Comments on 1.3 Transport

The authority has acknowledged that management of school transport arrangements to dual stream secondary schools in north east Powys were not adequate. These practical arrangements contravene the authority's regulations, and mean a significant negative impact on Welsh medium secondary education provision, which also contravenes the authority's policy.

The authority is neglecting its responsibilities and resources are continually wasted. Reading in the WESP that the authority has amended the policy "to include transport for pupils to their nearest English medium provision, if their nearest school is Welsh medium" (page 6) is totally reasonable unless the opposite for Welsh medium pupils is not considered true. The authority is forcing parents of Welsh medium pupils to go to appeal in order to attend Welsh medium primary schools rather than dual stream schools.

In response to a question under the Freedom of Information Act, the authority states on 22/5/15 "Powys County Council believes that Welsh medium primary schools and dual stream schools are equal and on that basis it provides transport for pupils who qualify under school transport regulations to the nearest provision".

This is a classic example of Powys searching for reasons and contradicting its own policies whilst prioritising benefits for English medium pupils over the rights of Welsh medium pupils at every opportunity.

Comments on 1.4

It's patently clear that Welsh medium primary and secondary schools are essential within reasonable travelling distance for every pupil in Powys if it is to fulfil the Government's priorities. That was Powys' 3rd strategic aim in the 2014-17 WESP. But if the authority is not now going to action this immediately, the new WESP will be an excuse to justify Powys Education Authority's neglect in continuing to prioritise opportunities for English medium learners at the expense of Welsh medium pupils. It's ironic that dual stream secondary school policy now limits the opportunities for English medium pupils as well.

Comments on Section 2. Outcome 1.

The Authority's interpretation indicates that current policy to increase the number of Welsh medium pupils is not working. Out of the primary schools offering Welsh medium provision in Powys, the majority are dual stream schools (page 9). These schools are not an effective way of providing Welsh medium education. The authority acknowledges this. Therefore a policy change is needed to abolish dual stream schools.

"The authority's expectation is that pupils will be in separate Welsh medium classes" "in dual stream schools" (page 10). On a practical level, this is not happening. A number of primary schools, including Llanfyllin and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant now place Welsh medium and English medium pupils in the same class. Obviously this undermines the whole concept of delivering effective Welsh medium education during the most important years in order to nurture bilingual citizens.

Why does the authority not intervene? Staff and governors of dual stream schools are attempting to please two masters, English medium and Welsh medium education. It's impossible to work to two masters. In a designated Welsh medium school, the aim is clear – Welsh medium education – and that's why these schools succeed, and dual stream schools are ineffective.

The reason given by schools for not keeping English and Welsh medium streams separate is a lack of funding from the authority. In 2010 the authority stated that dual stream schools were much more expensive to maintain than single stream schools. If that is the case, why hasn't the authority already made arrangements to save costs, provide effective Welsh medium education and give a real choice to parents by abolishing dual stream schools?

In Llanfyllin high school, a Welsh club is held after school. Why do some Welsh medium pupils answer the club leader in English? Does this happen in Welsh medium lessons? French is taught in the Welsh stream by Welsh and English medium teachers. This does not equate to Welsh medium education.

It's no surprise that Powys' Welsh medium secondary education policy is ineffective. A dual stream school cannot fulfil the authority's "expectations" from a linguistic point of view.

The authority's 'assessment of the demand for Welsh medium education in 2010' (page 10) included a tendency to an anti Welsh prejudice and an inclination to maintain the dual stream policy to protect the interests of English medium pupils. This assessment was neither fair nor correct. This is the exact reason why parents' organisations such as MAGGDdP (North East Powys Welsh Education Movement) and RhAG had to prepare their own questionnaires to show the true demand for Welsh medium schools in 2011.

The authority refers to "assessing the possible hidden demand for Welsh medium education" (page 11). Parents will see this as a bogus statement. The authority refused to accept the results of the MAGGDdP and RhAG questionnaires for years, although those questionnaires proved sufficient demand for a designated high school in the north east of the county and in south/mid Powys to seriously consider the possibility of establishing two designated Welsh medium secondary schools.

Powys then went on to draw up another questionnaire, using vague phrases and questions deliberately in the view of MAGGDdP parents in order to provoke the answers they required to retain dual stream schools. Powys has always used the same tactics. In 1989 The Ombudsman agreed with parents that the 1989 Powys questionnaire had also been misleading.

It's interesting that more parents responded to the MAGGDdP questionnaire in 2011 than the latest Powys questionnaire. Therefore the parents' questionnaire was a truer reflection of the demand for Welsh medium education in primary and secondary Welsh medium schools.

There is no doubt that there is demand for full Welsh medium education provision in Powys. The authority is slow in responding to this and is looking for all possible excuses to avoid responding positively to the wishes and aspirations of parents.

It's good to see plans to establish a Welsh medium school in Welshpool happening (page 11). If there are 10 Welsh medium primary schools and 13 dual stream schools in Powys (page 10) how do you make that 24 (page 11,1.1)? If including the new school in Welshpool is the answer, then shouldn't the number be reduced to 22 as Maesydre and Ardwyn will close?

Why is there no objective at all to achieve outcome 1 in the Llanfyllin High School catchment (page 13)? Why is this area ignored completely? Should not every current secondary school catchment in Powys include at least one designated Welsh medium primary school. More Welsh medium primary schools are needed, and dual stream schools should be abolished as they hinder the growth of Welsh medium education.

Comments on Outcomes 2- 6 (pages 14-28)

The contents of this section are related to a lack of vision and commitment to what needs to be done.

Powys has given total priority to English medium education in the past and has always considered Welsh medium education as some sort of add-on or last minute addition. Supporters of Welsh medium education are in the minority and those who want to keep the status quo see the growth of Welsh medium education as a threat to the existence of the current secondary schools where English medium provision is maintained in a number of secondary schools at the expense of Welsh medium education. One of the comments by Estyn is that Powys councillors prioritise local provision over the quality of education.

In a democracy, this is a problem for Powys education authority as dual stream schools are not going to opt to change themselves. The routine of selecting governors enables the existing majority to retain the current status. Therefore someone has to take responsibility, and if the authority is not willing to do that, the government will need to ensure that Welsh medium pupils have the same educational rights as English medium pupils.

Is the authority's following statement a threat "it's possible that the authority's plans to provide equitable provision for Welsh-medium learners in the secondary sector will lead to a reduction in the proportion of pupils continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school in the short term"(page 15)? If so, why is the authority introducing these plans in a WESP which is supposed to "provide better Welsh education".

This is a ridiculous statement. It's confusing, obscure and misleading. Do the "authority's plans" include an opportunity for every pupil to attend designated secondary schools or not? Without explanation of the plans, statements like this cannot be made. What evidence does the authority have? Doesn't the evidence show that only a small number of Welsh medium pupils transfer to the English stream when they transfer to secondary school but that many more transfer during their period at a dual stream secondary school which has a majority of English medium pupils. This is the real reason. This is an excuse to scaremonger and for the authority to restate it (page 16) without any evidence, this is not acceptable. Without designated high schools in Powys to compare with, how can Powys make such a statement? It's an excuse to explain their failure and such statements are the basis for the confusion surrounding the WESP.

“In the 2014-17 WESP the authority stated that it’s aim was that dual stream high schools would become Category 2B secondary schools by September 2020” (page 19). “progress towards achieving this aim has been limited”(page 20). The truth is, no Category 2B secondary school offering a full range of subjects up to key stage 5 exists in Powys, and no such school could exist in the future.

As the government has stated, the most effective way of creating bilingual citizens is through Welsh medium education in designated Welsh schools. Without this solid foundation, other organisations cannot be expected to shoulder the burden effectively (page 22).

Comments on Outcome 7.

Common sense dictates that teachers who are qualified to teach through the medium of Welsh are a lot less likely to opt to teach in a dual stream school rather than a Welsh medium school.

“A number of dual stream schools have appointed headteachers who have limited Welsh language skills” (page 29). Why don’t they admit that heads of dual stream schools speak English only? How can they expect Welsh speaking pupils to accept Welsh as a living, practical language when the head and a number of other teachers in a dual stream school do not speak the language?

This WESP suggests the authority doesn’t know the difference between teachers qualified to teach a subject through the medium of Welsh and Welsh speaking teachers. This would not be acceptable for English pupils in an English medium school and it is not acceptable to Welsh medium pupils.

Appendix 1. Data. (Pages 31-40)

Instead of making excuses for the decline in the number of Welsh medium pupils between years 6 – 9 because a number attend a Welsh medium secondary school outside the county (page 32), the authority should note that that is due to parent choice and that Welsh medium schools are needed in this county to satisfy that demand.

The information in this section would be much more revealing if it were possible to compare Powys data with data of other authorities where there is full progression from designated Welsh primary schools to secondary education. As such this information is worthless.

Table iii. Page 35

Ysgol Glantwymyn. 2 out of 7 pupils transferring to Welsh education cannot be 71%.

General conclusions on the Powys WESP 2017-20.

Out of all Welsh education authorities, Powys Education Authority is most reluctant, and has been for decades, to provide effective Welsh medium education. As a result Welsh medium education provision in Powys is far behind that of the rest of Wales, which means that massive urgent improvements are needed if Powys pupils are to receive the same educational and linguistic opportunities and achieve the government's aim of creating bilingual citizens in Powys.

As there are insufficient effective improvements in this WESP, especially in regard to full secondary progression in designated secondary schools, the WESP is unacceptable. The obvious failure is the restrictive circle which mainly thwarts the development of Welsh medium education provision in Powys and any worthwhile WESP would include plans to deal with this immediately.

Therefore the question is: Is Powys education authority qualified to take responsibility for providing Welsh medium education in this county?

[REDACTED]

Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg Powys

Ymateb Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg

Sylwadau cyffredinol

Credwn fod gwendidau sylfaenol yn y cynllun, a ni ddylid ei dderbyn heb ei gryfhau gyda thargedau mwy uchelgeisiol a chatau gweithredu fwy pendant.

Credwn yn fod y Gymraeg yn berchen i bob person ifanc yng Nghymru. Mae cynllun drafft cyngor Powys yn nodi: *"Mae'r awdurdod yn dyheu am ddatblygu seilwaith sy'n galluogi pob disgybl i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg gydol eu gyrfaedd addysgol, gan sicrhau bod dysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cael y cyfle i lwyr-ymdrochi yn y Gymraeg, i sicrhau eu bod yn gwbl ddwyieithog ac yn hyderus i gyfathrebu yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg pan maent yn gadael yr ysgol."* - heb weledigaeth ehangach, nid yw agwedd o'r fath yn dderbyniol, gan ei fod yn awgrymu y bydd mwyafrif helaeth bobl ifanc y Sir yn cael eu hamddifadu o'r cyfleoedd a'r sgiliau hanfodol hyn.

Mae angen gweithio tuag at *alluogi pob disgybl i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg*, ac mae angen sicrhau dros amser *bod pob dysgwr yn cael y cyfle i lwyr-ymdrochi yn y Gymraeg*, gan fod *bod yn gwbl ddwyieithog ac yn hyderus i gyfathrebu yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg pan maent yn gadael yr ysgol* yn rhywbeth na ddylid eu hamddifadu neb ohono. Hawl i bawb dylai Addysg Gymraeg fod, nid opsiwn amgen, ac mae angen targedau llawer iawn mwy uchelgeisiol er mwyn adlewyrchu hynny.

Yn ymarferol, mae hyn yn meddwl bod angen (i) targedau uchelgeisiol* er mwyn cynyddu'r niferoedd sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg; a (ii) symud pob ysgol yn y Sir, gan gynnwys yr holl ysgollon cyfrwng Saesneg a dwy ffrwd, ar hyd y continwrm iaith.

Ymateb i bwyntiau penodol yn y cynllun

Mae'r ddogfen yn nodi: *"Mae'r rhan fwyaf o Benaethiaid Ysgolion wedi adnabod amseroedd penodol ar gyfer ymwybyddiaeth iaith Gymraeg a/neu wella sgiliau iaith Gymraeg yn eu Rhaglenni Dysgu ar gyfer 2014-15."* Mae angen gwybod yn union beth yw'r cynlluniau ar gyfer gweithredu hyn gan nad yw'r ddogfen yn nodi hyn. Mae angen buddsoddiad er mwyn cynyddu nifer staff ysgolion sy'n gwella eu sgiliau iaith, a darparu cyrsiau dwys yw'r unig ateb.

Mae'r ddogfen hefyd yn nodi *"Mae ysgolion wedi adrodd am anawsterau wrth recriwtio cynorthwywyr sydd â sgiliau iaith Gymraeg addas"* ac felly mae angen buddsoddiad yn y maes gofal plant ym Mhowys ac yn wir ar draws y sbectrwm dysgu. Gallai hyn ddigwydd drwy gydweithio'n agosach gyda Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. Roedd y Cyngor wedi torri gwasanaeth 'Cam Wrth Gam' oedd yn darparu dysgu Gofal Plant drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym mlynnyddoedd 10, 11 a'r Chweched Dosbarth. Roedd hyn yn sicrhau bod myfyrwyr yn cael trosglwyddiad syth i'r maes fel gweithwyr cymwysedig yn y sector Gofal Plant yn eu cymunedau lleol. Daeth y cynlluniau hyn i ben yn 2013 yn ysgol Llanfyllin a Llanfair Caereinion, ac yn 2016 yn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Machynlleth. Mae tystiolaeth felly yn dangos bod Cyngor Sir Powys wedi dileu cynnydd yn y maes yma yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf ac mae angen gweithredu ar frys i sicrhau gwyrddroi hyn.

Yn wyneb colli gwasanaeth TWF ym Mhowys ac yn genedlaethol mae angen sicrhau bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn creu ymgyrch hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg o'r crud yn ogystal â thargedu rhieni ysgolion cynradd ar draws Powys ond yn benodol yn Trallwng a Drenewydd i gyd fynd gyda sefydlu ysgolion cynradd ac uwchradd newydd yn yr ardal. Gan fod nifer o drigolion Pwylaidd yn byw yn yr ardaloedd hyn, mae angen hefyd gwneud siwr bod yna ddeunydd hyrwyddo yn yr iaith Bwyleg.

*Siomedig iawn yw'r cynnydd disgwylidig mewn addysg Gymraeg yn yr adroddiad, ac mae angen bod yn llawer mwy uchelgeisiol. Mae'r cynnydd o 0.5% yn flynyddol o blant 7 oed yn cael eu hasesu yn Gymraeg yn y cynllun drafft yn rhy geidwadol o lawer – fyddai'n cymryd dros 160 o flynyddoedd i ddarparu addysg gynradd Gymraeg i blant y Sir ar y gyfradd yna. Yn waeth na hynny, mae'r cynllun yn rhagweld na fydd unrhyw gynnydd o gwbl yn y ganran o blant sy'n cael eu hasesu yn Gymraeg ym mlwyddyn 9 rhwng 2016 a 2020 – mae hynny'n gwbl warthus ac mae angen ail-ysgrifennu'r cynllun er mwyn sicrhau twf mewn addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y Sir. Rhaid pwysleisio'r angen ar frys i agor canolfan hwyrddyfodiaid ym Mhowys, ar gyfer disgyblion cynradd ac uwchradd gan ddilyn esiampl Gwynedd wrth gynnwys y teulu cyfan yn eu darpariaeth.

Dengys y ffigyrau ar dudalennau 36-37 fod gwendidau sylweddol yn y ddarpariaeth uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg presennol yn ogystal, gyda 98% o ddysgwyr 16-19 oed mewn ysgolion yn astudio yn uniaith Saesneg a dim ond 22 unigolyn y flwyddyn yn gwneud hynny yn Gymraeg. Dim ond 52% o fyfyrwyr sy'n astudio'r Gymraeg fel iaith Gyntaf ar lefel TGAU yn astudio eu pynciau eraill trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Eto, mae angen anelu at gynnydd llawer cyflymach na 0.5% yn flynyddol – mae'r rhain yn wendidau systematig sy'n rhaid mynd i'r afael â nhw.

Rydym yn croesawu'r amcan i ddarparu gwell gyfleoedd i hwyrddyfodiaid, ac yn benodol i sefydlu darpariaeth trochi; ond mae angen ymrwymiad mwy pendant, ac amserlen llawer iawn yn gynt na'r hyn a roddir yn 2.5 – mae angen cytuno cyn gynted â phosib ar leoliad canolfan, a gosod dyddiad y bydd y ddarpariaeth ar gael, a hynny o fewn oes y cynllun. Cam arwyddocaol i gynyddu niferoedd fyddai i newid categori iaith yr ysgolion uwchradd fel bod addysg Gymraeg yn cael ei ddarparu. Fe'n hysbyswyd yn ddiweddedd am siom mam sydd a'i phlentyn ym mlwyddyn 9 ysgol Llanfyllin ac sydd wedi cael budd mawr o gynllun Trochi'r ysgol, wrth ddatgan bod y gwasanaeth yma wedi dod i ben yn 2016. Mae hyn yn gam mawr yn ôl ac mae angen gwirio hyn ar frys.

Ymhellach, mae angen hyrwyddo astudio pynciau 'anhraddodiadol' drwy'r Gymraeg ar lefel TGAU a Safon Uwch, megis Mathemateg, Ffiseg, Bioleg, Cyfrifiadura a Chemeg. Mae ymchwil yn dangos nad yw bobl ifainc sy'n cyrraedd y brifysgol heb astudio pwnc eu gradd drwy'r Gymraeg ar gyfer TGAU a Safon Uwch yn dewis y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg iddynt yn y Brifysgol. Mae hyn yn eu hamddifadu o fanteision addysg uwch drwy'r Gymraeg, megis ysgoloriaethau sy'n agored i fyfyrwyr sy'n astudio drwy'r Gymraeg (gan sefydliadau addysg uwch unigol a'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol), cynllun profiad gwaith y Coleg Cymraeg a buddion gyrfaoel. Er enghraifft, mae ystadegau DHLE (Cyrchfannau Ymadawyr Addysg Uwch) yn dangos bod graddedigion sy'n astudio drwy'r Gymraeg yn fwy tebygol o fod mewn gwaith/addysg bellach a mewn swydd raddedig/addysg ôl-raddedig chwe mis ar ôl graddio na myfyrwyr sy'n medru'r Gymraeg sydd ddim wedi astudio'n Gymraeg a myfyrwyr di-

Gymraeg. Felly, mae angen mwy o bwyslais ar ddilyniant i addysg uwch a'r byd gwaith. Mae'r ddogfen yn crybwyll hyrwyddo'r buddion gyrfaol o gael addysg drwy'r Gymraeg ond nid yw'n gwneud yn glir bod y buddion hyn yn gysylltiedig â pharhau ag addysg Gymraeg hyd lefel ôl-raddedig. Mae angen gwneud rhieni yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd dilyniant.

Er mwyn llenwi bylchau o safbwynt creu gweithlu mae angen i Gyngor Sir Powys mynd i'r afael ar frys i ddenu staff sy'n siarad Cymraeg ond dysgu dros Glawdd Offa (Swydd Henffordd neu Amwythig er enghraifft) yn ôl i Bowys a'u cefnogi i feithrin hyder dysgu yn y Gymraeg.

Er mwyn bod yn llawer mwy llwyddiannus mewn allbynau mae angen gweithredu continiwwm addysg Gymraeg o'r ysgolion cynradd i'r Uwchradd. Fel Bro Ddyfi bydd angen gweld ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn newid i fod un ffrwd Gymraeg. Yn ogystal â chodi statws yr iaith, bydd hyn yn gwella'r sylfaen i fedru darparu addysg uwchradd gwell a chodi hyder a dileu ofnau posib rhieni. Mae'n hanfodol nad yw toriadau ariannol yn arwain at uno dosbarthiadau Cyfnod Sylfaen mewn ysgolion dwy ffrwd - er enghraifft Llanrhaeadr, Llanfyllin a Trefonnen. Yn y Cyfnod Sylfaen gosodir sylfaen gadarn ar gyfer eu haddysg Gymraeg ac felly mae canlyniad o'r fath yn hollol anfoddhaol.

Casgliad

Mae'n hanfodol bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn sicr, uchelgeisiol a hyderus o ran ei ymrwymiad i addysg Gymraeg yn y Sir, ac nid yw hyn yn cael ei adlewyrchu yn y ddogfen hon fel y mae. Mae angen buddsoddiad mawr er mwyn gweld addysg Gymraeg yn ffynnu ym Mhowys – gan gynnwys cynllun hyrwyddo gyda thargedau penodol; ymrwymiad i symud holl ysgolion y Sir ar hyd y continiwwm iaith; a chynlluniau o fewn oes y cynllun i sefydlu rhagor o ysgollon Cymraeg a chanolfannau trochi gydag amserlen bendant.

**Rhanbarth Powys Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg
Dydd Llun, Ionawr 23ain 2017**

Powys Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Response from the Welsh Language Society

General comments

We believe the plan demonstrates basic weaknesses, and it should not be accepted without more ambitious targets and more definite action points to strengthen it.

We believe that the Welsh language belongs to every young person in Wales. The Powys draft plan states: *"The authority wishes to develop an infrastructure which enables every pupil to take advantage of full Welsh or English medium provision throughout their educational career, ensuring that Welsh medium learners have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the language, and to ensure they are fully bilingual and confident to communicate in Welsh and English when they leave school."* – Without a more extensive vision, such an attitude is not acceptable, as it suggests that a large majority of the young people in the County will be denied these essential opportunities and skills.

The county needs to work towards *enabling every pupil to take advantage of full Welsh or English medium provision*, and needs to ensure over time that *every learner has the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the language*, as being *fully bilingual and confident to communicate in Welsh and English when they leave school* is something which no pupil should be denied. Everyone should have the right to a Welsh medium education, rather than it be an alternative option, and far more ambitious targets need to be set in order to reflect that.

Practically, this means (i) ambitious targets* are needed to increase the number receiving Welsh medium Education; and (ii) that every school in the County, including all English medium and dual stream Schools need to move along the language continuum.

Response to specific points in the plan

The document states: *"The majority of Headteachers have identified specific times for Welsh language awareness and/or improving Welsh Language skills in their Teaching Programmes for 2014-15."* We need to know exactly what the plans are for implementing this because the document does not state this. Investment is needed to increase the number of staff in schools improving their language skills, and the only answer is providing intensive courses.

The document also states *"Schools have reported difficulties in recruiting assistants with suitable Welsh language skills"* therefore investment is needed in the child care sector in Powys, and across the whole of the teaching spectrum.

This could happen by closer working with the Welsh National Centre for Learning Welsh.

The Council ended the service with 'Cam Wrth Gam' who provided Welsh medium Child Care learning in years 10, 11 and the Sixth Form. This ensured that students could transfer immediately to the field as workers qualified in the Child Care sector within local communities. These schemes came to an end in 2013 in Llanfyllin and Llanfair Caereinion, and in 2016 in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Machynlleth. Such evidence shows that Powys County

Council has written off progress in this field during recent years, and we need to act urgently to ensure this is reversed.

Having lost the TWF service both in Powys and at national level, Powys County Council needs to formulate a campaign to promote Welsh medium education from birth, as well as targeting primary school parents across Powys, but specifically in Welshpool and Newtown areas to go hand in hand with establishing new primary schools in these areas. As a number of Polish citizens now live in these areas, Polish language promotional materials are also needed.

*The expected progress in Welsh medium education in the report is very disappointing, and needs to be far more ambitious. The annual increase of 0.5% of 7 year old pupils assessed in Welsh in the draft plan is far too conservative – it would take over 160 years to provide Welsh medium primary education to the County's children at that rate. And worse than that, the plan foresees that there will be no increase at all in the percentage of children being assessed in Welsh in year 9 between 2016 and 2020 – that is unacceptable. The urgency to open a centre for latecomers in Powys must be emphasised, for primary and secondary pupils, following the Gwynedd example of including the whole family in the provision.

The figures on pages 36-37 show substantial weaknesses in the current Welsh medium secondary provision in addition, with 98% of learners aged 16-19 in schools studying in English only with only 22 individuals studying in the medium of Welsh each year. Only 52% of students studying Welsh as a first language at GCSE study other subjects through the medium of Welsh. Again, the progress needs to be much faster than 0.5% annually – these are systematic weaknesses which must be addressed.

We welcome the aim of providing better opportunities for latecomers, and specifically the establishment of Immersion provision; but a more definite commitment is needed and a much earlier timetable than that noted in 2.5 – the location of the centre needs to be agreed as soon as possible, and a date set for commencing provision, all within the life of this plan. A significant step to increase numbers would be to change the language categories of secondary schools to ensure Welsh language provision. We were recently informed of a mother's disappointment – she has a child in year 9 at Llanfyllin High School and has benefitted greatly from the school's Immersion programme, when she was informed that the programme would finish in 2016. This is a huge step backwards and needs to be rectified as a matter of urgency.

Further, the study of Welsh medium 'non-traditional' subjects need to be promoted at GCSE and A level such as Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computing and Chemistry. Research shows that young people who get to university without studying their degree subject through the medium of Welsh at GCSE or A level do not opt for Welsh medium provision at University. This denies them the advantages of higher education through the medium of Welsh, such as scholarships which are open to Welsh medium students (offered by individual higher education institutions and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol), the Welsh College work experience scheme and career benefits.

For example, DHEL (Destination of Higher Education Leavers) statistics show that graduates studying through the medium of Welsh are more likely to be in work/further education and a graduate job/post-graduate education six months following graduation, than students who speak Welsh but have not studied through the medium of Welsh, and non Welsh speaking students. Therefore, more emphasis is needed on progression to higher education and the world of work. The document refers to promoting career benefits of Welsh medium education but does not make clear the benefits connected with continued Welsh medium education to post graduate level. Parents need to be made aware of the importance of progression.

In order to fill in gaps with regard to creating a workforce, Powys County Council needs to deal urgently with the matter of attracting Welsh speaking staff who currently teach the other side of Offa's Dyke (for example in Herefordshire or Shropshire) back to Powys and offer support in regaining their confidence to teach in Welsh.

In order to be much more successful in regard to outcomes, a Welsh education continuum needs to be implemented from primary to secondary schools. As in Bro Ddyfi dual stream schools will need to change to become single Welsh streams. In addition to raising the status of the language, this will improve the basis to be able to provide better secondary education as well as increasing confidence and allay parents' potential fears. It's essential that financial cuts do not lead to combining Foundation Phase classes in dual stream schools – such as Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llanfyllin and Trefonnen. The solid foundation for Welsh medium education is laid in the Foundation Phase, therefore such a result would be totally unsatisfactory.

It's essential that Powys County Council is certain, ambitious and confident in regard to its commitment to Welsh medium education in the County, and that is not reflected in the document in its current form.

Large investment is needed for Welsh medium education to flourish in Powys – including a promotion plan with specific targets; a commitment to move all schools in the County along the language continuum; and schemes during the life of this plan to establish more Welsh schools and immersion centres with a definite timescale

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2017 14:06
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP 2017-2020

Could you consider the following points with regard the WESP2017-2020

I would like to object to the wording used in section 2 outcome 2 - "More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school".

The wording is vague and it's aims can be misinterpreted.

I feel it could be used as an argument for closing streams in favour of centralising welsh medium provision, which in a large rural geographical area such as Powys will have a negative impact on pupil numbers continuing on with welsh medium education especially from more deprived backgrounds, as if you come from a deprived background you are unable to travel large distances, or be able to support your child in their education and extra curricular activities.

Section 2 outcome 2 should be something along the lines of

"More learners continuing to access welsh medium education on transfer from primary to secondary school"

This would I believe be less vague and states that the aim is to have more learners continuing their whole school life through the medium of welsh.

This would also be more in keeping with the councils commitment stated elsewhere in the document

"The council is committed to raising aspiration and attainment in Powys schools and to breaking down the barriers faced by learners from deprived backgrounds. This WESP sets out the authority's vision to provide equality of provision to Welsh-medium learners, this includes ensuring that learners from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to access Welsh-medium provision throughout all phases of education."

The welsh governments aspirational aim of a million welsh speakers by 2050 will not be achieved by having many dropping out of welsh medium education due to it being an unacceptable distance away.

In the document it states that the uptake in welsh language education has been stagnant over the time of the 2014 - 2017 WESP, may I suggest this is due to the secondary reorganisation programme commenced in January 2015.

It takes a leap of faith to enter welsh medium education for parents from English speaking families and if there is doubt that local provision is not available at secondary level they will turn away and this is what I believe you are seeing now due to years of uncertainty in Powys.

Do the council recognise that if their commitment in the WESP 2014 -2017 to raise all welsh streams to a 2B status had materialised the numbers would no doubt be rising in line with other authorities.

This council should look to the long term and commit to supporting welsh streams locally only this way will we see the numbers rise high enough to consider the possibility of a welsh medium secondary school.

Only when the streams are full can you consider this option for you are being misinformed if you believe you will raise the numbers high enough by centralising provision.

Dialch
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2017 17:07

To: Admissions and Transport in the Schools and Inclusion (CSP - G...
<admissionsandtransport@powys.gov.uk>

Subject: Ymateb i'r CSGA gan "Gwir Ddwyieithrwydd"

Annwyl gyfaiil,

Rydym yn griw o rieni ac ymgyrchwyr lleol sydd am weld sefydlu ysgolion uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg ym Mhowys.

Dyma'n hymateb i'r CSGA.

Credwn fod y cynnwys yn siomedig o ran diffyg uchelgais i gynyddu darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector uwchradd.

Croesawn ddatblygiadau adeiladol yn y sector gynradd (megis agor ysgol benodedig yn y Trallwng) gan hefyd erfyn ar y Cyngor i ddysgu gwersi o achos Cyngor Sir Gaerfyrddin ac ysgol gynradd Llangennech gan felly droi ysgolion dwy ffrwd yn ysgolion Cymraeg.

Pryderwn hefyd am y diffyg yn y sector uwchradd.

Mae'r diffyg ysgol benodedig uwchradd yn mynd yn gwbl groes i'r egwyddor o gynnig dewis i rieni; yn tansellio cyniluniau Llywodraeth Cymru i gael millwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg erbyn 2050 ac yn golygu fod plant a phobl ifanc Powys dan anfantais o gymharu gyda phlant a phobl ifanc weddill Cymru.

Gan fod cynifer o ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg o fewn y Sir, cynigrir fod dewis eang ac ystyrlon ar gael yn barod i rieni sy'n dymuno addysg Saesneg.

Yn bresennol, er hynny, ni all rhieni a phobl ifanc ddewis addysg Gymraeg mewn ysgol benodedig (fel sydd yn norm yng ngweddill Cymru).

Mae hyn yn tansellio y daith addysgiadol o'r blynyddoedd cynnar i'r sector uwchradd a thu hwnt ac yn golygu nad oes trywydd clir i blant 3 a 4 mlwydd oed wrth drosglwyddo o'r sector cynradd i'r uwchradd.

Hyderwn, ar ôl degawdau o fethu â gweithredu, y bydd Cyngor Sir Powys yn addasu'r CSGA i ddiwallu'r galw am addysg uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg.

Yn gywir,

[REDACTED]
Ar ran Grŵp 'Gwir Ddwyieithrwydd'
Powys

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

[REDACTED]
24 January 2017 10:48

To:

School Consultation (CSP - Generic); Sarah Astley (CSP - Schools Service)

Subject:

Comments on WESP

Observations and comments.

Page 5: a section of objectives 1. mention is made of increasing opportunities for pupils to access Welsh medium provision in the primary sector.

2. establish and identify opportunities to establish new designated Welsh medium provision in the primary sector.

I consider changing the admission age of young children to be detrimental not only to their education and social wellbeing but to their understanding and immersion to the Welsh language. The younger the child is introduced to a language the more advantageous it is to their future grasp of the language. This is the understanding of Welsh Government*.

Page 7: I note there are 7 key outcomes in WESP.

*Welsh government states the earlier a child comes into contact with the language the more opportunities s/he has to become fluent.

Page 10: I wish to identify an inaccuracy in the report Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr has ALREADY reached its capacity.

Page 11: mention is made of babies being born and registered outside of the authority. Powys has no District General Hospitals which leads to babies being born outside of county but parents return home and register their babies in Powys – surely these figures are easy to attain?

Page 11. (1.1.) I can only reiterate raising the age of admission is opposite to that of the Welsh Government's advice whereby children starting education earlier is more beneficial. The way in improve Welsh education and increase the Welsh language is to provide early years provision. If other Local Authorities choose to provide education at a later age for young children that does not mean it is right. The main aim is to improve standards and encourage the take up Welsh language, the earlier the better for all concerned. This is the opportunity for Powys to do something "outside the box" and be different to other authorities. It has been proven that the earlier a child begins to socialise with his/her peers the more beneficial.

Page 12: It is too late to review this in 2019, the review is overdue, action is needed NOW.

Page 13: (1.7) I consider this to be a too big an ask, expecting late comers to be able to follow the whole curriculum within 2 years through the medium of Welsh as a first language!

Page 17. (2.3) I consider this to be long overdue. Why was this not achieved (as identified) in the last WESP? This should be completed before December 2017.

Page 23 (5.1.2) This is not easy to achieve now that a later starting date for admissions is to commence.

Page 27. Is the only Welsh School with ALN provision Ysggol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr?

Page 33 There is no mention of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr?

Page 40 It is very disappointing that there is no mention of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr. This primary school has a special unit with caters for the needs of all SEN/ALN children through the medium of Welsh.



From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2017 10:54
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr - Governing Body
Email pennaeth.ygdyg@gmail.com
Address Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr,
Heol Bethel,
Lower Cwmtwrch,
Swansea,
SA9 2PT.
Your comments Observations and comments.

SECTION 1 Introduction

1.1 To provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys . This key statement sets out clearly the LA's aim and the set of objectives clarify this further. Reference is made to the importance of increasing opportunities for pupils to access Welsh medium provision in the primary sector and to the establishment and identification of opportunities to establish new designated Welsh medium provision in the primary sector. The Governing Body, however, considers that changing the admission age for young children into primary schools in Powys is detrimental not only to their education and social wellbeing but to their understanding of and immersion in the Welsh language. Evidence supports the view that the younger the child is introduced to a language through good quality and tailored provision, the more advantageous it is to their future grasp of the language. This is the understanding of Welsh Government. (Reference-Welsh Government draft strategy).

The Governing Body notes that there are 7 key outcomes in WESP. To achieve these outcomes, governors again state the importance that the earlier a child comes into contact with the language the greater the opportunities to establish a sound basis for developing the full range of skills developmentally as they continue with their education. Powys' new admissions policy undermines this process.

It is positive to note that the LA fully agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending designated Welsh-medium schools. It is also important to note that although reference is made to ensuring increased numbers of Welsh medium provision, there is no reference to the quality of provision.

1.2 Welsh-medium Education Forum

The Governing Body supports the establishment of the forum and the composition in principle of the membership. However, there is no clear indication of how school representatives will be elected/selected. In addition, there is no reference to seeking input from schools generally or the provision of feedback to schools.

1.3 Statement on Home to School Transport

The Governing Body is of the view that the first priority should be the choice of language. Schools now work within the ERW consortia which should enable closer cross-border agreements at primary and secondary school level.

SECTION 2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Outcome 1 More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

Agreement regarding the Bryngroes farm P/2014/1133 states that Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr will reach its capacity of 300 by 2020. This is inaccurate as the school has already exceeded this number and has also exceeded its capacity.

Outcome 1 Assessing demand

It would appear that the LA faced difficulties with accessing the information required to conduct a detailed survey to ascertain demand due to the number of babies being born and registered outside of the authority. Powys has no District General Hospitals which leads to babies being born outside of the county but parents return home and register their babies in Powys. Surely these figures are easy to attain? This paragraph does not indicate any positive methods of gathering the data and needs to be clarified.

Main objectives in order to achieve Outcome 1 (page 11)

1.1 Conclude the early years review and ensure that a minimum of 24 Welsh-medium settings are commissioned

The Governing Body again reiterate the point that raising the age of admission is contrary to the Welsh Government's advice that starting education earlier is more beneficial for children. The way to extend and strengthen Welsh medium education and increase the use of the Welsh language is to provide good quality early years provision. If other Local Authorities choose to provide education at a later age for young children that does not mean it is the right course or the most appropriate step for young children. The main aim is to improve standards and encourage the up take of the Welsh language. It has also been proven that the earlier a child begins to socialise with his/her peers the more beneficial. Consequently, the earlier children access provision of good quality the better for all concerned. Every effort should be made by the LA to first support growth within existing Welsh medium settings ensuring that they become hubs of excellence. Parents choose Welsh medium settings that are known to have very good and excellent standards of provision. If Welsh medium settings cannot ensure quality provision then parents will rather opt for English medium settings.

1.6 Review Welsh-medium primary provision in the Ystradgynlais area (page 12)

The Governing Body feels strongly that the review of Welsh medium education in Ystradgynlais with the area Welsh school being Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr, is already overdue and needs to be

implemented in 2017 and not 2019. The 106 agreement is unachievable to cater for Welsh education in Ystradgynlais, the conditions on the 106 agreement do not lend themselves to supporting the growth in Welsh medium education at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr at this present time. The conditions being put on the LDP could have a detrimental effect on the 106 agreement and, therefore, cannot be relied upon in terms of building capacity. Powys LA needs to progress with supporting the current and future growth in numbers at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr as a matter of urgency. The LA would, therefore, be supporting growth in an existing, well-established and successful Welsh medium school where current and future demand is already evident. This would be a low risk, high return priority that would assist the LA in meeting its WG targets.

1.7 Establish provision for latecomers in Powys (page 13)

The Governing Body agree that this is an important area to address. However, many governors believe that the expectation that late comers should be able to follow the whole curriculum within 2 years through the medium of Welsh as a first language is a very challenging target for most pupils.

Outcome 2 More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school (page 17)

Formalise the arrangement with Neath Port Talbot in relation to pupil transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

The Governing Body considers this to be very long overdue. This is an important target to achieve to ensure consistency in Welsh language provision. This aspect was identified in the previous WESP. Why was this not achieved? There is no reference to the reasons why this could not be achieved especially when the schools involved were led to believe that discussions to secure the agreement had been long underway. This should be completed before December 2017. The LA should again prioritise the formalising of existing agreements before considering new projects and agreements.

Outcome 5 More students with advanced skills in Welsh 5.1 Welsh First Language (page 23)

Increase the % of pupils that achieve the highest level with regard to Welsh First Language at the end of each Key Stage:

Governors are of the view that this Outcome is not easy to achieve given the later starting date for admissions that is planned.

5.1.3 – Reference should again be made to the success of the Welsh Charter at Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr, not only Gwynedd schools. This would further support the reference made to the Welsh Charter in the introduction to 5.1.

Outcome 6 Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN) (page 27)

Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr is the only Welsh medium primary school in Powys which has a Welsh medium specialist centre. This should be a flagship and treated as such. It should also be noted that the special

centre has been at full capacity from the time of opening which is a strong indicator of the level of need for a Welsh medium special centre that caters for pupils of all ages with MLD, SLD and ASD. This is such an important area where there has been no parity previously, placing Welsh medium pupils at a significant disadvantage.

Outcome 7 Workforce planning and continuing professional development (page 29)

It is essential that Powys recruit, employ and maintain good quality headteachers who are fully conversant with the Welsh language. More support is needed for Welsh schools to help to maintain Welsh speaking headteachers throughout Powys. There are many references to the need for Welsh speaking headteachers and teachers in the document. It is also essential that headteachers who work or apply to work in Welsh medium schools in Powys have a thorough understanding of the whole ethos and purpose of Welsh medium schools and can communicate in Welsh, both verbally and in writing, to a high professional standard. This is important in promoting Welsh medium education of good quality and in ensuring that headteachers themselves understand the quality and standard of Welsh required in order to lead staff and monitor provision effectively.

DATA

Page 33. Outcome 2 More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school
There is no mention of Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn Y Glowyr in this table. Why can't the transfer data be included as they are still Powys children continuing their Welsh medium education? This would be to Powys LA's advantage and another reason to formalise agreements between authorities.

Page 36. Number and percentage of pupils studying through the medium of Welsh in Key Stage 3 who continue to study through the medium of Welsh in Key Stage 4

Again there are no statistics referring to Powys children who are educated in key stages 3 and 4 in Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

Why is there no data for pupils transferring from maintained Welsh medium settings and non-maintained 2 yr old settings (Mudiad Meithrin) to Welsh medium schools? This is an especially strong feature within the Ystradgynlais catchment but is not recognised.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopïo, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dyfech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

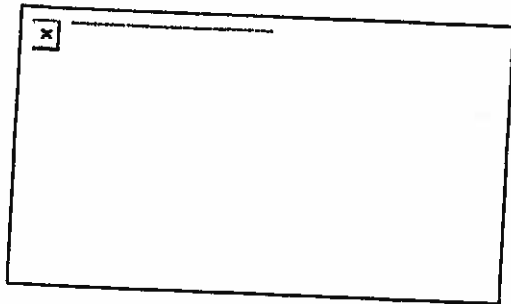
24 January 2017 23:54
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg (CSGA)

Annwyl Syr/Madam

Fel rhywun sy'n byw ym Mhowys ac yn gweithio ym maes addysg, hoffwn wneud y sylwadau canlynol am yr ymgynghoriad ar Gynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg Sir Powys ar gyfer 2017-20.

Mae cynllun drafft cyngor Powys yn nodi: "Mae'r awdurdod yn dyheu am ddatblygu sellwaith sy'n galluogi pob disgybl i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg gydol eu gyrfaoedd addysgol, gan sicrhau bod dysgwyr cyfrwng Cymraeg yn cael y cyfle i lwyr-ymdrochi yn y Gymraeg, i sicrhau eu bod yn gwbl ddwyieithog ac yn hyderus i gyfathrebu yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg pan maent yn gadael yr ysgol."

Credaf fod angen sicrhau bod pob disgybl yn gadael yr ysgol yn gwbl ddwyieithog ac yn hyderus yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg. Mae sgillau dwyieithog yn agor rhagor o gyfleoedd addysg uwch i bobl ifanc (e.e. ysgoloriaethau'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol - gweler <http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/cy/astudio/cymorthariannol/> - a phrifysgolion unigol, cyfleoedd profiad gwaith gyda chyflogwyr lle mae'r Gymraeg yn hanfodol, dosbarthiadau sy'n llai o faint, a digwyddiadau allgyrsiol) a gwell cyflogadwyedd (mae'r arolwg DHLE yn dangos bod myfyrwyr sy'n astudio drwy'r Gymraeg yn y brifysgol yn fwy tebygol o gael swydd raddedig na myfyrwyr sydd heb astudio drwy'r Gymraeg - gweler gwefan Prifysgol Aberystwyth lle mae 80% o fyfyrwyr sydd wedi astudio o lelaf un modiwl yn Gymraeg mewn swydd broffesiynol/addysg uwchraddedig o gymharu â 67% o fyfyrwyr sydd heb astudio drwy'r Gymraeg: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/cy/undergrad/astudio-cyfrwng-cymraeg/>). Mae hyn yn golygu galluogi pob disgybl i fanteisio ar ddarpariaeth lawn yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.



Cymorth Ariannol - Y Coleg Cymraeg
Cenedlaethol

www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk

Ysgoloriaethau. Oeddet ti'n gwybod bod modd i ti ymgeisio am arian i astudio drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym mhrifysgolion Cymru? Mae'r Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol yn ...

Prifysgol Aberystwyth - Astudio trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg

www.aber.ac.uk

Pam astudio drwy'r Gymraeg ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth? Mae 95% o raddedigion a fu'n astudio trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ym Mhrifysgol Aberystwyth mewn cyflogaeth a/neu yn ...

Felly mae angen gosod targedau uchelgeisiol er mwyn cynyddu'r niferoedd sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg a hefyd sicrhau pob ysgol yn y sir, gan gynnwys yr holl ysgolion cyfrwng Saesneg a dwy ffrwd, yn dysgu rhan o'r cwricwlwm drwy'r Gymraeg i bob disgybl. Ar gyfer disgyblion di-Gymraeg sy'n symud i Bowys, mae angen agor canolfan hwyrddfyddiaid, ar gyfer disgyblion cynradd ac uwchradd, gan ddilyn esiampl Gwynedd. Mae hefyd angen ehangu cynlluniau Trochi, megis yr un yn Ysgol Llanfyllin, nid eu dileu, fel sydd wedi digwydd yn yr ysgol honno. Mae cau'r cynllun yn Ysgol Llanfyllin yn awgrymu bod y ddarpariaeth o addysg Gymraeg yn y sir wedi dirywio ac mae angen mynd i'r afael ar hyn ar unwaith. Mae ymchwil yn dangos bod pobl ifanc ddi-Gymraeg sy'n symud i ardal yng Nghymru yn fwy tebygol o allfudo a pheidio â dychwelyd i'r ardal os nad ydynt yn dysgu'r Gymraeg yn rhugl, gan nad ydynt yn teimlo eu bod yn perthyn i'r ardal (gweler doethuriaeth Lowri Cunningham Wynn, Prifysgol Bangor). Ar gyfer datblygu economaidd i Bowys, mae angen sicrhau nad ydym yn colli ein pobl ifanc dalentog a'u bod yn dewis aros neu ddychwelyd i'r sir i fyw a gweithio.

Mae angen sicrhau bod Cyngor Sir Powys yn creu ymgyrch hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg o'r crud yn ogystal â thargedu rhieni ysgolion cynradd ar draws Powys, yn enwedig yn y Trallwng a'r Drenewydd i gyd fynd gyda sefydlu ysgolion Cymraeg cynradd ac uwchradd newydd yn yr ardal. Gan fod nifer o drigolion Pwylaidd yn byw yn yr ardaloedd hyn, mae angen hefyd gwneud siŵr bod yna ddeunydd hyrwyddo yn yr Iaith Bwyleg.

Mae'r cynnydd disgwylidig mewn addysg Gymraeg yn yr adroddiad yn siomedig iawn gyda dim cynnydd o gwbl yn y ganran o blant sy'n cael eu hasesu yn Gymraeg ym mlwyddyn 9 rhwng 2016 a 2020. Mae angen sicrhau bod rhagor o gynnydd er mwyn cyrraedd sefyllfa lle mae pob disgybl yn gadael yr ysgol yn ddwyieithog o fewn 10 mlynedd.

Ar dudalennau 36-37 mae'n siomedig nodi bod 98% o ddysgwyr 16-19 oed mewn ysgolion yn astudio yn uniaith Saesneg a dim ond 22 unigolyn y flwyddyn yn gwneud hynny yn Gymraeg. Dim ond 52% o fyfyrwyr sy'n astudio'r Gymraeg fel iaith Gyntaf ar lefel TGAU yn astudio eu pynciau eraill trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Mae angen cynyddu hyn yn sylweddol ar frys gan y bydd y rhan fwyaf o'r bobl ifanc hyn yn colli'r manteision o feddu ar sgiliau dwyieithog (e.e. addysg uwch drwy'r Gymraeg, gwell cyflogadwyedd - gweler uchod). Mae hyn yn cynnwys hyrwyddo astudio pynciau 'anhraddodiadol' drwy'r Gymraeg ar lefel TGAU a Safon Uwch, megis Mathemateg, Ffiseg, Bioleg, Cyfrifiadura a Chemeg. Mae ymchwil yn dangos nad yw bobl ifanc sy'n cyrraedd y brifysgol heb astudio pwnc eu gradd drwy'r Gymraeg ar gyfer TGAU a Safon Uwch yn dewis y ddarpariaeth Gymraeg sydd ar gael iddynt yn y Brifysgol (gweler Andrew James Davies a Dafydd Trystan (2012) 'Build it and they shall Come?' An evaluation of qualitative evidence relating to student choice and Welsh-medium higher education, *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 15:2, 147-164). Felly, mae angen mwy o bwyslais ar ddilyniant i addysg uwch a'r byd gwaith. Mae angen hyrwyddo'r buddion gyrfaol o gael addysg drwy'r Gymraeg a'i gwneud yn glir bod y buddion hyn yn gysylltiedig â pharhau ag addysg Gymraeg hyd lefel ôl-raddedig. Mae angen gwneud rhieni yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd dilyniant.

Er mwyn mynd i'r afael â phrinder staff sy'n medru dysgu drwy'r Gymraeg, mae angen llunio a gweithredu ymgyrch recriwtio i ddenu staff â'r sgiliau angenrheidiol i weithio ym Mhowys.

Cofion gorau,

As someone living in Powys, working in the education field, I would like to offer the following comments on the consultation on Welsh Language Strategic Plan for Education in Powys for the period 2017-20.

The draft Powys plan states: "The authority wishes to develop an infrastructure which enables every pupil to take advantage of full Welsh or English medium provision throughout their educational career, ensuring that Welsh medium learners have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the language, and ensure they are fully bilingual and confident to communicate in Welsh and English when they leave school."

I believe we need to ensure that every pupil leaves school fully bilingual and confident in Welsh and English. Bilingual skills open more higher education opportunities for young people (e.g. scholarships through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol - see <http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/cy/astudio/cymorthariannol/> - and individual universities, work experience opportunities with employers where Welsh is essential, smaller class sizes and extra-curricular events) and improved employability (the DLHE survey shows that students who study through the medium of Welsh at university are more likely to get graduate employment than students who have not studied through the medium of Welsh – see the Aberystwyth University website, where 80% of students who have studied at least one module in Welsh are in a professional job/postgraduate education compared to 67% of students who have not studied through the medium of Welsh: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/cy/undergrad/astudio-cyfrwng-cymraeg/>). This enables every pupil to take advantage of full provision in Welsh and English.

Therefore ambitious targets need to be set to increase the numbers receiving Welsh medium education and also to ensure that every school in the county, including all English medium and dual stream schools, teach every pupil part of the curriculum through the medium of Welsh. For non-Welsh speaking pupils moving to Powys, a centre for latecomers is needed – for primary and secondary pupils – following the Gwynedd example. Also Immersion programmes need to be extended, such as the one in Llanfyllin school, rather than close them, as has happened in that school. The closure of the programme in Llanfyllin School suggests that Welsh medium provision in the county has deteriorated and this needs to be addressed at once. Research shows that non-Welsh speaking young people who move to Wales are more likely to emigrate and not return to the area if they don't learn to speak Welsh fluently, because they don't feel that they belong to the area (see Lowri Cunningham Wynn, Bangor University's doctorate on the subject). In order to develop the Powys economy, we need to ensure we don't lose our talented young people and that they choose to stay or return to the county to live and work.

Powys County Council needs to formulate a campaign to promote Welsh medium education from birth, as well as targeting primary school parents across Powys, but specifically in Welshpool and Newtown areas to go hand in hand with establishing new primary schools in these areas. As a number of Polish citizens now live in these areas, Polish language promotional materials also need to be available.

The anticipated increase in Welsh medium Education is very disappointing, showing no increase at all in the percentage of children assessed in Welsh in year 9 between 2016 and 2020. The county needs to ensure there is more progress in order to reach the stage where every pupil leaves school fully bilingual within 10 years.

On pages 36-37 it's disappointing to note that 98% of learners aged 16-19 in schools studying in English only with only 22 individuals studying through the medium of Welsh each year. Only 52% of students studying Welsh as a first language at GCSE study other subjects through the medium of Welsh. Again, progress needs to be much faster as young people will lose the advantages of having bilingual skills (e.g. higher education through the medium of Welsh, improved employability – see above). This includes promoting the study of Welsh medium 'non-traditional' subjects at GCSE and A level such as Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Computing and Chemistry. Research shows that young people who get to university without studying their degree subject through the medium of Welsh at GCSE or A level do not opt for Welsh medium provision at University (see Andrew James Davies and Dafydd Trystan (2012) 'Build it and they shall Come?' An evaluation of qualitative evidence relating to student choice and Welsh-medium higher education, *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 15:2, 147-164). Therefore more emphasis is needed on progression to higher education and the world of work. The career benefits of receiving education through the medium of Welsh need to be promoted and that these benefits are connected with continuing Welsh medium education to post degree level need to be explained. Parents need to be made aware of the importance of progression.

In order to address the shortage of staff who can teach through the medium of Welsh, a recruitment campaign needs to be formulated and implemented to attract staff with these essential skills to Powys.

With best wishes,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the author.

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 23 November 2016 14:27
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

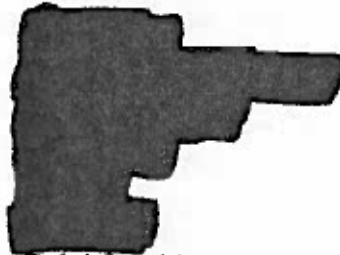
I appreciate the desire of what the WESP aims to achieve and the aspiration to increase the opportunity for welsh to be delivered across the county and for this to be on an equal footing to the options offered to English medium in the high schools.
however this needs to be achieved through the current dual stream provision which reflects the communities where the schools are currently located.
there are many creative ways through which this can be delivered in a cost effective manner which will limit the need for pupil movement outside of the establish catchment areas.
for example: courses can be delivered over multiple sites through video conferencing / skype

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfnnachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gungymeriad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 23 November 2016 21:55
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

Dylai fy mhlant gael addysg gymraeg gyfartal ac addysg ffrwd saeasneg ond mae yn bwysig yn ardal llanfyllin bod addysg yn rhan or gymuned. Dylai addysg gymraeg fod ar gael yn llanfyllin er mwyn rhoi dewis i'r teuluoedd di gymraeg sydd a diddordeb mewn addysg gymraeg ond hefyd sydd eisiau addysg lleol. Bydd lleiafrif bach iawn o blant yn dilyn addysg gymraeg os nad yw ar Gael yn llanfyllin. Bydd fy mhlant i a lleiafrif o eraill yn teimlo nad ydyn yn rhan ou cymuned os mae rhaid iddyn drafailio yn bell o'u cymuned i gael addysg.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwnedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd i'w gwneud ni ellwch ei gopïo, ei ddisbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

My children should be able to receive Welsh language education equal to English stream education but it's important in the Llanfyllin area that education is a part of the community. Welsh medium education should be available in Llanfyllin to give non-Welsh speaking families who are interested in Welsh medium education a choice, but so that they can also be educated locally. A very small minority of children will choose Welsh medium education if it's not available in Llanfyllin. My children and a minority of others feel they are not part of their community if they have to travel a long way from their local area to receive their education.

[Redacted]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 24 November 2016 09:21
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address

[Redacted]

Your comments

I am a little disappointed to see that for 3 years the focus is primarily on Welsh first Language settings and secondary schools. The Primary sector seems to have been missed out, other than sabbaticals for teachers. In a school where NO welsh is spoken at home by ant children, it is increasingly difficult to raise attainment with very limited peripatetic support. The Primary phase is crucial to the secondary education so priority needs to be there also.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac i'w bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni eiddoch ei gopio, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dyfech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[Redacted]
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 02 December 2016 13:51
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed



Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
Wales to Move 2016



Your response

Name *Required*

[Redacted]

Email *Required* **This is not a valid email address**

[Redacted]

Address

[Redacted]

the content of the WESP for 2017-20. Consultation will start on the 23rd November 2016, and will end on the 25th January 2017

At the end of the consultation, the WESP will be updated to reflect comments received during the consultation period, and a revised WESP will be considered by Cabinet. The final WESP will then be submitted to the Welsh Government who can either:

- Approve the Plan as submitted
- Approve the Plan with modifications,
- Reject the Plan and prepare another

Your comments *Required*

I am very concerned that the council are concentrating enough resources on dual stream schools. Llanrhaeadr ym primary school is in danger of losing one of our very hard working class teachers to meet the budget

Click the button below to review and

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 07 December 2016 10:27
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address
Your comments

[REDACTED]

Great, read that and obviously a lot of additional time and money is about to be spent on 14/15% of Powys school children which can only be welcomed. However, when is a similar level of money, time and effort going to be put into the education of the overwhelming majority of Powys school children? The school buildings and infrastructure are crumbling across the county; teacher numbers are being hit once more with redundancy schemes. Yet we waste funds on a Welsh government vanity project and worse one which this consultation document itself states the targets within are not aspirational and basically amount to throwing extra resources in to keep the status quo.

Mae'r e bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd lwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdudddedig gan y Cyngor.

This e mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2017 08:51
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address

[REDACTED]

Your comments

The new WESP must include the aim of maintaining and supporting welsh medium secondary provision in communities to enable all children to access it, less well off families can not consider a school that is in another town . As has already been seen with just the threat of removing a Welsh stream in Brecon people are leaving welsh medium education.
If the council wants to support welsh government policies with regards the Welsh language it must offer Welsh medium provision in streams even if there are less subjects on offer.
Powys is a rural county and centralising provision will not work, will cost more and discriminates against the poorest students.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddefsbartu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2017 16:17
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP consultation

Some questions for the WESP consultation.

I would like to ask why you have not informed parents of welsh learners that you were running this consultation? Most parents of Welsh students are unaware that this consultation is taking place. As these are the people that will be affected by this consultation, are they not the most important people you should be engaging with?

I have children in welsh primary and secondary education in Powys and have not been informed that this consultation is taking place.

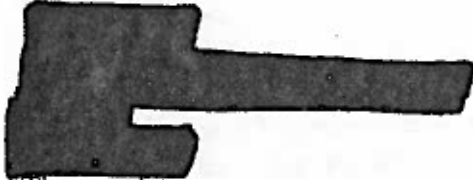
Have you informed parents in North and mid Powys and are not interested in the views of those in south Powys? Or have you not informed anybody?

Diolch
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2017 21:14
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

The provision of Welsh stream teaching is so important to those children and families that choose to follow this course. At present the provision of Welsh stream can be very sporadic, especially for older children and given that learning or speaking a second language whether it be Welsh or English stimulates parts of the brain that link to key life skills and advanced understanding in the classroom, this is more than 'just supporting the language' it's a way, if implemented properly of making Wales the top country in the UK for education - if only it was implemented properly. Funding should be made available to streamline Welsh stream education and ensure a continuity for the provision of Welsh stream right the way through education. By the standards of education and the provision of Welsh stream now, I don't think Powys gives anywhere near the support and direction Welsh medium deserves.

Mae'r e-bost hon ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac te' i bwnedig ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd i'w ganiogwriad r'f e' lwc'n ei gopio, ei ddsbarthu na' dda'ngos, unrhyw un arall a dy'ech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]

25 January 2017 21:38
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
PWYSIG

Annwyl Gyfeillion,

Os gwelwch yn dda edrychwch ar ymateb Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg cell Maldwyn i'ch cynlluniau. Mae angen eu cryfhau nhw er mwyn sicrhau addysg addas i' n plant ar gyfer y dyfodol.

'Roedd rhaid i mi ddysgu Gymraeg fel oedolyn.

I do not want another generation to need to do that in order to reclaim their language which was stolen from their forefathers.

Yn gywir

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2017 21:46
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

My granddaughter, aged 3, currently attends Cylch Meithrin Llandrindod at Ysgol Trefonnen 3 mornings a week. She has Welsh as her joint first language. The provision at Trefonnen is very good, and the staff in the Cylch are excellent.

My concern is - What will happen at the end of the present school year? It appears that the only arrangements proposed at the moment do not allow for progression and development in a Welsh medium setting, whereas there is a much more generous system suggested for English medium pupils.

The proposed arrangements for Ysgol Trefonnen and Cylch Meithrin Llandrindod will inevitably mean that inferior provision for Welsh-speaking children will force parents to opt out of Welsh medium nursery education, and this in turn will reduce the number of pupils enrolling for the Welsh Unit at Trefonnen.

The uncertainty of the situation and the apparent lack of support by Powys County Council for Cylch Meithrin Llandrindod's ambition to cater for the development of Welsh-speaking pupils is a matter of grave concern, and seems to be in direct contradiction to the proposals set out in the WESP, and in no way meets the ambitions set out by the Welsh Government.

I urge the County Council to look again at the plans for Welsh Language early years provision at Ysgol Trefonnen, and ensure that, whichever language their parents choose, adequate and equal arrangements are made to cater for the children's development and progress in the chosen language.

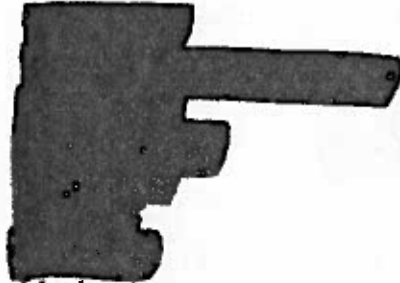
Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fo'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni eiddoch ei gopïo, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2017 21:49
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

My daughter will be affected by the changes to the school entrance age. She would have started September 2017 but will now have to wait until September 2018. I don't necessarily have a problem with this, but I am worried that no thought has gone in to how to provide for the 4 year olds, especially those choosing to be educated through the Welsh language. My daughter attends Cylch in Llandrindod 3 days a week for 2.5 hours a day. The maximum she will be able to attend from September will be 4 mornings (unless they decide to open on a Friday). Because of the space, capacity and staff we won't even have the option of paying for more time. I know this won't be enough to stimulate my daughter for the next 18 months. Therefore I am considering sending her to an English medium primary school with a full time early years setting (or the option of as many hours as we want). I am a Welsh speaker and my daughter is bilingual so she won't lose her Welsh, but I would have liked her to attend Trefonnen Welsh stream. However, at the moment, this isn't our preferred option, especially as we live across the road from a good Primary school. I see from your Strategy that one of your objectives is 'to increase the opportunities for pupils to access Welsh-medium early years provision'. Unless changes are made to the amount of time children can attend Cylch, the number of children going in to the Welsh stream is certainly going to decrease.

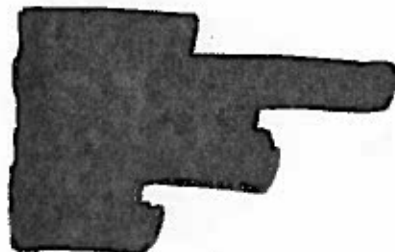
Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad yddo yn gyfrinachol ac i'f bwrwedd ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gymwys gwrbodaeth freintledig. Os yw wedi eich cyrmaedd trwy ganrgymenad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddsbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gymwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2017 22:41
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

I have children in year 8 and 11. I am worried about the lack of consideration of Welsh Medium provision in Mid/South Powys when merging Llandrindod and Builth Wells High Schools. I believe there should be a Welsh Medium Secondary School in this area as in North Powys. I am concerned about the cut in classes in Trefonnen and Rhayader Primary Schools and how the large class sizes with a huge age range will put off prospective parents. I believe there should be a Welsh Medium Primary School to serve Llandrindod and Builth Wells. Finally, there should be more active promotion of Welsh Language education from Nursery through to Further Education and the timescales for outcomes should be tighter.
Thank you.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad i'ddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os ydych chi chi cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni allwch ei gopïo, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a ddech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad ydych chi chi ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid ydych chi chi awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 19 January 2017 18:21
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

**KEEP THE WELSH STREAM
AT BRECON HIGH SCHOOL**

How can the authority reply to several comments in the same way in the report that the children of Ysgol Y Bannau will strengthen the Welsh Stream at Builth Wells High School when these children should surely be strengthening Brecon High School Welsh Stream. Many of those children have gone on and done exceptionally well after Brecon High School Welsh Stream which positively reflects on the School and the teaching. The lower numbers are due to the threat of closure and the two previous consultations which have been held. My son who left Ysgol Y Bannau and started at Brecon High School in September 2015 was one of only three pupils. At the time, most of the class had planned to go to Brecon High School but because of the threat of closure by the authority which panicked parents to move their children to Builth Wells then others just followed. Also, the fact that 50% of the school admissions forms from Ysgol Y Bannau had gone missing, including mine which was not discovered until after the decisions regarding the proposals to close the Welsh Stream had been made. This would have affected the numbers greatly. The majority of parents from Ysgol Y Bannau definitely from choice, want their children to continue their education here in Brecon High School Welsh Stream and this should be supported and encouraged.

[REDACTED]

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopïo, ei ddirobarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dytech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

School Transformation Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys LD1 5LG

Dear School Transformation Team

20 Jan 17

Please include the following points in your consultation to change the WESP

1. Powys County Council have been running a consultation to change the Welsh in Education Strategy Plan (WESP). I would like to know why no Welsh medium parents were informed this was happening? Why they ran it the same time they were running the consultation to close the Welsh Stream? When was the general consultation meeting?, and where I can find the minutes on this meeting? Again we are in a situation where the council are not consulting on a fair playing field.
2. The first point that the WESP needs to concentrate on is the accessibility of any Welsh medium provision. It has to be accessible for the majority of the Welsh medium families, removing Brecon Welsh Stream does not make Welsh medium education accessible for the majority of families. Children wanting Welsh medium education are not to be made to travel long distances and must not be forced out of their own areas.
3. Full immersion in the Welsh language does not guarantee a better education.
4. The consultations to close the Welsh stream in Brecon High School has shown that if you close (or consult to) close local Welsh provisions the numbers of Welsh medium children decreases.
5. If Powys County Council had carried out what their present WESP had asked for we would now have a local 2B provision in Brecon High School with a good cohort of numbers and money not being wasted on transporting children out on long unacceptable journeys. Making Brecon Welsh stream provision a 2B status school will encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education. Powys County Council have stated that in the past challenging financial situations have prevented them from implementing this but Powys County Council have since agreed that it is cheaper to have a 2B provision in Brecon school than it costs to transport the children to other Welsh provisions.
6. Other counties have been actively asking parents of two year olds about what Welsh provision they want. Powys County Council needs to stop looking at past statistics and look to the future and find out what is wanted rather than trying to project from old information.
7. Support for latecomers in to the language is a requirement that Powys County Council should be addressing already as the numbers that Ysgol-Y-Bannau have lost due to this provision not being available is evident in its inability to expand. This provision also needs to be advertised as an option as most families would not know that this is an option that the Council is obliged to provide.

8. The draft document that is produced does not look after the present children in Welsh medium education and is simply happy to disregard these children and shows no support for the children in the short term future.

9. The document is created to concentrate on establishing at least one Welsh medium secondary in the county and consolidating other Welsh medium streams in to larger units. Powys Council is simply too large a county to be considering this and means that Welsh medium children will be disadvantaged and be in a position where they will always have to travel unacceptable large distances. Low income families will be hit the worst by this strategy. This will mean the Welsh language will only be available to the families that can afford this, even when door to door transport is supplied by the Council.

10. The council needs to include in its strategy that bussing children away from Brecon Welsh stream has been its main problem and had PCC addressed the provision rather than giving free transport, Brecon high school would now have a fantastic provision. This will happen to all Welsh provisions in Powys if everytime someone is not happy with the present provision, they simply go to Rhag, appeal and get a bus to somewhere else.

11. I disagree with the statement that in the short term pupils transferring to Welsh medium will reduce, as the Brecon Welsh stream has proved that it is a long term reduction not a short term reduction. A knock on affect that is affecting all school years and pre-school. Parents from Ysgol-Y-Bannau are all looking to the future and opting for English Secondary education if the provision does not stay local.

12. Again the document does not state that the low numbers in Brecon are directly to do with the consultation to close the Brecon Welsh stream and also the statement,

The authority has twice carried out consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, with provision for south and mid Powys being centralised at Bullth wells High School. However, due to legal reasons relating to other proposals also ongoing, it has not been possible to conclude this process.

is a statement saying that it will close. This is still under consultation and is evidence that the Council is not proposing to close the provision but is closing the provision. Pre-determination!!! again. (This shows that you have not taken the consultation to close Brecon Welsh stream seriously and have not treated it as a consultation, just something you need to get through!)

13. Why is there no suggestion to offer Welsh streams within Brecon, Gwernnyfed, Crickhowell catchment area to feed Brecon high School Welsh stream. Ysgol-Y-Bannau can be a long distance away from a lot of these places. Children from low income families in Brecon struggle to get to Ysgol-Y-Bannau because of its position on top of a hill.

14. Time is something the council doesn't have to improve its Welsh. It is so behind all other counties. Make Brecon a 2B school now and this will sort out a massive problem down here. Get a cohort of numbers, be able to provide a good percentage of subjects needed, save money on transport costs, stop children travelling unacceptable distances and have a good base for expanding.

15. Concentrate provision of Welsh medium A level subjects.

16. You cannot compare what has happened and worked in Gwynedd to what will work in the Brecon area. They are two very different places.
17. How can you have a category 1 primary school across the road from a High School that is having £25 million pounds spent on it and say, thanks to the previous Welsh stream pupils that have helped to pull this High school out of special measures but you will not be welcome in this brand new school if you want to continue with your Welsh medium education. When you build the new school make sure the sign has a big 'Welsh Not' hanging on it, because this is what you are promoting.
18. Schools are expected to provide a range of Welsh opportunities, if this is not an actual requirement but merely an expectation then it will be side lined over all other important school items that have to be supplied.
19. The Urdd In Builth will not be supported so well by the Brecon area if we are pushed out by Powys County Council by closing the Welsh provision in Brecon High School. On the other hand if Brecon High School keeps its Welsh provision our children will be able to compete and we as families will also be going to support them.
20. Creating pools of teachers such as between Brecon High School, Ysgol-Y-Bannau and Senny Bridge would eliminate the supply of Welsh medium teachers problem.
21. Page 34 of the draft shows a reduction from ysgol-Y-Bannau due to the possible closure of their local Welsh secondary provision. Again page 35 shows a 65% reduction. Had Brecon Welsh stream been placed as safe and staying open this would have been 100% staying in Welsh. Local provisions are the way forward.

Diolch



[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 24 January 2017 08:42
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

I write to you as a parent at Ysgol y Bannau. I am not aware of any formal approach to the governing body to discuss this or public meetings to discuss as with previous consultations?

Yet again we are going through the process of trying to save Welsh medium education in Brecon.

Having read the consultation document, I would like to make the following points:

- The aim is more seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh – this can only be achieved if the future of welsh is secured in Brecon. Over the years, there has been a decline in pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau due to the threat and uncertainty over the future of the language provision in Brecon. families have relocated to other areas and siblings have been removed when elder children have reached high school age in order to fulfil the catchment area requirements.
- Why can't the new Beacons Learning campus include good quality welsh medium provision? Investment in the school to 2b status would ensure that the future of the language and school is secured for the future
- "The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers" – as mentioned this has been due to the uncertainty in the past – if the commitment was made, numbers would increase!
- Why not invest transport costs for Builth into welsh medium stream in Brecon instead? Many pupils are not being transported to their closest welsh medium provision and some on public transport without sufficient seating capacity for their journey amongst passengers who have not been DBS checked!
- "We need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh-medium education and who have Welsh language skills, as it is only through enabling more people to learn Welsh that we will reach a million speakers. Early years provision is also essential, as the earlier a child comes into contact with the language, the more opportunity he or she has to become

fluent.'

- The authority acknowledges the key role that Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim" - you need to maintain Ysgol Y Bannau and provide Welsh nursery provision in the Brecon area to achieve this – especially now the school age has been raised!

- Deprivation should not be a barrier to learning Welsh – but it may be if pupils are required to travel for their education.

- "Overall, the number of pupils who do not transfer from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision is fairly small" – this will change if ysb pupils are forced to travel to Builth by bus to continue their education. Families with more than 1 child may also not be able to support this due to logistical arrangements of having children in different schools half an hour apart!

- In the data, 100% of children in Meithrin in Brecon transferred to Welsh medium education at YYB – this will not be the case in the future if Brecon High lose the Welsh medium stream.

Mae'r e bost hwn ac unrhyw atodiad iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'l bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

website@powys.gov.uk
24 January 2017 08:43
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
WESP Consultation response

Name
Email
Address



Your comments

I write to you as a grandparent at Ysgol y Bannau. I am not aware of any public meetings to discuss as with previous consultations?

Yet again we are going through the process of trying to save Welsh medium education in Brecon.

Having read the consultation document, I would like to make the following points:

- The aim is more seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh – this can only be achieved if the future of Welsh is secured in Brecon. Over the years, there has been a decline in pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau due to the threat and uncertainty over the future of the language provision in Brecon. Families have relocated to other areas and siblings have been removed when elder children have reached high school age in order to fulfil the catchment area requirements.
- Why can't the new Beacons Learning campus include good quality Welsh medium provision? Investment in the school to 2b status would ensure that the future of the language and school is secured for the future
- "The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers" – as mentioned this has been due to the uncertainty in the past – if the commitment was made, numbers would increase!
- Why not invest transport costs for Builth into Welsh medium stream in Brecon instead? Many pupils are not being transported to their closest Welsh medium provision and some on public transport without sufficient seating capacity for their journey amongst passengers who have not been DBS checked!
- "We need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh-medium education and who have Welsh language skills, as it is only through enabling more people to learn Welsh that we will reach a million speakers. Early years provision is also essential, as the earlier a child comes into contact with the language, the more opportunity he or she has to become fluent."
- The authority acknowledges the key role that Welsh-medium education

will play in the achievement of this aim” - you need to maintain Ysgol Y Bannau and provide Welsh nursery provision in the Brecon area to achieve this – especially now the school age has been raised!

- Deprivation should not be a barrier to learning Welsh – but it may be if pupils are required to travel for their education.

- “Overall, the number of pupils who do not transfer from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision is fairly small” – this will change if yyb pupils are forced to travel to Builth by bus to continue their education. Families with more than 1 child may also not be able to support this due to logistical arrangements of having children in different schools half an hour apart!

- In the data, 100% of children in Meithrin in Brecon transferred to Welsh medium education at YYB – this will not be the case in the future if Brecon High lose the Welsh medium stream.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodladd iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wadi eich cyrraedd trwy gamgymeriad ni ellwch ei gopio, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad ywn ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid ywn awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

24 January 2017 09:18
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
WESP response

I write to you as a parent and governor at Ysgol y Bannau. I am not aware of any formal approach to the governing body to discuss this or public meetings to discuss as with previous consultations?

Yet again we are going through the process of trying to save Welsh medium education in Brecon.

Having read the consultation document, I would like to make the following points:

- The aim is more seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh – this can only be achieved if the future of Welsh is secured in Brecon. Over the years, there has been a decline in pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau due to the threat and uncertainty over the future of the language provision in Brecon. Families have relocated to other areas and siblings have been removed when elder children have reached high school age in order to fulfil the catchment area requirements.
- Why can't the new Beacons Learning campus include good quality Welsh medium provision? Investment in the school to 2b status would ensure that the future of the language and school is secured for the future
- "The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers" – as mentioned this has been due to the uncertainty in the past – if the commitment was made, numbers would increase!
- Why not invest transport costs for Builth into Welsh medium stream in Brecon instead? Many pupils are not being transported to their closest Welsh medium provision and some on public transport without sufficient seating capacity for their journey amongst passengers who have not been DBS checked!
- "We need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh-medium education and who have Welsh language skills, as it is only through enabling more people to learn Welsh that we will reach a million speakers. Early years provision is also essential, as the earlier a child comes into contact with the language, the more opportunity he or she has to become fluent."
- The authority acknowledges the key role that Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim" - you need to maintain Ysgol Y Bannau and provide Welsh nursery provision in the Brecon area to achieve this – especially now the school age has been raised!
- Deprivation should not be a barrier to learning Welsh – but it may be if pupils are required to travel for their education.
- "Overall, the number of pupils who do not transfer from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision is fairly small" – this will change if Yyb pupils are forced to travel to Builth by bus to continue their education. Families with more than 1 child may also not be able to support this due to logistical arrangements of having children in different schools half an hour apart!
- In the data, 100% of children in Meithrin in Brecon transferred to Welsh medium education at YYB – this will not be the case in the future if Brecon High lose the Welsh medium stream.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: website@powys.gov.uk
Sent: 24 January 2017 10:13
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP Consultation response

Name

Email

Address

Your comments

[REDACTED]

Many thanks for offering the opportunity to respond to this consultation. Our little girl started in Ysgol y Bannau full time in April 2016. We are an English speaking family and took the leap of faith to opt for Welsh education. I am however horrified by the way in which pupils of the Brecon catchment face uncertainty and for their continued education in Welsh in secondary school. I am annoyed by the Council's continued neglect of these pupils and really do wish to see an overturn to the proposal to close the Welsh medium stream at Brecon High school. There is no way we will be able to commit to Lexi's continued welsh education in Builth. and we will be forced to put her to Brecon High School into English medium. It escapes me that the Council thinks Welsh primary figures will remain static if the decision is made to close the Welsh stream in Brecon High School. We have a little boy and really would not see the merit in putting him through welsh medium despite Lexi doing so well. The entire debacle is unsettling and deeply upsetting for us as parents - who saw merit in the Welsh language. The WG has said it would like 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.... Whilst these targets do not appear to be aspirational, the authority's view is that this is a realistic reflection of the current position. The authority has recognised that 'significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'. I therefore question the proposal to close the Welsh medium in Brecon! It is ridiculous at best and the uncertainty it has caused - has undoubtedly affected pupil numbers at Brecon High. I cannot see why Powys cannot embrace the WG's aspiration. Turn it into a success story - New school at Brecon High embraces the Welsh challenge and commits to Welsh language development. As one of the most English speaking areas.... Powys has huge potential to grow the language and make it a success story for the Council. Learn Welsh, Speak Welsh, Love Welsh. Come on Powys, see the bigger picture, lets make this an opportunity to have a success story - work together. Build our childrens future and lets continue Welsh education in Brecon to help you meet WG targets for the language. With all good wishes

[REDACTED]

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw atodladd iddo yn gyfrinachol ac fe'i bwriedir ar gyfer y sawl a enwir arno yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth freintiedig. Os yw wedi eich cyrraedd llwy gamgymeriad ni elwch ei gopïo, ei ddosbarthu na'i ddangos i unrhyw un arall a dylech gysylltu gyda Cyngor Sir Powys ar unwaith. Mae unrhyw gynnwys nad yw'n ymwneud gyda busnes swyddogol Cyngor Sir Powys yn bersonol i'r awdur ac nid yw'n awdurdodedig gan y Cyngor.

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and intended for the named recipient only. The content may contain privileged information. If it has reached you by mistake, you should not copy, distribute or show the content to anyone but should contact Powys County Council at once. Any content that is not pertinent to Powys County Council business is personal to the author, and is not necessarily the view of the Council.

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]

24 January 2017 11:49
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
WESP Response

To Whom it may concern,

I write to you as a parent at Ysgol y Bannau. I am not aware of any formal approach to the governing body or parents to discuss this or public meetings to discuss as with previous consultations and I am curious about why this might be?

Yet again we are going through the process of trying to save Welsh medium education in Brecon.

In response to the consultation document, I would like to make the following points:

- "The aim is more seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh" – this can only be achieved if the future of Welsh is secured in Brecon. Over the years, there has been a decline in pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau due to the threat and uncertainty over the future of the language provision in Brecon. Families have relocated to other areas and siblings have been removed when elder children have reached high school age in order to fulfil the catchment area requirements. This is the reality of Welsh medium education in Brecon at the moment created by the uncertainty (and some might say scaremongering by PCC) and is hardly supportive of the WAG aim to reach 1 million Welsh speakers. Are PCC working against WAG on this aim?

Why can't the new Beacons Learning campus include good quality Welsh medium provision? Investment in the school to 2b status would ensure that the future of the language and school is secured. This is your opportunity to really make a difference to the continuation of the Welsh language in South Powys. A statement like this by Powys County Council would give local people the confidence to take that step into Welsh medium education regardless of their own first language. Moving secondary education in Welsh out of the area can only have a negative impact on the numbers of people learning Welsh.

"The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers" – as mentioned this has been due to the uncertainty in the past – if the commitment to continue Welsh in Brecon was made, numbers would increase!

- Why not invest transport costs for Builth into welsh medium stream in Brecon instead? Many pupils are not being transported to their closest welsh medium provision and some on public transport without sufficient seating capacity for their journey amongst passengers who have not been DBS checked!
 - “ *We need to see a significant increase in the number of people receiving Welsh-medium education and who have Welsh language skills, as it is only through enabling more people to learn Welsh that we will reach a million speakers. Early years provision is also essential, as the earlier a child comes into contact with the language, the more opportunity he or she has to become fluent.* ”

The authority acknowledges the key role that Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim” - you need to maintain Ysgol Y Bannau and provide Welsh nursery provision in the Brecon area to achieve this – especially now the school age has been raised. Has the possibility of creating more Welsh streams in our local primary schools been considered?

- Deprivation should not be a barrier to learning Welsh – but it may be if pupils are required to travel for their education.

“Overall, the number of pupils who do not transfer from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision is fairly small” – this will change if yyb pupils are forced to travel to Builth by bus to continue their education. Families with more than 1 child may also not be able to support this due to logistical arrangements of having children in different schools half an hour apart. Children's social lives and extra curricular activities will also play a part in determining whether travelling to Welsh medium secondary education a minimum of 30 minutes away is a viable option.

In the data, 100% of children in Meithrin in Brecon transferred to welsh medium education at YYB – this will not be the case in the future if Brecon High lose the Welsh medium stream.

Regards



From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
25 January 2017 09:50
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
WESP consultation

Please include the following question in the consultation

The new WESP must include supporting Brecon Welsh stream. Even though it is under a separate consultation and whatever that consultation decides the new WESP should look at having a secondary welsh medium provision in south Powys. The cost of transporting children to mid Powys (Builth) and out of county is currently more than educating those same children in their local community in Brecon, so if the council is serious in its aim to support welsh government policy and increase numbers of Welsh medium learners it would only make the lack of provision in Brecon even more unacceptable. Welsh speaking students are already choosing to transfer to English medium education at KS3 rather than travel long distances to access welsh medium education.

Does the council seriously think that the way to improve the numbers of students continuing into KS3 welsh medium education is to have no Welsh secondary provision in the whole of south Powys?

Diolch
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
25 January 2017 13:46
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Brecon High Welsh Stream

It is my understanding that a consultation has been added to the longstanding consultation in relation to welsh medium provision at Brecon High school.

As a parent of two children who school at Ysgol y Bannau, one in year 6 desperately hoping to continue his welsh education in September this year, at Brecon High school, his sister wishing to do the same in a few years time, I would just like to reiterate our plea, as parents, to allow them to continue their studies in welsh.

We are not asking for 100% provision, this is not what we want - one of the reasons why we will not send our children to Builth Wells. Just to be able to continue schooling in several subjects, in their native language, surely not too much to ask.

Transport costs have been proven to outweigh the costs of maintaining Brecon high as a 2b status school.

We will not entertain putting our children on a bus for 2 hours each day, they want to stay within the community in which they have grown up.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
25 January 2017 16:33
School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Ysgol y Bannau

I hope this helps in your discussions regarding the closure of the Welsh stream at Brecon High School.

My daughters attend Ysgol y Bannau and hoped to continue their Welsh education just across the road at the high school. Sadly - this may not be an option for them. Instead they will have to travel over 40 miles a day to Builth and then possibly 2 hours a day to Llandrindod. What an absolute disgrace. It really does say a lot about the council who have admitted that they are spending more on transporting pupils than it would be to have a 2b status in Brecon

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2017 23:43
To: School Consultation (CSP - Generic)
Subject: WESP for 2017-20

I write to object to the draft WESP in the strongest possible terms.

Brecon will lose its Welsh Education Stream to the detriment of the town and Ysgol y Bannau, whose existence will be threatened.

Brecon requires a 2b status school, reflecting its status as one of the largest towns in South Powys.

Any suggested cost savings will be wiped out by higher transportation costs.

Not only will transport costs be higher, the physical and emotional impact on children being transported long distances to access Welsh language streams will be significant and is contrary to the objectives set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

These children will lose out on access to extra-curriculum activities due to the need to catch buses back home, leading to a second class level of education whereby pupils from outside the immediate area will be unable to take part in the same level of activities as their classmates.

The distance to the alternative schools are simply unrealistic and unfair to Welsh language pupils in the extreme.

Without a Welsh language stream in Brecon, the number of Welsh stream pupils will plummet, to the detriment of the socio-linguistic character of the area.

Pure Welsh-medium education is not necessarily the most effective way to deliver Welsh language teaching.

Growth in Welsh language pupils will almost inevitably come from English speaking families, but without access to local facilities, when making the decision to send children miles to a Welsh school or just down the roads to an English only school, the decision is heavily weighted against Welsh language.

Fewer pupils in the Welsh stream will also reduce the number of pupils that will pursue careers teaching through the medium of Welsh, again, to the detriment of the Welsh language across Powys and Wales.

Please give our children the best chance to Learn Welsh, Speak Welsh and Love Welsh.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Numbers in the Welsh Stream at Brecon high school – The reduction in numbers in the Welsh Stream has been cited as a factor in the decision to remove the Welsh Stream from the school. The reduction in numbers is directly related to the two previous consultations which have been held. Had these consultations not have happened, it is reasonable to expect that the numbers would have been at least similar to previous years as parents would have been far more sure of the future that BHS had. Given the reduction in numbers and the resultant impact on school income, the curriculum for the Welsh Stream in Key Stage 3 had to be reduced to make it more financially viable. With small numbers entering KS4 it is inevitable that there would be a reduction in the curriculum, especially around option subjects. Should the Welsh stream stay open, an increase in the numbers will lead to developing the breadth of the curriculum once again.

Post 16 Welsh Medium Options – It has been stated that Brecon High School do not offer A-levels through the medium of Welsh. Through the agreement of the South Powys Post 16 Consortium, this provision is centred on Builth Wells High School, so it was never the case that Brecon High School would be offering these courses. This is not a failing of the school. The South Powys Consortium helps to maintain access to A-levels through the medium of Welsh for learners from Brecon.

Impact on Ysgol-y-Bannau - There is recognition of an impact on the pupil numbers at Ysgol-y-Bannau. There is mention of support for the school to help ensure that numbers can be at least maintained, if not grow, to help numbers transferring to Builth Wells. Why can there not be the same support for Ysgol-y-Bannau in supporting a Welsh Medium stream at Brecon High School? The future of the school depends hugely on the result of this consultation and the whole of the Welsh Medium provision strategy and so does the future of the language in the local area.

The Impact on Transport – The commitment to one Welsh Medium stream in the South/Mid Powys area will also mean a long term commitment to the additional transport costs for providing access to this provision. These costs will only rise over time. The current costs are at least £100,000 per year.

With Brecon high school now in a position where it should be able to move into new premises from September 2019. Welsh Medium pupils will miss out on the opportunity to attend a new school, with all the new facilities it will have.

We have also urged the local authority to increase the number of Welsh stream primary schools which feed into Brecon high school, STOP the exporting of Welsh learners from the Brecon catchment area to Ystalyfera & Builth Wells high school. This would significantly increase the number of Welsh learners attending Brecon high school & enable both Brecon & Builth to have Welsh stream high schools, with a high quality provision. The money saved from the cost of transport could be invested into the Welsh provision within the area.

Children from Brecon who are forced to travel to Builth for their Welsh secondary education are being discriminated against in terms of what they will be able to access outside of school hours. They will have to make friends who could live up to an hour away and have no chance of any type of extra-curricular activity due to the inability to travel home afterwards.

This is the (Welsh Government) strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of Welsh language in everyday life.

Our vision is to see the Welsh language thriving in Wales. To achieve that, the strategy aims to see an increase in the number of people who both speak and use the language. Our six aims are:

- to encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families
- to increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language
- to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community
- to increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace
- to improve Welsh language services to citizens
- to strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology.

The strategy also emphasises the importance of our Welsh-medium Education Strategy as an essential component in producing the Welsh speakers of the future - alongside encouraging the use of the language in families.

For Children and young people its aims and desired outcomes are:

Aim

To increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language.

Desired outcome

Children and young people using more Welsh.

C71- 2017

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

14th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones
Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

REPORT FOR: Decision

Summary

1. Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 27th September 2016, the authority has carried out formal consultation on the following proposal:

“To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.”

2. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet members of the responses received to the consultation and to determine whether or not to proceed with the statutory process to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, through the publication of a Statutory Notice.
3. The report is supported by the following appendices:
 - **Appendix A** – Consultation Document
 - **Appendix B** – Consultation Report
 - **Appendix C** – Minutes of meetings with School Council, staff, governors and parents / community
 - **Appendix D** – Impact Assessments

Background

The Consultation Period

4. On the 27th September 2016, Cabinet considered consultation reports in respect of proposals to reorganise secondary provision in mid and south Powys, involving Builth Wells High School, Llandrindod High School, Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School. At this meeting, Cabinet determined the following:
 - To publish a statutory notice for the closure of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools on the 31st August 2018 and the establishment of a new dual-sited dual-stream 11-18 school that will

operate on the current campuses of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools with effect from 1st September 2018

- To abandon the elements of the proposal with regard to Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School relating to closure of the two schools and the establishment of a new 11-16 school, and to re-consult on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from September 2017.
5. Consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School commenced on the 21st November 2016 and ended on the 9th January 2017.
 6. The consultation document was available on the council's website throughout the consultation period. The document was also distributed to stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code (2013). The consultation document that was issued is attached as Appendix A.
 7. Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing the online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the School Transformation Team, or by writing to the School Transformation Team.
 8. During the consultation period, meetings were also held with the following:
 - Staff of Brecon High School
 - Governors of Brecon High School
 - Parents of pupils at Brecon High School and Ysgol y Bannau
 - Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School
 - English-medium pupils at Brecon High School
 - Ysgol y Bannau School Council
 - Sennybridge CP School Council
 9. The minutes of these meetings are attached as Appendix C, and the issues raised in the meetings are included in the Consultation Report (Appendix B).

Consultation Responses

10. A total of 237 written responses were received to the consultation, including responses submitted using the online response form, via e-mail and other written responses. However, of these responses, 71 responses were received from one individual respondent, and another 26 were received from another individual respondent. In addition, during the consultation period, individuals were encouraged to e-mail the council with the statement 'All I want for Christmas is for the Welsh stream to stay open in Brecon High School'. 39 responses were received which only included this statement.

11. In addition to the written responses, a copy of an online petition was received, which was signed by 236 people and which included 67 written comments.
12. The written responses received included a response by Estyn, which is provided in full on page 13 of the Consultation Report (Appendix B). Estyn's response includes the following summary / conclusion:

'It is Estyn's view that the proposer appears to have suitably demonstrated that, given the small numbers of pupils in the Welsh medium stream, that overall the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.'
13. All issues raised during the consultation period, including those raised in all responses received and those raised in the consultation meetings, are listed in the Consultation Report (Appendix B), along with the authority's response to these issues.

Comments from Full Council – 7th March 2017

16. This issue was discussed by Full Council on the 7th March 2017. At the meeting, Full Council decided not to support the recommendation to approve the publication of a statutory notice in respect of this proposal.
17. Members of the Cabinet will have been present during the course of the debate in Full Council, and a draft copy of the Minutes of that meeting will be made available to members before a decision is made.

Proposal

18. The proposal to Cabinet is as follows:
 - i) To receive the Consultation Report in respect of the proposal outlined in 1 above.
 - ii) To approve the publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of this proposal.
19. A financial analysis of the draft recommendation was carried out, and details were included in the Consultation Document (Appendix A). Based on this analysis, it is estimated that implementation of the proposal would lead to an annual saving of £58,475.

One Powys Plan

20. 'Transforming Learning and Skills' is one of the priorities within the One Powys Plan. Within this priority, the Plan states that '*We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity.*'

Options Considered/Available

21. As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal (Appendix A), consideration of the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has taken place over a number of years. The council previously carried out consultation on closure of the stream during the summer of 2015, and a range of possible options were listed in the consultation document issued at this time.
22. This proposal was not published within the period of 26 weeks following the end of the consultation period required by the School Organisation Code, therefore the initial proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School lapsed.
23. Subsequently, a number of options for providing Welsh-medium education in mid and south Powys were evaluated as part of the wider reviews of secondary provision in mid and south Powys. This review concluded that the most appropriate option at the current time is to centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys.
24. The authority has recently concluded the statutory process to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod Wells High School and establish a new secondary school across two sites. This process resulted in a decision by Cabinet on the 28th February 2017 to establish a new dual sited, dual stream school, with the current dual stream provision being retained on the Builth Wells site.
25. With this in mind, the only option available to the authority in relation to the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is whether or not to retain this provision. The strengths and weaknesses of these two options are considered on pages 19-21 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal (Appendix A).
26. A number of alternative options were also suggested during the consultation period. These are listed on pages 148-158 in the Consultation Report (Appendix B), along with the authority's response.

Preferred Choice and Reasons

27. Having considered the responses received to the consultation on this proposal, the preferred choice is to proceed with the proposal as outlined in the consultation document.
28. The reason for the proposal are as follows:
 - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School
 - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education

Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc

A range of impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. These include a Single Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These impact assessments have been updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and are attached in Appendix D.

The authority's Single Integrated Impact Assessment considers the impact of any proposal against a number of criteria, which includes the wellbeing goals of The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2016.

Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

The authority's Schools Transformation Programme is intended to improve educational outcomes for children and young people. This aligns with the aspiration to improve safeguarding and well-being for children and young people.

Local Member(s)

No comments received

Other Front Line Services

N/A

Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

Finance: The Schools Finance manager notes the contents of the report. The estimated savings included within the consultation document and Cabinet report are based on the 2016-17 funding formula, the £58,475 saving stated is as a result of the removal of funding for the language uplift.

Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.

Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc

N/A

Corporate Communications

Communications Comment: The report is of considerable public interest and requires the use of a news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision.

Statutory Officers

The **Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer)** has commented as follows: I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report.

The **Strategic Director Resources (Section 151 Officer)** notes the comments made by finance:

Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
i) To note the Consultation Report and the views of Full Council in respect of the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017	To understand the issues raised during the consultation period.
ii) To approve the publication of a statutory notice in respect of this proposal.	To provide a more sustainable, educationally and linguistically viable model of Welsh-medium secondary education.

Relevant Policy (ies):	School Transformation Policy, Welsh in Education Strategic Plan		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All local members serving the catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.
----------------------------------	--

Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Marianne Evans
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	End of March 2017

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Sarah Astley	01597 826265	N/A	sarah.astley@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:



POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Brecon High School
Welsh-medium Stream**

Consultation dates: 21st November 2016 – 9th January 2017

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. Background and Policy Context	7
3. Reasons for the Proposal	11
4. Benefits and Risks	15
5. Alternative Options	19
6. Impact on Pupils	22
7. Impact on Affected Schools	25
8. Other Considerations	31
9. Key Data	34
Appendix A – Response Form	38

A Welsh language version of this document is available on the council's website – <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/brecon-high-school-welsh-medium-stream/>.

If you require a hard copy of the document, or the document in a different format, please contact the Schools Transformation Team on 01597 826954 or school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The Proposal

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to seek views on the following proposal:

To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.

From the 1st September 2017, there would be no Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School for pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. However, Welsh-medium provision would continue to be provided at Brecon High School for those pupils who would be entering year 11 in September 2017. This provision would continue until July 2018.

From the 1st September 2017, pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to attend Builth Wells High School or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.

From the 1st September 2018 (without prejudice to the decision of Powys Cabinet in relation to a separate proposal related to Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools), all pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to access provision at the Builth Wells site of the proposed new dual-sited secondary school in Mid Powys (“the New Mid Powys Secondary School”)¹ or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.

From the 1st September 2018, there would be no Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School.

Pupils living in the Sennybridge area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

Pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.

¹ On the 18th October 2016, Powys County Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the establishment of a new dual-sited dual-stream school that will operate from the current sites of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools from the 1st September 2018. The Objection Period closes on the 8th December 2016, and the Objection Report will be considered by Cabinet in due course. **All references to the New Mid Powys Secondary School in this consultation document are made without prejudice to Cabinet’s decision following the Objection Period.**

1.2 Who will we consult with?

Consultation will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2013 (“the Code”), which can be found on the council’s website².

The council will consult with stakeholders in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which will include the following:

- Pupils (including School Councils), Parents (and where possible prospective parents), carers and guardians, staff members of any schools likely to be affected by the proposals
- Parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to the affected secondary school
- The Governing Body of any school which is the subject of the proposals and of any other schools likely to be affected by the proposals, including those that might receive any displaced pupils
- Any other local authority likely to be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located
- The Welsh Ministers
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is the subject of the proposal
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the Proposal
- The relevant Regional Education Consortium
- The relevant Regional Transport Consortium
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area
- Any community or town council for the area served by any school which is the subject of the Proposal
- Any further education institutions serving the area of the school

1.3 How to respond to the Consultation

Responses to the consultation can be provided in writing, or by attending the consultation meeting in respect of this proposal. Further details are provided below:

1.3.1 Written responses

A feedback form is attached to this document in Appendix A, and is also available on the council’s website. You can also respond in writing.

All responses should be sent to the following address:

School Transformation Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

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

² <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/>

All correspondence should be received by the **9th January 2017**.

1.3.2 Consultation meetings

The following consultation meeting has been arranged for parents and members of the community:

Brecon High School, Thursday 1st December, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

The event will be ticketed to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.

Tickets are free, and are available online via Powys County Council's website (<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/brecon-high-school-welsh-medium-stream/>), or by phoning 01597 826954.

Separate consultation meetings will be held with governors, staff and pupils.

1.4 What will happen next?

This consultation is part of the statutory process for making changes to school provision, as outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2013). The process is summarised below:

1.4.1 Consultation

Consultation will start on the 21st November 2016 and will end on the 9th January 2017. Feedback from the consultation will be collated, and a Consultation Report will be prepared, which will summarise the issues raised during the consultation and will provide the authority's response to these issues.

Stakeholders will be notified of the publication of the consultation report in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. If you would like to be notified of the publication of the Consultation Report, or to receive a copy, please ring 01597 826954 or email school.consultation@powys.gov.uk.

The Consultation Report will be presented to the council's Cabinet during the spring term 2017. The Cabinet will consider the report, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal for the foreseeable future.

1.4.2 Statutory Notices

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

If there are objections, the council will publish an Objection Report providing a summary of the objections and the authority's response to them. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period will need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period if they are to be considered as objections.

The Objection Report will be considered by the council's Cabinet, who will determine whether or not to approve the proposal.

1.4.3 Implementation

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

2. Background and Policy Context

2.1 Background to the Proposal

In January 2015, Powys County Council commenced a Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which intended to transform the secondary and post-16 sector across the county. The main aims of the Programme were:

- Reconfiguration of secondary and post-16 education to create a sustainable infrastructure of schools and sixth forms across Powys, enabling a broader range of subjects to be provided from each school site, whilst minimising the need for inter-school travel and transport
- Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units. This will enable schools to provide the appropriate curriculum offer and progression routes for Welsh-medium learners.

This reflects the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2014-17. One of the Strategic Aims stated in the WESP is 'to provide robust linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education'³.

Welsh-medium secondary provision in Powys is currently provided at 6 dual stream schools, where the curriculum is delivered through separate Welsh-medium and English-medium streams.

In South Powys, there are currently 2 Welsh-medium secondary streams:

- The Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School provides Welsh-medium subjects for pupils in years 7 – 11
- The Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School provides Welsh-medium subjects in years 7 – 13

However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils and the Welsh-medium provision available varies significantly between schools.

In some areas of Powys, pupils transfer out of county to receive Welsh-medium secondary provision within another local authority, most notably from the Ystradgynlais area to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, located within Neath Port Talbot County Borough. Although historically it is mainly pupils from the Ystradgynlais catchment area that have transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of pupils from the Welsh-medium stream at Sennybridge C.P. School who have transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera rather than the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, due to parental preference.

³ <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-a-school-place/use-of-the-welsh-language-in-powys-schools/>

In March 2015, the council's Cabinet considered and approved a report which identified four priorities to be taken forward in respect of the Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which were as follows:

- Priority 1 – Beacons Learning Campus
- Priority 2 – To review Secondary Education in Mid Powys
- Priority 3 – To review Post-16 Provision in Ystradgynlais
- Priority 4 – To review Secondary Education in North Powys

The initial recommendation in respect of Priority 1 was to carry out consultation on closure of Brecon and Gwernyfed High Schools, with the opening of a new English-medium school. Formal consultation on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School was carried out in the summer of 2015, and a Consultation Report was produced and received by Cabinet on the 29th September 2015. At this meeting, Cabinet resolved to 'note the content of the consultation report and that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet for decision at a later date'.

The School Organisation Code states that 'Proposals must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses, otherwise the proposals will lapse and a new consultation document must be issued to revive them'. No further report was taken to Cabinet with proposals, and therefore no proposals were published within the 26 week period.

During the consultation period, concerns were raised that the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream could not be considered in isolation to the work that was ongoing in respect of secondary provision in Mid Powys and South Powys (Priorities 1 and 2). Therefore it was agreed to re-consider the future of Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area as part of these reviews.

A business case in respect of Mid and South Powys was considered by Cabinet on the 23rd February 2016, when Cabinet determined:

- To approve the commencement of formal consultation on the closure of Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School and to establish a new dual-stream 11-18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools
- To approve the commencement of formal consultation on the closure of Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School, and to establish a new English-medium school to operate from the current sites of the two schools initially, before transferring to the new campus in Brecon.

Consultation on these proposals took place later in the year. Consultation reports were published in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and were considered by Cabinet on the 27th September 2016. At this meeting, Cabinet determined the following:

- To publish a statutory notice for the closure of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools on the 31st August 2018 and the establishment of a new dual-sites dual-stream 11-18 school that will operate on the current campuses of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools with effect from 1st September 2018

- To abandon the elements of the proposal with regard to Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School relating to closure of the two schools and the establishment of a new school, and to re-consult on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from September 2017.

2.2 Policy Context

2.2.1 Powys County Council's aspiration for education

Powys County Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people have an equal opportunity to receive the best possible education. The council aspires to have an educational infrastructure that:

- Provides all learners with opportunities to achieve high standards of achievement and attainment;
- Provides for first class teaching and learning provision reflecting national, regional and local priorities;
- Has high quality resilient leadership and management;
- Provides robust linguistic continuity and progression;
- Improves cost-effectiveness and efficiency;
- Has the right number of schools in the right place for the current and future pupil population of Powys;
- Has school buildings and blocks that are assessed as condition A or B;
- Minimises dependency on temporary accommodation; and
- Reduces overall surplus places in schools.

The council has a duty to ensure that school buildings, teaching resources and pupils' learning experiences are shaped to develop competencies which allow children and young people to engage confidently with the challenges of their future lives. The challenge faced by the council is to ensure that schools provide an appropriate, fit-for-purpose learning environment that will facilitate the delivery of a curriculum, as defined in "Successful Futures"⁴ to ensure children and young people develop as;

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world; and
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

In order to establish an infrastructure of schools that meet the council's aspirations for education, the council will need to consider new models of delivering educational provision in the county. In a rural county as diverse as Powys there is no one size fits all approach to school organisation. Consideration will be given to the specific circumstances of each school and community.

⁴ Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Requirements in Wales. Professor Ian Donaldson February 2015

2.2.2 Welsh-medium Education

In 2010, the Welsh Government published its Welsh-medium Education Strategy⁵, which sets the national strategic direction for Welsh-medium education. This strategy states that *‘Welsh-medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education offers the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens.’* The strategy also states that *‘Where a pupil from a Welsh-speaking background attends a bilingual school, a balanced curriculum through the medium of Welsh and English can be effective in ensuring fluency in both languages...However, where learners’ linguistic skills in Welsh are not reinforced by family or community, they are unlikely to achieve full fluency and confidence in Welsh when learning in a bilingual setting. Bilingual provision, therefore, does not always ensure that an individual becomes a bilingual speaker.’*

Following the publication of this strategy, local authorities were required to prepare Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs), setting out how they would contribute to achieving the outcomes outlined in the strategy. This became a statutory requirement in 2013.

One of the Strategic Aims stated in Powys’ current WESP for 2014-17⁶ is ‘to provide linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education’, to enable all children and young people across Powys to experience the cultural and cognitive benefits of bilingualism. The WESP states the authority’s policy in respect of Welsh-medium secondary education at the time, which was to aim that all dual stream secondary schools became category 2B secondary schools by September 2020, to ensure that pupils would be able to access sufficient Welsh-medium provision to enable them to continue to develop their Welsh-medium skills during their time at secondary school. However, progress towards achieving this aim has been limited, particularly in respect of Key stage 4 provision, and this is compounded by the challenging financial situation faced by the authority, which will make it increasingly difficult to achieve this target by 2020.

The authority is currently working on the production of a new WESP for 2017-20 which will build on the work that has taken place during the period of the current WESP.

The Welsh Government has recently launched an ambitious new strategy to create a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. The council acknowledges the key role Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim, and the new WESP will seek to build on the work that has taken place during the period of the current WESP, with the aim of providing equality for Welsh-medium pupils in Powys.

⁵ <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en>

⁶ <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-a-school-place/use-of-the-welsh-language-in-powys-schools/>

3. Reasons for the Proposal

The reasons why the authority is proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are as follows:

- Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School
- Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education

These issues are examined in more detail below.

3.1 Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

Pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have decreased significantly in recent years, and the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school is now very small.

The current number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School is as follows⁷:

Year	Number of pupils
7	2
8	3
9	5
10	3
11	6
Total	19

The following table shows the total number of year 7 – 11 pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School since 2010⁸:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
2010/11	12	17	14	12	12	67
2011/12	6	11	19	14	17	67
2012/13	10	7	13	18	15	63
2013/14	19	10	8	13	13	63
2014/15	14	13	9	8	13	57
2015/16	3	7	4	8	8	30
2016/17	2	3	5	3	6	19

This shows that the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has decreased over this period. Pupil numbers have now decreased to such a low level that the provision of a Welsh-medium stream is unviable.

The Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has two feeder primary schools. These are Ysgol y Bannau, a Welsh-medium primary school located in Brecon, and Sennybridge C.P. School, a dual stream school located in the village of Sennybridge.

⁷ Teacher Centre, October 2016

⁸ Information from Welsh-medium returns provided annually by the school

The current number of Welsh-medium pupils in reception to year 6 in the two schools is as follows⁹:

Year	Ysgol y Bannau	Sennybridge C.P. School	Total
R	17	8	25
1	28	6	34
2	18	11	29
3	15	5	20
4	24	5	29
5	10	2	12
6	19	5	24
Total	131	42	173

The following table shows the total number of Welsh-medium pupils in reception to year 6 that have attended the two schools since 2010/11¹⁰.

Year	Ysgol y Bannau	Sennybridge C.P. School	Total
2010/11	141	35	176
2011/12	138	33	171
2012/13	139	32	171
2013/14	141	39	180
2014/15	137	38	175
2015/16	135	42	177

This shows that Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area have remained fairly stagnant over the last few years. Whilst Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Sennybridge C.P. School have increased slightly, this has not been the case at Ysgol y Bannau. This is in contrast with the two other designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Powys, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown and Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr in the Ystradgynlais area, where pupil numbers have increased over the same period.

Changes in the destinations of Welsh-medium pupils when they transfer to secondary school have also impacted on Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Brecon High school. In July 2016, there were 20 Welsh-medium pupils in year 6 at Ysgol y Bannau and 6 Welsh-medium pupils in year 6 at Sennybridge C.P. School. In September 2017, they transferred to the following schools:

Ysgol y Bannau	Sennybridge C.P.
-----------------------	-------------------------

⁹ Teacher Centre, October 2016

¹⁰ PLASC data

		School
Total Year 6 Welsh-medium pupils during 2015/16	20	6
Number of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision in September 2016	13	4
	Brecon High School – 2 Builth Wells High School – 9 Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera – 2	Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera – 4
Number of pupils transferring to English-medium secondary provision in September 2016	7	2
	Brecon High School – 1 Christ College – 2 Crickhowell High School – 2 Gwernyfed High School – 2	Brecon High School – 2

As is shown in this table, increasing numbers of parents of Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon catchment area are choosing for their children to transfer to alternative provision, instead of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. This is a pattern that has developed over time, particularly in the case of Welsh-medium pupils attending Sennybridge C.P. School, where parents have chosen for their children to attend Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for their secondary provision, partly due to the greater level of Welsh-medium provision available.

This means that, in reality, Ysgol y Bannau is the only primary school which is now feeding the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. As the numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have decreased, parents of pupils that attended Ysgol y Bannau have increasingly chosen for their children to attend alternative providers, such as Builth Wells High School. This has resulted in the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School becoming unviable.

It is acknowledged that it is likely that the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school has contributed to the decrease in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School.

3.2 Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education

One of the Strategic Aims stated in the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-17 is 'to provide robust linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education', to enable all children and young people across Powys to experience the cultural and cognitive benefits of bilingualism. The council aims to ensure that all Powys learners have the opportunity to become confident bilingual citizens.

In its Welsh-medium Education Strategy (2010), the Welsh Government states that 'Bilingual / dual stream settings should aim to provide as much provision through the

medium of Welsh as is necessary for learners to achieve fluency in two languages.’ However, the current small number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is making it increasingly difficult for the school to offer an appropriate Welsh-medium curriculum for pupils.

During 2016/17, the following Welsh-medium subjects are provided at Brecon High School¹¹:

Year	Welsh-medium subjects
7	6 – Science, History, Geography, RE, French, IT
8	6 – Science, History, Geography, RE, French, IT
9	6 – Science, History, Geography, RE, French, IT
10	1 – Science
11	2 – Science, History

No post-16 subjects are provided through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School.

The current small number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School will make it increasingly difficult for the school to offer Welsh-medium subjects for pupils, and to provide a level of provision which will enable learners to achieve and maintain fluency in both English and Welsh. This is particularly the case in Key Stage 4.

The alternative schools which pupils currently in the catchment of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would be expected to attend would offer a greater level of Welsh-medium provision compared to that currently available at Brecon High School – there are more Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells High School, therefore the school is able to provide a greater number of Welsh-medium subjects, providing a better opportunity for learners to continue to develop their Welsh language skills through their secondary education, whilst Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium school, where all subjects are provided through the medium of Welsh.

¹¹ Information provided by Brecon High School, November 2016

4. Benefits and Risks

4.1 Benefits of the Proposal

The authority's view is that centralising Welsh-medium secondary provision in the Mid and South Powys area will enable the provision available to be further developed, thus meeting the aspiration stated in the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-17 to provide 'more robust Welsh-medium provision for Welsh-medium learners'. The authority's view is that the improved subject choice available to learners will enable them to become more confident Welsh speakers. These Welsh-medium pupils would continue to live in Brecon and the surrounding area, therefore although they would not be attending secondary school in Brecon, they will still be able to contribute to the development of the Welsh language in this area.

As well as the benefits that are associated with the proposal, the authority acknowledges that there would also be some disadvantages. The advantages and disadvantages of the proposal are listed below:

Advantages

- Creation of a critical mass of Welsh-medium secondary learners in Mid / South Powys
- Additional Welsh-medium opportunities to be provided to Welsh-medium pupils from Brecon through access to a wider range of Welsh-medium subjects
- Would enable the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at post-16
- Social and emotional benefits to Welsh-medium pupils from being part of a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils
- More opportunity for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh
- More financially efficient model of delivery for secondary Welsh-medium provision in Mid and South Powys
- Would enable Brecon High School to run more efficiently as a single stream school
- Welsh-medium pupil numbers could grow to a point where a Welsh-medium secondary school could be considered viable

Disadvantages

- Loss of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon
- May have a negative impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau
- Possible reduction in transfer rates from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils from the Brecon catchment in the short term
- Increased travel times for Welsh-medium learners from the Brecon catchment
- Lack of Welsh-medium provision in new building in Brecon
- Welsh-medium pupils will be unable to access the new building in Brecon

- Powys based provision would still be in a dual stream school, rather than a designated Welsh-medium school

4.2 Risks associated with the Proposal

As with every proposal, the authority acknowledges that there a number of risks associated with the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.

The risks identified by the authority are listed below, along with measures the authority will take to mitigate the risks.

Risk Ref.	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Measures
1	Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school	Medium	Medium	<p>In the short term, the authority would expect there to be some reduction in the proportion of pupils from the Brecon area continuing to access Welsh-medium provision in the secondary sector.</p> <p>However, the current Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School is very limited, and there is no provision at all at Post-16.</p> <p>Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government's priorities, and the authority will work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term.</p>

2	Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon	Medium	High	<p>The authority acknowledges that there may be a reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau in the short term.</p> <p>However, the authority is committed to increasing the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium, and would work with work with Ysgol y Bannau, Menter Brycheiniog and other organisations to promote the benefits of Welsh-medium primary education in the Brecon area. The authority would hope that the greater clarity in relation to secondary arrangements for pupils from the Brecon area and the increased level of provision available would lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the future.</p>
3	The alternative schools are unable to accommodate the additional pupils	Low	High	<p>There is sufficient capacity at the current site of Builth Wells High School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera to accommodate the additional pupils from the Brecon area.</p>
4	Additional travel has an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment	Low	High	<p>The council's view is that the current and proposed transport arrangements for these pupils are suitable because the journey would not take an unreasonable amount of time.</p> <p>The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 does not specify a time limit for journeys. However, local authorities are required to assess the individual needs of learners when considering if a journey time is reasonable.</p> <p>However, the old Learner Travel Operational Guidance April 2009 stated that Welsh Ministers considered that normal journey times should</p>

be no more than 60 minutes for secondary school aged pupils. This is reflected in the council's proposed new School Transport Policy.

It is acknowledged that the additional travel may impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities, particularly those that take place after school. However, the alternative schools pupils would be likely to attend to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve large catchment areas and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.

Should the proposal be implemented, the council would work with the relevant schools to ensure that pupils who travel to school on home to school transport are not disadvantaged, and that they are able to access an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities. This could include providing access to activities during lunchtime.

5. Alternative Options

Consideration of the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has taken place over a number of years. The council previously carried out consultation on closure of the stream during the summer of 2015, and a range of possible options were listed in the consultation document issued at this time.

Following the conclusion of that consultation period, a Consultation Report was produced and was received by the council's Cabinet on the 29th September 2015. At the meeting, Cabinet were advised that the statutory procedure in relation to the Welsh-medium stream could not proceed in isolation from the wider review of secondary provision in Mid and South Powys, therefore a further report would be brought back to Cabinet at a later date. However, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires local authorities to publish any proposals within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses. As no proposal was published within this timeframe, the original consultation exercise in relation to closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School lapsed.

In order to find a potential solution to the issues in relation to secondary provision across Mid and South Powys, including the issues relating to Welsh-medium provision, a number of possible options were evaluated. This included a number of options relating to Welsh-medium provision, including the establishment of a designated Welsh-medium secondary school to serve Mid and South Powys.

The business case concluded that the most appropriate option at the current time is to centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision across the Mid and South Powys region. The authority's view is that this would ensure a larger critical mass of learners, which would improve the level of provision that can be offered to the Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School, and would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future.

The authority is currently going through the statutory process to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod Wells High School and establish a new secondary school across two sites. The proposal is that the new school will be a dual stream school, with the current dual stream provision being retained on the Builth Wells site. Therefore, the only options now available to the authority in relation to the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is whether or not to retain this provision.

The strengths and weaknesses of these two options are outlined in the following table:

Option	Strengths	Weaknesses
Option 1: Status Quo – retention of Welsh- medium stream in Brecon High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides access to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon - Limits travel time for Welsh-medium pupils - Reduces transport costs to the authority - Positive impact on the Welsh language skills of English-medium pupils at Brecon High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not create a larger mass of Welsh-medium secondary pupils in Mid and South Powys - Does not provide more robust linguistic progression for Welsh-medium pupils - Does not provide opportunities to offer enhanced Welsh-medium opportunities at post-16 level - Does not ensure more cost effective delivery of Welsh-medium secondary provision - Does not achieve viable sized option groups due to small number of pupils
Option 2: Closure of Welsh- medium stream at Brecon High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a larger critical mass of Welsh-medium learners in Mid / South Powys - Additional Welsh-medium opportunities to be provided to Welsh-medium pupils from Brecon through access to a wider range of Welsh-medium subjects - Would enable the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at post-16 - A larger group of Welsh-medium pupils will enable the provision in Builth Wells to be further developed - Social and emotional benefits to Welsh-medium pupils from being part of a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils - More opportunity for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh - More financially efficient model of delivery for secondary Welsh-medium provision in Mid and South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon - May have a negative impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau - Possible reduction in transfer rates from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils from the Brecon catchment in the short term - Increased travel times for Welsh-medium learners from the Brecon catchment - Lack of Welsh-medium provision in new building in Brecon - Welsh-medium pupils will be unable to access the new building in Brecon - Powys based provision would still be in a dual stream school, rather than a designated Welsh-medium school - Welsh-medium pupils will continue to be in the minority, especially if the proposal to establish the

	<p>Powys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable Brecon High School to run more efficiently as a single stream school - Welsh-medium pupil numbers could grow to a point where a Welsh-medium secondary school could be considered viable 	<p>New Mid Powys Secondary School is implemented</p>
--	---	--

Having considered the strengths and weaknesses associated with each option, the authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.

6. Impact on Pupils

The authority acknowledges that the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School will have an impact on pupils, including Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Brecon High School, pupils currently being educated through the medium of Welsh in feeder primary schools in the Brecon catchment, pupils attending schools pupils may choose to transfer to should the proposal be implemented and English-medium pupils at Brecon High School.

The impact on pupils has been a key consideration for the authority in formulating this proposal. The authority's view on the proposal's likely impact on these groups of pupils is outlined below.

6.1 Impact on pupils currently attending Brecon High School

Implementation of the proposal would have the greatest impact on the Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Brecon High School. The authority acknowledges that the proposal would have an impact on Welsh-medium pupils currently in years 7, 8 and 9 at Brecon High School. Should they transfer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision, this would result in additional travel time, although free home to school transport would be provided to enable them to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. It is acknowledged that the reliance on home to school transport could make it more difficult for pupils to access extra-curricular activities, particularly when these take place after school. However, the schools pupils are likely to transfer to in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve large catchment areas, and are very experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who travel to school on home to school transport. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the schools the pupils would transfer to in order to ensure that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities are available to all pupils.

The authority also acknowledges that some disruption would be caused to pupils in the short term if they were to move schools, as this could mean that they would be separated from their friends in the English-medium stream. This could have a negative impact on the well-being of these pupils.

Should the proposal be implemented, it is possible that some pupils would transfer to English-medium provision at Brecon High School rather than transferring to an alternative school to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. Whilst this would mitigate the impact of additional travel and separation from friends, this could have a negative impact on pupils' Welsh language skills.

Despite this, the authority's view is that the small number of Welsh-medium pupils and limited Welsh-medium curriculum provision at Brecon High School is not acceptable. The number of pupils and subject choice at the alternative schools pupils would attend in order to access Welsh-medium secondary provision is larger than what is provided at Brecon High School, and would provide greater equality for Welsh-medium pupils.

It is also acknowledged that the proposal could have a negative impact on the Welsh language skills of English-medium pupils attending Brecon High School. However, the school would continue to teach Welsh as a Second Language, and would be expected to continue to provide opportunities for these pupils to use their Welsh outside the classroom.

6.2 Impact on pupils currently attending Welsh-medium primary provision in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in travel time for pupils living in the current catchment of Brecon High School to enable them to access Welsh-medium secondary provision, however free home to school transport would be provided to enable them to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. It is acknowledged that the reliance on home to school transport could make it more difficult for pupils to access extra-curricular activities, particularly when these take place after school. However, the schools pupils are likely to transfer to in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve very large catchment areas, and are very experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who travel to school on home to school transport. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the schools the pupils transfer to in order to ensure that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities are available to all pupils.

The authority also acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils living in Brecon and the surrounding area would be unable to access Welsh-medium provision at the new building, currently planned to open in Brecon in 2020.

Despite this, the authority's view is that the small number of Welsh-medium pupils and limited Welsh-medium curriculum provision at Brecon High School is not acceptable. The number of pupils and subject choice at the alternative schools pupils would attend in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision is larger than what is provided at Brecon High School, and would provide greater equality for Welsh-medium pupils.

Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for Builth Wells High School, or the New Mid Powys Secondary School should that proposal be implemented, and transition arrangements would be put in place to ensure the well-being of all pupils on transfer to secondary school. Transition arrangements would also be put in place for any pupils transferring to any other Welsh-medium providers.

6.3 Impact on pupils attending other schools to which pupils may wish to transfer

The number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small, therefore should the proposal be implemented, and should these pupils transfer to other Welsh-medium secondary providers, the impact on pupils currently attending these schools would be small.

In the case of Builth Wells High School, or the New Mid Powys Secondary School should that proposal be implemented, implementation of the proposal would lead to a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils at the school, which would enable the school to continue to develop the Welsh-medium provision available. In addition, the school would be able to provide an increased number of extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh, which would provide additional opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh outside school.

From September 2018 (dependent on whether Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the New Mid Powys Secondary School), implementation of the proposal would lead to a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils at the Builth Wells site of the new school, which would enable the school to continue to develop the Welsh-medium provision available. In addition, the school would be able to provide an increased number of extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh, which would provide additional opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh outside school.

6.4 Impact on vulnerable pupils, including children with Special Educational Needs or Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

All schools in Powys are responsible for meeting a child's special educational needs, in accordance with the council's ALN Strategy and Operational Guidance, referencing the 1996 Education Act. Funding from the council is delegated to individual schools to support pupils within significant needs. The council will work in partnership with pupils with additional learning needs, parents and the schools to support an effective transition to the new learning environments.

Any change of school and any disruption not of the learner or their family's choosing is going to have some impact on feelings of wellbeing. Mitigation of the negative effects of this, especially for those with additional needs with need to be well planned and allow for individual plans of support to be in place.

Those with difficulties in managing change, many of whom may be on the autistic spectrum, will be of particular concern. However, with careful planning and professional support, the process of change to what will be a new and better environment may be seen as a potential for learning that will enable those young people to cope better with adult life.

The school would be encouraged to conduct person-centred reviews, and planning which will be very helpful in providing the circles of support and hearing the voice of the young people during this period.

7. Impact on Affected Schools

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013 states that the following information should be included within a consultation document:

'The likely impact of the Proposals on the quality of the following:

- a) *outcomes (standards and wellbeing)*
- b) *provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment)*
- c) *leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)'*

In addition, the Code requires local authorities to consider *'the ability of the school or schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at...each key stage of education'*.

The authority's view on the likely impact of the proposal on these aspects at Brecon High School and other schools that may be affected by the proposal is outlined below.

7.1 Impact on Brecon High School

7.1.1 Impact on Outcomes

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have a negative impact on outcomes at Brecon High School. There has been a good improvement trajectory of performance in recent years at the school which is expected to be at least maintained. The number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school is very small, therefore it is not anticipated that removal of the Welsh-medium school would impact on this.

In previous consultations, it has been noted that the attainment of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream has been better than pupils in the English-medium stream, and that loss of these pupils would have a negative impact on outcomes at the school. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has reduced significantly. The small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream means that this impact will now be significantly reduced, therefore losing these pupils from the school would not have a significant impact on overall outcomes.

Implementation of the proposal would enable the school to focus solely on delivering through the medium of English, which could have a positive impact in terms of outcomes for English-medium pupils.

7.1.2 Impact on Provision

The proposal would mean that Brecon High School would no longer offer Welsh-medium subjects, which would mean that this provision would no longer be available at the school. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would become an English-medium school, and would be able to focus solely on its English-medium provision. This would lead to increased capacity in terms of English-medium

curriculum time, and greater flexibility in terms of timetabling, which would improve the school's ability to deliver a full English-medium curriculum in all key stages.

Changing the school's language category could reduce the use of the Welsh language in the school. However, the school would continue to teach Welsh as a Second Language, and all schools are expected to provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom, therefore the school would be expected to maintain a bilingual ethos. The proposals of the 'Successful Futures' curriculum will enhance this.

In earlier consultations, it has been noted that pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream make a significant contribution to extra-curricular activities within the school, and that it would be difficult for these activities to continue without the Welsh-medium pupils. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has reduced significantly, and the small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream means that this impact will now be reduced.

It is not anticipated that closure of the stream would have a negative impact on the teaching, care, support and guidance available at the school, as the school would continue to provide these to the pupils who remained at the school.

In the short term, the proposal would lead to an improvement in the learning environment for Welsh-medium pupils as the current buildings at Brecon High School are in a poor condition. However, plans are underway for a replacement building for the school, which is expected to open in 2020. It is acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils would be unable to access Welsh-medium provision at the new facility.

7.1.3 Impact on Leadership and Management

The proposal is likely to have an impact on current leadership roles within some departments at Brecon High School, however there will be no impact on the general leadership and management of the whole school. The proposal would enable the school leadership to focus on the delivery of a single stream school, which may have a positive impact on the school's leadership and management.

The current small number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School means that the school's current dual stream delivery model is expensive and financially inefficient. In terms of the school's resource management, the proposal would enable the school to run more efficiently as a single stream school.

The school would no longer have a partnership with Ysgol y Bannau as this school would become a feeder school of Builth Wells High School, or the New Mid Powys School should Cabinet approve that proposal.

7.1.4 Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

The proposal would enable Brecon High School to focus on its English-medium curriculum. As a result of increased capacity in terms of English-medium curriculum time and greater flexibility in terms of timetabling, the proposal would improve the

school's ability to deliver the full curriculum through the medium of English in each key stage.

7.2 Impact on secondary schools that may receive displaced pupils

The main secondary school that may be affected by this proposal is Builth Wells High School. The authority is currently proposing that Builth Wells High School is merged with Llandrindod High School to create the New Mid Powys Secondary School operating as a dual-sited school for 11 – 18 year olds from September 2018. If the proposal is approved by Cabinet, the New Mid Powys Secondary School's Welsh-medium provision would continue to be provided from the Builth Wells site. Whilst the numbers that would be expected to transfer to the school following implementation of the proposal would be small, the proposal would have an impact on the school in the longer term due to the increased number of Welsh-medium pupils that would be expected to attend.

Welsh-medium pupils living in the Sennybridge area that would previously have attended the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore this school would also be affected by the proposal to some extent. However, there has been an increase in the number of pupils from the Sennybridge area attending Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in recent years, due to parental preference, therefore should the proposal be implemented, there would be no change to the current arrangements.

Should there be no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, it is possible that some pupils living in the catchment area of Ysgol y Bannau would be closer to other Welsh-medium providers out of county, such as Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. However the number of additional pupils that would attend these two schools would be very small, therefore the authority's view is that this would not impact on the schools.

The proposal's impact on the schools that will be affected by the proposal is outlined below:

7.2.1 Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School

(without prejudice to Cabinet's decision following consideration of the Objection Report for the current proposal relating to Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools)

i) Impact on Outcomes

Having a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils would enable the school to set pupils for some subjects, which could have a positive impact on outcomes. There is no evidence to suggest that implementation of the proposal would have a detrimental impact on outcomes at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School.

The proposal could have some negative impact on pupil well-being at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School due to the additional pupils that would be reliant on home to school transport.

ii) Impact on Provision

It is expected that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in the number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School. This would enable the school to offer greater choice, flexibility and access to Welsh-medium courses to pupils at all key stages, enhancing the learning experiences of these pupils.

However, pupils living in the Brecon area may find it more difficult to access extra-curricular activities, particularly those that take place after school, due to their reliance on home to school transport. Should the proposal be implemented, the council would work with the school to explore solutions to this problem, e.g. scheduling extra-curricular activities during the school day. Builth Wells High School already serves a large catchment area, and is experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.

iii) Impact on Leadership and Management

It is possible that implementation of the proposal may place some additional pressure in terms of leadership and management in the short term, as the school may need to make arrangements to accommodate additional pupils. However, the proposal is not expected to have a negative impact in the longer term.

iv) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

It is expected that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in the number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School. This should improve the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum through the medium of Welsh in each key stage of education, and should enable the school to offer a more comprehensive curriculum to Welsh-medium pupils, particularly in key stage 4 and post-16. It is not expected that the proposal would impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum to English-medium pupils in each key stage of education.

7.2.2 Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

i) Impact on Outcomes

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on outcomes at the school.

ii) Impact on Provision

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on provision at the school.

iii) Impact on Leadership and Management

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on leadership and management at the school.

iv) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education.

7.3 Impact on Welsh-medium primary providers in the Brecon catchment

The main Welsh-medium primary provider in the Brecon catchment is Ysgol y Bannau, a Welsh-medium primary school located in Brecon. This school serves a large catchment area, and in previous consultations, concern has been expressed that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would have a negative impact on pupils numbers at the school.

However, as illustrated on page 12 pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau have remained fairly stagnant in recent years, despite there being access to secondary provision locally at Brecon High School. This is in contrast to other areas of Powys, where pupil numbers in designated Welsh-medium schools have grown. Whilst the authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal could have an impact on pupil numbers at the school in the short term, the authority would expect pupil numbers to recover and even increase in the longer term, due to the greater clarity in relation to secondary provision and the increased level of Welsh-medium provision available for pupils.

The only other school providing access to Welsh-medium primary provision in the Brecon catchment is Sennybridge C.P. School, a dual stream school located in the village of Sennybridge. The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from this school already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposal would impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers at the school.

7.3.1 Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge C.P. School

i) Impact on Outcomes

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on outcomes at Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School. The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at either school.

ii) Impact on Provision

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on provision at Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School. The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at either school.

However, it is possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to a change in pupil numbers, therefore the schools would need to be flexible to ensure that it continues to offer appropriate provision to pupils.

iii) Impact on Leadership and Management

The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposal will have any significant impact on leadership and management at either of these schools.

iv) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on the ability of Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education. The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at either school. However, it is possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to a change in pupil numbers, therefore the schools would need to be flexible to ensure that it continues to offer appropriate provision to pupils.

8. Other Considerations

8.1 Financial Implications

In accordance with the authority's Funding Formula, dual stream schools receive funding based on the proportion of the curriculum delivered through both the medium of Welsh and English in separate streams.

For the 2016/17 financial year, Brecon High School received £58,475 through the formula to support the additional cost of operating as a dual stream school. Should the Welsh-medium stream close, this funding would not transfer with pupils to their alternative schools or streams, therefore this would be a saving to the authority.

Following previous successful transport appeals, transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. As this transport is already provided, implementation of the proposal would not incur any additional transport costs.

The total saving to the authority should the proposal be implemented is estimated to be £58,475.

8.2 Implications for Staff

If a decision is made to proceed with closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, any implications for changes to staff employment will be taken forward by the school in accordance with the authority's Management of Change procedures.

8.3 School Transport

The authority acknowledges that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would lead to an increase in school transport costs and an increase in travel for pupils who live in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and who wish to access Welsh-medium secondary provision.

Should the proposal be implemented, home to school transport would be provided in accordance with the council's School Transport Policy and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008¹². The council's current School Transport Policy can be found at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-school-transport/>.

Pupils are eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 3 miles from their nearest school offering provision in the language of their choice. For some pupils, the nearest Welsh-medium provision could be located outside Powys.

8.4 Walking routes to school

¹² <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/learner-travel/?lang=en>

Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no available walking routes to alternative providers of Welsh-medium secondary education for pupils affected by this proposal.

8.5 Admissions

Admissions for Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School are administered by the authority. Should the proposal to establish the New Mid Powys Secondary School be implemented, admissions to this school would also be administered by the authority.

In the event of closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, parents of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream would be allocated places at Builth Wells High School. Alternatively, they would need to apply for a place in another chosen school in accordance with the authority's admissions process, which is as follows:

- i) Parents to complete an application form, which will be provided by the authority
- ii) Admissions forms to be returned to the authority
- iii) authority to inform parents whether admission to the chosen school has been granted

For pupils wishing to transfer to schools located in other authorities, parents would need to follow the same procedure, and would need to apply via their home authority. Whilst it is expected that there would be sufficient capacity for pupils, priority would be given to pupils living in the official catchment area of these schools.

8.6 Impact assessments

The authority has carried out a number of impact assessments in relation to this proposal, in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013) and the authority's own requirements. These include:

- i) Equality Impact Assessment
- ii) Community Impact Assessment
- iii) Welsh Language Impact Assessment
- iv) Integrated Impact Assessment (which includes consideration of how the proposal impacts on the seven well-being goals outlines in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, along with the council's own objectives.

These assessments are available on the council's website:

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/brecon-high-school-welsh-medium-stream/>

These initial impact assessments have been carried out based on the data and information currently available to the authority and provided by the affected schools. Following the consultation period, they will be updated and finalised, to incorporate

relevant information presented during the consultation period, and the updated versions will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.

9. Key Data

The following section provides data on Brecon High School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal as they may receive displaced pupils.

The data provided is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

9.1 General School Information

School	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity	Pupil numbers PLASC Jan 2016	Age Range
Brecon High School	Community	Dual Stream (Cat. 3)	148	872	556	11-18
Builth Wells High School	Community	Dual Stream (Cat. 2C)	110	659	554	11-18
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	Community	Welsh-medium (Cat. 1)	206	1285	1046	11-18

9.2 Current and Historical Pupil Numbers (including Sixth Form)

School	October 2016 ¹³	January 2016	January 2015	January 2014	January 2013	January 2012
Brecon High School	505	556	647	714	761	767
Builth Wells High School	554	554	546	564	578	585
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	1092	1046	1022	1026	993	996

¹³ Teacher Centre, October 2016

9.3 Projected Pupil Numbers (including Sixth Form)

School	January 2017	January 2018	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022
Brecon High School	538	537	523	528	556	565
Builth Wells High School	550	544	548	564	544	555
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera ¹⁴	1101	1334	1423	1488	1521	1560

9.4 School Building Condition

The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Survey identified that the quality of accommodation at the affected schools is as follows:

School	Condition	Suitability	Sustainability
Brecon High School	D	B/C	D
Builth Wells High School	B	B	B
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera ¹⁵	D	C	C

9.5 Quality of Education

The information provided in respect of the quality of education at the affected schools is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School are both dual stream schools. Official Welsh Government data sets relating to the school's performance relates to all pupils at the school, rather than pupils in the Welsh-medium stream alone. The number of Welsh-medium pupils at each school, particularly Brecon High School, is small, therefore it would not be

¹⁴ Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera will close on the 31st August 2017, as will Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Wern. A new 3-19 school will open in their place. The projected pupil numbers for January 2018 onwards include the projected pupil numbers for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Wern and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. Initially, the school will continue to occupy the current sites of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Wern. In September 2018, primary aged pupils will move onto the Ystalyfera site, and pupils in Years 7 and 8 residing in the south of the county will attend a new campus in Port Talbot.

¹⁵ Capital work is currently being undertaken to improve the quality of accommodation at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. The condition will be reassessed after the first phase of 21st Century Schools investment, when the condition grading will improve.

valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools. In addition, 2016 information for Key Stage 4 has not been finalised.

9.5.1 Estyn

	Brecon High School	Builth Wells High School	Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera
Date of Inspection	May 2012	October 2015	March 2013
School's Current Performance	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Good
Prospects for Improvement	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Good
Follow up activity	<p>Following the inspection, the school was placed in the category of 'In need of significant improvement'.</p> <p>A monitoring visit took place in February 2014, which found that the school had made insufficient progress in relation to the action plan, and it was determined that the school was now in need of 'Special Measures'</p>	Special Measures	N/A

9.5.2 National School Categorisation System

The National School Categorisation system gives a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve.

The system has been developed collectively between regional education consortia and Welsh Government. Its primary function is to identify, across Wales, the schools that need the most support. The colour category of support allocated to a school will trigger a bespoke, tailored support programme.

The system is based on three steps. It is not purely data-driven and takes into account the quality of leadership, teaching and learning in schools.

- **Step one – Standards group:** A range of information is used to make a judgement about the school's standards, resulting in a standards group
- **Step two – Improvement capacity:** An evaluation of the school's capacity to improve further, taking account of the evidence about the standards and the quality of leadership, teaching and learning, resulting in an improvement capacity
- **Step three – Support category:** Bringing the judgement on the standards group and improvement capacity together to decide on the school's support category, colour coded either green, yellow, amber or red, with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support.

The affected schools were categorised as follows during 2015/16:

School	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category
Brecon High School	3	C	Amber
Builth Wells High School	3	D	Red
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	2	B	Yellow

2. Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent, member of staff, governor)

3. Name

4. Address

5. E-mail address

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

Yes No

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 9th January 2017**:

Schools Transformation Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

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

This page is intentionally left blank



Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

Consultation Report

March 2017

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Overview of the Consultation	3
1.1 Consultation methods	3
1.2 Responses received	3
1.3 Summary of issues raised	4
2. Consultation with Pupils	8
3. Estyn	13
4. Issues raised during the Consultation Period	16
1. Concern about the impact on pupils	16
2. Concern about the impact on parents and families	32
3. Issues relating to travel / transport	36
4. Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School	49
5. Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School	62
6. General issues relating to Brecon High School	78
7. Issues relating to Builth Wells High School	85
8. Issues relating to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	96
9. Impact on Ysgol y Bannau	99
10. Issues relating to equality / discrimination	105
11. Welsh-medium pupil numbers and access to Welsh-medium provision	110
12. General issues relating to Welsh-medium education	117
13. Issues relating to the Welsh language	125
14. Policies / strategies relating to the Welsh language	131
15. Issues relating to the community / the rural nature of the area	141
16. Financial issues	142
17. Alternative options	148
18. Issues relating to the consultation process	158
19. Issues relating to the consultation documentation	168
20. General criticism of the council	185
21. Reference to other proposals	189

Consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

1. Overview of the consultation

Powys County Council consulted on a proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017 during the period 21st November 2016 to the 9th January 2017.

1.1 Consultation methods

The consultation documentation was available on the council's website throughout the consultation period, and was distributed to stakeholders, as required by the School Organisation Code (2013). A separate version for young people and a version for primary aged pupils was also available and distributed to pupils, and was also available on the council's website throughout the consultation period.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing an online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the School Transformation Team at County Hall, or by writing to the School Transformation Team.

Meetings were also held with the following:

- Brecon High School Staff – 29th November 2016
- Brecon High School Governors – 29th November 2016
- Parents and the community – 1st December 2016
- Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School – 6th December 2016
- English-medium pupils at Brecon High School – 6th December 2016
- School Council at Ysgol y Bannau – 6th December 2016
- School Council at Sennybridge CP School – 12th December 2016

1.2 Responses received

A total of 237 written responses were received to the consultation, including responses submitted using the online response form, via e-mail and other written responses. However, 71 responses were received from one individual respondent, and another 26 were received from another individual respondent. In addition, during the consultation period, individuals were encouraged to e-mail the council with the statement 'All I want for Christmas is for the Welsh stream to stay open in Brecon High School'. 39 responses were received which only included this statement.

The written responses received included 39 responses from pupils.

In addition to the written responses, a copy of an online petition was received, which was signed by 236 people and included 67 written comments.

In addition to responses from parents, staff, governors, pupils and other members of the community affected by the proposal, responses were received from the following:

Kirsty Williams AM
Brecon Beacons National Park
Brecon Community Council
Talybont-on-Usk Community Council
Maescar Community Council
Brecon & District Swimming Club
Cylch Meithrin Aberhonddu
County Councillor Gillian Thomas
County Councillor David Meredith

The written responses received included a response from Estyn, which is provided on page 13, in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

The consultation responses also included a copy of a newspaper article from the Brecon and Radnor Express, and a video of a news story produced by BBC Cymru Fyw.

In addition, a report was received from RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh-medium Education), entitled 'Report on the findings of the RhAG survey of South Powys'. This report outlines the findings of a survey carried out by RhAG during the consultation period to identify potential demand for a designated Welsh-medium secondary school to serve mid and south Powys.

1.3 Summary of issues raised

A wide range of issues were raised during the consultation period. All of the issues raised in the written responses received and in the consultation meetings held during the consultation period are listed in detail in section 5 of this report, along with the authority's response to the issue.

The following is a summary of the main themes of the issues raised:

1. Concern about the impact on pupils

- Impact on pupil well-being
- Access to extra-curricular activities
- Impact of additional travel
- Impact on friendship groups
- Impact on Welsh language skills
- Impact of transferring to English-medium provision
- Impact on quality of education provided to pupils
- Impact on pupils with additional needs
- Impact on pupil attendance
- Impact on English-medium pupils
- Links with the community

2. Concern about the impact on parents and families

- Financial impact
- Ability to attend school activities
- Inconvenience to parents / families
- Parents feel let down

- Families are moving from the area

3. Issues relating to travel / transport

- Issues relating to the provision of transport to other Welsh-medium providers
- Transport appeal process
- Travel distance / time to alternative provision
- Cost of additional transport
- Concern about pupil safety
- Environmental impact of additional travel
- The council's Transport Policy
- Issues relating to travel to a designated Welsh-medium secondary school

4. Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School

- Impact of provision of transport to alternative schools
- Impact of previous consultations
- Reference to category 2B categorisation
- Criticism of the council's treatment of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School
- Prospective pupil numbers

5. Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School

- Category 2B categorisation
- Funding for Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School
- Quality of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School
- Brecon High School's Welsh ethos and commitment to Welsh-medium education
- Contribution of Welsh-medium pupils to Brecon High School
- Provision that could be offered at Brecon High School should the Welsh-medium stream close
- Criticism of the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School

6. General issues relating to Brecon High School

- Quality of education at Brecon High School
- Issues relating to the planned new building
- Staff at Brecon High School

7. Issues relating to Builth Wells High School

- Quality of education at Builth Wells High School
- Comparisons between Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School
- Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Builth Wells High School
- Welsh-medium provision at Builth Wells High School

8. Issues relating to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

9. Impact on Ysgol y Bannau

- Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau

- Threat of closure of Ysgol y Bannau
- Issues relating to parental preference
- Impact on staff

10. Issues relating to equality / discrimination

- Discrimination against poorer families
- Discrimination against Welsh-medium pupils
- Discrimination against the Welsh language
- Issues relating to racism

11. Welsh-medium pupil numbers and access to Welsh-medium provision

- Current Welsh-medium pupils will transfer to English-medium provision
- Parents won't choose Welsh-medium primary education in the first place
- Suggestions to increase Welsh-medium pupil numbers
- Access to Welsh-medium education
- Issues relating to parental choice

12. General issues relating to Welsh-medium education

- Issues relating to the establishment of a Welsh-medium secondary school in South Powys
- Reference to the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education
- Reference to other local authorities
- Criticism of RhAG

13. Issues relating to the Welsh language

- Detrimental impact on the Welsh language
- Impact on Welsh language organisations / activities
- General criticism of the council's treatment of the Welsh language
- Impact on the ability of employers in the local area to employ Welsh speakers

14. Policies / strategies relating to the Welsh language

- Powys County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
- A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050
- Welsh-medium Education Strategy
- The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011
- The Welsh Language Standards
- General comments relating to Welsh Government Language Strategy

15. Issues relating to the community / the rural nature of the area

16. Financial issues

- Queries about the estimated savings
- Funding provided for transport
- Fair Funding Formula
- General issues relating to the council's budget

17. Alternative Options

- Improve the Welsh-medium provision in Brecon
- Establish a category 2A Welsh-medium school
- Shared teachers
- Increase primary pupil numbers
- Use of modern technology
- Bring current schools together
- Keep two Welsh-medium streams

18. Issues relating to the consultation process

- Pre-determination
- Issues relating to the timing of the consultation
- Issues relating to the consultation meetings
- Issues relating to the minutes of the consultation meetings
- Issues relating to who the council has consulted with
- Comparisons with previous consultations
- Queries relating to the process going forward
- This consultation is not being taken seriously

19. Issues relating to the consultation documentation

- Information not included in the consultation document
- Inaccurate information
- Language used in the consultation document
- Other issues with the consultation documentation

20. General criticism of the council

- Criticism of the council's treatment of Brecon High School
- Issues relating to indecision by the council
- Issues relating to the council's financial situation

21. Reference to other proposals

- Proposals for Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School
- Reference to previous proposals

2 Consultation with pupils

A pupil version of the consultation document was available throughout the consultation period and was distributed to pupils. In addition, officers from the local authority met with pupil representatives at the schools affected by the proposal.

The issues raised by pupils are listed below.

2.1 Written responses from pupils

39 written responses were received from pupils. 31 of these responses only included the statement 'All I want for Christmas is for the Welsh stream to stay open in Brecon High School'.

The issues raised in the other written responses from pupils are listed below:

- Closing the Welsh stream will make pupils sad
- Pupils will lose their Welsh if the Welsh stream closes
- Pupils will be forced out of Welsh-medium education because they don't want to give up activities they are involved with outside school
- The teachers in Brecon High School are very good
- Not a good idea to move pupils from a really good school to a school in special measures
- Most of Brecon High School's Welsh stream are in the top set for most subjects
- Pupils' work levels will drop if they move to a school in special measures
- Pupils don't want to travel out of their community to another school
- Pupils don't want to travel to school by bus every day
- Pupils are concerned that they won't see their friends again as they all go to different schools
- Pupils won't be able to take part in after school activities
- Ysgol y Bannau might close as parents won't want to send their children there
- The Welsh teachers will move to a different school or they might lose their jobs
- Pupils will be tired from the additional travel
- Pupils won't have any spare time
- Pupils whose parents don't speak Welsh will forget their Welsh

2.2 Meetings with pupils

Officers from the local authority met with the pupil representatives at the schools affected by the proposal on the 6th December and the 12th December 2016. The issues raised in the meetings are summarised below:

i) Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School – 6th December 2016

- Lots of our friends have already moved to Builth Wells High School
- Work is a lot harder when we have to do subjects in English
- If the Welsh stream closes next year, will pupils already in the school be able to do subjects in Welsh until they finish school?
- Some pupils have gone to Ystalyfera because Builth Wells High School is in Special Measures

- Speaking Welsh is harder because of the lack of lessons through the medium of Welsh
- If the Welsh stream closed, a lot of the Welsh-medium pupils would stay in the school anyway
- Closing the Welsh stream will affect the number of pupils going to Ysgol y Bannau
- The Welsh stream in Brecon High School is like a family
- People are like sheep – if one goes, everyone goes, that’s why the numbers decreased
- Lots of year 6 pupils at Ysgol y Bannau will be coming here if the Welsh stream stays
- If the stream closes we will have to choose between staying with our friends or keeping the Welsh language
- It would be more difficult to attend appointments and we would have to miss more school when we have them
- If we move to the English stream we will have to do Welsh second language
- We would miss out on education because of the travelling
- It would be easier to close the Welsh stream at Builth Wells High School because there isn’t a Welsh-medium school there like there is in Brecon
- This area is very Anglicised, there is no future for Welsh here if the stream closes
- If the stream moves to Builth would we have to go to Llandrindod?
- Builth is in special measures but Brecon is improving
- The booklet says that the Welsh stream won’t be in the new building, this suggests that you’ve made the decision already
- You are splitting up friendships
- The ethos of the school will change if there is no Welsh stream
- If there isn’t a Welsh stream in Brecon, parents won’t choose Welsh-medium education for their children
- What will happen to the teachers who only teach subjects in Welsh?
- How much money are you spending on transport to Builth?
- If you hadn’t made it so obvious that you were going to close the Welsh stream here, parents wouldn’t have moved their children from the Welsh stream
- It would be hard to go to after school revision classes if we moved to Builth Wells School
- We would have to stop going to after school clubs and activities
- Apart from the size of the Welsh stream, what is the problem with the Welsh stream here?
- When we were in year 7 we had lots of lessons in Welsh, now we only have 2
- Teachers have moved because of the consultation
- Have you been to Ysgol y Bannau to speak with pupils there?
- If there was a Welsh stream in the new school, do you think the numbers would increase?

ii) English-medium pupils at Brecon High School – 6th December 2016

- It’s important for the town of Brecon to keep the Welsh language local
- It would have a massive impact on the school if the Welsh stream was closed
- If pupils missed the bus to Builth, parents would have to pay to transport them there
- When Powys started the consultations, the numbers in the Welsh stream started to decrease
- There would be a big impact on the school if there were no Welsh stream here
- If there were no Welsh stream, there would be less Welsh events in the school – it would have an impact on the cultural side of the school

- Lots of Welsh stream pupils have left already which has impacted on sports teams and other activities
- If the stream stayed in the school, more people would come here
- If more Welsh students came here there would be more choice for them
- Closing the Welsh stream would restrict choice for Welsh-medium pupils
- It would be harder for Welsh-medium pupils if they had to move schools – they would have to travel and that would affect their learning
- Due to the additional travel, pupils would have to leave early and would be tired
- Some pupils suffer from travel sickness
- Pupils won't have time to do after school activities
- Parents will have to pay for pupils to travel to after school clubs
- Having more subjects in Welsh won't be as good for pupils if the travelling affects their learning and study
- If the Welsh stream goes from the school, the Welshness will go as well
- A Welsh stream would enhance the new build
- If the Welsh stream has to move to Builth, it would be like saying "You can't come here"
- All schools in Wales should have a Welsh stream or the opportunity to have a Welsh stream
- If the Welsh stream closed no one would send their children to Ysgol y Bannau
- If there was a Welsh stream in the new build, the Welsh stream would appeal to more parents
- If parents wanted their children to go to Builth Wells High School they would have sent their children to primary school in Builth Wells to start with
- Some of the current pupils in the Welsh stream would go to a different school, some would move to the English stream
- Pupils would have to choose between losing friends and losing their Welsh
- Pupils should be able to choose between going to Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School
- If Builth Wells can have a Welsh stream and more subjects, why can't Brecon?

iii) School Council of Ysgol y Bannau – 6th December 2016

- It's unfair that you are spending millions on a new school but you are not letting Welsh-medium pupils come into it
- If pupils play musical instruments, there won't be time for them to have lessons before going to school if we have to go to another school
- What will happen to Ysgol y Bannau? If the Welsh stream goes from the high school, parents will think there's no point sending their children to Welsh-medium education and the numbers will go down
- It's good that there is a Welsh stream next door in Brecon High School, but if it moves we won't have Welsh next door
- People in Brecon still want to speak Welsh
- The teachers in Brecon High School like the children in Ysgol y Bannau
- Less people in the community will speak Welsh if there is no Welsh stream in Brecon High School
- More pupils from Ysgol y Bannau will be going to the Welsh stream in Brecon High School this year
- If the Welsh stream was to close, you wouldn't hear Welsh in the corridor in the high school

- If there was no Welsh stream at Brecon High School, most pupils from Ysgol y Bannau would still go there but would transfer to the English stream
- Concern that pupils would be split up from their friends
- Concern that pupils would have to go to a school in a new place with new people
- If pupils go to a high school that is further away and are ill, it would be really far for parents to come and get them
- Parents might not want their children to have to travel to school
- Pupils attend clubs and activities after school, they might not be able to attend these if they had to travel to Builth
- If the Welsh stream closed, Welsh-medium pupils would have to get used to having lessons in English
- Prefer the model of a Welsh-medium school to a dual stream school – in a dual stream school not everyone understands Welsh so you have to speak English
- In a dual stream school Welsh-medium pupils can help other pupils speak Welsh
- Concern about the extra fumes if more pupils were travelling by bus to school
- Concern about the number of pupils that will come to Ysgol y Bannau in the future
- The consultations are making parents send their children elsewhere
- Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area are decreasing and teachers are losing their jobs
- Worried that Ysgol y Bannau will have to move

iv) School Council of Sennybridge CP School – 12th December 2016

- The Welsh stream in Brecon High School is good because pupils in the Welsh stream can teach Welsh to English-medium pupils
- It's good that pupils can learn in two languages in Brecon High School
- It's good that Welsh-medium education is available locally by having a stream in Brecon
- It's good that you can go to the same high school as friends in the English stream
- Concern that pupils would have to travel further to Ystalyfera
- If there is no Welsh stream in Brecon, pupils will probably go to the English stream in Brecon
- There will be less people speaking Welsh in Brecon if the Welsh stream closes
- Concern that the number of pupils in the Welsh stream in Brecon is small
- The additional travel would be inconvenient for parents
- There would be less Welsh in Brecon
- The number of Welsh-medium pupils would go down
- Closing the Welsh-medium stream would affect the Welsh language
- Pupils would have to travel more
- Pupils might not be back in time for after school activities
- Pupils would have to make new friends if they went to a different school to their friends
- Friends would live a long way away
- There are more Welsh-medium pupils in Builth so Welsh-medium pupils would hear more Welsh
- Pupils would have more Welsh speaking friends in a Welsh school like Ystalyfera
- Some pupils, such as pupils with additional needs, might be happier in smaller classes like in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School
- Concern about parents who can't travel to Builth or Ystalyfera
- Closing the Welsh stream will have an effect on the Welsh language in Brecknockshire

- If the Welsh stream closes, English stream pupils won't have the opportunity to learn and practice their Welsh.
- Welsh-medium pupils have already decided that they will be going to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, and have already visited the school.

4 ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

Estyn response to the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017

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

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

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer and other additional information such as data from Welsh Government and the views of the Regional Consortia which deliver school improvement services to the schools within the proposal.

Introduction

The proposal is from Powys County Council.

The proposal is to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.

Summary/ Conclusion

It is Estyn's view that the proposer appears to have suitably demonstrated that, given the small numbers of pupils in the Welsh medium stream, that overall the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.

Description and benefits

The rationale for the proposal is clear. It is to address the issue of declining numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and for pupils to continue their Welsh-medium education elsewhere. Numbers of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream have decreased from 67 in 2010-2011 to just 19 in 2016-2017. The proposer reasonably asserts that these low numbers make the provision of a Welsh-medium stream unviable. In addition, the proposer recognises that the decline in numbers could be related to the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school.

The proposer appears to relate the main benefit of the proposal suitably to its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-2017. This is mainly to provide 'more robust Welsh-medium provision for Welsh-medium learners through improved subject choice'. In addition, the proposer has listed advantages and disadvantages related

to the proposal. The advantages include the creation of a critical mass of Welsh-medium secondary learners in Mid / South Powys, enabling the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at post-16 and more financially efficient model of delivery for secondary Welsh-medium provision. The disadvantages include the loss of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon, the potential negative impact on pupil numbers in Welsh-medium primary provision and increased travel times for pupils to attend Welsh-medium secondary provision. The analysis appears to be valid and reasonable. The proposer also reasonably concludes that alternative schools which pupils currently in the catchment of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would be expected to attend would offer a greater level of Welsh-medium provision compared to that currently available at Brecon High School. For example, there are more Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells High School, therefore the school is able to provide a greater number of Welsh-medium subjects whilst Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium school, where all subjects are provided through the medium of Welsh. In addition, there appears to be sufficient capacity within the alternative schools to accommodate any extra pupils from the Brecon area.

The risks identified by the proposer appear to be relevant together with how the proposer broadly intends to manage these risks. These include the risk that more pupils will choose English-medium provision in Brecon rather than travel to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision and also potential reduction in numbers in primary provision in the Brecon area.

The proposer has suitably considered alternative options and refers to previous consultations and a business case that concluded that the most appropriate option is to centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision across the Mid and South Powys region. In respect of this, the authority is currently going through the statutory process to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod Wells High School and establish a new secondary school across two sites. The proposal is that the new school will be a dual stream school. Therefore, the proposer reasonably considers that the only options now available in relation to the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is whether or not to retain this provision.

The proposer asserts that should the proposal be implemented, home to school transport would be provided in accordance with the council's School Transport Policy and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. This is to enable pupils to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. However, the proposer acknowledges that additional travel may impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities, particularly those that take place after school. In order to address this, the proposer intends to work with the relevant schools to ensure that pupils who travel to school on home to school transport are not disadvantaged, and that they are able to access an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities. This could include providing access to activities during lunchtime. This appears to be valid and reasonable.

Educational aspects of the proposal

The proposer has suitably considered the impact of the proposals on the quality of outcomes, provision and leadership and management at the affected schools. It has reasonably identified the overall positive impact that the proposal could have on English-medium education in Brecon High School.

The proposer has not provided any performance data on standards in the Welsh medium stream in any of the affected schools, but reasonably makes the statement that as numbers are small in Brecon High School, it would not be valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools. The proposer reasonably considers that the proposal would enable Brecon High School to improve its ability to deliver the full curriculum through the medium of English in each key stage.

The proposer appears to have suitably considered the impact of the proposals on vulnerable groups including children with Special Educational Needs. In addition, it has undertaken a range of comprehensive impact assessments which include an integrated impact assessment and an equality impact assessment.

4 ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

The following tables list the issues raised during the consultation period, including the issues raised by consultees and the issues raised in the consultation meetings held in relation to this proposal.

REF	ISSUE	LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE
1. IMPACT ON PUPILS		
1.1 Impact on pupil well-being		
1.1.1	<p>Concern about the impact on pupils from having to endure the worry and uncertainty over the 3 consultations undertaken in the last 2 years</p> <p>Uncertainty about the future of Welsh-medium secondary education since March 2015 until today has been a cause for concern for Ysgol y Bannau pupils</p> <p>Pupils have been off sick due to the stress of the consultation</p> <p>The proposal is, and will continue to have an in impact on the welfare of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau</p> <p>This is causing distress to children at a time of transferring to secondary schools</p> <p>Don't think the council has thought about the feelings of pupils</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal causes uncertainty for those affected, and that the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has had an impact on current Welsh-medium pupils in Brecon High School and the primary schools that feed the Welsh-medium stream. The authority is keen to conclude this process as quickly as possible in order to bring this period of uncertainty to an end.</p>
1.1.2	<p>The proposal would cause huge disruption and upset to the children involved</p>	<p>The authority accepts that implementation of the proposal would cause disruption to the pupils currently in the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School, and this is acknowledged on page 22 of the consultation document.</p>

	Closing the Welsh stream will make pupils sad	However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils in Brecon High School is currently very small, which makes this provision unviable.
1.1.3	<p>This is not the best option in terms of pupil well-being</p> <p>The commute to Builth would have a negative impact on pupils social, mental and emotional well-being</p> <p>Concern about the proposal's impact on emotional well-being</p>	<p>The possibility that additional travel should the proposal be implemented could have an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment was identified as a risk on page 17 of the consultation document in respect of the proposal.</p> <p>Whilst the authority acknowledges that the additional travel involved could have an adverse impact on pupil well-being, the number of Welsh-medium pupils in Brecon High School is currently very small, which makes the provision unviable.</p>
1.1.4	Concern that pupils would have to go to a school in a new place with new people	The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would have to move to a new school to continue to access Welsh-medium education, which would mean that they would have to get to know a new school and new people. However, the receiving school would provide full transition support to the pupils involved to ensure that they become settled in their new school. In addition, a number of Welsh-medium pupils have already transferred from Brecon High School to Builth Wells High School, therefore it is likely that any pupils transferring should the current proposal be implemented would already know some pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School.
1.1.5	If pupils are ill, it would be really far for their parents to come and get them	Builth Wells High School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera already serve large catchment areas, and are well equipped to meet the needs of learners who travel to school and to deal with any problems that may arise during the course of the school day.
1.1.6	The well-being of the pupils should be foremost in your decision making	The well-being of pupils is a primary consideration in all school reorganisation proposals taken forward. The authority's view is that the current provision at Brecon High School is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils, and the aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality for Welsh-medium pupils compared with English-medium pupils. It is acknowledged that

		there are some disadvantages and risks associated with the proposal and these are outlined in the consultation document. It is acknowledged that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, and that in some cases, this could result in pupils leaving Welsh-medium education and transferring to English-medium provision locally.
1.2 Access to extra-curricular activities		
1.2.1	<p>Children will miss out on being able to attend after school activities</p> <p>It will be hard for pupils to go to after school revision classes if they moved to Builth Wells School</p> <p>Pupils will have to stop going to after school clubs and activities</p> <p>Pupils will have to choose between continuing in Welsh-medium education or taking part in extra-curricular activities</p> <p>Additional travel would preclude pupils from participating in after school events, clubs, sports etc</p>	The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would impact on the ability of pupils to attend activities that take place after school, and this is identified on page 22 of the consultation document.
1.2.2	<p>The suggestion that extra-curricular activities could be offered at lunchtime is not an adequate answer</p> <p>Lunchtimes are too short for extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>The authority notes these comments. The possibility that activities could take place during lunchtime was one suggestion offered in the consultation document to mitigate the proposal's impact on the ability of pupils to attend after school activities.</p> <p>The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would impact on the ability of pupils to attend activities that take place after school, and this is identified on page 22 of the consultation document.</p>

1.2.3	<p>The council will need to provide more transport to enable pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities</p> <p>Will the council be supplying later buses for pupils who have been taking part in activities after school?</p> <p>There is no solution to the issue of accessing extra-curricular activities that could be achieved without the council spending money</p>	<p>The council currently has no plans to provide additional home to school transport for pupils who have been taking part in activities after school.</p>
1.2.4	<p>This will have a greater impact on pupils from less well-off families as their parents won't be able to afford additional journeys to collect them from after-school activities</p> <p>What will the council and Builth High School do to make sure that pupils from low income families will not miss out on being able to take part in extra-curricular activities?</p> <p>Pupils whose parents can't provide transport for their children to attend extra-curricular activities will be disadvantaged</p>	<p>In the Equalities Impact Assessment carried out in relation to this proposal, the authority acknowledged that 'some people on low incomes will be affected. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to alternative provision, it is likely that the greater distance to travel to the school for other activities would have a greater impact on people on low incomes.'</p> <p>The impact assessments will be updated to reflect the issues raised during the consultation period, and the updated impact assessments will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p> <p>The alternative schools pupils would transfer to in order to access Welsh-medium secondary provision should the proposal be implemented serve large catchment areas, and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport, this includes in relation to access to extra-curricular activities.</p>
1.2.5	<p>Pupils will be forced out of Welsh-medium education because they don't want to give up activities out of school</p> <p>The council hasn't given a real solution to ensure that Welsh-medium children do not miss out in</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and accepts that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education.</p>

	terms of extra-curricular activities	
1.2.6	<p>Brecon pupils travelling to Builth will miss out on being able to attend clubs in Brecon</p> <p>Pupils would miss out on the opportunity to take part in after school activities in their community</p> <p>Pupils won't have time to attend after school activities due to the additional time they will spend travelling to and from school</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School may need to change their routine in order to adapt to the new arrangements. However, the school day at Builth Wells High School runs from 8.50 until 3.15, therefore it is expected that learners living in the Brecon area would arrive in Brecon at or around 4pm, therefore they would still be able to attend clubs and other activities in the community.</p>
1.2.7	<p>Builth High School are holding their presentation evening on the same evening that there is a service at the cathedral which Ysgol y Bannau take part in, so pupils with siblings at Builth are unable to take part</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment, however arrangements for community activities held in Brecon are beyond the council's control. Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School, and the authority would expect that discussion would take place between the two schools to try to avoid clashes such as these.</p>
1.2.8	<p>If pupils play musical instruments, there won't be time for them to have lessons or to practice before going to school</p>	<p>The authority notes this concern and accepts that should the proposal be implemented, pupils would need to change their routine in order to adapt to the new arrangements.</p>
1.2.9	<p>How can the council guarantee that Welsh-medium students will not be at a disadvantage in taking part in extra-curricular activities because of the travel implications?</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would impact on the ability of pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities. However, the number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small, which makes the provision unviable.</p>
1.2.10	<p>After the consultation I do not believe that the council will work with and support pupils to ensure they are not disadvantaged</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment.</p>
1.3 Impact of additional travel		

1.3.1	<p>Concern about wasted childhood hours as children from Sennybridge make a daily 60 mile round trip and pupils from Brecon make a 40 mile round trip to attend school</p> <p>Concern about pupils being forced to waste time travelling around the country when they should be doing their homework at home</p> <p>Pupils will be unable to do their homework due to the additional travel</p> <p>Additional travel to school would impact on pupils' social lives</p> <p>An extra two hours of travelling a day would mean two hours less for homework, relaxation, extra-curricular activities</p> <p>Concern that pupils will be unable to continue their Welsh-medium education without being forced to spend one and a half to two hours on a bus every day</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, there would be additional travel for pupils in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. This is identified on several occasions in the consultation document in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>However, as stated in the consultation document 'The council's view is that the current and proposed transport arrangements...are suitable'. Further to this, the consultation document states that 'The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 does not specify a time limit for journeys. However, local authorities are required to assess the individual needs of learners when considering if a journey time is reasonable. The old Learner Travel Operational Guidance April 2009 stated that Welsh Ministers considered that normal journey times should be no more than 60 minutes for secondary school aged pupils. This is reflected in the council's proposed new School Transport Policy.'</p> <p>The authority's proposal acknowledges that some pupils living in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys – in the case of pupils living in the Sennybridge area, their nearest provider would be Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera not Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School, and pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School may live closer to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw or Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. In these cases, pupils would have the opportunity to access these schools in order to access Welsh-medium secondary provision, which would reduce their journey times.</p>
1.3.2	<p>Travelling will put pupils at a disadvantage compared to other students</p> <p>The additional travel would affect their learning</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, the schools pupils would be expected to transfer to in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve very large catchment areas, and are experienced in meeting the needs of these pupils. The authority's view is that the additional travel would not put pupils at a disadvantage compared to other students attending those schools.</p>

1.3.3	Pupils will not be able to cope with the additional travel so will not be able to proceed with their education in Welsh	Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium secondary provision through the provision of home to school transport to the nearest alternative provider, however it is acknowledged that additional travel would be required. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority accepts that pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, and that in some cases, this could result in pupils leaving Welsh-medium education and transferring to English-medium provision locally.
1.3.4	<p>Pupils will be tired due to the additional travel</p> <p>Additional travel would have a terrible impact on the health and well-being of pupils</p> <p>Additional travel would make children unhappy</p> <p>Having more Welsh-medium subjects available won't be as good for pupils if the travelling affects their learning and study</p>	<p>The authority notes this concern in relation to the impact of additional travel on pupils, and acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, additional travel would be required for pupils in the Brecon area.</p> <p>The possibility that 'additional travel has an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment' has been identified as a risk on page 17 of the consultation document.</p>
1.3.5	Pupils who have already transferred to Builth are missing out due to the additional travel	The authority notes this concern and acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, taking the additional travel into consideration.
1.3.6	Concern that some pupils suffer from travel sickness	The authority currently transports in excess of 5000 pupils on a daily basis, some of whom would suffer from travel sickness to varying degrees.
1.4 Impact on friendship groups		
1.4.1	<p>Concern that pupils will be split from their friendship groups</p> <p>Friendship groups have been split and children have been sent all around Powys in an attempt to</p>	The authority acknowledges that the proposal has had and will continue to have an impact on friendship groups as pupils have transferred to different schools. However the authority would expect the receiving school to provide full support to any pupils moving schools to ensure they are integrated quickly and successfully into their new environment.

	<p>try and continue their Welsh-medium education</p> <p>Pupils will have to choose between staying with their friends or keeping the Welsh language</p> <p>Pupils have already been split up as many have already moved to Builth Wells High School</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School and the Welsh-medium stream at Sennybridge CP School would become a feeder school for Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. A transition programme would be put in place to support pupils on transfer to secondary school.</p>
1.4.2	<p>Pupils won't be able to see their friends much outside school hours as they would live far away from them</p> <p>Pupils will not be able to socialise fully with friendship groups if they attend Builth or Ystalyfera</p> <p>Would be difficult to maintain friendships due to the additional travel</p>	<p>Many of the authority's high schools serve wide catchment areas, therefore this is an issue in the majority of secondary schools in Powys to some extent. However, it is noted that the inclusion of pupils from the Brecon area within Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School and pupils from the Sennybridge area within Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera will potentially increase the distances between the home locations of pupils.</p>
1.4.3	<p>The proposal would isolate Welsh-medium pupils</p>	<p>The authority's view is that the current small number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is isolating Welsh-medium pupils. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could either transfer to alternative Welsh-medium provision, where they would be part of a larger cohort of Welsh-medium pupils, or they could transfer to English-medium provision at Brecon High School, where they would again be part of a larger cohort of pupils.</p>
1.5 Impact on Welsh language skills		
1.5.1	<p>Want children to leave high school with confidence in Welsh so that they can apply for jobs where Welsh language skills are necessary</p> <p>Concern that fluent Welsh speaking children will have lost their Welsh by the time they leave high</p>	<p>The authority notes these concerns, and identified on page 22 of the consultation document that implementation of the proposal could have a negative impact on pupils' Welsh language skills should they transfer to English-medium provision at Brecon High School instead of transferring to alternative Welsh-medium provision.</p>

	<p>school, when they need it most for job opportunities</p> <p>Concern that pupils will leave high school unable to hold a conversation in Welsh</p> <p>Pupils will lose their Welsh if the Welsh stream closes</p> <p>Non Welsh speaking families will be unable to maintain their children's confidence in Welsh</p>	<p>The authority is committed to providing Welsh-medium education to all pupils who request it, and through this proposal, is proposing to achieve this by providing free transport to the nearest provider, either Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School or an out-of-county provider. The authority's view is that the increased level of Welsh-medium provision available at these providers would have positive benefits in terms of the development of pupils' Welsh language skills. However, parents are entitled to choose for their children to transfer to English-medium provision locally if they prefer.</p> <p>As stated in the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy, 'It is generally accepted that at least around 70% of curricular time should be through the medium of Welsh if learners are to acquire a sufficiently sound command of the language to enable them to use it across a broad range of contexts with confidence and fluency.' The current provision in Brecon High School does not offer Welsh-medium provision for at least 70% of curricular time to pupils in any year group.</p>
1.5.2	<p>Concern that pupils will have to do Welsh second language if they move to the English-medium stream</p>	<p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, the school would be categorised as a 'Predominantly English Medium secondary school' stream</p> <p>The Welsh Government document 'Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision' (2007) provides the following definition for the curriculum provision of this type of school: 'Pupils are mainly taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language up to KS4. One or two subjects (which would include Welsh first language) may be taught as an option through the medium of Welsh or using both languages.'</p> <p>Whether or not to provide the opportunity for pupils who study Welsh First Language would be a decision for the school. There are examples of 'Predominantly English Medium secondary schools' in Powys that do provide the opportunity for pupils to study Welsh First Language, however no funding is provided by the authority to support this provision.</p>
<p>1.6 Impact of transferring to English-medium provision</p>		

1.6.1	<p>Pupils who have to transfer to English-medium will be disadvantaged</p> <p>The council should provide support to help with transition to English-medium for children that will have to leave Welsh-medium education – this should not be left to the high school to sort out</p> <p>Pupils would have to get used to having lessons in English</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, the council would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium provision through the provision of home to school transport to alternative providers of Welsh-medium education. It is acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would have an impact in terms of the additional travel that would be required, and that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, taking the additional travel into consideration, and that some may decide to transfer to English-medium provision instead of transferring to Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>However, the number of subjects provided through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School is currently small, and reduces as pupils move through the school. In particular, no Welsh-medium subjects are offered in the sixth form, therefore it is not uncommon at the school for pupils to move from studying a subject through the medium of Welsh to studying it through the medium of English.</p>
1.6.2	<p>Prospect of not being taught through the medium of Welsh where this is all pupils have ever known is leaving pupils disheartened, feeling unsure and lacking the confidence they have always had</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, taking the additional travel into consideration, and that some may decide to transfer to English-medium provision instead of transferring to Welsh-medium provision.</p>
1.6.3	<p>It's harder for pupils to do subjects in English when they have always done them in Welsh</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority recognises that there would be a period of transition for any pupil choosing to transfer to English-medium provision in Brecon High School instead of alternative Welsh-medium provision, however the authority does not agree that studying through the medium of English would not be harder for pupils.</p> <p>The number of subjects provided through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School is currently small, and reduces as pupils move through the school. In particular, no Welsh-medium subjects are offered in the sixth form, therefore it is not uncommon at the school for pupils to move from studying a subject through the medium of Welsh to studying it through the medium of</p>

		English.
1.7 Impact on quality of education provided to pupils		
1.7.1	<p>Unfair to move Welsh-medium pupils from Brecon just as the school is coming out of special measures and to force them to go to a school that is just going into special measures</p> <p>PCC should not transfer Welsh-medium education from a school recently taken out of special measures to one recently placed in special measures – our children do not deserve a substandard level of education for an extended period</p> <p>Welsh-medium pupils have worked hard to help improve Brecon High School, which has now been removed from special measures – it is unfair to tell these pupils that they are no longer welcome in the school and must move to a failing school with inadequate prospects for improvement</p>	<p>It is true that Brecon High School was removed from Special Measures in November 2016. Cabinet members will be made aware of this when they are determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.</p> <p>It is also true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. This is stated on page 36 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal. However, the authority is confident that the school is making good progress.</p> <p>Both Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School were placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would not be ‘forced’ to transfer to another school. Pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decision with regard to pupils’ future education, which would include whether to transfer to alternative Welsh-medium or to access English-medium provision at Brecon High School.</p> <p>As stated in the proposal outlined on page 3 of the consultation document, should the proposal be implemented ‘Pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.’ A proportion of pupils living in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream would live closer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, which is not in special measures.</p>
1.7.2	If you move pupils to a school in special measures their work level will drop	It is true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. However, the

		<p>authority is confident that the school is making good progress.</p> <p>Both Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School were placed in Standards Group 2 by the Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017, therefore the authority does not accept that pupils work level would drop should they access the provision in Builth Wells.</p>
1.7.3	<p>Surely it is illegal to close a stream not in special measures to make children to somewhere that is in special measures</p>	<p>The School Organisation Code requires that all school reorganisation proposals consider the likely impact on the quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outcomes (standards and wellbeing); - Provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment); and - Leadership and management. <p>The proposal's impact on these aspects is considered in the consultation document in respect of this proposal. In addition, the Code requires authorities to consult with Estyn on any school reorganisation proposals, and to include Estyn's response in the consultation report. Estyn's response is provided on page 13 of this report.</p> <p>In their response, Estyn conclude that:</p> <p>'the proposer appears to have suitably demonstrated that, given the small numbers of pupils in the Welsh medium stream, that overall the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.'</p>
1.7.4	<p>Estyn has recently stated that sacrificing local provision for critical mass and breadth of choice is not necessarily conducive to raising standards – surely this applies as much to Welsh-medium provision as it does to English-medium pre and post-16 provision</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. However, the number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, which makes the provision unviable.</p>
1.8 Impact on pupils with additional needs		

1.8.1	The proposal will affect children with learning difficulties and medical problems	It is true that, should the proposal be implemented, pupils from the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would need to transfer to alternative provision to continue to access Welsh-medium education. This would affect all pupils, including any pupils with learning difficulties and medical problems. Pupils in Powys with very complex additional and medical needs are transported to the authority's special schools. In many cases, this requires pupils to travel further than the proposed travel distance for Welsh-medium secondary pupils from the Brecon area, therefore the authority does not believe that this would compromise their well-being or safety.
1.8.2	How will the council support children with additional needs?	Should the proposal be implemented, pupils with additional needs who are affected by the proposal would be supported at the alternative provision they may transfer to through the existing processes.
1.8.3	Concern about pupils with additional needs who don't travel well	Children who have difficulty with travel are assessed on an individual basis. Powys, by its nature, has many children that travel relatively long distances. Measures are taken to support any children who may have difficulties.
1.8.4	Concern about the impact of additional travel on pupils with learning difficulties	Children with learning difficulties are no less able to travel to school than other children. Pupils in Powys with very complex additional and medical needs are transported to the authority's special schools. In many cases, this requires pupils to travel further than the proposed travel distance for Welsh-medium secondary pupils from the Brecon area.
1.8.5	Pupils with special needs will be unable to carry on in Welsh-medium education	Should the proposal be implemented, there is no reason to believe that pupils with learning difficulties would not be able to travel to the alternative provision. However, the authority acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, taking the additional travel into consideration, and that some may decide to transfer to English-medium provision instead of transferring to Welsh-medium provision.
1.8.6	Concern about impact on dyslexic pupils who attend extra classes after school – they couldn't	Support for pupils with dyslexia or any other additional learning need is provided by the school during the school day. Many children in all schools are reliant on

	do that if they were reliant on school transport	transport to get home, so it would not be appropriate to limit access to only those who can make their own way home.
1.8.7	There is inadequate provision for pupils with additional learning needs – a school day is already tiring for pupils on the Autistic Spectrum, added travel either side on a noisy crowded bus will mean that the school day will become overwhelming and they will be unable to meet their potential in school or at home	The needs of individuals who may have sensory issues such as a low noise threshold would be assessed on an individual basis. There is an obligation for pupils to arrive at school in a state where they are ready to learn, and this would be monitored through partnership work between the transport providers, parents/carers and the schools.
1.8.8	Some pupils with additional needs might be happier in a smaller class, like in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School	The authority acknowledges that some pupils might prefer to have their lessons in smaller classes. However the current class sizes in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are very small, which makes the provision unviable. The authority believes that there are positive benefits to pupils from being part of a larger cohort of pupils.
1.8.9	Concern about wheelchair access on school transport for wheelchair users	Provision for learners with specific physical and additional needs such as wheelchair users would be provided by the authority to meet the learner's specific needs, which may include dedicated transport.
1.9 Impact on pupil attendance		
1.9.1	If forced to travel to Builth, more children would miss school due to absence	The authority does not agree with this comment. Should the proposal be implemented, transport would be provided for pupils transferring to Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School. This transport would be arranged to ensure that pupils arrived at school on time. It is acknowledged that the additional travel required may require changes to pupils' daily routines, for example this may require pupils to get up earlier in order to be at the allocated pick up points in time.
1.9.2	Having to go to Builth school would have a negative impact on attendance as pupils would be unable to get to school after attending appointments	It is acknowledged that the additional travel may have a limited impact on pupil attendance as a result of attending appointments during the school day. It is always to good practice to have appointments at the end of the school day or during the school holidays when possible, in order to minimise the impact

	It would be more difficult for pupils to attend appointments and they would have to miss more school when they have them	on pupil attendance, however it is acknowledged that this is not always possible.
1.9.2	Pupil attendance has been a huge issue in all schools that have been put into special measures, making children travel long distances will not help with this	Whilst improving attendance was one of the Estyn recommendations in relation to Brecon High School, none of the recommendations at Builth Wells High School related to attendance.
1.10 Impact on English-medium pupils		
1.10.1	<p>Having a Welsh-medium stream in the school has had a beneficial effect on pupils learning Welsh as a second language</p> <p>The Welsh stream in Brecon High School is good because pupils in the Welsh stream can teach Welsh to English-medium pupils</p> <p>Pupils from the Nepalese community hear incidental Welsh and have an opportunity to integrate with children who speak Welsh as a first language – that opportunity will be taken from them</p> <p>If the Welsh stream closes, English stream pupils won't have the opportunity to learn and practice their Welsh</p>	All secondary schools in Wales are encouraged to develop a Welsh language ethos, whether or not they provide Welsh-medium education. If there were no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the school would continue to teach Welsh 2 nd language to pupils, and would be expected to maintain a Welsh ethos and provide opportunities for pupils to use incidental Welsh.
1.11 Links with the community		
1.11.1	Pupils will be less integrated into the Brecon community by not attending school here	Builth Wells High School already serves a large catchment area, and has links with towns and villages across the catchment area. Should the proposal be implemented, Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary

	Being educated in their local school is important in the development of children	School would endeavour to establish links within the Brecon community, initially by strengthening links with Ysgol y Bannau.
1.12 Other		
1.12.1	The improvement will be for the benefit of a minority of Welsh-medium pupils, not the majority Closing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School in order to provide 'more robust linguistic progression' would prevent any linguistic progression at all for many pupils	The number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School is currently small, which means that the provision is unviable. In addition, the authority's view is that the stream is not currently providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils due to the small class sizes.
1.12.2	The council is paying no attention to work-life balance for pupils	The authority is paying attention to work-life balance for pupils, and has identified on page 17 of the consultation document the potential risk that 'additional travel has an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment'. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School is currently small, which means that the provision is unviable. In addition, the authority's view is that the stream is not currently providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils due to the small class sizes.
1.12.3	It's unfair that Welsh-medium pupils are being treated in this way	The authority's view is that the current provision available to Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School does not provide equal opportunity and is therefore unfair to Welsh-medium pupils. Whilst the council accepts that Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School have decreased as a result of the recent consultations on closure of the Welsh-medium stream, the level of Welsh-medium provision available before the commencement of the consultations did not provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils. This has been exacerbated since the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has decreased.
1.12.4	All proposals should place the interests of learners above all other	All school reorganisation proposals that are taken forward are done so in the best interests of learners. The proposal's impact on pupils is considered on pages 22-24 of the consultation document in respect of this provision. Despite the impact outlined, as stated in the consultation document 'the authority's

		view is that the small number of Welsh-medium pupils and limited Welsh-medium curriculum provision at Brecon High School is not acceptable.’
1.12.5	Do not feel children’s education will be best served by creating a “critical mass”, if indeed this critical mass would actually be achieved	The authority’s view is that the very small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.
1.12.6	There are Welsh-medium pupils in classes of 2 and 3 at Brecon High School, but it is more important for them to have their education locally than to have to travel to Builth	The current number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are very small, which means that the current provision is unviable. In addition, the authority’s view is that the very small class sizes in the Welsh-medium stream are not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.
2. IMPACT ON PARENTS / FAMILIES		
2.1 Financial impact		
2.1.1	<p>Transferring to Builth would have a financial impact on parents due to the extra fuel that would be needed to travel to the school for meetings, concerts etc</p> <p>Concern about additional cost to families of children travelling to Builth</p> <p>Families cannot afford for children to go to Builth and to carry on accessing the full provision of extra-curricular activities as they are now</p> <p>If pupils missed the bus to Builth, parents would have to pay to transport them there</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that transferring to Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School would have a financial impact on parents due to the additional travel that would be required to attend activities at the school and to collect pupils from after-school activities.</p> <p>However a significant proportion of pupils that previously attended the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have already decided to transfer their children to Builth Wells High School. As a result, the number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School is very small, and the authority’s view is that this is not providing an appropriate educational experience for learners.</p>
2.1.2	<p>Less well-off families will suffer</p> <p>The proposal will affect families who don’t run two</p>	Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would provide free home to school transport to all qualifying pupils, therefore there would be no impact in terms of pupils’ ability to access alternative Welsh-medium provision.

	cars	<p>However it is recognised that there would be an impact on parents in terms of attending school activities and events, and that this would be more difficult for less well-off families and families who do not have two cars. In the Equalities Impact Assessment carried out in relation to this proposal, the authority acknowledged that ‘some people on low incomes will be affected. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to alternative provision, it is likely that the greater distance to travel to the school for other activities would have a greater impact on people on low incomes.’</p> <p>The impact assessments will be updated to reflect the issues raised during the consultation period, and the updated impact assessments will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p>
2.2 Ability to attend school activities		
2.2.1	<p>The additional distance would mean that it would be impossible for parents to attend parents evening</p> <p>There is nothing in the consultation document to address the issue of parents being able to attend parents evenings etc – the authority doesn’t seem concerned about the adverse impact this would have on the families involved</p> <p>Additional travel to Builth has caused difficulty for parents to access school events</p> <p>Parents who have children in Builth High School were unable to attend Ysgol y Bannau’s Christmas concert as there was a parents evening at Builth High School the same evening</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would mean that parents would have to travel further to attend parents evenings and other school activities.</p> <p>However the number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School is very small, and the authority’s view is that this is not providing an appropriate educational experience for learners.</p> <p>The authority notes that there was a clash of dates between Builth Wells High School and Ysgol y Bannau, however should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School, and the authority would expect the two schools to work together in order to avoid similar clashes in the future.</p>
2.3 Inconvenience to parents / families		


2.3.1	<p>Concern about the impact on family life</p> <p>Additional travel would put pressure on family life</p> <p>Concern about managing the negative impact having to move our children to a school in another town would have on family life and happiness</p> <p>Concern about the impact on the logistics of family life</p> <p>Concern about families with younger children having to juggle collection from after school clubs</p> <p>Concern about the impact on parents of having children in schools 20 miles apart</p> <p>Parents don't have time to travel so far every day to collect children as they work</p>	<p>The authority notes the concerns in relation to the impact implementation of the proposal would have on family life due to the additional travel for Welsh-medium pupils. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority acknowledges that pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education.</p> <p>However the number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School is very small, which makes the provision unviable, and the authority's view is that this is not providing an appropriate educational experience for learners.</p>
2.3.2	<p>If a child was ill, it would require an hour trip for a parent to collect them from Builth</p>	<p>The provision in Builth Wells already serves both the Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells catchment areas. Builth Wells High School is well equipped to meet the needs of learners who travel to school and to deal with any problems that may arise during the course of the school day. There is no reason to believe that would not continue to be the case following the proposed establishment of the New Mid Powys Secondary School.</p> <p>Obviously it would take longer for parents to get to the pupils if they were attending a school located further away. However, the authority would expect the number of incidents when parents would need to be contacted to be extremely low. Where there is a medical emergency that the school was unable to deal with, it would have procedures in place to call for medical assistance.</p>

2.3.3	Reference to pupils taking part in Builth's recent school production – parents had to drive to Builth to collect them every night	The authority notes this comment.
2.4 Parents feel let down		
2.4.1	<p>Unfair that parents have put their faith in the Welsh-medium education system and could now have it pulled away from their children in the middle of their education</p> <p>Parents who made an early commitment to Welsh-medium education through Ysgol Feithrin, Bobl Bach y Bannau and Ysgol y Bannau feel betrayed by the council</p> <p>Parents would not have put their children in Ysgol y Bannau if they had known that there would be no secondary provision in Brecon</p>	<p>The authority is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium primary and secondary education to all pupils that request it. The authority's view is that the small number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School and the limited number of subjects currently provided means that this is not appropriate provision for Welsh-medium pupils.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium secondary provision through the provision of home to school transport to the nearest alternative provider, however it is acknowledged that there would be implications to this. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority accepts that pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, and that in some cases, this could result in pupils leaving Welsh-medium education and transferring to English-medium provision locally.</p>
2.4.2	<p>Parents have been in tears because their children are at a critical stage in their education and they don't know what to do</p> <p>The proposal is causing huge upset to parents and the families affected</p> <p>The Welsh stream in Brecon has been under threat for a long time which has caused great distress to parents</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal causes uncertainty for those affected, and that the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has had an impact on current pupils and their parents.</p> <p>The authority also acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education.</p> <p>The authority is keen to conclude this process as quickly as possible in order to bring this period of uncertainty to an end.</p>
2.4.3	Parents have felt that they had to move their children to different schools due to the disruption	The authority acknowledges that many parents have already chosen to move their children to other schools due to the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the

		Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.
2.4.4	Parents want to see provision continuing in their community through to 18 years old	The authority recognises that in an ideal world there would be equality of provision in every dual stream school. However, the authority needs to ensure that Welsh-medium learners in Brecon have equality of provision, even if this means they have to travel to access it. Parents are free to choose whether they would prefer their child to attend local provision or Welsh-medium provision, however it is the authority's duty to ensure that the provision available is the best it can be.
2.5 Families are moving from the area		
2.5.1	<p>Many families chose Brecon as their base because there is a Welsh-medium primary school and they could then transfer to the Welsh stream in the local high school – these families are already moving out of the area</p> <p>Families will have to move out of the area and county to access Welsh-medium education</p> <p>Welsh-medium education would not be an option for any new families living in the community</p>	The authority has an obligation to provide Welsh-medium primary and secondary education to all pupils who request it. For pupils who live in some parts of Powys, this is achieved through the provision of free home to school transport to their nearest provider. The authority would transport pupils to their nearest Welsh-medium provider wherever they live, however parents can of course decide to move house so that they live closer to Welsh-medium secondary provision if they desire.
2.5.2	Concern about parents who can't travel to Builth Wells or Ystalyfera	Should the proposal be implemented, free home to school transport would be provided to pupils to their nearest alternative provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision, therefore there would be no need for parents to transport their children to school on a daily basis. However, it is acknowledged that additional travel would be required of parents in order to attend parents evening and other school based activities.
3. ISSUES RELATING TO TRAVEL / TRANSPORT		
3.1 Issues relating to provision of transport to other Welsh-medium providers		

3.1.1	<p>PCC has deliberately misled families by providing transport to Builth Wells</p> <p>There is already a bus going to Builth, that is as a result of the last consultation</p> <p>Pupil numbers in the Welsh stream at Brecon have decreased since the provision of free transport to Builth</p>	<p>The authority has not deliberately misled families.</p> <p>The provision of transport to Builth Wells was provided to families following a successful transport appeal on the grounds that the breadth of the provision offered in Brecon was significantly below the breadth of the provision offered at Builth.</p> <p>The applications for transport were initially refused at Stage 1 and 2, however the applications were taken to appeal and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport, due to the enhanced level of Welsh-medium provision provided at Builth Wells High School.</p> <p>The council recognises that the provision of funded transport to Builth has had a negative impact on the pupil numbers in the Welsh Stream at Brecon.</p>
3.1.2	<p>Has the council ever published anything official to say that buses have been put on for pupils to go to Builth?</p>	<p>Yes, following the successful admissions appeal the authority has changed the information provided through the 'Information for Parents' booklet in respect to the admissions arrangements for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years to include Brecon in the areas from which transport would be provided to Builth High School for Welsh-medium provision.</p>
3.1.3	<p>Does everyone who wants to go to Builth High School have to apply for transport?</p>	<p>Yes, all pupils who wish to travel on local authority transport have to apply for transport through the agreed admissions and transport processes.</p>
3.1.4	<p>The council started paying to transport children to schools out of county which has impacted on Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School</p> <p>PCC have encouraged parents to move their children out of county by providing transport</p> <p>By providing transport to out of county schools the council has undercut the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School</p>	<p>The provision of transport to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera was provided to families following a successful transport appeal on the grounds that the breadth of the provision offered in Brecon was significantly below the breadth of the provision offered in Ystalyfera.</p> <p>The applications for transport were initially refused at Stage 1 and 2, however the applications were taken to appeal and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport, due to the enhanced level of Welsh-medium provision provided at Ystalyfera.</p> <p>The council recognises that the provision of funded transport to Ystalyfera has</p>

	Powys County Council should stop paying for transport to out of county schools	had a negative impact on the pupil numbers in the Welsh Stream at Brecon.
3.1.5	Is the council still funding transport for new pupils to Ysgol Ystalyfera?	Yes, the council is still funding transport for new pupils to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.
3.1.6	The council has encouraged parents to move their children to other schools by providing transport, which has impacted on pupil numbers at Brecon High School Had the council not transport pupils to other distant schools the number of pupils in Brecon Welsh stream would not be as they are	The authority has not encouraged parents to move their children to other schools. However, the authority recognises that the provision of transport following the successful transport appeals has had an impact on the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.
3.1.7	If Brecon High School became a 2B school from September 2017 you would no longer need to provide transport elsewhere	If Brecon High School became a category 2B school from September 2017, the authority would not provide transport for new pupils, however it would continue to meet the transport costs for pupils currently being transported to alternative provision.
3.2 Transport appeal process		
3.2.1	Query re transport appeal process – the Cabinet member took it upon themselves to grant free transport to Builth	The authority followed the agreed transport application process. The applications were turned down by officers at stages 1 and 2 of the process. The appeal was then heard by the Portfolio Holder for Schools, who was provided advice and support by the legal service.
3.2.2	Can you supply minutes where the decision to allow transport was made? Can these be included in the consultation report so that we can fully understand the decision process that has taken place?	No formal minutes are taken of transport appeals, however those appealing are informed in writing of the decision. A redacted copy of the decision letter issued in respect of the decision to uphold the appeal in relation to transport to Builth Wells is provided below:

		 Transport Appeal Letter redacted.pdf
3.2.3	Why was the decision made to pay for transport to Builth High School?	<p>Transport to Builth Wells was provided to families following a successful transport appeal on the grounds that the breadth of the Welsh-medium provision offered in Brecon was significantly below the breadth of the provision offered at Builth Wells.</p> <p>The applications for transport were initially refused at stages 1 and 2 of the process, however the applications were taken to appeal and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport, due to the enhanced level of Welsh-medium provision provided at Builth Wells High School compared with the provision at Brecon High School.</p>
3.2.4	The council has admitted that the decision to give transport to Builth High School was made by an employee of the council so was therefore not independent	<p>Transport to Builth Wells was provided to families following a successful transport appeal on the grounds that the breadth of the Welsh-medium provision offered in Brecon was significantly below the breadth of the provision offered at Builth Wells.</p> <p>The applications for transport were initially refused at stages 1 and 2 of the process, however the applications were taken to appeal and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport, due to the enhanced level of Welsh-medium provision provided at Builth Wells High School compared with the provision at Brecon High School.</p> <p>The decision was not made by an employee but by the portfolio holder, who was supported and advised by a senior officer from the legal service.</p>
3.3 Travel distance / time to alternative provision		
3.3.1	The distance to the alternative provision is too large to ever be acceptable as a solution	The authority's transport policy states that travel time should not normally be more than one hour to / from school. It is the authority's view that travel time to the nearest alternative Welsh-medium provision would be within this travel

	<p>The commute from Llangors to Builth is unacceptable</p> <p>Concern about 51 mile round trip to Builth Wells</p> <p>The current 12 miles from Trecastle to Brecon is more than enough to travel each day</p> <p>Children would have to travel over 2 hours a day to their nearest provision</p> <p>The fact that children will be travelling 50 minutes to 1 hour each way means that most children would have to find alternative schools</p> <p>The proposed travel time from Talybont is totally unrealistic</p> <p>Unfair to expect any children to travel more than an hour on the bus every day</p>	<p>time for the vast majority of pupils.</p> <p>The authority notes the comments in respect of the likely distance / travel time from locations such as Llangors, Trecastle and Talybont to Builth Wells. As stated in the proposal on page 3 of the consultation document, 'pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to attend Builth Wells High School or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision'. The proposal also states that 'pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.' It is likely that pupils living in some of the areas referred to would live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys.</p>
3.3.2	<p>Whilst travel distances and time will be a key consideration in areas such as Powys, pupils in Powys already travel long distances to access Welsh-medium education. In the north, pupils from Newtown travel 16+ a day each way to receive secondary education in Llanfair Caereinion, and pupils travel from Sennybridge/Llangors to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, which is also a significant journey.</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment.</p>
3.4 Cost of additional transport		
3.4.1	<p>Tax payers money should be spent on education rather than transport</p>	<p>The provision of home to school transport is an essential element of the budget requirement to ensure access to the appropriate curriculum for</p>

	<p>The council is throwing money away on transport</p> <p>A significant proportion of the council's budget is spent on school transport costs, this would be better spent on supporting education provision</p>	<p>learners wishing to study through the language of their choice, particularly so in a rural area such as Powys.</p> <p>Over the last 2-3 years the authority has retendered all of its home to school transport provision, and has realised significant efficiencies through this work.</p>
3.4.2	<p>A commitment to one Welsh stream in Mid / South Powys will mean a long term commitment to transport costs. These are currently at least £100,000 per year.</p>	<p>The comment is noted, it is the authority's expectation that the transport costs would increase from the current figure as the numbers accessing the Welsh-medium provision in Builth Wells increase. However, the authority is committed to providing greater equality in terms of the provision available to Welsh-medium pupils compared with the provision available to English-medium pupils. The authority's view is that the current number of Welsh-medium pupils in mid and south Powys is not large enough to maintain secondary provision in two locations and to provide appropriate curriculum choice for pupils.</p>
3.4.3	<p>Transport costs will only increase in the future</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment.</p>
3.4.4	<p>Unhappy that the council is wasting so much money on transporting Welsh-medium children away from their area when they could be spending much less money by providing the right provision in Brecon High School</p>	<p>Transport to alternative providers of Welsh-medium secondary provision was provided to families following a successful transport appeals on the grounds that the breadth of the provision at the alternative providers was significantly greater than that offered at Brecon High School.</p> <p>If Brecon High School provided a wider curriculum through both Welsh and English, the authority would fund this in accordance with the fair funding formula, and if that level increased sufficiently, the requirement to transport pupils to other schools would be removed.</p>
3.4.5	<p>You are currently spending £110976 to transport children out of the Brecon catchment whilst the cost of improving Brecon to 2B status is £47000, which would negate the need to transport children</p> <p>It costs the authority £110k to transport Welsh-</p>	<p>During the recent consultation period on the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, a county councillor requested details of the additional funding that would be required for the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School to meet the definition of a Category 2B school. The figure provided was £47000, which is the additional funding that would be provided to the school through the authority's funding formula to</p>

	<p>medium pupils to Ystalyfera and to Builth High School, this is more than it would cost to bring Brecon High School up to 2B status</p>	<p>support the provision of Welsh-medium subjects for 80% of curriculum time in years 7 to 11.</p> <p>However, whilst the funding provided to dual stream schools through the authority's funding formula is based on the % of curriculum time where Welsh-medium options are available to pupils, the Welsh Government's definition of a category 2B school is as follows: 'At least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh but are also taught through the medium of English.'</p> <p>In relation to the funding provided through the formula to support dual stream provision in key stage 4, the authority considers that Welsh-medium curriculum time is available when a minimum of 1 Welsh-medium options subject is available in each options block. For example, a dual stream school offering 1 Welsh-medium subject and 5 English-medium subjects in each options block, as well as all core subjects through the medium of Welsh, would receive the maximum funding available from the authority to support its dual stream provision, and would be providing 80% of curriculum time through the medium of Welsh. However, this school would not necessarily meet the Welsh government definition for a category 2B school, as the school would not be providing 80% of subjects through the medium of Welsh and English.</p> <p>Therefore, whilst the figure of £47000 provided during the consultation is the maximum additional funding that would be provided to support dual stream provision at Brecon High School based on the authority's funding formula, this would not be sufficient to enable the school to provide Welsh-medium provision which would meet the definition for a category 2B school.</p>
3.4.6	<p>How much is the council spending on transporting Welsh-medium children from the Brecon area to Ystalyfera and Builth?</p>	<p>The current transport costs are £111,000, however this includes transport for some primary aged pupils to the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells CP School who live in the Builth catchment area but on the route used by the transport from Brecon.</p>
3.4.7	<p>Has the council costed transport to Builth from Ysgol y Bannau in their transport budget?</p>	<p>The authority is not proposing to change the transport arrangements in relation to Ysgol y Bannau. The current cost of transport provision for</p>

		secondary aged pupils from the Brecon catchment area to Builth and Ystalyfera is £111,000.
3.4.8	What would be the cost of providing transport for children from the Talybont area to their nearest Welsh-medium provision in Pontypool?	<p>As stated in the proposal outlined on page 3 of the consultation document, 'Pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.'</p> <p>If dedicated transport was provided, this could cost up to £200 per day (£38,000 per annum). However, should the proposal be implemented, the authority would look to work with Torfaen and Monmouthshire councils in order to ensure that transport was provided as efficiently as possible.</p>
3.4.9	What is the cost of transporting pupils to Ystalyfera? Is it £450 a day?	<p>Pupils from the Brecon catchment area are transported to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera on public service T6. The cost of this service is a cost to the authority whether there are any pupils transported on it or not, however for accounting purposes, the schools service contributes £22,230 per annum in respect of the 38 pupils currently transported on this route.</p> <p>In addition, there is a bus transporting pupils from the Ystradgynlais area to both Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and Ysgol Maesydderwen. The annual cost of this bus is £34,181, with 34% of the children using the bus attending Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera (£11,626).</p>
3.4.10	<p>The council should stop paying for out of county transport and should use the money to employ better qualified teachers</p> <p>You should invest money into teachers rather than school transport</p>	Under the Learner Wales Travel Measure, the authority is required to transport children to their closest suitable school delivering through the language of choice. Following the transport appeal, it was agreed that the current level of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon was below that being delivered at the alternative schools.
3.5 Concern about pupil safety		
3.5.1	Concern about additional travel for pupils to Builth	The authority is content that the roads that would be used to transport pupils

	<p>on hazardous roads</p> <p>Concern about the safety of the road to Builth – particularly in bad weather</p> <p>Travelling to Builth in the winter is dangerous, pupils could be forced to miss days of school due to bad weather</p>	<p>between the Brecon and Builth Wells catchments are safe, as long as the road users are using the roads responsibly. Transport is already provided from Brecon to Builth Wells and vice versa, and the authority is not aware of any major incident that has occurred in recent years involving that transport.</p> <p>In times of bad weather, the authority and contractors will have alternative routes available to travel from Builth Wells back to Brecon in times of bad weather.</p>
3.5.2	<p>Concern that Welsh speaking pupils are being transported to Ystalyfera on public service buses with no seat belts and sometimes have to stand as there are no seats available</p> <p>Want assurance that there will be a designated bus for pupils from Sennybridge to Ystalyfera with seat belts provided</p> <p>If you make Sennybridge a feeder school for Ystalyfera you will have to provide a designated bus at cost for the children, as parents are not happy with children going on a public bus that has no seat belts or the guarantee that children will even get a seat</p>	<p>The current regulations state that dedicated home to school transport must be fitted with seatbelts and that all passengers must be seated and wear the seatbelt. However, this regulation, together with the requirement to be seated, does not apply to learners who travel to school on a public service bus.</p> <p>The authority is currently undertaking a review of its Home to School Transport Policy, and will be undertaking consultation on the proposed revisions to the policy. The review will consider if the authority should continue to use public service buses to transport pupils.</p>
3.5.3	<p>Concern about pupils from Sennybridge travelling to Ystalyfera on a public service bus which travels at fast speeds</p> <p>The council hasn't considered the safety of transporting pupils to Ystalyfera</p>	<p>All transport provision is expected to adhere to the relevant speed limits that apply to the roads the transport travels on, whether this is dedicated home to school transport or a public service bus. The authority is confident that all routes are safe if drivers adhere to the speed limits and road conditions.</p>
3.5.4	<p>The road above Crai Reservoir to Ystalyfera is especially hazardous – is Powys willing to expose pupils to these unnecessary risks and face the</p>	<p>The road between Sennybridge and Abercrave (over Crai) is an A road and is therefore very suitable for home to school transport. The authority is confident that all routes are safe if drivers adhere to the speed limits and road conditions</p>

	consequences should an accident occur?	at the time.
3.5.5	Concern that the council is happy to risk children travelling on public transport which could see any paedophile able to sit next to them	<p>The drivers of all public service transport vehicles have had full DBS checks and the provision of school transport through public service buses is common across Wales and the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The authority has a duty under the 1985 Transport Act to ensure efficient use of public monies by integrating learners on to public service buses where possible. The authority is not aware of any incidents where children have been groomed while travelling on public service buses.</p>
3.5.6	It's unfair and unsafe to bus children around Powys for their education	The provision of home to school transport is an essential element in order to ensure access to the appropriate curriculum for learners wishing to study through the language of their choice, particularly so in a rural area such as Powys. The authority acknowledges that the additional travel required should the proposal be implemented would have an impact on pupils and their families, however the authority does not agree that the additional travel would be unsafe. The authority is confident that all routes are safe if drivers adhere to the speed limits and road conditions
3.5.7	Concern about problems that could arise when travelling by bus e.g. possibility of bullying, risk of an accident causing possible death or injury	A significant proportion of secondary pupils in Powys travel to school by bus, and the authority would expect pupils, parents and schools to adhere to its behaviour code. If there were persistent issues on the provided transport, the authority would consider taking appropriate action against the perpetrators and fitting CCTV onto the transport if this was considered appropriate. The authority has a very low number of accidents occurring on home to school transport.
3.6 Environmental impact of additional travel		
3.6.1	<p>Additional travel would lead to pollution and damage to the environment</p> <p>Concern about the carbon footprint we would be forcing on our Welsh-medium pupils – when they</p>	The authority acknowledges that additional travel would have an environmental impact. However, following previous successful transport appeals, transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. Should the

	leave school they could each have clocked up over 54,000 miles	proposal be implemented, the additional transport that would be required would be minimal.
3.7 The council's Transport Policy		
3.7.1	The proposal is not in-line with the authority's School Transport Policy which indicates that pupils should not have to travel more than 45 minutes	The authority consulted on a revised Home to School Transport Policy in 2011-12, which included a proposal that the normal travel time to and from school should not normally be more than 60 minutes. The authority is planning to undertake further consultation in the Summer Term 2017 on the same basis in respect of travel time.
3.7.2	What amendments are you making to your transport policy in your next policy?	The authority consulted on a revised Home to School Transport Policy in 2011-12, which included a proposal that the normal travel time to and from school should not normally be more than 60 minutes. The authority is planning to undertake further consultation in the Summer Term 2017 on the same basis in respect of travel time.
3.7.3	What has been the transport policy for children who live in the Sennybridge area to go to Brecon Welsh stream in the last 5 years? Parents from the Welsh stream have said that the council told them they would only be entitled to transport to the Welsh stream in Brecon if there were seats available on the bus. If they became unavailable they would be asked to find their own way to high school or they would be offered transport to Ystalyfera – subsequently children have been going to Ystalyfera to avoid having to find their own way to school or change schools, although they would have preferred to go to the Welsh stream in Brecon	Sennybridge is part of the catchment area of Brecon High School and learners can access transport to Brecon High School for both English-medium and Welsh-medium provision.
3.7.4	Ysgol y Bannau catchment area reaches out to Gwernyfed and Crickhowell High School, children from these areas should have the entitlement for	Should the proposal be implemented, and should parents of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School who live closer to Gwernyfed High School or Crickhowell High School choose for their children

	free transport to Brecon High School even if the Welsh-medium provision is removed because they are already in Brecon High School	to remain in Brecon High School to access English-medium provision instead of transferring to alternative Welsh-medium providers, the authority would consider the transport arrangements for these pupils on a case by case basis, taking account of the available seats on the transport going to Brecon and the vacant seat arrangements.
3.7.5	Would the council provide transport for children from the Builth area to their nearest category 1 Welsh-medium primary school (Ysgol y Bannau)? The precedent has already been set with providing transport to Ystalyfera and Builth. What would be the cost of this?	The current home to school transport policy does not differentiate between a Welsh-medium primary school and a primary school delivering the full curriculum through the medium of Welsh in a dual stream school such as Builth Wells CP School.
3.8 Issues relating to travel to a designated Welsh-medium secondary school		
3.8.1	Would be fair enough to expect an 11 year old to travel 52 miles a day (Talybont to Builth) on a bus for a Welsh-medium school and a tangible improvement on the subject provision available to them, but unfair to expect them to travel to another stream and no improvement in the subject provision available	The current Welsh-medium subject provision in Builth Wells is greater than the provision available at Brecon High School, therefore whilst it is true that the proposal would see most of the pupils in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School attending another stream based provision in order to continue to access Welsh-medium provision, the proposal would lead to a 'tangible improvement on the subject provision available' to pupils, and there would be an 'improvement in the subject provision available'.
3.8.2	Some parents have decided that if travel is absolutely necessary, they would be better going to a fully Welsh-medium secondary school out of county funded by the council If parents did want their children to continue their education in Welsh and if the only way they could do so was for their children to travel away from their local school, it would make more sense for them to send them to the Welsh medium school in Ystalyfera than to a Welsh stream in Builth	The authority notes this comment. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would provide free home to school transport in accordance with the council's School Transport Policy and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. Pupils are eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 3 miles from their nearest school offering provision in the language of their choice. For some pupils, the nearest Welsh-medium provision could be located outside Powys.

3.8.3	The fact that so many parents have chosen to transport their children out of county for Welsh-medium secondary education proves that they will travel if the provision is secure	The authority notes this comment.
3.8.4	Ysgol y Bannau's wide catchment area proves that parents are willing to send their children on a long journey in order to attend Welsh-medium primary education – confident that south Powys parents would be similarly committed if a Welsh-medium secondary school was available, wherever it was located	The authority notes this comment.
3.9 Other		
3.9.1	The vast majority of parents don't want their children to travel, this has been made abundantly clear during this consultation and previous consultations	The authority notes this concern in relation to the additional travel that would be required for pupils should the proposal be implemented, and has acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would lead to additional travel for Welsh-medium pupils. However, the current number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School is very small, which means that the provision is unviable. In addition, the authority's view is that the current provision is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils. A significant proportion of pupils have already transferred from the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School to alternative provision, which has required additional travel. This suggests that these parents are willing for their children to travel in order to access an increased level of Welsh-medium provision.
3.9.2	Concern about increased transport on roads	Following previous successful transport appeals, transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. Should the proposal be implemented, the additional transport that would be required would be minimal.
3.9.3	The idea of bussing children out is old fashioned	The provision of home to school transport is an essential element in order to

		ensure access to the appropriate curriculum for learners wishing to study through the language of their choice, particularly so in a rural area such as Powys. The authority acknowledges that the additional travel required should the proposal be implemented would have an impact on pupils and their families, however the authority does not agree that the additional travel would be unsafe. The authority is confident that all routes are safe if drivers adhere to the speed limits and road conditions.
3.9.4	Moving children out of county means that services such as transport will be tendered out and companies will be coming in to transport children from out of county thus reducing employment	Over the last 2-3 years, the authority has tendered all its public service and home to school transport routes, with the contracts being awarded on a price and quality basis. The majority of contracts have been awarded to companies that are based in Powys.
4 WELSH-MEDIUM PUPIL NUMBERS AT BRECON HIGH SCHOOL		
4.1 Impact of provision of transport to alternative schools		
4.1.1	<p>The current number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon has been falsified due to the provision of free transport to Builth High School</p> <p>The fact that PCC has provided transport is the reason for the falling numbers in the Welsh stream</p> <p>The council's agreement to pay transport costs to Builth was another nail in the coffin of the Welsh stream and smacks of predetermination</p> <p>Paying to transport children to a Welsh-medium provision other than at Brecon before the outcome of your proposal is agreed is an example of manipulating the situation in your favour. This could be considered 'predetermination'</p>	<p>The information provided in the consultation document is factual information based on the number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School at the time of writing.</p> <p>18 months or so ago, a number of parents of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education. As an admissions authority, the council cannot refuse places to children if there is a place available at the school to which they apply. When parents applied for places at Builth Wells High School, there were places available, therefore the authority was unable to reject the applications, however transport was initially refused at Stage 1 and 2 of the transport application process.</p> <p>Following this, the applications were taken to appeal, and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport based on the breadth of Welsh-medium provision offered at Builth Wells High School being greater than the provision offered at Brecon High School.</p>

	Families who have not fully understood the consultation process took the implementation of free transport to Builth Wells as Powys having made its decision to close the Welsh stream in Brecon	The council acknowledges that the decision of the appeal panel to award transport has impacted on the number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, however this is not predetermination – transport was not automatically awarded to these parents, it was referred to the Appeals Panel in accordance with the agreed process.
4.1.2	If you took the pupils who currently travel to Builth and Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium education and increase the provision at Brecon High School, the stream would be viable	<p>The authority first proposed closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School during the summer of 2015, which was before pupils had started to transfer to Builth Wells High School to access Welsh-medium secondary provision.</p> <p>The authority's view is that the number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys is not large enough to sustain two Welsh-medium streams and to provide appropriate curriculum choice to Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority does not agree that continuing to provide two Welsh-medium streams in mid and south Powys is viable.</p>
4.1.3	The number of Welsh-medium pupils leaving Sennybridge and Ysgol y Bannau have remained constant since 2010/11, if those pupils had been supported and encouraged to continue their education at Brecon High School, the school would not have found itself in a position where pupil numbers have declined	Information about the Welsh-medium provision available at Brecon High School, as well as alternative providers, is included in the authority's Admissions Booklet which is published annually. However, parents are entitled to apply for a place at whichever school they choose, and as an admissions authority, the council cannot refuse places to children if there is a place available at the school to which they apply.
4.2 Impact of previous consultations		
4.2.1	<p>If 19 pupils can survive 3 consultations, how many children would be in the stream if it was not under consultation to close?</p> <p>The numbers in the Welsh stream now do not show the real demand for the Welsh stream in Brecon and are only low because of the 3rd</p>	<p>18 months or so ago, a number of parents of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education. As an admissions authority, the council cannot refuse places to children if there is a place available at the school to which they apply.</p> <p>When parents applied for places at Builth Wells High School, there were</p>

<p>consultation that is happening</p> <p>The current Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School are entirely due to the proposals</p> <p>Pupil numbers have remained stagnant wholly due to the council repeatedly proposing to close the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School</p> <p>Numbers in the Welsh stream have always been high – there were classes of 25-30 in the past, 20 years ago there were classes of around 24, however pupil numbers dropped very quickly due to the uncertainty about the Welsh stream</p> <p>The Welsh stream was viable until everyone panicked and there was a domino effect once it was suggested the stream was under threat</p> <p>The consultation has had a massive impact on pupil numbers in the Welsh stream</p> <p>The uncertainty has had a negative impact on numbers in the Welsh-medium stream</p> <p>Without the previous consultations, numbers in the Welsh stream would be at least similar to those in earlier years</p> <p>The present low numbers are from this being the 3rd consultation to close the stream</p> <p>The numbers that have transferred to the Welsh</p>	<p>places available, therefore the authority was unable to reject the applications, however transport was refused at Stage 1 and 2 of the transport application process. Following this, the applications were taken to appeal, and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport.</p> <p>Whilst the authority acknowledges that the previous consultations have impacted on Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School, the authority does not agree that the stream would be viable had pupils not transferred to alternative providers. The authority's view is that the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys is not large enough to sustain two Welsh-medium streams and to provide appropriate curriculum choice to Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority does not agree that continuing to provide two Welsh-medium streams in mid and south Powys is viable.</p>
---	--

	<p>stream have been very low over the last two years, this is due to the uncertainty caused by these consultations</p> <p>If you hadn't made it so obvious that you were going to close the Welsh stream here, parents wouldn't have moved their children from the Welsh stream</p> <p>When Powys started the consultations, the numbers in the Welsh stream started to decrease</p> <p>Dwindling numbers at Brecon Welsh stream are hardly surprising given the atmosphere of uncertainty you continue to create with years of underinvestment and scaremongering</p>	
4.2.2	<p>Parents chose to send their children to Ystalyfera when they would have preferred to send them to Brecon because of the uncertainty in relation to the provision at Brecon</p>	<p>The authority is aware of parents from the Brecon and Sennybridge area that chose for their children to attend Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera long before the authority carried out consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream.</p>
4.2.3	<p>Parents have chosen English-medium provision over the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon because of the uncertainty</p> <p>There has been a decrease in the number of Brecon families choosing Welsh at secondary level as parents don't want to risk their children's welfare</p>	<p>The authority has acknowledged in the consultation document that implementation of the proposal could lead to an increase of in the proportion of pupils transferring from Welsh-medium to English-medium provision on transfer to secondary education.</p>
4.2.4	<p>That a significant number of parents moved their children from the Welsh stream at Brecon High School in 2015 is not an indication that they were unhappy with the provision and were suddenly</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. However, the fact remains that 18 months or so ago, following the initial Cabinet decision to consult on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the parents of a number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School</p>

	prepared to travel, but that they thought they had no choice	decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education.
4.2.5	Groups have been working to encourage parents to enter Welsh-medium education in Brecon, but are fighting against the perception that the Welsh stream may not be there in the future	The authority notes the difficulties caused by the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.
4.2.6	Brecon High School showed commitment and employed Welsh speaking staff, but as a result of the consultation, pupils in the Welsh stream jumped ship and the school had to shelve the commitment to take on Welsh medium staff	The authority notes this comment.
4.2.7	Brecon High School was 'stabbed in the back' by the consultation process. When pupils left the school it compounded the problem because there were financial implications	It is not true that Brecon High School was 'stabbed in the back' by the consultation process. 18 months or so ago, following the initial Cabinet decision to consult on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, and before any final decision had been made, the parents of a number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education.
4.2.8	The low pupil numbers in the Welsh stream are because of your previous announcement that the Welsh stream in Brecon was going to close. By stating in advance that the stream will close you scared parents and forced their hand. This reduced the numbers in Brecon and boosted the numbers in Builth which conveniently gave the council the figures they needed to justify their proposal.	It is not true that the authority 'stated in advance' that the Welsh stream in Brecon was going to close. 18 months or so ago, following the initial Cabinet decision to consult on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, and before any final decision had been made, the parents of a number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education.
4.2.9	The current pupil numbers are not representative of the want and need for a Welsh stream in	The information provided in the consultation document is factual information regarding the number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream

	Brecon	at Brecon High School at the time of writing. The authority acknowledges that there has been a reduction in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at the school over recent years. This has been due to parental choice, although it is acknowledged that the recent consultations in relation to the Welsh-medium stream have impacted on the number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.
4.2.10	If parents could see an improvement in the prospects and future of the Welsh stream at Brecon then the tide would turn and they would want to send their children there	The authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity to Welsh-medium pupils. The small class sizes and limited Welsh-medium provision available at Brecon High School does not provide this. The authority's view is that the number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys is not large enough to sustain two Welsh-medium streams and to provide appropriate curriculum choice to Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority does not agree that continuing to provide two Welsh-medium streams in mid and south Powys is viable.
4.3 Reference to category 2B categorisation		
4.3.1	<p>The reduction in numbers is directly related to the constant undermining and lack of support for the development of the Welsh stream at Brecon High School in attaining 2B status as promised by the council</p> <p>Had the council kept to the commitment to make Brecon's Welsh stream up to 2B and the Cabinet's decision to invest money in the Welsh stream in Brecon High, the stream would have the cohort numbers required to run a good, growing Welsh-mediums provision</p> <p>If finance had been provided to bring Brecon up to 2B status, pupils would have stayed here</p>	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p> <p>Early discussions took place with Brecon High School about providing additional support, however due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil this.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision</p>

	<p>Raising the status of Brecon to a 2B stream would create a stream with large numbers of pupils that would give parents the confidence to invest in Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area</p> <p>For years parents have been wanting to send their children to Brecon but have been waiting for it to offer 2B provision</p> <p>The council promised to make Brecon Welsh stream 2B which would have meant all of Sennybridge stream would have come to Brecon, making Brecon's stream as good if not better than Builth's</p>	available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.
4.3.2	<p>If the council made Brecon High School 2B status, all the children that left before the start of the consultation would come back, plus more as the stream would then attract pupils that have gone to Ystalyfera and those that have gone to English-medium provision</p> <p>If Brecon is made 2B status pupils will come back from Builth</p>	The authority's view is that the current number of Welsh-medium secondary pupils in mid and south Powys is not sufficient to support two Welsh-medium streams and to provide equality of opportunity to Welsh-medium pupils. There is no evidence that pupils that have transferred to alternative providers would return to Brecon High School should the level of Welsh-medium provision at the school increase.
4.3.3	<p>Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge are of a good size and should be able to give Brecon a 2B school</p>	The authority's view is that the number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys is not large enough to sustain two Welsh-medium streams and to provide appropriate curriculum choice to Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority does not agree that continuing to provide two Welsh-medium streams in mid and south Powys is viable.
4.4 Criticism of the council's treatment of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School		
4.4.1	The council has turned its back on Brecon High	It is not true that the council has turned its back on Brecon High School's

	<p>School's Welsh-medium provision, hence the low numbers</p> <p>What has the council done to increase the number of Welsh-medium learners coming into Brecon High School?</p> <p>Astonishing that the council has not given any assistance to Brecon High School to maintain the numbers in the Welsh stream</p> <p>It's clear that Powys have not been supportive of the Welsh stream at Brecon High School for some time – this has led to a decline in the number of teachers and subjects that can be offered through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>It's disappointing to note how the Welsh stream in Brecon has been run down over the years</p> <p>Welsh-medium provision at the school has not been fully supported and has been undercut repeatedly</p> <p>Brecon High School has been held back financially and that has been used against the school</p> <p>Historic lack of investment in Welsh medium secondary education in Brecon High School has meant that there has been very limited uptake of Welsh language learning.</p>	<p>Welsh-medium provision. The same level of support, including both financial support and other officer support, has been provided to support dual stream provision at all Powys' dual stream secondary schools over recent years. Some schools, such as Builth Wells High School, have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available during this time, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.</p>
4.4.2	<p>The council has been uninterested in why Welsh-medium pupil numbers have been low in Brecon</p>	<p>The authority is committed to increasing the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys, in order to contribute to the</p>

	The figures Brecon High School are being judged on as a reason for lack of viability have been created by the lack of clarity and direction by the council	implementation of the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium education strategy, and is very concerned about why there has not been an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the Brecon area, which is contrast with other areas of Powys.
4.4.3	The reduction in pupil numbers at Brecon High school Welsh stream is not due to reduced pupil numbers learning through Welsh in South Powys, it is due to bad management of these pupils by the council	The authority does not agree with this comment. The reduction in pupil numbers at Brecon High School is due to the fact that a number of parents of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education, however it is acknowledged that the recent consultations in relation to the Welsh-medium stream contributed to the decrease in pupil numbers. The authority does not 'manage' pupils, parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose.
4.4.4	The local authority has not provided an environment for the Welsh language to grow – the authority's indecision has provided a situation where people are losing faith	The authority acknowledges that the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has impacted on pupil numbers at the stream since 2015/16. However, details of pupil numbers at the Welsh-medium stream since 2010/11 are provided on page 11 of the consultation document, and this information shows that pupil numbers decreased between 2010/11 and 2014/15, before the council began any consultation in relation to the future of the stream.
4.4.5	In the consultation meeting the authority admitted responsibility for the reduced numbers in the Welsh stream	Whilst the authority acknowledges that the previous consultations have impacted on Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School, the authority does not agree that the stream would be viable had pupils not transferred to alternative providers. The authority's view is that the number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys is not large enough to sustain two Welsh-medium streams and to provide appropriate curriculum choice to Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority does not agree that continuing to provide two Welsh-medium streams in mid and south Powys is viable.
4.4.6	Parents need to be reassured, they haven't been reassured which has led to them making difficult	The authority accepts that the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has impacted on the

	decisions which have affected the number of pupils at Brecon High School	number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school. However, the fact is that the current number of pupils accessing the stream is small, and the Welsh-medium curriculum provided to them is limited. The authority's view is that the current number of Welsh-medium secondary pupils in mid and south Powys is not enough to sustain two separate provisions and provide an enhanced Welsh-medium curriculum.
4.5 Prospective pupil numbers		
4.5.1	Can you look at the potential number of pupils going out of county or wanting to come to Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School if it was available?	Pupils travelling out of county are attending a designated Welsh-medium secondary school, which offers more Welsh-medium opportunities to pupils than could be offered in a dual stream provision. As stated in Powys' draft WESP for 2017-20: 'The authority fully agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly when they come from non-Welsh speaking homes'.
4.5.2	When will you know what the intake from Ysgol y Bannau to Brecon High School will be in the 2017-18 academic year?	Applications for secondary places were to be submitted by the 18 th November 2016, and places will be allocated by the authority by the 1 st March. The authority has received 10 applications for places in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from September 2017.
4.5.3	The projected numbers going into the Welsh-medium stream in 2017/18 should influence any decision about the future of the Welsh language in this school	The authority has received 10 applications for places in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. This will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. Whilst 10 pupils would be an increase on the current number of pupils in year 7 at Brecon High School's Welsh-medium stream, this would still be a small class, and would not enable the school to offer a significantly increased Welsh-medium curriculum to these pupils.
4.5.4	Apart from year 5, the numbers in Ysgol y Bannau are really good, and until these consultations the majority of pupils were going to Brecon	The number of pupils attending Ysgol y Bannau are included on page 12 of the consultation document. Even if all the pupils currently attending Ysgol y Bannau transferred to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, class sizes would remain relatively small in some year groups, and it is unlikely that the school would be able to offer significantly greater Welsh-medium provision

		to pupils.
4.5.5	A Welsh stream at Brecon High School could be an option for families in Ebbw Vale and Merthyr	Welsh-medium pupils in Ebbw Vale and Merthyr have access to designated Welsh-medium secondary schools, therefore it is unlikely that a significant number of pupils would choose to attend a dual stream provision in Brecon. It is also unlikely that they would be eligible for home to school transport.
4.5.6	Pupil numbers in the nursery class at Sennybridge Welsh stream and the number in the nursery class at Ysgol y Bannau are enough to have two classes in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School	<p>The current number of Welsh-medium pupils in Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge C.P. School are provided on page 12 of the consultation document. Apart from one year group (year 1), the total number of pupils per year group is less than 30, therefore even if all pupils transferred to Brecon's Welsh-medium stream, it is unlikely that there would be enough pupils to have more than one class in most years, and that the school would be able to provide a comprehensive range of Welsh-medium options to Key Stage 4 pupils.</p> <p>The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School currently transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, a designated Welsh-medium secondary school, where they have access to a full Welsh-medium curriculum. A stream based provision at Brecon would not be able to provide the same immersion opportunities as a Welsh-medium secondary school, therefore it is very unlikely that all of Sennybridge's Welsh-medium pupils would transfer to Brecon High School. As stated in Powys' draft WESP for 2017-20: 'The authority fully agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly when they come from non-Welsh speaking homes'.</p>
4.5.7	The numbers in the Welsh-medium classes lower down at Sennybridge CP School are buoyant	It is true that the numbers in the Welsh-medium classes lower down at Sennybridge C.P. School are greater than the numbers in the junior classes.
4.5.8	From the current year 6 pupils at Ysgol y Bannau, 10 will be going to Brecon Welsh stream in September and once the decision is made to maintain the provision in Brecon there will be more	The authority notes that a number of current year 6 pupils at Ysgol y Bannau have stated their preference to transfer to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School in September 2017. However, 10 pupils is still a small class, and would not enable the school to provide a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum to these pupils, particularly as they move into Key Stage 4.

4.5.9	10 pupils have signed up to join the Welsh stream from the current year 6 at Ysgol y Bannau. Has any other school or stream had 3 proposals for closure in 2 years and still had rising numbers?	The authority notes that a number of current year 6 pupils at Ysgol y Bannau have stated their preference to transfer to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School in September 2017. The authority is not aware of any other school or stream that has had 3 proposals for closure in 2 years. Whilst the number of pupils that have applied for a place in year 7 in the Welsh-medium stream from September 2017 would be an increase compared with the previous year 7, this would not lead to any significant increase in overall pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream, and the total number of pupils in years 7-11 would remain lower than they were in 2014/15.
4.6 Other		
4.6.1	<p>If there is more you could have done to support Welsh-medium education why has this not happened before?</p> <p>It has mentioned that support will be given to Ysgol y Bannau to help numbers transfer to Builth Wells High School, why isn't this support in place to help pupils go to Brecon High School?</p>	<p>The authority established a Welsh-medium learning partnership, 'Clwstwr y Ffynnon' a few years ago, which included all Welsh-medium providers in mid and south Powys. Improving transfer rates into Welsh-medium secondary provision was one of the objectives of that partnership. Events were held in a number of schools to promote progression from Welsh-medium primary education into Welsh-medium secondary education.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority has acknowledged in the consultation document that there would be a new risk to transfer rates from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area, and as mitigation for this risk, the authority has proposed working with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links, in order to contribute to the Welsh Government aim of retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector.</p>
4.6.2	The fact that the school buildings at Brecon High School have not been addressed is part of the problem – can understand why parents opt for other schools when they see the state of the buildings here	The authority notes this comment and would agree that the condition of the school buildings at Brecon High School is one of a number of reasons why Welsh-medium parents have opted for alternative provision.
4.6.3	The council needs to ask the right questions to	The authority's view is that there are a number of reasons why the number of

	find out why Welsh medium pupils numbers haven't grown in Brecon despite Brecon having the required population density, transport links and hub status within local and Welsh government to make Welsh-medium education viable and sustainable, and the council needs to act on this	Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon area hasn't grown, however the authority's view is that the limited Welsh-medium provision available in the secondary sector is one of these reasons. As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, one of the reasons for the proposal is the 'need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education.'																																
4.6.4	What is the viable number of pupils needed for the Welsh stream to continue in Brecon High School? Please give me a breakdown of costings for this	<p>In order for the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School to be considered 'viable', the school would need to provide an appropriate range of Welsh-medium provision for Welsh-medium pupils. The authority's view is that dual stream schools should be aiming to provide Welsh-medium provision which meets the Welsh Government definition for a category 2B school.</p> <p>Currently, Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is the only dual stream secondary provider in Powys which meets the Welsh Government definition of a category 2B school. The breakdown of year 7 – 11 pupils in this school in September 2016 was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Welsh-medium</th> <th>English-medium</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>47</td> <td>36</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>40</td> <td>36</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>58</td> <td>37</td> <td>95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>49</td> <td>38</td> <td>87</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>43</td> <td>43</td> <td>86</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>237</td> <td>190</td> <td>427</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>During 2016-17, Caereinion High School is providing the following number of subjects through the medium of Welsh, English and bilingually to pupils in years 7 – 11:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Welsh-medium</th> <th>English-medium</th> <th>Bilingual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> </tbody> </table>	Year	Welsh-medium	English-medium	Total	7	47	36	83	8	40	36	76	9	58	37	95	10	49	38	87	11	43	43	86	Total	237	190	427	Year	Welsh-medium	English-medium	Bilingual
Year	Welsh-medium	English-medium	Total																															
7	47	36	83																															
8	40	36	76																															
9	58	37	95																															
10	49	38	87																															
11	43	43	86																															
Total	237	190	427																															
Year	Welsh-medium	English-medium	Bilingual																															

		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>16</td> <td>18</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>13</td> <td>17</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>18</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	7	14	15	0	8	16	17	0	9	16	18	0	10	13	17	4	11	12	18	3
7	14	15	0																			
8	16	17	0																			
9	16	18	0																			
10	13	17	4																			
11	12	18	3																			
		<p>As with all schools, it is ultimately the responsibility of the senior leadership team, in partnership with the governing body, to agree the school's priorities and to structure the school's curriculum and timetable accordingly. When considering the historic development of Welsh-medium education across all Powys schools, it is apparent that some schools have prioritised Welsh-medium education more than others and, where this has been the case, these Welsh streams have developed in terms of pupil numbers and in terms of the breadth of Welsh-medium provision.</p>																				
4.6.5	There are a lot of Welsh speaking children in Brecon High School that have had Welsh at home and went to an English primary school	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that some Welsh speaking parents choose for their children to be educated through the medium of English.																				
4.6.6	If the right provision was provided in Brecon, the stream would have the viable number required to run a good, robust Welsh-medium provision	The authority notes this comment, however the fact remains that the current Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School is very limited and does not provide an appropriate level of provision for Welsh-medium learners.																				
4.6.7	<p>Has the council ever asked parents who pulled their children out of Ysgol y Bannau or Brecon Welsh stream to ask why they made that decision?</p> <p>The council should act on why families moved out of Ysgol y Bannau and Brecon Welsh stream rather than what they think the answer is</p>	<p>All parents have had the opportunity to let the council know their views as part of the recent consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.</p> <p>Individual parents have presented their case to the authority as part of the transport appeals process, and the main reasons provided was the lack of breadth and continuity of curriculum at Brecon High School.</p>																				
5. WELSH MEDIUM PROVISION AT BRECON HIGH SCHOOL																						

5.1 Category 2B categorisation		
5.1.1	<p>The council's failure to work with Brecon High school to put in place a high quality learning environment for the proposed 2B Welsh stream is the cause of the problem</p> <p>PCC was supposed to support Brecon High School to get to category 2B status, but the council did not support the school</p> <p>Have never understood why Brecon High School was never supported by the authority to become a category 2B school</p>	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p> <p>Early discussions took place with Brecon High School about providing additional support, however due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil this.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.</p>
5.1.2	<p>The council's Cabinet committed to bringing Brecon Welsh stream up to 2b status – at some point the council reneged on this, but I cannot find details of when the council voted to not implement this commitment – could you inform me of the details of this decision?</p>	<p>It is true that in November 2011, the council's Cabinet resolved the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'To deliver 11-16 Welsh-medium education from <u>five</u> dual stream schools as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brecon High School • Builth Wells High School • Caereinion High School • Llanfyllin High School • Ysgol Bro Ddyfi 2. To provide additional investment and support to these schools to enhance and maintain the curriculum at the appropriate level' <p>Early discussions took place with Brecon High School about providing</p>

		<p>additional support, however due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil this.</p> <p>The decision to move to an alternative model in relation to Welsh-medium secondary provision was made by Cabinet on the 27th January 2015. At this meeting, Cabinet approved the commencement of a Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which intended to transform the secondary and post-16 sector across the county. One of the aims of this Programme was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units.'
5.1.3	Who was responsible for not supporting Brecon to come up to 2B standard? This should be subject to scrutiny	Following the Cabinet decision of the 22 nd November 2011 that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school, early discussions took place with Brecon High School and other dual stream schools about providing additional support. However due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil this.
5.1.4	<p>Had the authority given the school the appropriate finances to bring the stream up to 2B status, the school would not have had to reduce the Welsh-medium curriculum at Key Stage 3</p> <p>In November 2011, PCC mooted the idea of the school becoming 2B status, but there was no financial help – how can you expect the school to come up to 2B status without financial support?</p> <p>Ridiculous that the council expected the school to get up to 2B status without having the money to do so – unless the school has the money to bring</p>	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p> <p>Early discussions took place with Brecon High School about providing additional support, however due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil this.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on</p>

	in staff to deliver Welsh-medium education it cannot bring the school up to 2B status	the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.
5.1.5	PCC should as a matter of priority provide the financial resource to Brecon High School in order to bring it up to category 2B status	<p>On the 27th January 2015, Cabinet approved the commencement of a Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which intended to transform the secondary and post-16 sector across the county. One of the aims of this Programme was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units.' <p>This replaced the previous decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd November 2011 that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p>
5.2 Funding for Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School		
5.2.1	<p>Brecon High School has been held back financially and that has been used against the school</p> <p>In November 2011, PCC mooted the idea of the school becoming 2B status, but there was no financial help – how can you expect the school to come up to 2B status without financial support?</p> <p>Ridiculous that the council expected the school to get up to 2B status without having the money to do so – unless the school has the money to bring in staff to deliver Welsh-medium education it cannot bring the school up to 2B status</p>	<p>The same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools in relation to Welsh-medium provision. The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages.</p> <p>Whilst some schools have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available within the financial support provided, this has not been the case at Brecon High School.</p>

	Had the authority given the school the appropriate finances to bring the stream up to 2B status, the school would not have had to reduce the Welsh-medium curriculum at Key Stage 3	
5.2.2	A Welsh speaking maths teacher left Brecon High and it was not possible to replace him. Now the school doesn't have the funding to employ any new Welsh speaking staff	The authority notes this comment.
5.2.3	Brecon High School still has the staff to provide a fuller curriculum to Welsh-medium pupils if funding were to be provided, however the Welsh-medium curriculum in Key Stage 3 had to be reduced due to the small numbers entering the stream	The authority notes this comment.
5.2.4	If the current cost of transport which is £100,000 was invested into Brecon High School, there would be more pupils in the Welsh stream in Brecon	Under the current funding arrangements, the school would have to increase its Welsh-medium curriculum in the September prior to receiving any additional funding. In respect of the dual stream uplift, the maximum uplift that the school would receive would be around an additional £55,000 per annum. In addition, it would receive the pupil led funding related to any additional children.
5.3 Quality of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School		
5.3.1	<p>The Welsh-medium teachers at Brecon are of a very high standard</p> <p>Brecon High School has first subject Welsh-medium teachers across a large number of subjects</p> <p>The Welsh-medium staff at Brecon High School are some of the best teachers in the school</p>	The authority notes this comment. The quality of the Welsh-medium teachers at Brecon High School are not the reason for this proposal.

	The teachers in Brecon's Welsh stream are really good at what they do and are very good at teaching	
5.3.2	<p>Pupils are receiving Welsh-medium education of a very high standard at Brecon High School</p> <p>Children have had a fantastic education in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School</p>	The authority's view is that the current small number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and the limited Welsh-medium provision available to pupils at the school is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.
5.3.3	<p>Pupils from Brecon High School can move to schools like Ystalyfera and Builth without any language help – this shows that their standard of Welsh is really good</p> <p>Linguistic abilities at Brecon High School are regarded as superior to those of pupils at Builth Wells</p> <p>You seem to think that pupils in Brecon struggle linguistically, if so can you provide the evidence of this?</p> <p>Welsh speaking learners in Brecon Welsh stream have excellent linguistic abilities</p> <p>Welsh speaking learners in Brecon's Welsh stream are considered to be superior to students in Builth as they have been to the Welsh medium primary school located next door</p>	At Key Stage 4, the school performed in the lower 50% of similar schools based on free school meals eligibility in 2015, and in the bottom 25% of similar schools in 2016 at A*-C at GCSE in Welsh First Language.
5.3.4	The majority of the high fliers who have got A*s and As are from the Welsh stream	The authority notes this comment. However, the number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is currently very small, and as stated in the consultation document, 'Official Welsh Government sets relating

	<p>Most of Brecon's Welsh stream are in the top sets for most subjects</p> <p>Welsh stream performance and grades are exceptionally high year on year</p> <p>Pupils in Brecon's Welsh stream are achieving above average results year on year</p>	<p>to the school's performance relates to all pupils at the school, rather than pupils in the Welsh-medium stream alone. The number of Welsh-medium pupils at each school, particularly Brecon High School, is small, therefore it would not be valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools.'</p>
5.3.5	<p>Estyn calls the Welsh-medium stream a strength of Brecon High School</p>	<p>It is true that the Estyn report on the core inspection of Brecon High School carried in May 2012 states: The provision for Welsh language is a strength of the school...However, the school has not yet made enough progress on promoting the use of the Welsh language in school life.' However, as stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has decreased significantly since then, which has impacted on the level of Welsh-medium provision available at the school. Estyn's response to the current proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream is provided on page 13 of this report.</p>
5.3.6	<p>Estyn's report on education at Brecon in December 2016 states 'Many write in Welsh with a good degree of accuracy and use different tenses appropriately. Many have good pronunciation and speak Welsh confidently'</p>	<p>It is true that this statement appears in Estyn's monitoring report following their monitoring visit in November 2016. This statement appears within Recommendation 1, which relates to Welsh Second Language.</p>
5.3.7	<p>There are a number of other subjects that could be offered through the medium of Welsh if there was sufficient demand from students</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment, and notes that additional Welsh-medium subjects could be offered if there were sufficient demand. However, the fact remains that the number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small, which makes it very difficult for the school to offer a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum for these pupils.</p>
5.3.8	<p>Past pupils who attended the Welsh stream at Brecon are now employed as Welsh speakers – they would not have done that had they not attended the Welsh stream at the school</p>	<p>The authority notes that Welsh-medium provision at the school has had a positive impact on the Welsh language skills of past pupils of the Welsh-medium stream, which has meant that they have been able to continue to use their Welsh language skills in the workplace. However, the number of pupils</p>

		accessing the Welsh-medium stream has decreased significantly in recent years; it is acknowledged that the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school has contributed to this. The current small number of pupils makes the provision unviable, and also means that the school is unable to offer a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum to pupils. There is no reason to believe that these pupils would not have had the same opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills had they attended alternative schools which provide Welsh-medium secondary education.
5.3.9	Although the level of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School has not been consistent, it appears that the quality of education in the Welsh stream has been stronger than the quality of education in the school in general.	The authority notes this comment.
5.3.10	Closing the Welsh stream would destroy the sense of community Brecon Welsh stream provides The Welsh stream in Brecon High School is like a family	The authority notes this comment. However, the number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, and the authority's view is that this makes the provision unviable. In addition, the authority's view is that the small class sizes within the Welsh-medium stream is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.
5.3.11	It is not a failing of the school that A levels are not offered through the medium of Welsh – through agreement of the south Powys post 16 consortium this provision has been centred on Builth Wells High School so it is never the case that Brecon would be offering these courses. The South Powys Consortium helps to maintain access to some A levels through the medium of Welsh	The authority notes this comment. The south Powys consortium for post-16 education is a collaborative model that has been developed jointly by the authority and schools. For a number of years, since before the establishment of the South Powys Consortium, Builth Wells High School has provided a number of Welsh-medium post-16 courses, however Brecon High School has not provided any Welsh-medium post-16 courses. Whilst it is true that Welsh-medium pupils could choose to study Welsh-medium subjects at other schools, no pupils have chosen this option.
5.3.12	Acknowledge the challenge to Brecon High School of maintaining the current provision within	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges the challenge faced by Brecon High School to maintain the current provision given the small number

	the budget constraints	of pupils accessing the school's Welsh-medium stream.
5.3.13	<p>Not all parents are looking for 8, 9 or 10 GCSEs in Welsh – Brecon High School gives the opportunity for pupils to be confidently bilingual when they leave school so that they can apply for jobs where Welsh language skills are necessary</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. However, the authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils and to ensure that they are able to access a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum. The current provision at Brecon High School does not provide this opportunity.</p> <p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, the school would be categorised as a category 4 school, which is described as a 'Predominantly English Medium Secondary School'.</p> <p>The Welsh Government document 'Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision' (2007) provides the following definition for the curriculum provision of this type of school: 'Pupils are mainly taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language up to KS4. One or two subjects (which would include Welsh first language) may be taught as an option through the medium of Welsh or using both languages.'</p> <p>Within this definition, the school could continue to offer some subjects through the medium of Welsh, which could include Welsh first language, to enable pupils to continue to develop their Welsh language skills, however this would be a decision for the school. There are examples of 'Predominantly English Medium Secondary Schools' in Powys that do provide the opportunity for pupils to study Welsh First Language, however no funding is provided by the authority to support this provision.</p>
5.3.14	<p>Year 11 at Brecon High School currently have very few subjects through the medium of Welsh – this puts a question on whether it's worth putting your child in Welsh-medium education if they eventually have to move for English-medium for most subjects</p> <p>When pupils were in year 7 they had lots of lessons in Welsh, now they only have 2</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. The authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils and to ensure that they are able to access a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum. The current provision at Brecon High School does not provide this opportunity.</p>

5.3.15	Apart from the size of the Welsh stream at Brecon High School, what is the problem?	<p>As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education
5.3.16	If Builth Wells High School can have a Welsh stream with more subjects, why can't Brecon?	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p> <p>Discussions took place with all schools about their Welsh-medium provision at the time and how they would develop this in order to move towards achieving the target of a Category 2B school. Whilst the Cabinet minutes refer to 'additional investment', it was not possible to fulfil this due to the challenging financial situation facing the council.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools, such as Builth Wells High School, have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.</p>
5.3.17	Dispute the need for two classes in each cohort – there has been just one class in Brecon and it has provided an excellent education	<p>As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>The small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School means that the school is only able to offer a limited range of Welsh-medium subjects to pupils, and this is exacerbated at Key Stage 4 when pupils choose their options subjects.</p>
5.4 Brecon High School's Welsh ethos and commitment to Welsh-medium education		
5.4.1	<p>Brecon High School has a fantastic Welsh ethos</p> <p>The Welsh ethos is high across the whole school</p> <p>Pupils at Brecon High School have constant opportunities to use Welsh</p> <p>Pupils have fantastic opportunities to see, hear and use Welsh at Brecon High School</p> <p>The ethos of Brecon High School will change if there is no Welsh stream in the school</p> <p>If the Welsh stream goes from the school, the Welshness will go as well</p> <p>If the Welsh stream closed, you wouldn't hear Welsh in the corridor in the high school</p>	<p>The authority is pleased to note the positive comments relating to Brecon High School's Welsh language ethos and the opportunities for pupils to use Welsh within the school. However, the fact remains that the number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at the school is very small. The number of Welsh-medium pupils in the alternative providers which pupils would be expected to transfer to is significantly greater, therefore the authority's view is that this would lead to increased opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh.</p> <p>All secondary schools in Wales are encouraged to develop a Welsh-language ethos, whether or not they provide Welsh-medium education. If there were no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the school would continue to teach Welsh 2nd Language to pupils, and would be expected to maintain a Welsh ethos.</p>
5.4.2	<p>The headteacher and teachers at Brecon High School are 100% in support of the Welsh stream</p> <p>Brecon High School has a new headteacher who needs time to prove to the council that he can</p>	<p>The authority is pleased to note the positive comments in relation to the support of the headteacher and staff of Brecon High School to the Welsh-medium stream. However, the fact remains that the number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at the school is very small, which makes the provision unviable.</p>

	make a very successful Welsh stream in Brecon	
5.4.3	The previous 2 consultations showed how supportive Brecon High School is towards Welsh-medium education	The responses received during previous consultations were taken into consideration at the appropriate points within those processes. However the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, which makes the provision unviable.
5.4.4	About 20 years ago, priority was given to Welsh speakers when appointing staff – however this policy changed when there was a change of headteacher – as there have been no teachers to deliver subjects through the medium of Welsh, Welsh-medium provision has decreased	The authority notes this comment and would agree that the diminishing level of Welsh-medium provision available at Brecon High School over a number of years is due to the fact that the school has not prioritised the appointment of staff who are able to deliver subjects through the medium of Welsh over a number of years.
5.5 Contribution of Welsh-medium pupils to Brecon High School		
5.5.1	<p>Welsh-medium pupils contribute to the development of the Welsh language in the school – how could they contribute without a Welsh stream in the school?</p> <p>The Welsh language environment at Brecon High School is strengthened by the 1st language students</p> <p>Concern about the implications for 2nd language Welsh pupils – they improve their language skills by speaking to 1st language students</p> <p>If there were no Welsh stream, there would be less Welsh events in the school – it would have an impact on the cultural side of the school</p> <p>The culture and ethos of Brecon High School has been strengthened by having Welsh-medium</p>	<p>The authority is pleased to note the positive comments in relation to the positive contribution made by Welsh-medium pupils to the Welsh language ethos of Brecon High School.</p> <p>All secondary schools in Wales are encouraged to develop a Welsh-language ethos, whether or not they provide Welsh-medium education. If there were no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the school would continue to teach Welsh 2nd Language to all pupils and would be expected to provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom.</p>

	<p>learners at the school</p> <p>Welsh-medium pupils have a positive impact on Brecon High School</p>	
5.5.2	<p>Welsh-medium pupils are completely immersed in the life of the school and are involved in the sports and musical life of the school</p> <p>Ysgol y Bannau pupils have been a large part of the back bone of activities at Brecon High School eg Orchestra, Drama, Sports</p> <p>Lots of Welsh stream pupils have already left which has impact on sports teams and other activities</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges the involvement of Welsh-medium pupils in a range of sports and cultural activities at Brecon High School. However the authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils and to ensure that they are able to access a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum. The current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School does not offer this.</p>
5.5.3	<p>You can't say that removal of the Welsh stream will not have an impact on the school</p>	<p>The authority fully acknowledges that the removal of the Welsh-medium stream would have an impact on Brecon High School. However due to the small number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the authority's view is that the impact would not be significant.</p>
5.5.4	<p>Transporting Welsh stream pupils from Brecon High School will have a negative impact on the school's success</p>	<p>Due to the current small number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School, the authority does not anticipate that implementation of the proposal would have a negative impact on Brecon High School.</p>
<p>5.6 Provision that could be offered at Brecon High School should the Welsh-medium stream close</p>		
5.6.1	<p>If the Welsh stream closes, Brecon needs to set up more facilities for 2nd language Welsh i.e. singing groups, more fun sessions to encourage Welsh as a second language</p> <p>What opportunities would you expect Brecon High</p>	<p>All secondary schools in Wales are encouraged to develop a Welsh-language ethos, whether or not they provide Welsh-medium education. If there were no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the school would continue to teach Welsh 2nd Language to all pupils and would be expected to provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom. The actual opportunities offered would depend on the school.</p>

	School to provide to second language students to use Welsh if 1 st language Welsh speakers were removed from the school?	
5.6.2	<p>Could any provision be offered for Welsh-medium pupils if Brecon was a category 4 school?</p> <p>Would Welsh language pupils still be able to do Welsh first language at Brecon High School if it was a category 4 school?</p> <p>What will happen to children who are currently assessed in Welsh 1st language in Brecon at the end of Key Stage 3? Will they be able to continue to be assessed in Welsh 1st language or will they have to do Welsh 2nd language?</p> <p>If the Welsh stream closed, it is a joke that children would not be able to read, write or talk in Welsh except in Welsh 2nd language</p> <p>As a minimum, would like a commitment that Welsh 1st language GCSE and A level could be available in Brecon if the Welsh stream closed</p> <p>Would be a waste of time for Welsh-medium pupils to be expected to do Welsh 2nd language if they transferred to English-medium provision at Brecon High School. Understand that they would not be able to do first language as they would be disadvantaged by doing this without the support of the Welsh stream, but they should be able to do some kind of higher level Welsh e.g. 2nd language A level. The council must take responsibility for this and not leave it for the</p>	<p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, the school would be categorised as a category 4 school, which is described as a 'Predominantly English Medium Secondary School'.</p> <p>The Welsh Government document 'Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision' (2007) provides the following definition for the curriculum provision of this type of school: 'Pupils are mainly taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language up to KS4. One or two subjects (which would include Welsh first language) may be taught as an option through the medium of Welsh or using both languages.'</p> <p>Whether or not to provide the opportunity for pupils who study Welsh First Language or any other subjects through the medium of Welsh would be a decision for the school. There are examples of 'Predominantly English Medium Secondary Schools' in Powys that do provide the opportunity for pupils to study Welsh First Language, however no funding is provided by the authority to support this provision.</p> <p>Brecon High School does not currently provide A level Welsh First Language, although pupils can access this subject at Builth Wells High School via the South Powys Collaboration, therefore it is very unlikely that this subject would be offered at Brecon should the Welsh-medium stream close.</p> <p>The authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils and to ensure that they are able to access a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum. The current provision at Brecon High School does not provide this opportunity.</p>

	<p>school to sort out</p> <p>Many parents have stated that they would accept a reduced number of subjects through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School if necessary, even if just Welsh first language as a very last resort, if this allowed their children to remain locally</p>	
5.6.3	<p>If the Welsh stream closes next year, will pupils already in the school be able to do subjects in Welsh until they finish school?</p>	<p>As stated in the consultation document, the authority's proposal is as follows:</p> <p>'From the 1st September 2017, there would be no Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School for pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. However, Welsh-medium provision would continue to be provided in Brecon High School for those pupils who would be entering year 11 in September 2017. This provision would continue until July 2018.'</p> <p>The definition of a category 4 school 'Predominantly English Medium Secondary School' allows for the provision of one or two Welsh-medium subjects, which could include Welsh first language, however this would be a decision for the school to make.</p>
5.6.4	<p>A focus group has been created to look at creating a category 2B Welsh stream at Brecon High School regardless of the outcome of the ongoing consultation</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. The authority would welcome the strengthening of the Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School, however should the authority decide to proceed with implementation of the current proposal, the authority would not be able to provide any funding to support this development.</p> <p>The authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils and to ensure that they are able to access a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum. The current provision at Brecon High School does not provide this opportunity, and the authority's view is that the most effective way to improve the provision available to Welsh-medium pupils in the short term is to consolidate the current providers.</p>

5.7 Criticism of the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School		
5.7.1	<p>The current Welsh-medium provision does not provide an opportunity for all pupils to access a full Welsh-medium curriculum throughout their educational careers.</p> <p>The current provision at Brecon High School is not acceptable from a language point of view</p>	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.2	The unsatisfactory Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School has had an impact on the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education as some parents have not chosen Welsh-medium education whilst others have chosen Welsh-medium primary education but moved their children to private education on transfer to secondary.	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.3	With regard to the Welsh Government's Welsh language categories, Brecon High School is currently classified as a category 3 school – this level of provision is unsatisfactory compared with the provision at a category 1 or category 2A school.	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.4	The level of Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School has not improved over many years, in fact it has deteriorated significantly.	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.5	Historically, Brecon High School has struggled to recruit Welsh-medium teachers to teach in the stream at Brecon	The authority notes this comment.

5.7.6	English is the main language used in the school, for example in assemblies, sports, performances, during break times	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.7	Some parents are under the impression that the current arrangement at Brecon High School provides sufficient Welsh-medium provision and will enable pupils to become fully bilingual, however this is not the case.	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.8	There is a lack of understanding among parents in relation to the level of provision at Brecon High School – they are shocked to realise the true picture.	The authority notes this comment.
5.7.9	The school has not been honest in terms of the information shared with parents about the level of Welsh-medium provision available.	The authority notes this comment.
5.8 Other		
5.8.1	There would be a big impact on Brecon High School if there was no Welsh stream in the school	The authority notes this comment.
5.8.2	It's good that pupils can learn in two languages in Brecon High School	The authority notes this comment and agrees that in an ideal world, all schools would provide opportunities for pupils to learn in Welsh. However, due to the small number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School, the school is unable to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils compared with the opportunities available to English-medium pupils.
6 GENERAL ISSUES RELATING TO BRECON HIGH SCHOOL		
6.1 Quality of education at Brecon High School		

6.1.1	Do not agree that the education provided in Brecon High School is of a poor standard – the standard of education is excellent	Whilst the school was removed from Special Measures in November 2016, Brecon High School had been in Special Measures since February 2014.
6.1.2	Standards in Brecon High School are now one of the best in the county	<p>In terms of the level 2 inclusive indicator, Brecon High School performed above the line of modelled expectations in 2016, which placed the school among the higher performing schools in Powys for this indicator.</p> <p>However, school performance is compared with similar schools across Wales based on free school meals eligibility, not with other schools in Powys. Whilst the level 2 inclusive indicator placed the school in the higher 50% of similar schools, for level 2, level 1 and Capped 8, the school performed in the bottom 25% of similar schools, and in the lower 50% of similar schools for Core Subject Indicator.</p>
6.1.3	<p>Brecon High School is now out of special measures</p> <p>The timing of the consultation is unfortunate as Brecon has now been taken out of Special Measures</p> <p>Brecon High School has come out of Special Measures by working hard to be the best school and to offer our children the best education and experience</p> <p>Children and teachers at Brecon High School have worked hard to come out of special measures</p>	It is true that Brecon High School has now been removed from Special Measures. Cabinet members will be made aware of this when they are determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
6.1.4	Standards in Welsh 2 nd language at Brecon High School have improved due to the contribution of the Welsh-medium stream	Standards in Welsh 2 nd language have improved at Brecon High School. However, there is no evidence that this is due to the Welsh-medium stream.

6.1.5	Brecon High School is showing clear evidence of improvement	The authority acknowledges in the consultation document in respect of this proposal that 'There has been a good improvement trajectory of performance in recent years' at Brecon High School. Since the consultation document was published, Brecon High School has been removed from Special Measures. Cabinet members will be made aware of this when they are determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
6.1.6	With regard to National School Categorisation System Brecon is now on a par with Ystalyfera and above Builth having achieved 2B	Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is placed in the Green support category. Builth High School is placed in the Amber support category. However, both Brecon and Builth are placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government.
6.1.7	The results from Ystalyfera and Builth compared to Brecon show that fuller immersion in Welsh does not mean better results. Estyn have said that this consultation and previous consultations have not proved that there will be educational improvements	Estyn's response to the current consultation is provided on page 13 of this report. In their response, Estyn conclude that: 'the proposer appears to have suitably demonstrated that, given the small numbers of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream, that overall the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.'
6.2 Issues relating to the planned new building		
6.2.1	<p>Unfair that local Welsh-medium children will not have an opportunity to be part of the brand new schools</p> <p>What message will it send to Ysgol y Bannau pupils if there is a brand new secondary school building across the road but if you speak Welsh you have to go to school 20 miles away</p> <p>You will have a Welsh-medium primary school directly opposite the new building but you are saying that those pupils will not be coming to Brecon High School's new school</p> <p>Welsh-medium pupils will be missing out on the</p>	<p>Whilst a new building for Brecon High School would be a fresh start for secondary education in Brecon, there would be no significant increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the short term, therefore it would be difficult for the new school to offer any more Welsh-medium subjects than are currently offered.</p> <p>The quality of accommodation at Builth Wells High School was rated B by the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Survey, therefore the authority has no concerns about the quality of accommodation at Builth Wells.</p> <p>Whilst the condition of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera was rated D, capital work is currently being undertaken to improve the quality of accommodation at the school. The school's condition grading will improve as a result of this work.</p> <p>Should this proposal be implemented, there would be no Welsh-medium</p>

<p>opportunity to attend a new school with new facilities</p> <p>Disgusted that the council are trying to shut down the Welsh-medium stream despite spending £50 million on a new school</p> <p>If there is no Welsh stream in the new school, it would be like saying 'You can't come here' to the Welsh-medium pupils</p> <p>It's unfair that you are spending millions on a new school but you are not letting Welsh-medium pupils come into it</p> <p>To provide a new school at the exclusion of a Welsh stream would be denying equality</p> <p>Should the proposal go ahead, it would result in a 21st Century School that accepts students from most backgrounds, including Nepalese and Eastern Europe, providing them with all the amenities and advantages that Powys would hope for, but telling our local Welsh-speaking stakeholders that they are excluded</p> <p>All the diverse communities who work and study effectively together will be welcome in the new building except those who wish to be educated in Welsh</p> <p>Welsh-medium pupils will not be able to reap the rewards of the new super school – one standard of learning environment for English speakers, a lesser one for Welsh speakers – this is possibly</p>	<p>stream in Brecon High School, and therefore there would be no Welsh-medium stream at the new school building. However Welsh-medium pupils would still be able to apply for a place in Brecon High School, should that be their preference, and places would be allocated in accordance with the authority's Admissions Policy.</p>
---	---

	<p>racist</p> <p>It would be an error to spend millions of pounds on a new building for Brecon High School and to disenfranchise Welsh speakers</p> <p>In these more optimistic times for Brecon High School it would be more forward thinking of Powys to include our Welsh speaking students and all the academic, sporting and artistic talent they can bring in a flagship, future proof school</p>	
6.2.2	<p>A new “super school” will attract new teachers, good teachers who will want to work in this new, first class environment, children will perform better and will have the best possible learning environment, however only children learning through English will be able to benefit from this</p>	<p>The authority has no concerns about the quality of accommodation that would be available at the alternative providers to which pupils may transfer should the proposal be implemented. As stated in the consultation document, the condition of Builth Wells High School was graded B by the Welsh Government’s 21st Century Schools Survey, and whilst the condition of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera was graded D, capital work is currently being undertaken to improve the quality of accommodation at this school.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised in relation to the ability of the two current dual stream providers in mid and south Powys to attract and appoint Welsh-medium teachers, the authority would hope that centralising the provision would improve the opportunities to recruit high quality Welsh-medium teachers.</p>
6.2.3	<p>If the Welsh stream is removed, planning for the new building would be undertaken based on this knowledge, which would make it very difficult to re-establish a Welsh stream in the future in a school potentially only planned for English-medium pupils</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment.</p>
6.2.4	<p>Building a new school is an opportunity for Powys to get behind the aim to ensure 1 million Welsh</p>	<p>Whilst a new building for Brecon High School would be a fresh start for secondary education in Brecon, there would be no significant increase in</p>

	<p>speakers</p> <p>The new building in Brecon would be a golden opportunity to create a transformational change to Welsh-medium secondary education in Brecon</p> <p>If there was a Welsh stream in the new build, the Welsh stream would appeal to more parents</p> <p>If there was a Welsh stream in the new school, do you think the numbers would increase?</p> <p>Welsh-medium provision could be strengthened in the new school if the council was prepared to offer more leadership and to insist that the provision developed</p>	<p>Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the short term, therefore it would be difficult for the new school to offer any more Welsh-medium subjects than are currently offered.</p>
6.2.5	<p>Parents of pupils in Sennybridge CP School will be moving their children to Brecon High School when the new school building is opened</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils of Sennybridge CP School could choose between accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera or English-medium provision at Brecon High School. Capital work is currently being undertaken to improve the quality of accommodation at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. The authority is satisfied that the quality of accommodation at Ystalyfera will be comparable to the quality of accommodation at Brecon High School once the new school building is opened.</p>
6.2.6	<p>When you submitted the business case for funding for the new school to Welsh Government, were they aware of your proposal to remove Welsh-medium provision?</p>	<p>The Outline Business Case that was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2016 was for capital investment in a new 11-18 English-medium school. The OBC was submitted on a without prejudice basis to any decisions taken by Cabinet. The OBC was approved in October 2016.</p>
6.2.7	<p>The case for a new school at Brecon was always pitched as a bilingual school</p>	<p>Whilst a new building for Brecon High School would be a fresh start for secondary education in Brecon, there would be no significant increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers, therefore it would be difficult for the school to offer any more Welsh-medium subjects than are currently offered.</p>

6.2.8	Ridiculous to invest millions of Welsh money in a new school but not include provision for the Welsh language stream – was this included in the original business case?	The Strategic Outline Case that was submitted to Welsh Government in March 2015 was for an 11-16 English-medium school.
6.2.9	<p>Welsh Government has agreed that Brecon High School will be developed up to and including a sixth form – this is an ideal opportunity to include plans for the Welsh-medium stream within that</p> <p>When the new school is built, there could be 150 in the 6th form – this would have an impact on the curriculum offer at post 16, and the school could then offer more Welsh-medium classes</p>	<p>Welsh Government has approved the Outline Business Case for an 11-18 English-medium school for 750 pupils. The authority will be submitting a Full Business Case to the Welsh Government for funding, which will reflect the outcome of this consultation. It includes 150 sixth form places, however as it currently stands, the proposal is for an English-medium school, and Welsh-medium sixth form subjects would continue to be delivered from Builth Wells. Whilst a new building for Brecon High School would be a fresh start for secondary education in Brecon, there would be no significant increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the short term, therefore it would be difficult for the new school to offer any more Welsh-medium subjects than are currently offered. This would also be the case in relation to sixth form provision.</p>
6.2.10	Transporting Welsh speaking children out of Brecon will significantly increase the carbon footprint of the new building	The authority acknowledges that additional travel would have an environmental impact. However, following previous successful transport appeals, transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. Should the proposal be implemented, the additional transport that would be required would be minimal.
6.2.11	Want assurance that Ysgol y Bannau pupils can be accommodated under English-medium in the new building and not assumed that parents will send their children to Builth / Ystalyfera	Ysgol y Bannau pupils will be able to apply for a place in Brecon High School, should that be their preference, and places would be allocated in accordance with the authority's Admissions Policy.
6.2.12	A new school building is all Brecon needs to be a successful, excellent school	The authority notes this comment.

6..2.13	A Welsh stream would enhance the new build	The authority notes this comment. However, the authority's priority is to ensure equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners compared with English-medium learners. The current small number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School means that the Welsh-medium provision offered is limited and does not provide equality for Welsh-medium learners compared with English-medium learners. Whilst a new building for Brecon High School would be a fresh start for secondary education in Brecon, there would be no significant increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers, therefore it would be difficult for the school to offer any more Welsh-medium subjects than are currently offered.
6.3 Staff at Brecon High School		
6.3.1	The proposal is causing uncertainty for staff Teachers have moved because of the consultation	The authority acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal leads to a period of uncertainty for members of staff affected by the proposal, and that this has been exacerbated by the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. The authority is keen to conclude this process as swiftly as possible in order to end this period of uncertainty for all those affected by the proposal.
6.3.2	The school has been under pressure for many years, yet the same staff are still here – this shows their commitment The school's staff are committed	The authority is pleased to note the commitment of the staff of Brecon High School.
6.3.3	What will happen to the teachers who only teach subjects in Welsh?	The authority acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal leads to a period of uncertainty for members of staff affected by the proposal, and that the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has caused ongoing uncertainty for members of staff at the school that teacher through the medium of Welsh. It is possible that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would have an impact on the number of teaching staff required by the school. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would support the school with the management of change procedures, if required.

6.4 Other		
6.4.1	There are a lot of people in Brecon who would not want their children educated anywhere other than Brecon High School	The authority notes this comment. Should there be no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, parents would be able to apply for a place for their children at an alternative school which provides education through the medium of Welsh or they could apply for a place for their child in Brecon High School, where they would be educated through the medium of English. Places would be allocated in line with the authority's Admissions Policy.
6.4.2	Brecon High School is a Powys County Council school too and should be treated as equal to other schools	The authority is fully aware that Brecon High School is a Powys County Council school, and disagrees that the school has not been treated as equal to other schools.
7 ISSUES RELATING TO BUILTH WELLS HIGH SCHOOL		
7.1 Quality of education at Builth Wells High School		
7.1.1	<p>Builth Wells High School's last Estyn report put the school into Special Measures</p> <p>Builth Wells High School has failed its inspection due to the actual education provided at the school</p> <p>Estyn have labelled Builth as a failing school with inadequate prospects for improvement</p> <p>Builth is in Special Measures with unsatisfactory chance of improvement</p>	<p>It is true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. This is stated on page 36 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal. However, the authority is confident that the school is making good progress.</p> <p>Builth Wells High School was placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017. The capacity to improve at the school has improved, as evidenced in the National Categorisation of Schools.</p>
7.1.2	<p>It's unfair for Brecon children to be forced to a school that is failing its children by the education it provides</p> <p>Unfair that local Welsh-medium children will be</p>	It is true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. This is stated on page 36 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal. However, the authority is confident that the school is making good progress.

	<p>sent to a school that is in Special Measures</p> <p>It is unreasonable to suggest that transferring children out of a school that is not in special measures could be better educationally</p> <p>Unfair to move children from a school that is improving and to move them to a school that is failing and not improving</p> <p>Unfair to propose that Welsh-medium provision transfers to a school that has just gone into special measures</p>	<p>Both Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School were placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017.</p> <p>As stated in the proposal outlined on page 3 of the consultation document, should the proposal be implemented 'Pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.' A proportion of pupils living in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream would live closer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, which is not in special measures.</p>
7.1.3	<p>Closing Builth to wipe the fact that the school is in special measures will mean that points like those highlighted in the Estyn report will take longer to be sorted and corrected</p> <p>Builth High School is still in Special Measures and it looks like the only way out is for the school to be closed and re-opened as a new school, rather than actually improving and putting better procedures in place as has happened at Brecon High School</p>	<p>The proposal to establish a new dual-sited school that will operate from the current sites of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools is intended to deliver a sustainable model of secondary education in the area, which would be able to provide high quality education. It is true that the proposed new school would replace two schools that are currently in special measures. The fact that the schools are in special measures is a key reason for the proposal.</p> <p>In respect of Builth Wells High School, the school is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. However, the authority is confident that the school is making good progress.</p> <p>Builth Wells High School was placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017. The capacity to improve at the school has improved, as evidenced in the National Categorisation of Schools.</p>
7.1.4	<p>Alarming that the council wants to make changes and put further pressure on Builth Wells High School with increased numbers when they are in special measures – getting their house in order should be their priority before putting extra work,</p>	<p>It is true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. This is stated on page 36 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal. However, the authority is confident that the school is making good progress.</p>

	pressure and changes on them	<p>Builth Wells High School was placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017. The capacity to improve at the school has improved, as evidenced in the National Categorisation of Schools.</p> <p>The proposal's impact on Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School is considered on page 27-28 of the consultation document. In respect of the impact on leadership and management at the school, the authority concluded that 'It is possible that implementation of the proposal may place some additional pressure in terms of leadership and management in the short term, as the school may need to make arrangements to accommodate additional pupils. However, the proposal is not expected to have a negative impact in the longer term.'</p> <p>A number of pupils that previously attended the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have already transferred to the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School, therefore the authority has already had to make arrangements to accommodate these additional pupils. The number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small, therefore the additional impact should these pupils transfer to Builth would be minimal.</p>
7.1.5	Why would parents want their children to go to a school that is failing and is 20 miles away?	<p>As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>There are more Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells High School compared with Brecon High School, therefore pupils would be part of a larger cohort of pupils. In addition, greater curriculum choice is offered to Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education.</p>

		<p>Whilst it is true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015, the authority does not agree that the school is 'failing' – the authority is confident that the school is making good progress. Builth Wells High School was placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017, and the capacity to improve at the school has improved, as evidenced in the National Categorisation of Schools.</p> <p>The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would lead to additional travel for the affected pupils.</p>								
7.1.6	Some pupils have gone to Ystalyfera because Builth Wells High School is in Special Measures	The authority notes this comment.								
7.2 Comparisons between Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School										
7.2.1	Builth Wells High School is in a far worse situation than Brecon and has had an Estyn report that is worse than any of Brecon's	<p>It is true that Builth Wells High School is currently in Special Measures, following an inspection which took place in October 2015. This is stated on page 36 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal. However, the authority is confident that the school is making good progress.</p> <p>Builth Wells High School was placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017. The capacity to improve at the school has improved, as evidenced in the National Categorisation of Schools.</p>								
7.2.2	As stated in the Consultation Document, Capacity to Improve for Brecon is C and the school is rated as Amber, whereas Capacity to Improve for Builth is D and the school is rated Red	<p>The capacity to improve at both Brecon and Builth Wells High Schools have improved in the 2017 National Categorisation of Schools. The 2017 categorisations for both schools are provided in the following table:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>Standards Group</th> <th>Improvement Capacity</th> <th>Support Category</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Brecon High School</td> <td>2</td> <td>B</td> <td>Yellow</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category	Brecon High School	2	B	Yellow
School	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category							
Brecon High School	2	B	Yellow							

		Builth Wells High School	2	C	Amber
7.2.3	Classroom control is poorer in Builth than in Brecon – this was highlighted strongly in the Estyn report re Builth, and was also highlighted to the children of the Brecon Welsh stream when they went there to do a taster day	It is true that Estyn identified that ‘Pupils in a few classes display poor behaviour’ in the core inspection of Builth Wells High School carried out in 2015. However, in Estyn’s monitoring visit in June 2016, they judged that ‘Most pupils behave well in lessons.’			
7.2.4	The work at Builth High School isn’t as challenging as it is in Brecon, this was highlighted by children from the Welsh stream who visited Builth and in the Estyn report that put Builth into special measures recently	The authority notes this comment. However the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, which make the provision unviable.			
7.2.5	Educational achievement is lower in Builth than it is in Brecon Brecon students achieve better than Builth students	Both schools were placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017.			
7.2.6	Builth is in Special Measures but Brecon is improving	It is true that Builth Wells High School is in Special Measures following an inspection which took place in October 2015, whilst Brecon High School was removed from Special Measures following a monitoring visit in November 2016. However, Builth Wells High School is also securing improvements. The school was placed in Standards Group 2 by Welsh Government in the National Categorisation in 2017, and capacity to improve at the school has also improved, as evidenced in the National Categorisation of Schools.			
7.3 Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Builth Wells High School					
7.3.1	There are not currently viable numbers of Welsh-medium learners at Builth	The current number of Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells High School is significantly larger than the number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School.			

	Are you happy with the number of pupils in the cohort at Builth Wells High School now?																																														
7.3.2	Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the Builth catchment are decreasing year on year, numbers in the Brecon catchment are increasing	<p>The number of Welsh-medium primary pupils in the current catchment area of Brecon High School is provided on page 12 of the consultation document. This information does not show that pupil numbers are consistently increasing year on year.</p> <p>The number of Welsh-medium primary pupils in the current catchment area of Builth Wells High School are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Builth Wells CP School</th> <th>Llandrindod C. in W. School Trefonnen</th> <th>Rhayader C. in W. School</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>R</td> <td>22</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>11</td> <td>20</td> <td>9</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>16</td> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>14</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>21</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>19</td> <td>11</td> <td>4</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>14</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>117</td> <td>73</td> <td>57</td> <td>247</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This shows that the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the current catchment of the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School is larger than the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the current catchment of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School in all year groups.</p>		Builth Wells CP School	Llandrindod C. in W. School Trefonnen	Rhayader C. in W. School	Total	R	22	8	8	38	1	11	20	9	40	2	16	8	11	35	3	14	8	7	29	4	21	12	13	46	5	19	11	4	34	6	14	6	5	25	Total	117	73	57	247
	Builth Wells CP School	Llandrindod C. in W. School Trefonnen	Rhayader C. in W. School	Total																																											
R	22	8	8	38																																											
1	11	20	9	40																																											
2	16	8	11	35																																											
3	14	8	7	29																																											
4	21	12	13	46																																											
5	19	11	4	34																																											
6	14	6	5	25																																											
Total	117	73	57	247																																											
7.3.3	<p>If the extra hypothetical Welsh-medium children don't go to Builth, Builth won't be able to offer the predicted improvements</p> <p>It's clear that Builth High School will not achieve the critical mass of Welsh-medium pupils needed</p>	<p>The authority has identified in the consultation document in respect of this proposal that there are a number of risks linked to implementation of the proposal. These include the risk that 'pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school' and that 'pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon'.</p>																																													

	<p>to provide a “greatly improved” learning environment to pupils</p> <p>Less than 50% of this year’s year 6 at Ysgol y Bannau have chosen Builth High School for September 2017 – this is less than expected and a blow to establishing a critical mass of pupils in Builth</p> <p>Not all Welsh-medium learners have moved to Builth, therefore you haven’t created the critical mass you hoped to create</p> <p>Current indications from parents / pupils at Ysgol y Bannau suggest that a ‘critical mass’ would not be achieved – parents would send their children to the English stream at Brecon instead of sending them to Builth</p> <p>The stream at Builth will remain the size it was before the threat of closure of the stream in Brecon</p> <p>Closing the provision in Brecon to increase the numbers in Builth will not work in the long term</p> <p>The number of Welsh-medium pupils going to Builth will be low initially and even lower in the future</p> <p>Centralising in Builth will only increase the numbers in Builth slightly, and numbers will decline drastically in the future</p>	<p>These risks acknowledge the uncertainty in relation to the number of pupils that could be attending provision in Builth Wells in the future, and that it is likely that not all Welsh-medium learners will transfer to Builth Wells.</p> <p>However, more Welsh-medium secondary provision is currently provided in Builth Wells compared with the provision at Brecon High School, therefore the authority is satisfied that even if less pupils than expected from the Brecon area transfer to Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School, more Welsh-medium provision will continue to be available to them compared with the provision at Brecon High School.</p>
7.3.4	Parents already know which high school their	On page 16 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the

	<p>children will attend when they decide which primary school they wish their children to attend, therefore parents of current pupils at Ysgol y Bannau will not wish their children to attend Builth Wells High School</p>	<p>authority identified the risk that ‘Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school’. The document also states that ‘In the short term, the authority would expect there to be some reduction in the proportion of pupils from the Brecon area continuing to access Welsh-medium provision in the secondary sector’.</p> <p>However, the current Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School is very limited and the authority’s view is that this does not provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils.</p> <p>As stated in the consultation document ‘Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government’s priorities, and the authority will work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term.’</p>
7.3.5	<p>Builth High School will get even more undesirable for Brecon parents as people see and hear that other families are constantly backwards and forwards between Builth and Brecon</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and accepts that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils’ future education. However, the current number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small which makes it unviable.</p>
7.3.6	<p>The council wants to close the stream in Brecon now because if they left it a few more years Brecon would have more pupils than Builth</p>	<p>This is untrue. The reasons why the authority is proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are stated in the consultation document in respect of the proposal, and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ‘Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education’
<p>7.4 Welsh-medium provision at Builth Wells High School</p>		

7.4.1	How many subjects are currently taught through the medium of Welsh in Builth?	<p>During the current academic year, the following number of subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh in years 7-11 at Builth Wells High School:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of Welsh-medium subjects</th> <th>Number of bilingual subjects</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>12</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>12</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>12</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of Welsh-medium subjects	Number of bilingual subjects	7	12	0	8	12	0	9	12	0	10	9	5	11	9	4
Year	Number of Welsh-medium subjects	Number of bilingual subjects																		
7	12	0																		
8	12	0																		
9	12	0																		
10	9	5																		
11	9	4																		
7.4.2	It's unfair that Builth High School was able to go ahead with increasing Welsh-medium provision	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p> <p>Discussions took place with all schools about their Welsh-medium provision at the time and how they would develop this in order to move towards achieving the target of a Category 2B school. Whilst the Cabinet minutes refer to 'additional investment', it was not possible to fulfil this due to the challenging financial situation facing the council.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools, such as Builth Wells High School, have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.</p>																		
7.4.3	In the first consultation the council said they would use Ysgol y Bannau children to improve the standard of Welsh in Builth – this is not a reason	The council did not say they would 'use Ysgol y Bannau children to improve the standard of Welsh in Builth' in the first consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. In the consultation document																		

	to make Ysgol y Bannau children travel. If Builth's standard of Welsh is not good enough then improve the teaching not transport the better performing children to Builth to improve their standard	issued at that time, the council identified as an advantage of the proposal that 'an increased number of Welsh-medium pupils would enable Builth Wells High School to further develop its Welsh ethos'.
7.4.4	Builth shows more bilingualism in the way the school is run than Brecon ever did	The authority notes this comment.
7.4.5	Although there is more Welsh-medium provision in Builth than in Brecon, it is not as consistent as Brecon in all departments	The authority notes this comment.
7.4.6	The council has been unable to ensure the development of the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School, so there is no assurance that the council cannot ensure this in Builth Wells High School either	The authority notes this point. However, in recent years Builth Wells High School has actively developed its Welsh-medium provision, through the recruitment of additional Welsh-medium teachers. The authority is satisfied that the current SMT and governing body at Builth Wells High School are committed to the further development of Welsh-medium provision.
7.4.7	Proposal to extend the Welsh medium curriculum at Builth Wells may not materialise given you are unlikely to increase your critical mass sufficiently	<p>The authority notes this concern. On page 16 of the consultation document, the council identified a risk that 'Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school'. In the risk management measures in relation to this risk, the authority states the following: 'Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government's priorities, and the authority will work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term.'</p> <p>More Welsh-medium secondary provision is currently provided in Builth Wells compared with the provision at Brecon High School, therefore the authority is satisfied that even if less pupils than expected from the Brecon area transfer to Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School, more Welsh-medium provision will continue to be available to them compared with the provision at Brecon High School.</p>

7.4.8	There are more Welsh medium pupils in Builth so Welsh-medium pupils would hear more Welsh	The authority agrees that the fact that there are more Welsh-medium pupils in Built Wells High School than there are at Brecon High School would mean that pupils would have more opportunities to use Welsh.
7.5 Other		
7.5.1	Builth have said that they can't do any more than they do now to accommodate pupils in terms of access to after school activities, and that Ysgol y Bannau pupils aren't the only pupils that travel to school so they can't give them any extra help	The authority notes this concern. The authority has acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would impact on the ability of pupils to access after school activities should they transfer to the provision at Builth Wells. Builth Wells High School, and particularly the Welsh-medium stream, already serves a large catchment area, and many pupils are reliant on home to school transport. The authority's view is that pupils from the Brecon area transferring to Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School would not be disadvantaged compared to other pupils that already attend the school.
7.5.2	Moving provision to Builth is a short term solution not a long term solution	The authority disagrees with this comment. As stated on page 21 of the consultation document, 'the authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.'
7.5.3	Will Builth Wells High School be given additional financial support, advice or direction from the council to address solutions? Are the school aware of their additional responsibilities to help deliver solutions you don't have an answer for? Are you putting the schools in a situation for which there may be no acceptable solution without you committing additional resources? Concern that Builth High School, already in special measures, will be under more pressure	The proposal's impact on Builth Wells High School is considered on pages 27-28 of the consultation. In addition, Builth Wells High School were consultees as part of the consultation, and could have contacted the authority to raise any concerns they had in relation to implementation of the proposal.

7.5.4	If parents wanted their children to go to Builth Wells High School they would have sent them to primary schools in Builth Wells to start with	Pupils in the Brecon area would not be eligible for home to school transport to attend primary provision in the Builth Wells catchment, therefore it is unlikely that parents would have sent their children to primary schools in the area.
8 ISSUES RELATING TO YSGOL GYFUN YSTALYFERA		
8.1	<p>Families in Sennybridge are realising that travelling to Ystalyfera, out of the area, is not a positive thing for their children</p> <p>Children and families from Sennybridge are starting to choose Brecon Welsh stream over Ystalyfera</p> <p>Pupils who have chosen Ystalyfera in the past are now looking to Brecon since realising that travelling is not a positive option</p> <p>Unfair that pupils in Sennybridge will only be able to choose a single language secondary school</p>	<p>In recent years, the majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School have transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for secondary provision. As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal 'This is a pattern that has developed over time...where parents have chosen for their children to attend Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for their secondary provision, partly due to the greater level of Welsh-medium provision available.'</p> <p>Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium secondary school, and can offer a full Welsh-medium curriculum to pupils. As stated in the council's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20, 'The authority fully agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly when they come from non-Welsh speaking homes'.</p>
8.2	Why are you so adamant that Sennybridge Welsh stream should feed Ystalyfera when the distance to Ystalyfera is 18 miles, 10 miles further than to Brecon High School? What are your motives?	<p>In recent years, the majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School have transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for secondary provision. This has been the choice of parents, partly due to the greater level of Welsh-medium provision available.</p> <p>Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium secondary school, therefore the Welsh-medium provision available to pupils is significantly greater than that offered in Brecon High School, or any other dual stream school. The authority's view is that the additional travel distance of 10 miles referred to is not an unreasonable additional distance in order to access full Welsh-medium provision, and this is supported by the parents who have chosen for their children to transfer to Ystalyfera in recent years.</p> <p>The authority's only motive is to ensure that pupils from the Sennybridge area</p>

		continue to be able to access Welsh-medium secondary provision of the highest quality, and should this proposal be implemented, the authority would take steps to formalise the arrangement with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council to ensure that the Sennybridge is included in the official catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.
8.3	<p>It's impossible for Powys children attending school in Ystalyfera to maintain social friendships with children from Swansea and Neath who attend that school</p> <p>Concern that pupils from Powys would be lost in a large urban school like Ystalyfera</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that the current catchment area of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is large, however the authority is aware that Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council intends to establish a second Welsh-medium secondary stie in the south of the county, which will result in the catchment area for the Ystalyfera site being reduced.</p> <p>Historically, Brecon High School was a school of over 800 pupils, and therefore Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is not significantly larger than the numbers that have been educated at Brecon in the past, and it is expected that the number of pupils on the Ystalyfera site will reduce following the establishment of a second site in the south of the county. The school is located in the village of Ystalyfera which is smaller than Brecon, therefore it is not true that it is an urban school.</p>
8.4	Concern that pupils from Sennybridge would have to transfer to Ystalyfera on their own if they were the only pupil in the year group	All secondary schools have transition plans for pupils transferring into the school. The authority recognises that should the proposal be implemented, pupils from Sennybridge could be transferring to a different school to English-medium pupils, however this is already happening due to parental choice.
8.5	In previous consultation documents it has been stated that the capacity for Ystalyfera is 1285 pupils, however projections are that pupil numbers will exceed this figure to 1355 by January 2019 – what if Neath Port Talbot is no longer willing or able to accept children from out of county?	<p>As stated in footnote 14 on page 35 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera will close on the 31st August 2017, as will Ysgol Gymraeg Y Wern and a new 3-19 school will open in their place. The projected pupil numbers for January 2018 onwards include the projected pupil numbers for Ysgol Gymraeg y Wern and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.</p> <p>Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council are currently progressing a proposal to open a second Ystalyfera site in the south of the area. This will provide additional capacity for Welsh-medium secondary provision in the county, and the number of Powys pupils likely to access Ystalyfera, including</p>

		Sennybridge pupils, have been taken into account in planning this work.
8.6	There is going to be a change at Ysgol Ystalyfera – there is going to be a new campus in Neath Port Talbot. How well known is this? Are parents in the area aware of this?	Footnote 14 on page 35 of the consultation document in respect of this proposal refers to the development of a second campus for Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in the south of Neath Port Talbot County Borough. Pupils living in Powys will continue to access the current site, therefore it is not anticipated that the development of a second campus would have a significant impact on Powys pupils.
8.7	70 Welsh-medium students from Powys are attending Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera – Neath Port Talbot is getting money that Powys should be getting	Welsh-medium pupils from the Ystradgynlais area wishing to continue to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary education have for many years transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera at the start of year 7. When the authority undertook its transformation review in the area at the start of the current decade, it was decided to continue with this arrangement rather than duplicate the provision in Ysgol Maesydderwen. Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium secondary school, therefore the breadth of Welsh-medium provision and opportunities to use Welsh within the school are significantly greater than those that would be offered in any dual stream provision.
8.8	Pupils who have been to Ystalyfera but moved to Brecon say that they have more opportunities to use Welsh in Brecon High School than they did in Ystalyfera	Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium secondary school which provides a full Welsh-medium curriculum to pupils. In addition, Welsh is the main language used in the school, and extra-curricular activities are provided in Welsh. The authority does not agree that more opportunities are provided for pupils to use Welsh in Brecon High School than at Ystalyfera.
8.9	Over a number of years, some parents have chosen to transport their children to Ystalyfera for secondary education as this school, as a Welsh-medium secondary school, could offer certainty to the parents and pupils with regard to the provision that would be available throughout Key Stage 3 and 4.	The authority acknowledges that as a Welsh-medium secondary school, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera can offer certainty to parents and pupils with regard to the Welsh-medium provision available throughout all key stages.
8.10	Pupils would have more Welsh speaking friends in a Welsh school like Ystalyfera	The authority agrees that given the significantly greater number of Welsh-medium pupils at Ystalyfera, pupils would have more Welsh speaking friends

		at this school.
8.11	Many Welsh-medium pupils at Sennybridge School have already decided that they will be going to Ystalyfera, and have visited the school	The authority notes this comment.
9. IMPACT ON YSGOL Y BANNAU		
9.1 Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau		
9.1.1	<p>Ysgol y Bannau would decline dramatically in the long term if the Welsh stream in Brecon High School closed</p> <p>The uncertainty about the future of Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School is affecting pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau</p> <p>Children are already being removed from Ysgol y Bannau due to the ongoing uncertainty</p> <p>It has taken decades to build Ysgol y Bannau into the successful designated Welsh-medium primary school it is at present, with a steady 140+ on roll for years – this number will rise given the security of Welsh-medium education in Brecon, however there will undoubtedly be a fall in numbers should Welsh-medium provision be removed from Brecon High School</p> <p>Powys County Council does not seem concerned that the number of pupils in Ysgol y Bannau will decline</p> <p>The reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that the proposal could have a negative impact on Ysgol y Bannau in the short term, and this is identified in the consultation document. However, whilst Welsh-medium pupil numbers in other parts of Powys have grown over recent years, this hasn't been the case at Ysgol y Bannau.</p> <p>There has been dissatisfaction with the Welsh-medium secondary provision available in Brecon for many years, since long before the authority mentioned the possibility that the Welsh-medium stream could close, which has resulted in a number of parents choosing for their children to attend alternative provision, instead of transferring to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. The authority's view is that this uncertainty in relation to secondary progression has contributed to the lack of growth of Ysgol y Bannau.</p> <p>The authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would provide greater clarity in terms of the Welsh-medium provision available in the secondary sector. This would enable the authority to work with other organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin and Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed to promote the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education, with the aim that any reduction in pupil numbers could be reversed in the longer term, with the potential that they could increase.</p>

	<p>is a threat to the creation of a critical mass of pupils for Key Stages 3 and 4</p> <p>The council needs to accept that it will be responsible for the decline in numbers in Ysgol y Bannau</p> <p>If the Welsh stream goes from the high school, parents will think that there's no point sending their children to Welsh-medium education and the numbers will go down</p> <p>Only the Welsh speaking families will be left in Ysgol y Bannau – at the moment 2/3 of pupils have no Welsh at home</p> <p>Numbers in the 3 year old setting at Ysgol y Bannau have decreased over the last two years</p>	
9.1.2	<p>The consultation document refers to providing support to Ysgol y Bannau to maintain pupil numbers, if not grow, to help with the numbers transferring to Builth Wells, why can't the same support be provided to Ysgol y Bannau to support a Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School?</p>	<p>Over the years, the authority has worked with organisations such as Menter Brycheiniog and Twf to promote Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area. However, the limited secondary provision available has caused difficulties with this work. The authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would provide greater clarity in terms of the Welsh-medium provision available in the secondary sector. This would enable the authority to work with other organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin and Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed to promote the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education, with the aim that any reduction in pupil numbers could be reversed in the longer term, with the potential that they could increase.</p>
9.1.3	<p>Have had to increase the opening hours of the Cylch Meithrin in Brecon due to an increase in the number of children</p>	<p>The authority is pleased to note that the number of children attending the Cylch Meithrin provision in Brecon is increasing. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin and Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed to promote the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education, in order to promote progression</p>

		into Welsh-medium education, and would hope that the greater clarity in terms of the Welsh-medium provision available in the secondary sector for pupils from the Brecon area would support this.
9.2 Threat of closure of Ysgol y Bannau		
9.2.1	<p>The proposal could result in closure of Ysgol y Bannau</p> <p>The proposal would have a huge impact on the viability of Ysgol y Bannau</p> <p>The proposal would lead to closure of a lovely, happy and safe Welsh-medium primary school</p> <p>Removing the Welsh-medium stream will almost certainly guarantee the closure of Ysgol y Bannau</p> <p>Concern about the future of Ysgol y Bannau if the proposal goes through</p> <p>You say that you have no plans to close Ysgol y Bannau, however the proposal is already having a detrimental impact and if parents vote with their feet, the school is likely to close in the future</p>	<p>The authority is not planning to close Ysgol y Bannau. The authority is committed to Ysgol y Bannau as a provider of Welsh-medium education in Brecon, and would hope that the improved clarity with regard to secondary progression would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at the school in the long term.</p> <p>The authority's draft WESP for 2017-20 states the authority's aim to increase the number of Welsh-medium pupils in Powys, and Ysgol y Bannau will be a key partner for the authority in this work.</p>
9.2.2	<p>The reduction in pupil numbers could mean that the school will become too small to maintain its present site and will return to being a unit in an English-medium primary school in Brecon town</p> <p>Concern that Ysgol y Bannau will have to move in the future</p>	<p>The authority currently has no plans to relocate Ysgol y Bannau.</p> <p>The authority acknowledges that the model of a designated Welsh-medium school is preferable to a dual stream school in terms of ensuring that pupils can develop their bilingual skills, therefore the authority would not propose the school returning to being a unit in an English-medium primary school.</p>
9.3 Issues relating to parental preference		

9.3.1	<p>The parents of most pupils at Ysgol y Bannau want their children to transfer to Brecon High School not Builth Wells High School</p> <p>The majority of parents of year 6 pupils in Ysgol y Bannau wish their children to transfer to Brecon High School in September 2017, and will continue to send their children here if the Welsh stream closes</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. However, even if all pupils attending Ysgol y Bannau transferred to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the number of pupils in each year group would remain small.</p> <p>The authority accepts that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education.</p>
9.3.2	<p>Many parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau are non-Welsh speakers who take a 'leap of faith' when they choose Welsh-medium education – they will not take that 'leap of faith' if there is no secondary provision available locally</p>	<p>In contrast to other designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Powys, pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau have not grown significantly in recent years. The authority's view is that the lack of secondary provision which provides equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils and access to a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum is one of the reasons for this. The authority's hope is that the improved clarity in relation to the Welsh-medium opportunities available in the secondary phase would encourage more parents to take a 'leap of faith' and choose Welsh-medium education. This supports the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium education strategy, which states that: 'Welsh-medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual'.</p>
9.4 Impact on staff		
9.4.1	<p>There will be redundancies amongst the staff</p> <p>The reduction in pupil numbers could be to such an extent that the school will face teacher redundancies</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that any school organisation proposal will lead to a period of uncertainty for staff, and that staff at Ysgol y Bannau may be concerned about the school's future. However the authority is committed to Ysgol y Bannau as a provider of Welsh-medium education in Brecon, and would hope that the improved clarity with regard to secondary progression would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at the school in the long term.</p>
9.5 Other		

9.5.1	Without the Welsh stream at Brecon High School, Ysgol y Bannau will operate in isolation	<p>Ysgol y Bannau currently operates in isolation to some extent, this was one of the reasons why Clwstwr y Ffynnon was established, to strengthen links between Ysgol y Bannau and other Welsh-medium providers in south Powys.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for Builth Wells High School, which would result in strengthened links with that school and other schools which feed the school's Welsh-medium stream.</p>
9.5.2	Ysgol y Bannau has an after school club called Y Gorlan which employs Welsh speaking 6 th form pupils from Brecon High School. If these pupils weren't attending Brecon High School they would not be back in time to do this, therefore Y Gorlan would struggle to find people to work these strange hours	The authority notes this comment.
9.5.3	When Ysgol y Bannau was built there was a lot of talk about the fact that Welsh-medium primary pupils could choose Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School, however there appears to have been a change of viewpoint	<p>The authority agrees that in an ideal world, pupils would be able to access comprehensive Welsh-medium primary and secondary provision locally. However the current provision at Brecon High School does not offer comprehensive provision for pupils. In addition, the current arrangement of providing access to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon has not led to any significant increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area over recent years.</p> <p>The authority's view is that in order to increase the provision available in order to provide a greater level of equality for Welsh-medium pupils, the current two providers need to be consolidated.</p>
9.5.4	Ysgol y Bannau is being discriminated against	The authority's view is that the current provision at Brecon High School is not providing equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils in the catchment, and that this is unfair to pupils. The aim of the proposal is provide greater equality of provision for Welsh-medium pupils, however it is acknowledged that there will be some negative implications associated with this.

9.5.5	<p>There is no point having Welsh-medium primary provision in Brecon if there is no follow on provision</p> <p>The proximity of Ysgol y Bannau to Brecon High School makes it obvious that there should be continuity in Welsh-medium education from primary to secondary</p> <p>It's good for Ysgol y Bannau that there is a Welsh stream next door, if it moves this won't be the case</p>	<p>The authority does not agree with this statement. Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd located in Newtown has grown significantly in recent years despite there being no Welsh-medium secondary provision located in the town.</p> <p>Due to the growth in numbers at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, the council has recently invested in a new building for the school, which allows for further growth. The new school is located next door to Newtown High School, an English-medium secondary school.</p>
9.5.6	Ysgol y Bannau is at the top of a hill, this can put lower income families without cars off choosing Welsh-medium education	The authority notes this comment, and accepts that the location of Ysgol y Bannau could be a barrier to accessing Welsh-medium education for some families.
10. ISSUES RELATING TO EQUALITY / DISCRIMINATION		
10.1 Discrimination against poorer families		
10.1.1	<p>Welsh-medium education will only be accessible to wealthier families</p> <p>The council is discriminating against those less fortunate to favour those that are well off</p> <p>Low income families will be unable to carry on in Welsh-medium education</p> <p>Families from low income families will have to choose between Welsh and quality of life</p>	<p>In the draft equality impact assessment produced in respect of this proposal, the authority identified that should the proposal be implemented, 'Some people on low incomes will be affected. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to alternative provision, it is likely that the greater distance to travel to the school for other activities would have a greater impact on people on low incomes'.</p> <p>The draft impact assessment will be updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.</p>
10.1.2	Pupils from disadvantaged families will be prevented from accessing Welsh-medium	The authority notes these concerns. However, the authority's view is that the current limited Welsh-medium provision provided at Brecon High School is

	<p>education – parents will be unable to support their children if they are not in a position to travel to attend events, activities, parents evenings or to take children to school after hospital / dentist appointments</p> <p>The proposal does not create equal opportunity as parents from disadvantaged families will not be able to travel the distances to support their children in extra-curricular activities</p>	<p>disadvantaging Welsh-medium pupils and is not providing equal opportunity for these pupils.</p> <p>The draft equality impact assessment produced in respect of this proposal identified that the proposal would have an impact on people/families on low incomes. The impact assessment will be updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.</p>
10.1.3	<p>The majority of pupils travelling to Builth for Welsh-medium secondary education are from more advantaged families with those unable to consider this as an option remaining in Brecon with less provision</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, which would include consideration of the impact of additional travel.</p>
10.1.4	<p>The proposal discriminates against pupils with working parents</p>	<p>The authority does not agree that the proposal discriminates against pupils with working parents. The authority has acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in travel for pupils, and that this would also impact on parents, and that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, which would include consideration of the impact of additional travel.</p>
10.2 Discrimination against Welsh-medium pupils		
10.2.1	<p>Welsh-medium children will be disadvantaged compared to English-medium pupils who are easily able to access all extra-curricular activities at no or low cost to their families</p> <p>Moving Welsh speaking children out of their community is not providing equality, it is marginalising them and pushing them away from</p>	<p>The authority's view is that Welsh-medium pupils are currently disadvantaged to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available to them at Brecon High School. The aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality to Welsh-medium pupils in terms of the Welsh-medium curriculum available to them, however it is acknowledged that there are disadvantages and risks associated with this.</p>

	<p>their local community</p> <p>Children wanting to learn through the medium of Welsh are not being treated equally – pupils are being asked to transfer to a sub-standard school which is under-achieving in order to continue with education through the medium of Welsh – English-medium pupils are not being asked to do this</p> <p>If Welsh is a student’s first language, Powys is proposing to force them to travel elsewhere – is this equal opportunity for all or discrimination?</p>	
10.2.2	<p>The council intends to exclude children from attending the school they assisted in improving simply because of the language they speak</p>	<p>The authority is not excluding children from attending Brecon High School. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School could either transfer to alternative providers of Welsh-medium education or they could transfer to the English-medium stream at Brecon High School.</p>
10.2.3	<p>Question of fairness and discrimination to Welsh-medium pupils if they are to be expected to transfer to study Welsh second language – they will not have the opportunity to learn and develop their first language / mother tongue</p> <p>If there is no Welsh first language taught at Brecon High, there will be a breach of equal opportunities – first language Welsh speakers will not even be able to study Welsh language and literature apart from as a second language</p>	<p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, the school would be categorised as a ‘Predominantly English Medium secondary school’</p> <p>The Welsh Government document ‘Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision’ (2007) provides the following definition for the curriculum provision of this type of school: ‘Pupils are mainly taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language up to KS4. One or two subjects (which would include Welsh first language) may be taught as an option through the medium of Welsh or using both languages.’</p> <p>Whether or not to provide the opportunity for pupils who study Welsh First Language would be a decision for the school. There are examples of ‘Predominantly English Medium secondary schools’ in Powys that do provide the opportunity for pupils to study Welsh First Language, however no funding is provided by the authority to support this provision.</p>

10.3 Discrimination against the Welsh language		
10.3.1	<p>The proposal is discrimination against the Welsh language</p> <p>The proposal treats the Welsh language less favourably than English</p> <p>Comparison with the Welsh Not</p> <p>The implication in the proposal is that the Welsh language and those who wish to speak it are of less important than their monoglot counterparts</p>	<p>The authority does not agree with these statements. The authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is discriminating against Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon area. The aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality to Welsh-medium pupils compared with English-medium pupils.</p>
10.3.2	<p>The whole process has given the impression that the falling numbers have been planned and shows a strong sense of discrimination towards the Welsh language</p>	<p>This is not the case. The current consultation has been carried out in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. No final decision has yet been made in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, and all issues raised will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed. However, it is acknowledged that a number of parents decided to move their children to alternative Welsh-medium provision following the initial Cabinet decision to consult on closure of the Welsh-medium stream, and that this has impacted on the numbers currently attending the stream.</p>
10.4 Issues relating to racism		
10.4.1	<p>It's unequal and possibly racist that English speaking pupils will be able to access the benefits of a new school building, but this won't be available to Welsh speakers</p>	<p>The authority does not agree with this statement. The authority's view is that the current provision is unequal and unfair to Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available at Brecon High School. The aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality to Welsh-medium pupils in terms of the Welsh-medium curriculum available to them, however it is acknowledged that there are disadvantages and risks associated with this.</p> <p>Whilst a new building for Brecon High School would be a fresh start for</p>

		<p>secondary education in Brecon, there would be no significant increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the short term, therefore it would be difficult for the new school to offer any more Welsh-medium subjects than are currently offered.</p> <p>Should this proposal be implemented, there would be no Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School, and therefore there would be no Welsh-medium stream at the new school building. However Welsh-medium pupils will still be able to apply for a place in Brecon High School, should that be their preference, and places would be allocated in accordance with the authority's Admissions Policy.</p>
10.4.2	The council is trying to carry out cultural cleansing in this part of Powys. How can the council justify this discrimination?	The authority does not agree with this statement. The authority's view is that the current provision is unequal and unfair to Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available at Brecon High School. The aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality to Welsh-medium pupils in terms of the Welsh-medium curriculum available to them, however it is acknowledged that there are disadvantages and risks associated with this.
10.5 Other		
10.5.1	Brecon High School successfully integrates the Nepalese community and students from Eastern Europe, but now the council wants to take the Welsh-medium voice out of the school	All secondary schools in Wales are encouraged to develop a Welsh language ethos, whether or not they provide Welsh-medium education. If there were no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the school would continue to teach Welsh 2 nd language to pupils, and would be expected to maintain a Welsh ethos and provide opportunities for pupils to use incidental Welsh. This would ensure that pupils from the Nepalese community and Eastern Europe would continue to have exposure to the Welsh language.
10.5.2	<p>In terms of equality of provision / equal opportunity, this is not the best option</p> <p>The proposal goes against Powys County Council's own School Organisation Policy due to not creating equal opportunities for all students</p>	The authority's view is that the current provision is unequal and unfair to Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available at Brecon High School. The aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality to Welsh-medium pupils in terms of the Welsh-medium curriculum available to them, however it is acknowledged that there are disadvantages and risks associated with this.

10.5.3	The council is breaking its own equal opportunities policy	The authority's view is that the current provision is unequal and unfair to Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available at Brecon High School. The aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality to Welsh-medium pupils in terms of the Welsh-medium curriculum available to them, however it is acknowledged that there are disadvantages and risks associated with this.
11. WELSH-MEDIUM PUPIL NUMBERS AND ACCESS TO WELSH-MEDIUM PROVISION		
11.1 Current Welsh-medium pupils will transfer to English-medium provision		
11.1.1	<p>If the Welsh stream is closed pupils will be forced out of Welsh-medium education</p> <p>If there was no Welsh stream in Brecon, pupils would have to move to English-medium provision as the additional travel time is unrealistic</p> <p>Brecon High School will continue to be a popular option for the majority of Ysgol y Bannau parents, whether it retains a Welsh stream or not</p>	<p>It is not true that pupils would be 'forced' out of Welsh-medium education should the proposal be implemented. However, the authority acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education.</p> <p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and other Welsh-medium primary providers in the catchment area could choose to transfer to their nearest alternative provider of Welsh-medium secondary education, which in some cases would be out of county, or they could choose to access English-medium provision locally.</p>
11.1.2	<p>If you close the stream you will lose Welsh-medium pupils to English-medium education</p> <p>Many parents have already opted for English-medium provision due to the proposal</p> <p>Many pupils have already gone to other English-medium schools instead of going to Builth</p> <p>Parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau don't want their children to travel to Builth so they are</p>	<p>On page 16 of the consultation document, the council has identified the following as a risk of the proposal:</p> <p>'Pupils choose to access English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school'.</p> <p>The authority's view is that the Welsh-medium provision currently available at Brecon High School does not provide appropriate linguistic continuity for Welsh-medium pupils, and the aim of the proposal is to provide greater equality in terms of the provision available to Welsh-medium pupils. However</p>

	<p>sending them to Gwernyfed or Crickhowell</p> <p>Pupils currently in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School won't transfer to Builth – they will be lost to Welsh-medium education</p> <p>If the Welsh stream closed, a lot of the Welsh-medium pupils currently at Brecon High School would stay in the school anyway</p> <p>The majority of year 6 pupils at Ysgol y Bannau have committed to transfer to Brecon High School in September 2017, these children will be lost to Welsh-medium education if you close the Welsh-medium stream</p>	<p>as stated in the consultation document, 'in the short term, the authority would expect there to be some reduction in the proportion of pupils from the Brecon area continuing to access Welsh-medium provision in the secondary sector.'</p> <p>Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government's priorities, and the authority is required to monitor pupil progression within Welsh-medium education annually, and report this information to Welsh Government. As stated in the consultation document, 'should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers, with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term'.</p>
<p>11.2 Parents won't choose Welsh-medium primary education in the first place</p>		
11.2.1	<p>Future parents will not make the initial commitment to send their children to Ysgol y Bannau if the local secondary provision is removed, therefore pupil numbers will suffer and Welsh will be lost to south Powys</p> <p>Parents won't send their children to a Welsh-medium primary if it means a lengthy bus trip when they reach secondary school age</p> <p>The number of children and families choosing Welsh-medium in the Brecon area will fall drastically</p> <p>The proposal will mean that parents won't enter Welsh-medium education or will leave it</p>	<p>On page 17 of the consultation document, the council has identified the following as a risk of the proposal:</p> <p>'Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon'.</p> <p>The document goes on to state that 'The authority acknowledges that there may be a reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau in the short term. However, the authority is committed to increasing the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education, and would work with Ysgol y Bannau, Menter Brycheiniog and other organisations to promote the benefits of Welsh-medium primary education in the Brecon area. The authority would hope that the greater clarity in relation to secondary arrangements for pupils from the Brecon area and the increased level of provision available would lead to an increase in pupil numbers in future.'</p>

	Parents have already been lost to Welsh-medium primary education due to the uncertainty	
11.2.2	The council is putting barriers in the way of parents who would otherwise consider Welsh-medium education	The authority is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium education to all parents that request it, and to provide access to an appropriate Welsh-medium curriculum for Welsh-medium pupils. The number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is very small, and the provision available is limited.
11.2.3	New families living in the area would not see Welsh-medium education as an option	The authority is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium education to all parents that request it. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh-medium education would continue to be an option to all parents, through access to primary provision at Ysgol y Bannau and the Welsh-medium stream at Sennybridge C.P. School and the provision of home to school transport to the nearest provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision.
11.3 Suggestions to increase Welsh-medium pupil numbers		
11.3.1	<p>The Welsh-medium stream at Brecon is an advert for Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area – to help Welsh-medium numbers grow you must keep the Welsh stream in Brecon</p> <p>Keeping the Welsh stream in Brecon will grow Welsh in this part of Wales</p> <p>Welsh-medium pupil numbers vary from year to year, but future for the Welsh language in Brecon will only increase the numbers</p> <p>Powys needs to nurture Welsh, this can only be done if you work on smaller cohorts and get them to grow in the areas they are</p>	<p>There is no evidence that this is the case. As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, there has been no increase in pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau in recent years, despite there being access to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon High School. This is in contrast to other areas of Powys, where there has been an increase in the number of pupils attending Welsh-medium primary schools.</p> <p>The current provision in Brecon and across Powys has not led to any significant overall growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in recent years. As stated in the authority's draft WESP for 2017-20, 'The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'.</p>
11.3.2	There has to be a positive drive to promote	The authority acknowledges the need to promote the Welsh-medium

	Welsh-medium education, led and supported by the authority	opportunities available in Powys. The authority's draft WESP for 2017-20 includes a commitment to 'work with key stakeholders, such as the Mentrau Iaith, to implement a Communications / Marketing Strategy in conjunction with the establishment of any new Welsh-medium provision, in line with the authority's Welsh-language Promotion Strategy'.
11.3.3	Powys needs to look in more detail, research properly and invest initially in order to grow Welsh-medium education so that in the future it will grow and sustain itself	The authority's vision and strategic direction for Welsh-medium education is set out in the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20. The authority's view is that change is needed to the current method of delivering Welsh-medium education in Powys. The current method of delivery is not leading to growth in the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh. As stated in the authority's draft WESP for 2017-20, 'The council recognises that significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'.
11.3.4	If Welsh-medium education was compulsory in primary schools, there would be an increase in numbers	The authority currently has no plans to make Welsh-medium education compulsory in primary schools.
11.3.5	Does the council advertise Welsh-medium options to all primary schools?	Information about Welsh-medium provision is provided in the council's Admissions Booklet.
11.4 Access to Welsh-medium education		
11.4.1	As many people as possible should have access to Welsh-medium education in Wales Every child should have access to Welsh-medium education Would hope that the council would do everything it can to safeguard, promote and ensure that	The authority agrees that as many people as possible should have access to Welsh-medium education, and is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium education to all that request it.

	<p>people have the opportunity to access Welsh language provision</p> <p>The Welsh stream must be kept in Brecon to ensure that everyone has access to Welsh-medium education</p>	
11.4.2	<p>The proposal would remove all accessible secondary Welsh-medium education for low income families in the Brecon catchment area</p> <p>Asking all pupils who wish to be educated in Welsh to travel many miles to school is a retrograde step</p>	<p>The authority notes this concern, and acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would lead to additional travel for Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon catchment. However, the authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is not providing equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils.</p>
11.4.3	<p>How central will Welsh-medium provision be?</p> <p>Where will be the most southern dedicated Welsh-medium stream secondary school?</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, the most southern Welsh-medium provision in Powys would be located in Builth Wells. However, Welsh-medium secondary provision is also available at a number of out-of-county locations on the periphery of south Powys, including Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun.</p>
11.4.4	<p>There should be a Welsh stream in every school because that is the way the Welsh language will be promoted</p> <p>All schools in Wales should have a Welsh stream or the opportunity to have a Welsh stream</p> <p>Pupils should have the opportunity to continue their secondary education locally in Welsh</p> <p>It's good that Welsh-medium education is available locally</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment and agrees that in an ideal world, all schools would provide opportunities for pupils to learn in Welsh, and all pupils would have the opportunity to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary education in their local secondary school. However, due to the small number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School, the school is unable to provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils compared with the opportunities available to English-medium pupils.</p>
11.4.5	<p>Brecon is the right place for Welsh-medium</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that the population of the Brecon catchment is</p>

	<p>education</p> <p>Brecon is the second largest population centre in Powys, so it is odd that you plan to reduce Welsh-medium provision here and bus students away from Brecon</p> <p>Brecon has the required population density, transport links and hub status within local and Welsh government to make Welsh-medium education viable and sustainable</p>	<p>larger than the population of the Builth Wells catchment, however there are currently more Welsh-medium pupils in Builth Wells High School compared with Brecon High School.</p>
11.4.6	<p>Closing the Welsh stream at Brecon High School would mean removing all Welsh-medium secondary education from the Brecon Beacons National Park which would undermine their policies on promoting the Welsh language within the park</p>	<p>It is true that should the proposal be implemented, there would be no Welsh-medium secondary education within the Brecon Beacons National Park. However, primary education would continue to be provided at Ysgol y Bannau, and the council would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium provision through the provision of home to school transport to alternative providers.</p>
11.5 Issues relating to parental choice		
11.5.1	<p>Currently there is a lack of choice for Welsh-medium pupils – if pupils don't get on with other children in their class or their teachers and want to change schools, their only option is English-medium</p> <p>In Brecon there are 3 English-medium primary schools and only one Welsh-medium primary school, so Welsh-medium parents do not have a choice</p>	<p>The authority notes these comments, however the authority currently has no plans to introduce another Welsh-medium stream in the primary sector in Brecon.</p>
11.5.2	<p>The council needs to create choice within WM education, not reduce choice, which closing Brecon High Welsh stream will do</p>	<p>The authority's priority is to provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils compared with English-medium pupils. The current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is very limited and does not provide equality of</p>

	<p>Closing the Welsh stream in Brecon would restrict choice</p> <p>Pupils and families should be able to choose between going to Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School</p>	<p>opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would still be able to choose between transferring to alternative Welsh-medium provision or accessing English-medium provision locally.</p>
11.5.3	<p>Ysgol y Bannau is too big a leap for some families as it is a 100% Welsh school, so a stream within another primary school would be a choice for some families</p>	<p>The authority currently has no plans to introduce another Welsh-medium stream in the primary sector in Brecon.</p>
11.6 Other		
11.6.1	<p>If families really want their children to have a full Welsh-medium education they would have sent them to Ystalyfera – look at the numbers going to Ystalyfera to see the number of pupils that will continue with Welsh-medium education after the Brecon stream closes</p>	<p>Whilst it is true that a number of parents from the current catchment of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have chosen for their children to attend Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, a number have also chosen for their children to attend Builth Wells High School.</p>
11.6.2	<p>Your acceptance of losing a percentage of pupils to English-medium in the short term is likely to be a permanent consequence of closing the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon. How does this comply with the Welsh Government's strategic aims for the Welsh language, including those outlined within the Donaldson report?</p> <p>2 years ago the council had 57 pupils in Brecon and 107 in Builth. If you close the Welsh stream, you will have gone from a total of 164 pupils to 124 pupils</p>	<p>The authority has acknowledged on page 16 of the consultation document that 'in the short term, the authority would expect there to be some reduction in the proportion of pupils from the Brecon area continuing to access Welsh-medium provision in the secondary sector'.</p> <p>However, the current Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School is very limited – based on the school's current provision, it is categorised as a Category 3 school, which is described as a 'Predominantly English-medium secondary school with significant use of Welsh'.</p> <p>Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government's priorities. Pupil retention is monitored annually and the figures are reported to Welsh Government. Should the proposal be implemented, the</p>

		authority's view is that the provision available to Welsh-medium pupils in the secondary sector would be more comprehensive. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers, with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term.
12. GENERAL ISSUES RELATING TO WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION		
12.1 Issues relating to the establishment of a Welsh-medium Secondary School in South Powys		
12.1.1 In favour of establishing a Welsh-medium Secondary School		
12.1.1.1	<p>The council has been unable to ensure the development of the Welsh stream in Brecon and cannot ensure this in Builth Wells High School either – the only way to ensure provision that is consistent is by establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school</p> <p>It is appalling that there is no Welsh-medium secondary school in the whole of south Powys – Powys is failing its children, who do not have the same opportunities as children in other areas of Wales</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. The authority acknowledges on page 16 of the consultation that one disadvantage associated with the proposal is that 'Powys based provision would still be in a dual stream school, rather than a designated Welsh-medium school.'</p> <p>The consultation document also states on page 21 that 'the authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High school is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.'</p>
12.1.1.2	RhAG branches in mid and south Powys consider establishing a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the area as a basic aim, to ensure that pupils can access a full range of pre-16 and post-16 subjects through the medium of Welsh	The authority notes this comment. As stated on page 21 of the consultation document, 'the authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High school is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.'
12.1.1.3	Reference to a survey carried out by RhAG in 2011 which found that:	The authority notes this comment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 81% of respondents were in favour of establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school (category 1 or 2A) in south Powys <p>and a survey carried out by RhAG in 2016, during the consultation period, which found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 76% of respondents were in favour of establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school (category 1 or 2A) in south Powys, and - 76% were of the view that the current arrangement does not offer equality of opportunity for pupils in South Powys. 	
12.1.1.4	Currently the only way for Powys pupils to receive their secondary education fully through the medium of Welsh is by travelling out of county to access this type of provision.	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.1.5	Due to the lack of access to a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in Powys, Powys County Council is currently disadvantaging a significant proportion of learners, this is in contrast to other authorities across Wales.	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.1.6	If a Welsh-medium secondary school was established in the area, it would grow and thrive once it had become established, in line with the experience in other areas across Wales	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.1.7	Establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school would enable parents to see a clear path in terms of transition within Welsh-medium education.	The authority notes this comment.

12.1.1.8	Powys is in the minority as a county without a Welsh-medium secondary school	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.1.9	Powys County Council should adopt the principle that designated Welsh-medium secondary schools (category 1 or 2A) are the preferred model for providing Welsh-medium secondary education in Powys as the basis for any further proposals developed following this consultation.	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.1.10	Establishing Welsh-medium secondary schools across the county should be a key element of the council's strategic planning in order to further develop Welsh-medium education in Powys.	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.1.11	Prefer the model of a Welsh-medium school to a dual stream school – in a dual stream school not everyone understands Welsh so you have to speak English	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.2 Against establishing a Welsh-medium Secondary School		
12.1.2.1	<p>The council shouldn't close the Welsh stream at Brecon to work towards getting a Welsh-medium high school, as this will decrease the number of families choosing Welsh-medium education and will lead to less Welsh-medium children not more</p> <p>Lots of children will lose out on Welsh-medium education if the council closes the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School in its bid to establish the first category 2A school in the county</p>	<p>The authority has a duty to provide access to Welsh-medium education to those pupils that choose it. The authority's view is that the current provision in mid and south Powys does not provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available, and the authority's view is that the only way to improve this is to centralise provision in the area in order to provide access to an increase Welsh-medium curriculum.</p> <p>The authority has acknowledged in the consultation document that there are a number of risks associated with the proposal, which include a potential impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the short term. The authority is not currently proposing to establish a Welsh-medium secondary school in the mid/south Powys area, however, as stated on page 21 of the consultation</p>

		document, ‘the authority’s view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High school is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.’
12.1.2.2	Putting Welsh-medium pupils in a designated Welsh-medium secondary school “ghetto’s” the language	The authority does not agree that Welsh-medium secondary school’s “ghetto” the language.
12.1.2.3	Not all parents want their children educated entirely through the medium of Welsh and your ultimate aim to provide a Welsh medium school or extended curriculum is not everyone’s preference	The authority has a duty to provide access to Welsh-medium education to those pupils that choose it. The authority’s view is that the current provision in mid and south Powys does not provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available, and the authority’s view is that the only way to improve this is to centralise provision in the area in order to provide access to an increase Welsh-medium curriculum.
12.1.3 Criticism of dual stream model		
12.1.3.1	Based on previous experience, we are concerned that the dual stream model will not success, despite the best efforts of the school	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.3.2	The dual stream model in Powys is disadvantaging Welsh-medium pupils compared with pupils in other areas of Wales The uncertainty that exists within the dual stream system is unfair to Welsh-medium pupils	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.3.3	The success of the dual stream model is dependent on individuals – changes in a school’s headteacher and governing body can have a serious impact on the leadership and Welsh	The authority notes this comment.

	language ethos of a dual stream school	
12.1.3.4	The council has been unable to ensure the development of the Welsh stream in Brecon and cannot ensure this in Builth Wells High School either	The authority notes this comment.
12.1.4 Other		
12.1.4.1	Powys should have a Welsh-medium secondary school but Powys does not have the numbers to do this, and trying to force children to a central point will not work	The authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys does not provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils due to the limited Welsh-medium curriculum available, and that the best way to improve the provision available is to centralise the provision.
12.1.4.2	A report by the council identified that the largest percentage of respondents who would prefer a designated Welsh-medium school were those in the Brecon catchment area, so why is the council deciding to centralise and make a start for a Welsh-medium school in Builth?	The report referred to was the result of a survey carried out by the authority to assess the demand for designated Welsh-medium secondary provision across Powys. The question asked to parents was whether they would prefer for their children to attend a designated Welsh-medium secondary school or a Welsh-medium stream in a dual stream school. The report identified that the largest percentage of respondents who would prefer a designated Welsh-medium school were those in the Brecon catchment. However that isn't the same as saying that the greatest demand for Welsh-medium secondary provision is in the Brecon catchment. This proposal is not about establishing a designated Welsh-medium school.
12.2 Reference to the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education		
12.2.1	<p>Bilingual pupils will be able to contribute to and benefit from a bilingual society</p> <p>Bilingual children will have a distinct advantage in the job market</p> <p>Being bilingual will improve pupils thinking and creativity</p>	The authority is fully aware of the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education and is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium education to all pupils that request it. Due to the rural nature of Powys and the number of pupils currently educated through the medium of Welsh, it is inevitable that in some cases, access to Welsh-medium provision will be via the provision of home to school transport to the nearest provider.

	<p>Being bilingual will make it easier for pupils to learn other languages</p> <p>Being bilingual will give pupils a stronger sense of identity and will help them stand out from the crowd</p> <p>Being bilingual will help pupils to value and appreciate other cultures</p> <p>Reference to benefits to pupils of being able to learn, speak and use more than one language</p> <p>Reference to benefits of being bilingual – research by Neuroscientists at University College London: http://www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/doc/papers/am_vb_mreview.pdf</p> <p>It's a great advantage for children to learn and be educated in the native language of Wales</p>	
12.3 Reference to other local authorities		
12.3.1	<p>Places like Monmouthshire are actively surveying and researching their present families with 2 year olds to see what demand for WM education will be in the future, why are you not doing this?</p>	<p>The authority carried out a survey to measure demand for Welsh-medium education in 2010, and the results have helped to inform the primary and secondary modernisation programmes. The authority has been prepared to carry out a further survey since 2014 in line with Welsh Government guidelines, however there have been difficulties with accessing the information required to conduct this survey.</p> <p>Even if any such survey did identify significant additional demand for Welsh-medium education in the Brecon catchment area, it would be many years until this additional demand fed through to the secondary sector, therefore any</p>

		<p>future increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers would not improve the breadth of Welsh-medium provision available to pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium provision in the Brecon catchment area.</p>
12.3.2	<p>The support and provision in Gwent for Welsh-medium children is far greater than has been shown in Powys</p>	<p>The authority's vision and aspiration for Welsh-medium education is set out in the council's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-20. As stated in the document, 'The authority aspires to develop an infrastructure that enables all pupils to access full provision in either Welsh or English throughout their educational careers.'</p> <p>Due to the rural nature of Powys, the authority is faced with making difficult decisions in order to work towards achieving this aspiration.</p> <p>In local government terms, Gwent was abolished in 1996, and has been succeeded by Blaenau Gwent County Borough, Caerphilly County Borough, Monmouthshire, the City of Newport and Torfaen County Borough. These areas are very different to Powys in terms of area and population density in particular, therefore the challenges facing these authorities are very different to those facing Powys County Council.</p>
12.4 Criticism of RhAG		
12.4.1	<p>RhAG are focussing on the wrong thing by concentrating on establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school – if you follow their recommendations you will lose any future in Welsh-medium education</p> <p>RhAG are fighting to get Powys to have a Welsh-medium only secondary school, but that must not be at the cost of stopping some children having access to Welsh-medium education</p>	<p>Due to the open and public nature of the consultation exercise carried out in respect of the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School, RhAG were entitled to respond to the consultation. However, no greater weighting is given to the response received from RhAG than any other response received.</p> <p>Whilst the current proposal under consideration does not propose the establishment of a Welsh-medium secondary school, the authority agrees that more Welsh-medium opportunities are provided to pupils in a Welsh-medium secondary schools compared to those offered in a dual stream secondary school. As stated in Powys' draft WESP for 2017-20: 'The authority fully agrees with the view of Welsh Government that pupils are more likely to become fully bilingual after attending Welsh-medium schools, particularly</p>

		when they come from non-Welsh speaking homes’.
12.4.2	The questionnaires sent by RhAG are misleading and don't give an opportunity to put what we want	<p>A report on the survey carried out by RhAG during the consultation period was received as a response to the consultation, however this is only one response. No greater weighting is given to the response received from RhAG than any other response.</p> <p>Any parents who did not agree with the content of the questionnaire distributed by RhAG were entitled not to complete it, and in addition, they were entitled to submit their own response to the consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, to inform the council of their views.</p>
12.5 Other		
12.5.1	There was an experiment in Builth where English-medium children were immersed in Welsh so that they could move to Welsh-medium education at secondary level. Why has this not been tried with English-medium pupils in Sennybridge, or advertised in the Brecon area?	<p>It is true that a late immersion or ‘trochi’ programme was provided at Builth Wells High School a number of years ago. The possibility of establishing this type of programme was discussed with the previous headteacher of Brecon High School in 2011-12, however it was agreed that it was not an appropriate time for the school to introduce such a programme as it would be difficult to offer an appropriate level of immersion for pupils.</p> <p>Late immersion or ‘trochi’ programmes were historically funded by the Welsh Language Board, and this funding was later incorporated into the Welsh in Education Grant. However, this grant was discontinued in 2015, and is now incorporated into the Education Improvement Grant. At the current time, the authority does not have any funding available to support ‘trochi’ programmes, however identifying opportunities to introduce this type of provision is an objective of the council’s draft WESP for 2017-20.</p>
12.5.2	It’s important that the council centralises Welsh-medium provision – it is difficult for schools in this area to get Welsh-medium teachers and by centralising, they can focus on getting better teachers and can offer a wider variety of subjects	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges the difficulties experienced by schools in the area to appoint Welsh-medium teachers.

	in Welsh	
12.5.3	Concern that raising the age of admission will have a negative impact on language competency as pupils won't be immersed in the Welsh language until they are 5	The authority notes this comment. The raising of the age of admission in Powys schools is a separate process, and consultation on this took place during the spring term 2016. The authority has recognised the need to ensure that Welsh-medium pre-school provision is provided across the authority.
13. ISSUES RELATING TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE		
13.1 Detrimental impact on the Welsh language		
13.1.1	<p>Closure of the Welsh-medium stream will have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language</p> <p>PCC needs to accept that it will be responsible for the decline in the Welsh language in the Brecon area</p> <p>The council should be looking to promote Welsh not kill it at its roots</p> <p>The proposal will kill the language in South Powys</p> <p>The Welsh language is Wales' most precious asset, to lose it would be shameful</p> <p>Closing the Welsh stream will have an affect on the Welsh language in Brecknockshire</p> <p>The proposal will make the Brecon area an English only area</p> <p>Brecon would once again become an anglicised part of Wales as it was in the past</p>	<p>The authority does not agree with these comments. The current method of delivering Welsh-medium education in the area has not led to any significant increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority's view is that change is needed to the method of delivery in order to encourage confidence and the system and a growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers.</p> <p>Further to this, there was a decrease of 1.7% in the number of Welsh speakers in Brecon between the 2001 census and the 2011 census, which suggests that the proportion of Welsh speakers in the area was declining before the authority commenced any proposals to close the Welsh-medium stream.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils in the Brecon area would continue to have access to Welsh-medium education, at Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge CP School in the primary sector, and at alternative providers such as Builth Wells High School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in the secondary sector. The improved choice and linguistic experience for Welsh-medium pupils at these alternative providers would enable them to be even more confident Welsh speakers.</p> <p>These pupils would continue to live in the Brecon area even if they were receiving their education elsewhere, and they would still be able to contribute to the development of the Welsh language in the Brecon area.</p>

	<p>The proposal will not secure the future of the Welsh language in Brecon – it will deny it completely</p> <p>Concern that the proposal will take the Welsh language out of the Brecon community, and there will be no bilingual teenagers in the community between Ystradgynlais and Builth Wells</p> <p>The proposal would be detrimental to Welsh language and culture</p> <p>Closure of the Welsh stream will have a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language in the Brecon area</p> <p>There will be less people speaking Welsh in Brecon if the Welsh stream closes</p> <p>The area is very anglicised, there is no future for the Welsh language here if the Welsh stream closes</p> <p>It's important for the town of Brecon to keep the Welsh language local</p> <p>First language Welsh students are the future of the Welsh language locally, they need to be an integrated part of the community</p>	
<p>13.2 Impact on Welsh language organisations / activities</p>		
<p>13.2.1</p>	<p>There is considerable local interest in the growth of the Welsh language, which is borne out by the fact that there are almost a dozen classes</p>	<p>The authority notes the concerns in relation to the future of Welsh for Adults provision and other Welsh language activities in the Brecon area. However, the authority's priority is to provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium</p>

	<p>teaching Welsh to adults in the Brecon area</p> <p>Concern about the impact on Welsh for Adults provision</p> <p>Since the consultations have started, the numbers attending Cymraeg i'r Teulu lessons have fallen, this will worsen if the Welsh stream closes</p> <p>Brecon is the centre for the Welsh language with evening classes held in the college, moving the stream will cause this to cease</p>	<p>pupils, and the authority's view is that the current provision in Brecon High School does not offer this.</p>
13.2.2	<p>Concern about the impact on Twf and Mudiad Meithrin</p>	<p>The Twf project came to an end in 2016, and has been replaced by the 'Cymraeg i Blant' project which is run by Mudiad Meithrin.</p> <p>Mudiad Meithrin is a key partner of the council's in terms of the delivery of Welsh-medium early years provision in Powys. Regular meetings take place between Mudiad Meithrin staff and council officers, and a Mudiad Meithrin representative attends meetings of the council's Welsh-medium Education Forum.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, more equitable Welsh-medium provision would be provided to secondary learners in the Brecon area. The authority would work with Mudiad Meithrin and other organisations such as Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed to promote the opportunities available in the Brecon area.</p>
13.2.3	<p>A number of local eisteddfodau are heavily supported by children and parents from local Welsh-medium schools. There would be a considerable loss to the cultural and community life of the area if there were fewer Welsh speaking children able to take part</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils in the Brecon area would continue to have access to Welsh-medium education, at Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge CP School in the primary sector, and at alternative providers such as Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in the secondary sector. The improved choice and linguistic experience for Welsh-medium pupils at these alternative providers would enable them to be even more confident Welsh speakers.</p>

	<p>Welsh language organisations in Brecon need Brecon to have its Welsh children learning and living in Brecon</p> <p>Communities in the Brecon area are working hard to promote Welsh in different ways, however this will be more difficult without Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon</p> <p>The proposal will affect opportunities for young people in the area to use Welsh</p>	<p>These pupils would continue to live in the Brecon area even if they were receiving their education elsewhere, and they would still be able to contribute to the development of the Welsh language in the Brecon area.</p> <p>The alternative schools to which pupils might choose to transfer should the proposal be implemented serve large catchment areas, and there is no reason to believe that these alternative schools would not continue to encourage pupils to support Welsh language activities in their home communities.</p>
13.2.4	There are more Welsh language organisations in the community in Brecon than there are in Builth	The authority notes this statement. However, there are currently more Welsh-medium pupils in the Builth Wells catchment than the Brecon catchment.
13.2.5	Welsh-medium pupils contribute to the development of the Welsh language in the school and in Brecon as a community, how could they contribute without a Welsh stream in the high school?	<p>All schools in Wales are expected to ensure a bilingual ethos, regardless of whether or not they offer Welsh-medium education. Should there be no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the school would continue to teach Welsh as a Second Language, and would be expected to provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom.</p> <p>Should the Welsh-medium stream close, pupils continuing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision would still live in the Brecon area and would continue to be able to contribute to Welsh language activities in the local area.</p>
13.3 General criticism of the council's treatment of the Welsh language		

13.3.1	<p>Shocked that the council does not appreciate the treasure that is our native tongue</p> <p>The council is not showing a positive commitment to the Welsh language</p> <p>The council should be doing all it can to promote the national culture throughout the country, not specialising it in a few areas – cannot see the Basque or Catalan authorities closing down Basque or Catalan medium schools/streams</p>	<p>The authority is committed to supporting the Welsh language, to providing access to Welsh-medium education to all that request it, and to providing equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils. The authority's view is that the current provision in Brecon High School is not providing equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils, and is not encouraging growth in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area. The figures provided on page 12 of the consultation document show that Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area, and in particular at Ysgol y Bannau, have remained fairly stagnant over the last few years. This is contrast with other designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Powys.</p> <p>Whilst the authority has identified in the consultation document that implementation of the proposal could impact on number of pupils attending Ysgol y Bannau in the short term, the authority's hope is that pupils numbers would recover and increase in the longer term due to the greater clarity in relation to secondary progression.</p>
13.3.2	<p>Concern that the council is about to close the Welsh youth club which is the only place pupils can go to speak Welsh</p>	<p>The authority is currently reviewing the provision of Youth Services in Powys, however at the present time, no decision has been made to close any clubs.</p>
13.4 Impact on the ability of employers in the local area to employ Welsh speakers		
13.4.1	<p>The proposal will impact on the number of Welsh speaking employees in the private and public sector in the Brecon area which will have financial implications for employers including PCC eg translation costs and compliance with the new Welsh language laws – surely it is more cost effective to invest in Welsh medium education locally to ensure home grown Welsh speakers are supported</p> <p>Welsh Language Measure 2011 and introduction of the Welsh Language Standards requires</p>	<p>The current small number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School makes the provision unviable, and the authority's view is that the small class sizes and limited Welsh-medium provision is not providing an appropriate educational experience for Welsh-medium pupils. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh-medium secondary provision would continue to be available to pupils in the Brecon area through the provision of free home to school transport to alternative provision. The alternative providers provide an increased level of Welsh-medium provision, and the authority's view is that the increased provision would have a positive impact on pupils' bilingual skills, and would better equip them to use their Welsh language skills in the workplace in the future.</p>

	<p>Brecon Beacons National Park to provide services through the medium of Welsh as well as English. A lack of local Welsh-medium provision will be detrimental to the National Park's residents in the long term and could impact negatively on the authority's ability to provide a bilingual service as future generations are not being allowed to develop Welsh language skills ready to take their places in the job market</p> <p>Concern that organisations such as the BBNP would not be able to recruit Welsh speakers</p> <p>There are currently not enough Welsh speakers to fill jobs where Welsh speakers are needed – the proposal will not help with this</p>	
13.5 Other		
13.5.1	<p>The National Park has a duty under Welsh Language Standard 145 to promote the use of the language and to set a target for increasing the number of Welsh speakers in our area – the national park authority anticipates that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School will have a substantial negative impact on the number of Welsh speakers in this area</p>	<p>The current method of delivering Welsh-medium education in the area has not led to any significant increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority's view is that change is needed to the method of delivery in order to encourage confidence and the system and a growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers.</p> <p>Further to this, there was a decrease of 1.7% in the number of Welsh speakers in Brecon between the 2001 census and the 2011 census, which suggests that the proportion of Welsh speakers in the area was declining before the authority commenced any proposals to close the Welsh-medium stream.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils in the Brecon area would continue to have access to Welsh-medium education, at Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge CP School in the primary sector, and at alternative providers such as Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School and</p>

		<p>Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in the secondary sector. The improved choice and linguistic experience for Welsh-medium pupils at these alternative providers would enable them to be even more confident Welsh speakers.</p> <p>These pupils would continue to live in the Brecon area even if they were receiving their education elsewhere, and they would still be able to contribute to the development of the Welsh language in the Brecon area.</p>
14. POLICIES / STRATEGIES RELATING TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE		
14.1 Powys County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)		
14.1.1	The proposal is contrary to the Powys Draft WESP for 2017-20	<p>The proposal is not contrary to the Powys draft WESP for 2017-20. The authority's aim as stated in the draft WESP is 'To provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys'. The current small number of Welsh-medium pupils and limited Welsh-medium subject provision at Brecon High School means that this provision does not provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners.</p> <p>Further to this, the council's third Strategic Objective for 2017-20 as stated in the draft WESP is 'To provide equitable and sustainable linguistic progression for Welsh-medium pupils from Key Stage 2 into Key Stages 3, 4 and 5'. The current provision at Brecon High School does not meet this objective.</p>
14.1.2	The WESP wants 14.5% of pupils to be assessed through the medium of Welsh at secondary level	<p>It is true that the authority's draft WESP for 2017-20 includes a target for 14.5% of year 9 pupils to be assessed in Welsh first language.</p> <p>However, in the draft WESP, the authority also recognises that 'significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'.</p> <p>In respect of secondary provision, the draft WESP acknowledges on page 15 that 'it is possible that the authority's plans to provide equitable provision for</p>

		Welsh-medium learners in the secondary sector will lead to a reduction in the proportion of pupils continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school in the short term.'
14.1.3	<p>The vision in the draft WESP is 'To provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils' – providing a new-build High School for Brecon at the exclusion of a Welsh-medium stream would be denying equality of opportunity. If education is taught through English to those pupils living in the Brecon area, equality of opportunity means that an equivalent Welsh language offer should be available at the same school for those wishing to learn through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>The proposal to provide transport to Welsh-medium provision in Builth or Ystalyfera is not providing an equivalent or equal education to those who choose to learn through the English language in Brecon</p>	The current Welsh-medium provision offered at Brecon High school does not provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils, the aim of the proposal is to address this by providing access to a more comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum to Welsh-medium learners.
14.1.4	Reference to the Draft Strategic Objectives 'To increase the opportunities for pupils to access Welsh medium early years provision' and 'to provide equitable and sustainable linguistic progression for Welsh-medium pupils from key Stage 2 into Key Stages 3, 4 and 5' – closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would lead to falling numbers at Ysgol y Bannau, this will undermine the objective of increasing opportunities for pupils to access Welsh-medium early years provision	<p>As identified in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, it is possible that the proposal will lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau in the short term. However, the authority is committed to Ysgol y Bannau as a provider of Welsh-medium education in Brecon.</p> <p>The authority is currently carrying out a tendering exercise in relation to early years education in Brecon, which includes the provision of Welsh-medium provision in Brecon.</p>
14.1.5	Draft Strategic Objective 'To establish, and	The authority agrees that an increase in the number of Welsh-medium primary

	identify opportunities to establish, new designated Welsh-medium provision in the primary sector' – this should lead to more primary schools in the Brecon area and beyond and should increase the number of bilingual pupils, leading to higher numbers who could potentially enter the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School	providers in the Brecon area and beyond should increase the number of pupils, leading to higher numbers who could potentially enter the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. However, there is a lengthy process which must be followed in order to establish any new provision, therefore it is likely to be a number of years until any new provision is established, and even longer until any new provision fed into the secondary sector. The authority's priority is to provide the best possible opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils in the system now.
14.1.6	Why are you consulting on re-writing the WESP at the same time as you are consulting on closure of the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon	The timescale for re-writing and consulting on the revised WESP for 2017-20 is set by the Welsh Government and is included in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2013.
14.1.7	<p>Powys County Council never carried out the commitment in the current WESP to make Brecon High's Welsh-medium stream up to 2B status</p> <p>The current WESP for 2014-17 states that the authority's policy is to create a category 2B Welsh stream at Brecon High School, yet in the consultation document it states that due to the challenging financial situation faced by the authority this has not been achievable</p>	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school. This decision is reflected in the WESP for 2014-17.</p> <p>Early discussions took place with Brecon High School about providing additional support, however due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil the commitment to provide additional investment to the school.</p> <p>The decision to move to an alternative model in relation to Welsh-medium secondary provision was made by Cabinet on the 27th January 2015. At this meeting, Cabinet approved the commencement of a Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which intended to transform the secondary and post-16 sector across the county. One of the aims of this Programme was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units.'

14.1.8	When you re-write the WESP, make sure Welsh-medium secondary education is available for all and not just the privileged	The authority is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium primary and secondary education to all pupils regardless of their socio-economic background. However, in some cases, access to such provision will be via the provision of free home to school transport.
14.2 A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050		
14.2.1	<p>A target has been set that there will be 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 – this proposal goes against this</p> <p>There has been a reduction in the number of Welsh-medium pupils progressing to secondary due to the consultation – this goes against the Welsh Government’s target of 1 million Welsh speakers</p> <p>How will you achieve the assembly’s target of 1 million Welsh speakers if the Welsh stream is closed?</p> <p>How will you meet the Welsh Government target for 25% of the Welsh population to be Welsh speakers by 2050?</p>	<p>The council’s draft WESP for 2017-20 takes account of the Welsh Government strategy to create a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.</p> <p>The current method of delivering Welsh-medium education in Powys has not led to an increase in the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh. In the draft WESP for 2017-20, the authority recognises that ‘a fundamental change is required in Powys to ensure all learners can access high quality, robust provision from the early years onwards’ and that ‘significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers’.</p> <p>The draft WESP also acknowledges that the authority’s plans to provide access to more equitable provision for Welsh-medium pupils may a negative impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys in the short term, however the authority’s aim is that this would be reversed in the longer term.</p>
14.3 Welsh-medium Education Strategy		
14.3.1	The council’s plans go against the Welsh-medium Education Strategy	Strategic aim 3 of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, on page 15 of the Strategy is ‘To ensure that learners develop their Welsh-language skills to their full potential and encourage sound linguistic progression from one phase of education and training to the next’. Further to this, the Strategy states that ‘Welsh-medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual’.

		The current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School does not provide sound linguistic progression for pupils in the Brecon area. The authority's view is that implementation of the proposal would contribute to implementation of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy by providing access to more robust linguistic progression to Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon area.
14.3.2	The Welsh Government publication 'Welsh-medium Education Strategy: next steps' commits Welsh Government to 'publish best practice guidance on how local authorities should measure demand for Welsh-medium education' – you should wait for this guidance before going ahead with these proposals to ensure that you are considering the correct way to measure demand	The authority carried out a survey to identify demand for Welsh-medium education in line with Welsh Government requirements in 2010, however due to the rural nature of Powys and the dispersed nature of the population, it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from this work. The authority is looking to identify alternative ways to measure and create demand for Welsh-medium education to inform work in relation to Welsh-medium provision in the primary phase. However, any additional demand identified would take many years to feed through to the secondary phase. The authority's priority is to provide equality of opportunity for pupils currently being educated through the medium of Welsh. The current provision does not provide this.
14.3.3	The Welsh-medium Education Strategy includes a commitment to 'enable an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities '	<p>In the draft Welsh Language Impact Assessment carried out in relation to this proposal, the authority acknowledges that 'implementation of the proposal would mean that Welsh-medium secondary provision would not be available in the town of Brecon'. However, Welsh-medium provision would be available through the provision of home to school transport to alternative provision.</p> <p>However, as stated in the draft Welsh Language Impact Assessment, 'Whilst Welsh-medium pupils would be leaving Brecon to access Welsh-medium secondary provision, they would continue to live in the town and surrounding areas, and will continue to be able to participate in Welsh language activities in the local community. The Authority's view is that the increased level of Welsh-medium provision available to them will enable all Welsh-medium pupils to become more confident Welsh speakers, who will be able to play a greater role in terms of the Welsh language in the community.'</p> <p>The authority's view is that implementation of the proposal would continue to enable people of all ages to use Welsh in their communities.</p>

14.3.4	The proposal is in-line with the Welsh Government's strategic aims as outlined in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy. The strategy states that 'Welsh-medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens.' (p.7)	The authority notes this comment and agrees that the proposal is in-line with the aims of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy.
14.4 The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011		
14.4.1	<p>PCC has a responsibility under the Welsh Language Measure to provide services through the language of choice and to provide Welsh medium schooling if that is what parents want</p> <p>The Welsh language has official status in Wales and should be treated no less favourably than English – people in Wales should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they choose to</p>	The authority is committed to providing access to Welsh-medium education to all parents who choose it. In some cases, this may be through the provision of free home to school transport to the nearest provider.
14.5 The Welsh Language Standards		
14.5.1	The guiding principle of the Welsh language standards are that the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than English – this proposal is flying in the face of the Welsh language standards	The authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium provision available in Brecon High School is treating Welsh-medium pupils less favourably than English-medium pupils. The aim of the authority's proposal is to address this, and to ensure that Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon area can access a broader Welsh-medium curriculum throughout all key stages.
14.5.2	Welsh language standard 145 – PCC has a duty to maintain or increase the number of Welsh speakers in its area – fail to see how the removal of Welsh-medium education at Brecon High School will increase the number of Welsh	<p>The council's draft WESP for 2017-20 acknowledges that the current method of delivering Welsh-medium education in Powys has not led to an increase in the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>In the draft WESP for 2017-20, the authority recognises that 'a fundamental</p>

	speakers in the area	<p>change is required in Powys to ensure all learners can access high quality, robust provision from the early years onwards' and that 'significant changes are needed to the way Welsh-medium education is delivered within the county in order to encourage confidence in the system and an increase in the number and percentage of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education throughout their educational careers'.</p> <p>The draft WESP also acknowledges that the authority's plans to provide access to more equitable provision for Welsh-medium pupils may have a negative impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys in the short term, however the authority's aim is that this would be reversed in the longer term.</p>
14.5.3	<p>It is early days for the Welsh Language Standards and parents and councillors do not yet realise the impact on future job prospects in Wales</p> <p>Anyone wishing to receive a public service in Welsh must be able to do so, which means that you will need to be able to speak Welsh to work in the public sector – removal of the Welsh stream would lead to less Welsh speakers and local people will be unable to take up local jobs because they do not speak Welsh</p>	<p>The authority is fully aware of the implications of the Welsh Language Standards in terms of the need to ensure that pupils have the appropriate Welsh language skills to enable them to provide services in Welsh in the future.</p> <p>The authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School does not provide the correct environment to ensure that pupils can continue to develop their bilingual skills throughout their time at secondary school, and to ensure that they are confidently bilingual when they leave school.</p>
14.6 General comments relating to Welsh Government Language Strategy		
14.6.1	<p>The proposal goes against Welsh Government priorities</p> <p>The proposal would result in the exact opposite of what the Welsh Government seeks to achieve</p> <p>The proposal is a backwards step which goes against the Welsh Government policy of trying to promote Welsh</p>	<p>The authority does not agree that this proposal goes against Welsh Government priorities. The aim of the proposal to provide a greater level of equality for Welsh-medium pupils in terms of the provision available to them, which will provide improved opportunities for them to continue to improve their Welsh language skills throughout their educational careers. This aligns with Strategic Aim 3 of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, 'To ensure that learners develop their Welsh-language skills to their full potential and encourage sound linguistic progression from one phase of education and training to the next'. Further to this, the Strategy states that 'Welsh-medium</p>

	<p>Can the council see how this proposal will have a detrimental impact on WG aims and policy objectives?</p> <p>Is Powys education authority deliberately trying to undermine WG policy?</p> <p>The council should be looking at how to promote the Welsh language in line with the Welsh Government's strategies, not how to kill the language</p> <p>Laws and strategies by Welsh Government show the desire by the Welsh Government to increase the level of Welsh spoken across Wales – removing the Welsh medium from Brecon would go against this</p> <p>Powys will be losing Welsh-medium pupils at a time when Welsh Government is trying to increase Welsh-medium provision</p> <p>Loss of Welsh-medium pupils is likely to affect the council's ability to meet Welsh Government targets for the uptake of the Welsh language in the short and longer term</p>	<p>education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual'.</p> <p>The authority is fully committed to the Welsh Government strategy to increase the number of Welsh speakers in Wales. In contrast with other designated primary schools in Powys, there has been no significant increase in the number of pupils in Ysgol y Bannau since 2010. The authority's aim is that the greater clarity in relation with secondary progression and the increased level of Welsh-medium provision available will create more confidence in Welsh-medium education and will lead to an increase in pupil numbers, therefore contributing to an increase in Welsh speakers.</p>
<p>14.6.2</p>	<p>PCC should aim for higher numbers of Welsh-medium learners instead of concentrating on more robust linguistic progression in order to contribute to the Welsh Government's targets on the number of Welsh speakers</p> <p>"A living language: a language for living – Welsh</p>	<p>As stated in the consultation document, 'Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area have remained fairly stagnant over the last few years.' Access to secondary provision in Brecon has not led to an increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the area, therefore the authority's view is that a new strategy is needed in order to create more confidence in Welsh-medium education.</p>

	<p>language strategy 2012 to 2017” emphasises the importance of Welsh-medium education strategy as an essential component in producing the Welsh speakers of the future – removing the Welsh stream from Brecon High School goes against this and will reduce the number of children learning through the medium of Welsh in the secondary sector</p> <p>Reference to extract from ‘The Position of the Welsh Language 2012-15’, the Welsh language commissioner’s 5 year report published 02/11/19 which highlights how education is the key to increasing the number of Welsh speakers</p>	
14.6.3	<p>The proposal seems to directly contradict the Welsh Government Strategy for the Welsh language: ‘to increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people’, ‘to strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community’, ‘to strengthen the infrastructure of the language’ – none of these are achieved by closing down Welsh-medium secondary education in Brecon</p>	<p>As stated in the consultation document, ‘Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area have remained fairly stagnant over the last few years.’ Access to secondary provision in Brecon has not led to an increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the area, therefore the authority’s view is that a new strategy is needed in order to create more confidence in Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, and the authority’s view is that the small class sizes and limited Welsh-medium provision offered is not providing an appropriate educational experience for Welsh-medium pupils. In addition, the provision is not encouraging confidence in the Welsh-medium provision available locally. The authority’s view is that centralising the provision at one location in mid and south Powys, and formalising the link with Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in relation to pupils from the Sennybridge area will strengthen the infrastructure in terms of the provision of Welsh-medium secondary education in the area, and as stated in the consultation document, ‘would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.’</p>

14.6.4	None of the six aims in the Welsh Government's 'strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language in everyday life' will be met	<p>The six aims of the Welsh Government strategy 'a living language: a language for living – Welsh language strategy 2012 to 2017' are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families - To increase the provision of Welsh-medium activities for children and young people - To strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community - To increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace - To improve Welsh language services to citizens - To strengthen the infrastructure for the language, including digital technology <p>As stated in the consultation document, 'Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area have remained fairly stagnant over the last few years.' Access to secondary provision in Brecon has not led to an increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the area, therefore the authority's view is that a new strategy is needed in order to create more confidence in Welsh-medium education. Whilst the current provision provides some access to Welsh-medium secondary education locally in Brecon, the limited provision that is available is not providing the opportunity for the Welsh language and Welsh-medium education to grow in the area.</p> <p>With particular reference to the aims listed above, implementation of the proposal would 'improve Welsh language services to citizens' through the provision of an improved Welsh-medium curriculum to pupils, and would 'strengthen the infrastructure for the language'.</p>
14.6.5	The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2011 sets clear well-being goals in relation to the Welsh language	The Well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2011 have been considered in the Integrated Impact Assessment carried out in relation to this proposal. The assessment will be updated to take account of the issues raised during the consultation period, and will be considered by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.

15. ISSUES RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY / THE RURAL NATURE OF THE AREA		
15.1	<p>Closure of the Welsh-medium stream would have a negative impact on the community as a whole</p> <p>Concern about the impact on Brecon Swimming Club as Welsh-medium pupils attending a different school would not be able to train in all sessions</p> <p>Closure of the stream would affect the economy of the whole community</p> <p>Closure would affect a variety of aspects of Welsh culture, tourism and attraction to foreign visitors</p>	<p>Consideration was given to the proposal's impact on the community of Brecon in the community impact assessment in respect of this proposal. The community impact assessment will be updated to reflect comments received during the consultation period, and the updated assessment will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.</p> <p>Whilst the authority notes the concerns in relation to the impact of the proposal on the community, the aim of the proposal is to improve the Welsh-medium opportunities available to pupils. Ultimately, economic and social factors are non-educational issues.</p>
15.2	<p>The proposal will not and cannot work in this area because of how rural the area is</p> <p>The proposal is based on what has worked in urban areas and will not work in our rural area</p> <p>In urban areas you can close schools and the travel distance for pupils isn't excessive as the communities are relatively close – this isn't the case in rural areas</p> <p>This is a rural community and the council needs to be more creative in delivering services</p>	<p>The authority is fully aware of the rural nature of Powys and the challenges associated with delivering high quality services in such a rural area. This is acknowledged in the authority's School Organisation Policy (2015), which states that 'In a rural county as diverse as Powys there is no one size fits all approach to school organisation.'</p> <p>The authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is not providing appropriate Welsh-medium opportunities for pupils. In addition, the current model of delivery has not led to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Brecon, in contrast with other areas of Powys.</p> <p>The authority's view is that centralising the provision in Builth Wells is the most appropriate solution at the current time, however it is acknowledged that, as with every proposal, there are some disadvantages associated with this.</p>
15.3	<p>Because we are in a rural area, the term 'community' is being applied to include Brecon and Builth Wells, two separate communities 20</p>	<p>The authority has not used the term 'community' to include both Brecon and Builth Wells. The draft community impact assessment published during the consultation period referred to the proposal's impact on the community of</p>

	miles apart – this is not an acceptable interpretation	Brecon.
16. FINANCIAL ISSUES		
16.1 Queries about the estimated savings		
16.1.1	<p>Closing the Welsh-medium stream won't save any money as the saving mentioned in the consultation document has already been lost on transporting children to Builth</p> <p>If Brecon Welsh stream closes no real money will be saved and money would carry on being wasted on transport and less children would be able to continue in Welsh-medium education</p> <p>The main aim of this proposal is to save money, however there is no evidence to show that it will save money</p>	<p>The reasons for proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream as outlined in the consultation document are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>The total saving to the authority should the proposal be implemented is estimated to be £58,475, as detailed in the consultation document.</p>
16.1.2	The consultation document states that the saving if the proposal was implemented would be £58,475 – this is inaccurate	As stated in the consultation document, the total saving to the authority should the proposal be implemented is estimated to be £58,475. The authority is satisfied that this is accurate.
16.1.3	Have not seen information anywhere about how much this change will save – the project is to save money, however I do not understand whether it will actually save money – I estimate 4 coaches at £250 per day making 2 journeys each would cost £1000 per day, this would be £195,000 per year – this could pay for 6 teachers in Brecon	<p>The reasons for proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream as outlined in the consultation document are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>The total saving to the authority should the proposal be implemented is estimated to be £58,475, as detailed in the consultation document.</p>

16.1.4	The savings of the proposal plan are far outweighed by the benefits of retaining provision at Brecon	<p>As stated in the consultation document, the reasons for proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>The authority's view is that the current small number of pupils and limited subject provision in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.</p>
16.2 Funding provided for transport		
16.2.1	Providing subjects in Brecon would cut transport costs	<p>As stated in the consultation document, the reasons for proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>The authority's view is that the number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys is not large enough to sustain two Welsh-medium streams and to provide appropriate curriculum choice to Welsh-medium pupils, therefore the authority does not agree that continuing to provide two Welsh-medium streams in mid and south Powys is viable.</p>
16.2.2	<p>How can you justify spending £50k more to transport Welsh-medium pupils than it would have cost to bring Brecon High School up to 2B status?</p> <p>It is a scandalous waste of public resources that the council is spending more on transport than it would cost to upgrade Brecon High School to 2B status</p>	<p>During the recent consultation period on the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, a county councillor requested details of the additional funding that would be required for the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School to meet the definition of a Category 2B school. The figure provided was £47000, which is the additional funding that would be provided to the school through the authority's funding formula to support the provision of Welsh-medium subjects for 80% of curriculum time in years 7 to 11.</p>

	<p>It would cost £40,000 to uplift Brecon Welsh stream to 2B status – if the council did this there would be no reason for children to want or need to go to Ystalyfera or Builth so the council would not have to pay for transport</p>	<p>However, whilst the funding provided to dual stream schools through the authority's funding formula is based on the % of curriculum time where Welsh-medium options are available to pupils, the Welsh Government's definition of a category 2B school is as follows: 'At least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh but are also taught through the medium of English.'</p> <p>In relation to the funding provided through the formula to support dual stream provision in key stage 4, the authority considers that Welsh-medium curriculum time is available when a minimum of 1 Welsh-medium options subject is available in each options block. For example, a dual stream school offering 1 Welsh-medium subject and 5 English-medium subjects in each options block, as well as all core subjects through the medium of Welsh, would receive the maximum funding available from the authority to support its dual stream provision, and would be providing 80% of curriculum time through the medium of Welsh. However, this school would not necessarily meet the Welsh government definition for a category 2B school, as the school would not be providing 80% of subjects through the medium of Welsh and English.</p> <p>Therefore, whilst the figure of £47000 provided during the consultation is the maximum additional funding that would be provided to support dual stream provision at Brecon High School based on the authority's funding formula, this would not be sufficient to enable the school to provide Welsh-medium provision which would meet the definition for a category 2B school.</p>
16.2.3	<p>It does not seem the best value for money to transport pupils to Builth and Ystalyfera</p>	<p>The authority's view is that the current small number of pupils and limited subject provision in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High school is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils. The authority is committed to providing greater equality for Welsh-medium pupils in the area, and the authority's view is that centralising provision in mid and south Powys in Builth Wells will provide access to increased Welsh-medium provision, and would provide better value for money to the council as it would reduce the duplication of provision in both Builth Wells and Brecon.</p>

16.3 Fair Funding Formula																													
16.3.1	PCC's Fair Funding Formula does not take into account the size of the school compared to the stream, therefore Brecon has always been unfairly the poorer stream of the two	The fair funding formula is based on various elements which include premises allowances. Additional funding to support the teaching element of provision is provided by the language uplift.																											
16.3.2	The money provided to dual stream secondary schools is only for the Welsh stream, but if you want to be able to create an ethos across the school with all letters etc bilingual, it will incur extra costs	The money provided through the funding formula is based on the school delivering through both languages. No uplift is provided to single language schools.																											
16.4 General issues relating to the council's budget																													
16.4.1	What is the total budget for education in Powys and how much goes on administration?	<p>The pie chart below shows the total Education budget in Powys in 2016-17. The chart shows the split of the total £99m.</p> <p>SSSR totalling £2.1m is the total cost of administration.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Education Budget Split in Powys (2016-17)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Amount (£m)</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Schools Delegated Budgets</td> <td>£65.4m</td> <td>66%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home to School Transport</td> <td>£9.5m</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALN</td> <td>£8.7m</td> <td>9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operational</td> <td>£4.6m</td> <td>5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capital Charges</td> <td>£6.3m</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>£1.2m</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SSSR</td> <td>£2.1m</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School Meals</td> <td>£1.2m</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Amount (£m)	Percentage	Schools Delegated Budgets	£65.4m	66%	Home to School Transport	£9.5m	10%	ALN	£8.7m	9%	Operational	£4.6m	5%	Capital Charges	£6.3m	6%	Other	£1.2m	1%	SSSR	£2.1m	2%	School Meals	£1.2m	1%
Category	Amount (£m)	Percentage																											
Schools Delegated Budgets	£65.4m	66%																											
Home to School Transport	£9.5m	10%																											
ALN	£8.7m	9%																											
Operational	£4.6m	5%																											
Capital Charges	£6.3m	6%																											
Other	£1.2m	1%																											
SSSR	£2.1m	2%																											
School Meals	£1.2m	1%																											

16.4.2	Why do you budget forward transport costs but not education costs?	All of the authority's costs are considered as part of the overarching financial strategy for the authority, and are considered on an annual basis when the budget is approved by the council. Individual schools are provided with 3 year funding estimates to inform a 3 year budget planning cycle.
16.4.3	It may be that Powys needs more money from central government to enable pupils to operate on a level playing field with the rest of Wales	The authority notes this comment, however reducing funding to local government is the situation we are faced with. Because of this reduction in funding to local government, the authority's school transformation programme is essential to ensure that the authority can continue to provide high quality Welsh-medium and English-medium education within a reducing funding envelope.
16.4.4	The authority is spending £110976 transporting children away from Brecon simply because Brecon does not have a category 2B Welsh stream – can you explain how this is not serious financial mismanagement by the council?	The provision of home to school transport to both Builth Wells High School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera was awarded following a transport appeal which was managed by the legal services section of Powys County Council. Once the appeal panel had concluded that the level of Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School was significantly lower than the provision in Builth Wells High School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, the authority had no choice but to provide transport. The authority is content that the procedures followed were correct. The authority does not accept that this is financial mismanagement.
16.5 Other		
16.5.1	If Brecon was 2B status, the £3000 per child that the Welsh assembly pays to Ystalyfera for Powys children to go there would be paid to our schools rather than out of county schools – this would amount to £120,000 extra from the Welsh assembly going to Brecon High School rather than Ystalyfera	If the pupils were attending Powys schools rather than Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, it is true that the authority would receive additional funding from Welsh Government through the settlement procedure. The additional funding allocated to Brecon High School would be calculated through the schools funding formula, and Brecon High School would have to support the additional pupils within the funding provided.
16.5.2	Plea for the council to withdraw this negative proposal and start investing the money wasted in	As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the reasons why the authority is proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon

	administering the consultation to bolster our excellent schools, support teachers and give children the right to learn Welsh in Brecon	High School are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education
16.5.3	£100,000 more per year has been put into Builth High School for Welsh-medium provision	Builth High School is funded in accordance with the fair funding formula, with the language uplift being based on the number of subjects delivered in both Welsh and English. The allowance provided to Builth Wells High School during 2016-17 was £100,619, whilst the allowance provided to Brecon High School during 2016-17 was £58,475.
16.5.4	The proposal is financially driven not educationally driven The proposal appears to be a short term financial saving for the council dressed as an attempt to 'improve the standard of Welsh language education'	As stated in the consultation document in respect of this proposal, the reasons why the authority is proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education
17. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS		
17.1 Improve the Welsh-medium provision in Brecon		
17.1.1	The council should extend and improve Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School PCC should invest in Brecon High School's Welsh-medium stream and make it a 2B status just as everything is coming together for Brecon High School Brecon High School should be funded properly to provide local Welsh-medium provision so that pupils are not transported elsewhere because	Financial support for the provision of education on a dual stream basis has been provided to Brecon High School for a number of years, in accordance with the authority's Fair Funding Formula. Despite this support being in place for many years, there has been no increase in the level of provision available at Brecon High School.

	<p>they speak Welsh</p> <p>Welsh-medium provision to continue in Brecon High School, and needs to be funded so that it is viable so that the school can provide a full curriculum, recruit staff and support their professional development</p> <p>Make Brecon Welsh stream a success and you wouldn't be forced to transport children across vast areas to access WM education</p> <p>Providing more subjects in Brecon would cut travel costs, would ensure the security, safety and welfare of pupils and would prevent anxiety and stress to pupils and their families</p> <p>The council should be supporting and encouraging Brecon High School to thrive and become a well-established and successful secondary school with Welsh-medium provision</p>	
17.1.2	<p>Brecon High School should receive more funding as a dual language school from the Welsh commissioner</p> <p>The council should put a case for special additional funding to the Welsh Government in order to secure a future for a Welsh language stream in Brecon</p>	<p>The authority is not aware of any additional funding available from the Welsh Language Commissioner or the Welsh Government to support the provision of a Welsh-medium stream in Brecon.</p>
17.1.3	<p>The Welsh stream in Brecon should be maintained and fully funded as Builth is in order to comply with government recommendations</p>	<p>Financial support for the provision of education on a dual stream basis has been provided to Brecon High School for a number of years, in accordance with the authority's Fair Funding Formula. The same level of support has been provided to other dual stream high schools, including Builth Wells High</p>

		School. Whilst other schools have used this funding to increase the level of Welsh-medium provision within the school, there has been no significant increase in Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School.
17.1.4	<p>The council should advise and encourage senior management in Brecon High School to promote and showcase the school as a bilingual school in the community</p> <p>Brecon High School should raise its profile as a bilingual school through bilingual letters, concerts, articles etc</p>	The promotion of any school is the responsibility of the school's governing body and senior management team.
17.1.5	The council should be looking at long term solutions for Welsh medium in the Brecon area, not just how it can improve in the Builth area in the short term	The council is looking at a long term solution for Welsh-medium secondary provision for the whole mid and south Powys area, which will provide a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum for current pupils and future pupils. As stated on page 21 of the consultation document: 'the authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.'
17.1.6	Why are you not considering raising the status of Brecon High School to 2B as an option?	<p>In the Cabinet minutes of a meeting held on the 22nd November 2011, following an informal consultation on secondary school modernisation, it notes that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p> <p>Early discussions took place with Brecon High School about providing additional support, however due to the challenging financial situation at both Powys County Council level and at Brecon High School, it was not possible to fulfil this.</p> <p>The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14</p>

		<p>financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion. Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.</p> <p>On the 27th January 2015, Cabinet approved the commencement of a Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which intended to transform the secondary and post-16 sector across the county. One of the aims of this Programme was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units.' <p>This replaced the previous decision made by Cabinet on the 22nd November 2011 that additional investment and support would be provided to dual stream schools to achieve the target of a Category 2B school.</p>
17.2 Establish a category 2A Welsh-medium secondary school		
17.2.1	This is a golden opportunity to make a significant improvement to the provision of Welsh-medium education in South/Mid Powys by establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.2	The policy of dual stream secondary provision has not been successful in terms of developing Welsh-medium education	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.3	A majority of parents of Welsh-medium primary pupils have stated many times in a number of surveys that they wish to see the establishment of	The authority notes this comment.

	a Welsh-medium secondary school to serve the area	
17.2.4	The authority has previously stated that the cost is the reason for not establishing a category 2A school at the current time, however this shows a lack of vision and ignores the fact that a dual stream school is more expensive to maintain and wastes resources	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.5	Establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school would lead to a growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.6	If the council is serious about its aspiration to offer full Welsh-medium provision to the Welsh-medium pupils of Powys, continuing with the policy of a dual stream school in Builth Wells will not achieve this	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.7	Designated Welsh-medium secondary provision could be established via an all-through school, consisting of secondary provision in Builth Wells, and two designated Welsh-medium primaries – one in mid Powys and Ysgol y Bannau in Brecon.	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.8	Establishing a Welsh-medium school would provide equal opportunity to pupils in the south of the county compared with English-medium pupils and other pupils across Wales, and would offer equality for parents who want a fully Welsh-medium education for their children	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.9	Establishing a Welsh-medium school would safeguard Welsh-medium provision in the 6 th form	The authority notes this comment.

17.2.10	A Welsh-medium school would attract well-qualified, enthusiastic, talented staff	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.11	A Welsh-medium school would provide effective linguistic immersion for pupils	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.12	A Welsh-medium school would be a central hub for the Welsh language and would be a focus for the language in south Powys	The authority notes this comment.
17.2.13	Establishing a Welsh-medium school would correspond with national policy in terms of strengthening, expanding and developing Welsh-medium education, and would enable Powys County Council to achieve national targets which have been set by the Welsh Government.	The authority notes this comment.
17.3 Shared teachers		
17.3.1	<p>Well qualified teachers should be appointed to work in Builth and Brecon schools – this would ensure a greater number of subjects in both schools, both schools would share the same teachers and would maintain Welsh traditions in the school</p> <p>Teachers travelling between Brecon and Builth would be the best solution to increase the numbers on both sites</p> <p>Why can't a Welsh speaking team of teachers travel between Builth and Brecon?</p> <p>Teachers teaching in both schools would increase</p>	Whilst it is possible that the amalgamation of staff in order to maintain provision in both Brecon and Builth Wells would result in an extended curriculum offer for Brecon pupils, it would not address the very low pupil numbers on the Brecon site.

	<p>Welsh language provision in both schools and would not incur additional transport costs</p> <p>Surprised that Powys have not appeared to consider a federated approach to this problem, by moving teachers between Brecon and Builth High Schools, this would enable a Welsh stream to thrive at both schools, and would also allow the Welsh stream pupils to benefit from the new proposed Penlan campus</p>	
17.3.2	<p>The council has staff based locally in Brecon at Ysgol y Bannau and Brecon High School who can offer Welsh-medium provision and expertise throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, other staff could be supplied from Builth Wells to teach the remaining subjects</p>	<p>Whilst it is possible that utilising staff based at Ysgol y Bannau and Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School in order to maintain provision in both Brecon and Builth Wells would result in an extended curriculum offer for Brecon pupils, it would not address the very low pupil numbers on the Brecon site.</p>
17.3.3	<p>A county advisory teacher for Welsh should liaise with both schools, organise meetings with senior management re timetables etc</p>	<p>The authority's Challenge Advisor with responsibility for Welsh as a subject provides challenge and advice to all schools who deliver Welsh first or second language. It is the responsibility of individual schools to structure the timetable and curriculum of their school. This is not the responsibility of the local authority.</p>
17.4 Increase primary pupil numbers		
17.4.1	<p>Powys needs to look at ways to increase numbers in Welsh-medium in the primary sector to create numbers that can filter into Brecon Welsh stream</p> <p>The authority should increase the number of Welsh streams in primary schools which feed secondary schools with Welsh streams, but especially Brecon High School</p>	<p>There has been no significant growth in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau in recent years, therefore there is no evidence that there is demand for any additional Welsh-medium streams in the Brecon area at the current time. A Welsh-medium workstream was established as part of the Gwernnyfed Area Review that was carried out a few years ago, however this workstream concluded that there was no demand for Welsh-medium primary provision in that area at the time.</p>

	<p>Encourage the council to increase the number of Welsh streams in primary schools that feed secondary streams</p> <p>More bilingual education in other primary schools in the local area would mean that the future of the Welsh stream at Brecon would be constructed on a more solid foundation</p>	
17.5 Use of modern technology		
17.5.1	<p>Pupils could be grouped in a room for a lesson but taught via video conferencing / Skype as is the case in other parts of the world</p> <p>Modern technology eg Skype should be used for older pupils</p>	<p>The authority, supported by Welsh Government, has provided every secondary school in Powys with video conferencing facilities, therefore there has been no reason why Brecon High School could not have worked with other providers to offer additional Welsh-medium opportunities for pupils.</p>
17.6 Bring current schools together		
17.6.1	<p>Propose you bring Brecon Welsh stream, Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge together as one through school operating from their individual sites but working together to achieve a strong Welsh-medium provision</p> <p>Bringing Brecon Welsh stream, Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge schools together would increase cohort numbers and would provide a pool of Welsh-medium teachers to fall back on and would eliminate additional transport costs</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges the benefits of a Welsh-medium school compared with dual stream provision, and that the suggested model would succeed in establishing a school of this type. Whilst this model would strengthen transition from Sennybridge to the provision at Brecon, there would be no significant increase in secondary pupil numbers compared with the numbers that were attending the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School in 2014/15, therefore the authority's view is that this provision would not be viable.</p>
17.6.2	<p>Powys needs to get existing providers of Welsh-medium education to work together</p>	<p>The authority established a Welsh-medium learning partnership, 'Clwstwr y Ffynnon' a few years ago, which included all Welsh-medium providers in mid and south Powys. The aim of this group was to strengthen links between</p>

	Brecon Welsh stream, Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge School could start working together as one e.g. combined visits, trips, activities	existing providers of Welsh-medium education and encourage joint activities. During 2013/14 and 2014/15, a day of Welsh language activities was held for all Welsh-medium providers in the area, and further joint activities are currently arranged by Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed and the Urdd.
17.7 Keep two Welsh-medium streams		
17.7.1	Retaining two Welsh streams would mean that all children could access Welsh-medium education Keeping provision in Brecon and Builth would provide choice for families in Sennybridge	The authority notes this comment. However the current number of Welsh-medium pupils in mid and south Powys is not sufficient to support two Welsh-medium streams and to provide a comprehensive Welsh-medium curriculum for pupils.
17.7.2	Giving free transport to Builth is the answer to growing Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area, as long as Brecon's Welsh-medium stream remains – this would provide choice for families choosing Welsh-medium education	Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, the school would be categorised as a category 4 school, which is described as a 'Predominantly English Medium Secondary School'. The Welsh Government document 'Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision' (2007) provides the following definition for the curriculum provision of this type of school: 'Pupils are mainly taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language up to KS4. One or two subjects (which would include Welsh first language) may be taught as an option through the medium of Welsh or using both languages.' This category would allow the school to teach one or two subjects through the medium of Welsh, which could include Welsh first language, however this would be a decision for the school. There are examples of 'Predominantly English Medium secondary schools' in Powys that do provide the opportunity for pupils to study Welsh First Language, however no funding is provided by the authority to support this provision.
17.8 Other		
17.8.1	You need to spend an initial amount to fix the problem of Welsh-medium education in south	The authority is currently facing significant financial pressure, and is under pressure to ensure that services are delivered as cost effectively and

	Powys but it will be worth it in the future	efficiently as possible. In September 2016, the council's Cabinet agreed to re-consult on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. The reason for this decision was 'to provide a more sustainable, educationally and linguistically viable model of Welsh-medium secondary education'.
17.8.2	The proposal would be more workable if the changes meant that there would still be provision but at worst the most children would have to travel is 20-30 minutes	The authority notes this comment and acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in travel time for pupils
17.8.3	The council should monitor and ensure that there is 'robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education'	The authority does monitor the Welsh-medium provision available in each of the 6 dual stream secondary schools in Powys on an annual basis. Through this monitoring, the authority has identified that the current provision does not provide 'robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education'
17.8.4	There should be a hub in Brecon which could be a centre of excellence, and modern technology could be used to present lessons to students	The authority is currently planning a new building for Brecon High School which will provide first class facilities for the school, which will include the provision of modern technology which can be used to present lessons.
17.8.5	Not all parents are looking for 8, 9 or 10 GCSEs in Welsh – they want access to a few subjects and Welsh first language to ensure that pupils are confidently bilingual when they leave school so that they can apply for jobs where Welsh language skills are necessary	The authority notes this comment. However, the authority has a duty to ensure that full Welsh-medium provision is available for those pupils who choose it, to ensure that pupils have the best possible opportunities to continue to develop their Welsh language skills during their time in secondary school, so that they are confidently bilingual when they leave school. The current provision at Brecon High School does not provide this.
17.8.6	The answer is very simple – start properly funding and supporting Welsh-medium education to demonstrate to both parents and children that they are a valued and respected section of the community	Additional funding to support the provision of Welsh-medium education is provided to dual stream schools via the Fair Funding Formula. The Fair Funding Formula arrangements were reviewed for the 2013-14 financial year, and are very similar in respect of dual stream schools to the model used in Ceredigion.

		Additional support is provided to schools based on the number of subjects delivered through both languages, and the same level of support is provided to all dual stream secondary schools. Some schools, such as Builth Wells High School, have succeeded in strengthening and increasing the Welsh-medium provision available, however this has not been the case at Brecon High School.
17.8.7	It would be easier to close the Welsh stream at Builth Wells High School because there isn't a Welsh-medium school there like there is in Brecon	The authority does not agree with this comment. Currently, the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium provision at Builth Wells High School is significantly greater than the number of pupils accessing the provision at Brecon High School, and the school provides an increased level of Welsh-medium provision to pupils compared with the provision currently offered at Brecon High School. In addition, there are more feeder primary schools in the current catchment of the Welsh-medium stream of Builth Wells High School.
17.8.8	Feel that not all options have been considered – the council has latched onto the first idea of closing the stream at Brecon High School without considering any alternatives	<p>As outlined on page 19 of the consultation document, a wide range of possible options for the future of Welsh-medium provision in mid and south Powys have been considered since 2015. In particular, a number of options were evaluated in the business case relating to the review of secondary provision in Mid and South Powys. This business case concluded that 'the most appropriate option at the current time is to centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision across the Mid and South Powys region.'</p> <p>The only 2 options included in the consultation document in respect of the current proposal are to retain the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School or to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. As stated on page 19 of the document, 'The authority is currently going through the statutory process to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod Wells High School and establish a new secondary school across two sites. The proposal is that the new school will be a dual stream school, with the current dual stream provision being retained on the Builth Wells site. Therefore, the only options now available to the authority in relation to the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is whether or not to retain this provision.'</p> <p>A number of other options have been suggested during the consultation</p>

		period, and these will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
18. ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONSULTATION PROCESS		
18.1 Pre-determination		
18.1.1	<p>The council should have an independent investigation into why they pre-determined the outcome of this consultation by implementing free transport from Brecon to Builth before the consultation process had run its course</p> <p>Considering the decisions that have been made re transport, how has PCC not pre-determined the outcome of this proposal?</p> <p>How is paying for transport provision to other schools before the outcome of consultation is known not predetermination?</p>	<p>18 months or so ago, a number of parents of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education. As an admissions authority, the council cannot refuse places to children if there is a place available at the school to which they apply. When parents applied for places at Builth Wells High School, there were places available, therefore the authority was unable to reject the applications, however transport was initially refused at Stage 1 and 2 of the transport application process.</p> <p>Following this, the applications were taken to appeal, and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport based on the greater breadth of Welsh-medium provision offered at the alternative providers compared with the breadth of provision offered at Brecon High School.</p> <p>The council acknowledges that the decision of the appeal panel to award transport has impacted on the number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, however this is not predetermination – transport was not automatically awarded to these parents, it was referred to the Appeals Panel in accordance with the agreed process.</p>
18.1.2	The decision was made several years ago – 6/7 years ago the then headteacher of Brecon High School said to a governor “the Welsh is going to Builth and Ysgol y Bannau will be dead”	A final decision on the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has not been made. The authority has no knowledge to either support or deny the accusation that this statement was made by the then headteacher of Brecon High School.
18.1.3	Ysgol y Bannau has been made an official feeder school for Builth Wells Welsh stream, with Builth representatives coming in to champion their	Ysgol y Bannau has not been made an official feeder school for Builth Wells Welsh stream as no final decision has yet been made in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. However, a number of

	<p>school – why are Builth primary school children not encouraged to attend Brecon Welsh stream? This is predetermination</p>	<p>parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau have chosen for their children to attend Builth Wells High School, therefore it is not unreasonable that Ysgol y Bannau has developed links with Builth Wells High School in order to facilitate transition of these pupils to high school. More Welsh-medium provision is available in Builth Wells High School than Brecon High School. As the authority's aim is to provide more equality for Welsh-medium pupils, Builth pupils would not be encouraged to attend Brecon High School.</p>
18.1.4	<p>Lots of things have pre-determined the consultation therefore it has not been able to run fairly</p>	<p>The outcome of the consultation has not been pre-determined. All issues raised during the consultation period will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.</p>
<p>18.2 Issues relating to the timing of the consultation</p>		
18.2.1	<p>The council is not prepared to extend the unrealistic deadline for the end of the consultation, despite it being Christmas and many parents are focussed on that</p> <p>The timing of the consultation, over the Christmas period, is difficult, and there is insufficient time to respond</p> <p>Request for an extension to the closing date</p>	<p>The School Organisation Code requires councils to consult on proposals at least 42 days or 6 weeks, with at least 20 of these being school days. The council extended this period to seven weeks for this consultation, to take account of the Christmas period.</p> <p>The council recognises that this consultation has taken place during a particularly busy time, however the council needs to balance the need to provide sufficient time for stakeholders to respond to the consultation and the need to conclude the process so that Cabinet can make a decision on how to proceed in order to avoid an extended period of uncertainty.</p>
18.2.2	<p>The timing of the consultation will impact on the school's ability to design a curriculum for the next academic year – how can this be planned when it is not known whether there will be a Welsh stream</p> <p>The timing of the consultation does not help with year 6/7 transition</p> <p>The consultation should be cancelled until after</p>	<p>The authority notes that the timing of the consultation has caused some operational difficulties for the schools and pupils affected. All school reorganisation proposals lead to a period of uncertainty for those affected, and due to the fact that uncertainty in relation to the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has continued for many years, the authority's view was that it was preferable to move forward with the consultation in order to seek a resolution to this issue.</p>

	the new building is built as there are too many variables at the moment for the council to make an informed decision	
18.2.3	The consultation is being conducted at a difficult time of year – it is difficult to get hold of members of the School Transformation Team as staff are unavailable – either not in the office, working from home or on leave	<p>Members of the School Transformation Team were working on all but 5 working days throughout the consultation period. On some of these working days, staff were out of the office or in meetings, however messages could be left and officers were contactable by e-mail.</p> <p>Responses to the consultation were to be submitted in writing or via e-mail, therefore responses could be submitted at any time, regardless of whether or not officers were in the office.</p>
18.3 Issues relating to the consultation meetings		
18.3.1	<p>The speakers responses in the consultation meeting were unsatisfactory</p> <p>None of the fears, concerns, anxieties and worries raised by the public in the public meeting were met with adequate reassuring or convincing responses</p> <p>Answers provided at the consultation meeting can only be described as lame and un thought out</p>	Officers endeavoured to answer all questions posed in the consultation meetings to the best of their abilities. Responses to all issues raised during the consultation period, including those raised in the consultation meetings, are provided in this report.
18.3.2	Why was there no councillor in the meeting with staff?	The authority's usual practice is that the portfolio holder and the leader attend the meeting with parents / the community and the portfolio holder attends the meeting with governors. However, the minutes of all three meetings, as well as the meetings held with pupils, will be included as an appendix with the report considered by Cabinet, and the issues raised in all meetings are included in this report, therefore the portfolio holder and all other Cabinet members will be aware of all issues raised during the consultation, including those raised in meetings and in other written responses, before making a decision on how to proceed.

18.3.3	Feeling that the public meeting was called by the council simply to convince the public to accept something that was a 'fait accompli' – there was not a lot of consultation taking place	The consultation meetings were arranged in order to give stakeholders the opportunity to let the council know their views on the proposal. Minutes were taken of all meetings, and the issues raised in all meetings have been included in this report. All issues raised during the consultation period will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
18.3.4	The public spoke at the public meeting and their concerns were ignored Not one member of the public at the public meeting supported the plans	The views expressed in the consultation meetings and in written responses to the consultation will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
18.3.5	Members of Cabinet at the consultation meeting did not instil confidence that any decisions would be well informed and forward thinking	The authority notes this view. Cabinet members were in attendance at the consultation meeting in order to hear the views of stakeholders in relation to the proposal. All issues raised during the consultation period will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
18.4 Issues relating to the minutes of the consultation meetings		
18.4.1	Why are the minutes, an important document that was promised at the consultation meeting, being deliberately withheld from us in the consultation period, but were freely available to all in previous consultations The withholding of minutes undermines the validity of the whole consultation and brings into question whether the whole process is being taken seriously and conducted with the honesty and integrity that is a requirement of a legitimate consultation process	The purpose of the minutes is to inform Cabinet members of the issues raised in the meetings, and they will be published along with the Cabinet papers in due course. This is in line with the procedure followed in relation to the minutes of other consultation meetings held in relation to other proposals. The minutes were released to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Brecon High School before the end of the consultation period, to give them the opportunity to comment / request any amendments to the content.

	<p>As the minutes have not been made available, many who were unable to make the consultation meeting were unable to know exactly what was said and were unable to comment on the information provided at the meeting</p> <p>The fact that the minutes have not been made available has meant that this consultation has not been run fairly and shows that the council are trying to hide information that came out in the consultation meeting</p> <p>People who were unable to attend the public meeting were relying on having the minutes of the meeting available to them to have the details and answers to questions that were raised</p>	
18.4.2	<p>At the consultation meeting, the council was asked why the meeting was not being filmed and the answer given was that there were minutes being written and these would be made available – why were the minutes never made available?</p>	<p>The minutes were released to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of Brecon High School before the end of the consultation period, to give them the opportunity to comment / request any amendments to the content.</p>
18.5 Issues relating to who the council has consulted with		
18.5.1	<p>Why have you not asked parents of Welsh-medium pupils travelling out of Brecon catchment if they would consider attending a local 2B school?</p>	<p>Information about the consultation was sent to the schools pupils might transfer to should the proposal be implemented for distribution to parents, which would include parents who had transferred to alternative Welsh-medium provision, therefore these parents did have the opportunity to respond to the consultation.</p>
18.5.2	<p>Why have you not asked parents of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School if they would consider travelling to Builth if there was no provision available at Brecon?</p>	<p>Parents of pupils at Brecon High School, Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge CP School have been informed of the consultation in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and were informed of the public meeting held at Brecon High School on the 1st December, therefore the</p>

	<p>Why have you not asked parents of pupils in the local Welsh primary school if they would consider travelling to Builth Wells if there was no Welsh-medium provision in Brecon?</p> <p>Has there been any engagement with parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau?</p> <p>New parents at Sennybridge are concerned that there has been little dialogue with them and they have had little choice</p> <p>The council has not consulted directly with parents of Welsh-medium pupils at this current stage</p> <p>The council has not asked parents what they want</p>	<p>council is satisfied that parents have had an opportunity to contribute to the consultation.</p>
18.5.3	<p>Are the pupils being consulted and when?</p>	<p>A young people's version and a primary version of the consultation document were produced and distributed to affected pupils. In addition, officers met with pupils at Brecon High School, Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge CP School during the consultation period.</p>
18.5.4	<p>Request for the Welsh Language Commissioner to get involved in this consultation</p>	<p>The School Organisation Code does not require the authority to consult with the Welsh Language Commissioner, however the Commissioner could have responded to the consultation if she had wished to.</p>
18.5.5	<p>How much weight is given to groups like RhAG in the consultation as they are not acting for the majority of Ysgol y Bannau parents who are the only parents who will be affected if you close Brecon Welsh stream</p> <p>The council is listening to RhAG which is led by</p>	<p>The School Organisation Code states the stakeholders that must be consulted with during any school reorganisation process. Whilst RhAG is not one of the stakeholders that must be consulted, due to the open and public nature of the consultation, RhAG are entitled to respond. There is no weighting to any of the stakeholders, however the Code states that the views of Estyn and young people must be highlighted in any consultation report.</p>

	<p>parents who want their children to be taught in a designated Welsh-medium school</p> <p>The council isn't listening to the views of the majority of parents – RhAG is a vocal group but it doesn't necessarily represent all the Welsh speaking community</p>	
18.6 Comparisons with previous consultations		
18.6.1	This consultation is not being taken as seriously as previous consultations	This consultation is being taken as seriously as previous consultations, and is being carried out in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. All issues raised during the consultation will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to the proposal.
18.6.2	There is no option to complete an online questionnaire as previous and people are only to respond in written form	An online response form was available on the council's website throughout the consultation period.
18.6.3	Why wasn't the consultation meeting filmed as in previous consultations? Not everyone was able to attend the meeting and some elderly people were relying on the filming as in previous consultations	The previous consultation meetings in relation to the proposals for secondary education were filmed due to the number of people expected to attend. As the number of pupils likely to be affected by this proposal is significantly less, the authority's view was that there was no need to film the meetings. This is in line with the arrangements for other consultations that have taken place recently, including proposals for primary education in Welshpool and proposals in relation to Nantmel C. in W. School, Llanbister C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.6.4	<p>Why weren't facilitators used for this consultation as for the previous consultation in relation to Gwernyfed / Brecon High School?</p> <p>Why hasn't this consultation been given the same status as previous consultations with an external company facilitating and recording all aspects?</p>	ORS were brought in as facilitators during the previous consultations relating to secondary provision due to the scale of those proposals. At the time, the council was carrying out a large scale proposal that included four high schools, plus a number of proposals relating to primary schools. ORS were brought in primarily to carry out the task of analysing the consultation responses in relation to the secondary proposals. This was not necessary this time as there is internal officer capacity to carry out this work.

		The previous consultation meetings in relation to the proposals for secondary education were filmed due to the number of people expected to attend. As the number of pupils likely to be affected by this proposal is significantly less, the authority's view was that there was no need to film the meetings. This is in line with the arrangements for other consultations that have taken place recently, including proposals for primary education in Welshpool and proposals in relation to Nantmel C. in W. School, Llanbister C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.
18.6.5	Compared to the previous two consultations on closure of the Welsh-medium stream the response form for this one seems lazy in the extreme and it may well be very difficult to collate people's responses in a meaningful way	The response form use for this consultation is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and is in-line with the response forms used for other consultations carried out by the authority in recent months, for example, changing the language category of Ysgol Dolafon, closure of Nantmel C. in W. School, Llanbister C.P. School and Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School, closure of Talgarth C.P. School and Bronllys C.P. School and the reorganisation of primary education in Welshpool.
18.7 Queries relating to the process going forward		
18.7.1	When is the report on the outcome of consultation likely to be considered by Cabinet?	The current expectation is that the consultation report will be considered by the Cabinet in March 2017.
18.7.2	Could there be a new Cabinet considering the final report?	Local government elections will take place in May 2017. Should the consultation report be considered by the current Cabinet in March 2017, and should the current Cabinet decide to proceed with the publication of statutory notices, it is possible that the Objection Report would be considered by a new Cabinet.
18.8 This consultation is not being taken seriously		
18.8.1	This is a presentation not a consultation – this is a publicity stunt	The same value is being placed on this consultation exercise as any other consultation carried out by the council.

	<p>People feel that the consultation is not being conducted with the seriousness we would expect</p> <p>What value is being placed on this consultation, given that this is the third time there has been consultation on this proposal?</p> <p>It seems that this process may well be just a hoop you are obliged to make us jump through and that you can't really be bothered to put in the effort – hope that this is not the case and that all responses will be properly considered</p>	<p>The consultation has been carried out in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. All issues raised during the consultation will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to the proposal.</p>
18.8.2	<p>The way the consultation has been run has led to a lot of confusion and uncertainty – lots of families have been confused thinking that the stream had already closed or moved their children as they thought the Welsh stream is definitely closing</p>	<p>The authority notes this comment. The consultation has been carried out in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The authority has not stated that the Welsh stream would definitely be closing. However, 18 months or so ago, following the initial Cabinet decision to consult on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the parents of a number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School decided to move their children to another school to access Welsh-medium education.</p>
18.8.3	<p>Having to respond to the consultation again is excessive, time-consuming and unnecessary, many are being worn down – is this another example of manipulating the situation to reduce the number of responses?</p>	<p>The authority acknowledges that having to respond to another consultation has been time-consuming for parents. However, the same value is being placed on this consultation exercise as any other consultation carried out by the council.</p>
18.9 Other		
18.9.1	<p>Request for the council to write to parents to advise that the responses submitted to previous consultations will not be taken into consideration this time</p>	<p>This request was made by a parent during the public meeting held on the 1st December 2016. A letter to this effect was issued to parents during the week commencing the 5th December 2016.</p>

18.9.2	Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act?	The authority has carried out an Integrated Impact Assessment in respect of this proposal, which takes account of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The Assessment will be updated to reflect the views expressed during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.
18.9.3	All those directly affected by this want to keep the Welsh stream, the council should spend more time listening rather than proposing	All issues raised during the consultation will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal. However, Cabinet will also need to consider the small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and the need to provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils.
18.9.4	The proposal is being pushed through with little research or understanding	The authority does not agree with this comment. The authority has been considering the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School for a number of years. As outlined on page 19 of the consultation document, a wide range of possible options for the future of Welsh-medium provision in mid and south Powys have been considered since 2015. In particular, a number of options were evaluated in the business case relating to the review of secondary provision in Mid and South Powys.
19. ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENTATION		
19.1 Information not included in the consultation document		
19.1.1	<p>PCC don't mention Builth's Estyn report at all apart from a table right at the end</p> <p>The consultation document hardly mentioned that Brecon is and has improved and that Builth is in Special Measures – in previous consultations, Brecon being in special measures was mentioned nearly every other word</p>	<p>The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2013) states that the consultation document must include the following information about Quality and standards in education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'The likely impact of the proposals on the quality of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. outcomes b. provision c. leadership and management • Information about the most recent Estyn reports for each school likely

		<p>to be affected;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The likely impact of the proposals on the ability of school or schools which are the subject of the proposals or any other school which is likely to be affected, to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education' <p>The information provided in the consultation document meets these requirements.</p>
19.1.2	<p>Figures from the present year 6 in Ysgol y Bannau should be used as an indicator – PCC has the school preference returns</p> <p>Why haven't the council included the 10 year 6 pupils from Ysgol y Bannau that have committed to attend Brecon Welsh stream in the consultation document?</p> <p>Applications for secondary admissions were submitted by the deadline of the 11th November and the consultation document was published on the 21st November so why weren't these figures included.</p> <p>The document is flawed without the inclusion of information about the number of pupils that will be transferring to Brecon Welsh stream in September 2017 and cannot be used in its current form</p> <p>There is no mention that only 6 or 7 of the 19 pupils in year 6 in Ysgol y Bannau will be going to Builth</p>	<p>The deadline for submitting school preference forms was the 18th November 2016. Whilst the consultation was not distributed until the 21st November, the document was finalised a few weeks before this to allow time for translation, copying and distributing to the affected schools.</p> <p>Information about the preference of the current year 6 pupils is now available. 18 forms have been received from pupils currently in year 6 at Ysgol y Bannau, and the preference stated are as follows:</p> <p>Brecon High School Welsh-medium stream – 10 pupils Builth Wells High School Welsh-medium stream – 6 pupils Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera – 1 pupil Llandovery College – 1 pupil</p>

19.1.3	Why are the other feeder schools numbers for Builth not in this consultation document as we should be able to see how they compare to the numbers in Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge	This proposal relates to the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School due to the small number of pupils currently attending this provision. The number of pupils in the primary schools that feed the Welsh-medium stream in Builth Wells are not relevant to this consultation.
19.1.4	Unfair that you only publish the figures that support your case and omit the figures that don't support your case	The data included in the consultation document is factual data which reflects the position at the time of writing. The data included is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
19.1.5	The document doesn't include the number of pupils that have left Welsh-medium education	The data included in the consultation document is factual data which reflects the position at the time of writing. The data included is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
19.1.6	The document doesn't refer to the low numbers coming into Ysgol y Bannau's new year intake	Information about the current number of pupils in each year group at Ysgol y Bannau is provided on page 12 of the consultation document.
19.1.7	The document does not take into consideration that although there will be more Welsh medium opportunities for pupils and access to a wider range of subjects through the medium of Welsh, it will be less available / accessible to the majority of pupils in Welsh-medium education now	<p>On page 15 of the consultation document, the authority identified 'loss of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon' and 'increased travel times for Welsh-medium learners from the Brecon catchment' among the disadvantages of the proposal. This reflects the fact that the provision will be less accessible to pupils.</p> <p>In addition, on page 16 of the consultation document, the authority identified a risk that 'pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school'. This also reflects the fact that the provision will be less accessible to pupils.</p>
19.1.8	<p>Why was the £110976 current cost of transporting Welsh-medium pupils out of the Brecon catchment and the £47000 cost to make Brecon a 2B Welsh-medium stream not included in the consultation document?</p> <p>The consultation document does not state what it</p>	<p>As stated in the consultation document:</p> <p>'Following previous successful transport appeals, transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. As this transport is already provided, implementation of the proposal would not incur any additional transport costs.'</p>

	<p>would cost to bring the school up to 2B status</p>	<p>During the recent consultation period on the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, a county councillor requested details of the additional funding that would be required for the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School to meet the definition of a Category 2B school. The figure provided was £47000, which is the additional funding that would be provided to the school through the authority's funding formula to support the provision of Welsh-medium subjects for 80% of curriculum time in years 7 to 11.</p> <p>However, whilst the funding provided to dual stream schools through the authority's funding formula is based on the % of curriculum time where Welsh-medium options are available to pupils, the Welsh Government's definition of a category 2B school is as follows: 'At least 80% of subjects (excluding Welsh and English) are taught through the medium of Welsh but are also taught through the medium of English.'</p> <p>In relation to the funding provided through the formula to support dual stream provision in key stage 4, the authority considers that Welsh-medium curriculum time is available when a minimum of 1 Welsh-medium options subject is available in each options block. For example, a dual stream school offering 1 Welsh-medium subject and 5 English-medium subjects in each options block, as well as all core subjects through the medium of Welsh, would receive the maximum funding available from the authority to support its dual stream provision, and would be providing 80% of curriculum time through the medium of Welsh. However, this school would not necessarily meet the Welsh government definition for a category 2B school, as the school would not be providing 80% of subjects through the medium of Welsh and English.</p> <p>Therefore, whilst the figure of £47000 provided during the consultation is the maximum additional funding that would be provided to support dual stream provision at Brecon High School based on the authority's funding formula, this would not be sufficient to enable the school to provide Welsh-medium provision which would meet the definition for a category 2B school.</p>
--	---	--

		The authority is unable to calculate the cost of bringing the school up to 2B status because the calculation is based on the number of subjects being delivered through the medium of English, and would vary from school to school and from year to year, particularly in terms of Key Stage 4 provision.
19.1.9	The proposal doesn't give appropriate consideration to the effect travelling to Welsh-medium provision will have on pupils from Brecon	<p>On page 15 of the consultation document, the authority identified 'increased travel times for Welsh-medium learners from the Brecon catchment' as a disadvantage of the proposal.</p> <p>Further to this, on page 17 of the consultation document, the authority identified a risk that 'additional travel has an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment'.</p> <p>In addition, consideration is given to the impact of additional travel on the pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School on page 22 of the consultation document, and on pupils attending Welsh-medium primary provision in the catchment on page 23 of the consultation document.</p>
19.1.10	The document doesn't include information about bus journey times to Builth from the many locations Ysgol y Bannau children live	As Ysgol y Bannau serves the catchment areas of Brecon, Gwernyfed and Crickhowell, it is the authority's expectation that some of the pupils would choose to transfer to closer schools in other authorities rather than Builth Wells High School. However it is the authority's expectation that the travel times required would be within the 1 hour maximum travel time to and from school for the vast majority of pupils currently attending Ysgol y Bannau.
19.1.11	The consultation document does not explain the context of the situation	The consultation document provides factual information based on the situation at the time the consultation commenced. Information about the background to the current consultation is provided on pages 7-9 and page 19 of the consultation document.
19.1.12	Request for historical figures to see the impact the consultation has had on pupil numbers in the Welsh stream	Historical figures showing the number of Welsh-medium pupils in years 7-11 at Brecon High School since 2010/11 are provided on page 11 of the consultation document.
19.1.13	We need more data about transport costs over a	The figure of £111,000 provided at the consultation meetings relate to the

	longer period, say 5 years	current costs incurred in transporting children from the Brecon catchment to Builth and Ystalyfera. The vast majority of these costs commenced following the admission appeals in 2015, but a second bus has been provided due to the increased numbers travelling to Builth.
19.1.14	You should have stated at the beginning of the document that the fall in the number of Welsh-medium pupils has had an impact on the school	<p>Information about the background to the current consultation is provided on pages 7-9 and page 19 of the consultation document.</p> <p>On page 13 of the consultation document, the authority states that ‘It is acknowledged that it is likely that the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school has contributed to the decrease in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School’.</p>
19.1.15	Section 9.5 – you have not submitted any data relating to quality of education as you state that as the numbers are small it would not be valid to compare performance, yet in other parts of the document you are using data that goes back to 2010	<p>As stated in section 9.5 on page 35 of the consultation document ‘The information provided in respect of the quality of education at the affected schools is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code’.</p> <p>The authority also states that as ‘the number of Welsh-medium pupils at each school, particularly Brecon High School, is small...it would not be valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools.’ This statement is supported by Estyn, who state in their response to the consultation, which is provided on page 13 of this report, that: ‘The proposer has not provided any performance data on standards in the Welsh medium stream in any of the affected schools, but reasonably makes the statement that as numbers are small in Brecon High School, it would not be valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools.’</p>
19.1.16	The document is not in line with the school organisation code as the code states that information on quality of education is required – could you please include in the consultation report the section of the School Organisation Code that states that the quality of education data does not need to be included?	<p>The Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2013) states that the consultation document must include the following information about Quality and standards in education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘The likely impact of the proposals on the quality of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. outcomes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. provision c. leadership and management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the most recent Estyn reports for each school likely to be affected; • The likely impact of the proposals on the ability of school or schools which are the subject of the proposals or any other school which is likely to be affected, to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education' <p>The information provided in the consultation document on pages 25-30 and page 35 meets these requirements.</p> <p>As stated in section 9.5 on page 35 of the consultation document 'The information provided in respect of the quality of education at the affected schools is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code'. The authority also states that as 'the number of Welsh-medium pupils at each school, particularly Brecon High School, is small...it would not be valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools.' This statement is supported by Estyn, who state in their response to the consultation, which is provided on page 13 of this report, that: 'The proposer has not provided any performance data on standards in the Welsh medium stream in any of the affected schools, but reasonably makes the statement that as numbers are small in Brecon High School, it would not be valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools.'</p>
19.1.17	The consultation document does not mention the number of pupils expected to leave Welsh-medium education in Brecon – what in your opinion is the acceptable number of Ysgol y Bannau pupils leaving Welsh-medium education at key stage 3 if there is no provision available locally?	<p>The consultation document identified on page 16 a risk that should the proposal be implemented, 'Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school.'</p> <p>The authority's view is that the Welsh-medium provision currently available at Brecon High School does not provide appropriate linguistic continuity for Welsh-medium pupils, and the aim of the proposal is to provide greater</p>

		<p>equality in terms of the provision available to Welsh-medium pupils. Whilst it is acknowledged that this may lead to a decrease in the proportion of pupils continuing to access Welsh-medium provision in the secondary sector, the authority's view is that pupils would benefit from the increased Welsh-medium opportunities available at the alternative providers.</p> <p>As stated in the consultation document, 'Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government's priorities'. The authority is required to monitor pupil progression within Welsh-medium education annually, this information is reported annually to Welsh Government in the WESP. The authority does not have a view on the 'acceptable number of Ysgol y Bannau pupils leaving Welsh-medium education at key stage 3', the authority aims for all pupils educated through the medium of Welsh in the primary sector to continue to be educated in Welsh in the secondary sector. However, the authority acknowledges that on some occasions, pupils or their parents may choose to transfer to alternative provision.</p>
19.1.18	The consultation document does not give a true reflection of the current situation and the benefits of having a Welsh stream in Brecon High School	<p>The information contained in the consultation document is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The authority's view is that it reflects the position at the time of writing, and the document includes factual data which reflects the position at the time of writing. The data included is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>In addition, the document outlines the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal on pages 15 to 16.</p>
19.1.19	It is mentioned that numbers in Ysgol y Bannau have stayed the same for the last few years, but it is not mentioned that across the whole of Wales numbers in Welsh-medium education have declined	<p>In the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20, the council acknowledges that 'over the period of the authority's previous Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2014-17), the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh first language at the end of the Foundation Phase decreased.'</p> <p>However, as stated in the consultation document in respect of the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, 'Whilst Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Sennybridge C.P. School have increased slightly, this has not been the case at Ysgol y Bannau. This is contrast with the two other designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Powys, Ysgol Dafydd</p>

		Llwyd in Newtown and Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr in the Ystradgynlais area, where pupil numbers have increase over the same period.'
19.1.20	The document doesn't mention that the percentage of children opting to go to Builth from Ysgol y Bannau is decreasing every year even though there is free transport and more Welsh-medium subjects available	The document provides factual information about the number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School at the time of writing. In addition, on page 13 of the consultation document, information is provided about the number of year 6 Welsh-medium pupils that were attending Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge CP School during 2015/16 that transferred to Welsh-medium and English-medium providers in September 2016.
19.1.21	The consultation document doesn't explain how pupils whose mother tongue is Welsh, and pupils who have been educated at Ysgol y Bannau, who choose to attend their local High School will be able to keep up and develop their mother tongue and study literature in their first language, as those whose first language is English do. Is it the proposal that these pupils attend second language Welsh lessons?	<p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, the school would be categorised as a 'Predominantly English Medium secondary school'</p> <p>The Welsh Government document 'Defining Schools according to Welsh medium provision' (2007) provides the following definition for the curriculum provision of this type of school: 'Pupils are mainly taught through the medium of English. Welsh is taught as a second language up to KS4. One or two subjects (which would include Welsh first language) may be taught as an option through the medium of Welsh or using both languages.'</p> <p>Whether or not to provide the opportunity for pupils who study Welsh First Language would be a decision for the school. There are examples of 'Predominantly English Medium secondary schools' in Powys that do provide the opportunity for pupils to study Welsh First Language, however no funding is provided by the authority to support this provision.</p>
19.1.22	The consultation document does not explain why Powys tax payers money is being used to transport Powys children to be educated in Neath Port Talbot	The authority receives funding in respect of home to school transport based on the population of children of the relevant age living within the authority and not based on the location of the schools they attend. The authority recognises that some Powys council tax payers money is used to transport pupils to out of county provision.
19.1.23	The document states the savings by moving the Welsh stream to Builth, but does not state the	The authority accepts that if the proposal is implemented and the number of pupils travelling to Builth Wells increase significantly, this may result in an

	cost of bussing these children to Builth should numbers rise	increase in transport costs. This cannot be quantified until the increase in numbers occurs.
19.1.24	Would like to see a proper comparison of what the school transport for Welsh-medium pupils is costing	The authority notes this comment, however it is unclear what comparison is being requested.
19.1.25	There is no evidence that the proposal will create a more educationally viable model	The authority does not agree with this statement. The current number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School is very small, which makes this provision unviable. The number of Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells High School is larger, therefore this provision is more viable.
19.1.26	The document does not refer to the stream of children leaving Welsh-medium education because of the proposed closure of Brecon Welsh stream	The authority has identified on page 16 the potential risk should the proposal be implemented that 'Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school'.
19.2 Inaccurate information		
19.2.1	The numbers in the consultation document have been falsified due to the council providing free transport to Builth	The consultation document provides factual information about the number of pupils that were attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School at the time.
19.2.2	The document is full of inaccuracies The document has been released with errors and omissions Do you agree that there is information included in the consultation document which is incorrect?	The authority does not agree with these statements. The consultation document provides factual information about the situation at the time of writing, and the information included is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
19.2.3	The consultation document says that Welsh-medium provision will continue to be provided to years 11 and 12 – will there be an amendment to the document?	The proposal on page 3 of the consultation document states the following: 'From the 1 st September 2017, there would be no Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School for pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. However, Welsh-

		medium provision would continue to be provided at Brecon High School for those pupils who would be entering year 11 in September 2017. This provision would continue until July 2018....From the 1 st September 2018, there would be no Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School.'
19.3 Language used in the consultation document		
19.3.1	<p>The proposal is biased in its use of language</p> <p>The consultation document is shockingly biased and deliberately overplays the positive and underplays the negative impacts the proposal will have</p> <p>The consultation document is one sided and does not reflect the actual truth – this will lead to an uninformed decision being made</p>	The authority does not agree that the consultation document is biased in its use of language. The document has been produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and provides factual information about the situation at the time of writing and the authority's view on the impact implementation of the proposal would have.
19.3.2	<p>Benefits are stated as generally affirmed outcomes when in reality most are pure speculation; disadvantages are stated as possibilities when in reality most can be taken as guaranteed outcomes of the proposal</p> <p>Reference to the language used on page 15 – use of 'would' in the advantages and 'may have', 'possible' under disadvantages</p>	The authority disagrees with this. The advantages and disadvantages are presented in a fair and balanced way and are written from the authority's perspective.
19.3.3	Do you agree that the language used is misleading?	The authority does not agree that the language used in the consultation document is misleading.
19.3.4	The wording in the consultation document makes it sound as though it is a 'done deal' and that Welsh-medium pupils will be unable to access the new building in Brecon	It is true that on page 15 of the consultation document, the authority identified as a potential disadvantage of the proposal that 'Welsh-medium pupils will be unable to access the new building in Brecon'. However, this does not mean that it is a 'done deal'. All issues raised during the consultation period will be

		taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
19.3.5	The document is written so that everything is positive for the Welsh-medium going to Builth	The document has been produced in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and provides factual information about the situation at the time of writing and the authority's view on the impact implementation of the proposal would have. The reason why the authority is proposing closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is due to the small number of pupils accessing the provision and the need to ensure appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils. The number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School is greater than the number of pupils in Brecon, and the school provides more Welsh-medium subjects. However, the authority does acknowledge that there are disadvantages and risks associated with the proposal, these are outlined on pages 15-18.
19.3.6	The risks associated with the proposal are completely underplayed	The risks outlined on pages 16-18 of the consultation document are those identified by the authority prior to the commencement of the consultation period. The authority does not agree that the risks are 'completely underplayed'.
19.3.7	The impact on pupils on page 22 is underplayed with the use of 'could' rather than 'will', which is yet another attempt to underplay the negative impact of this proposal on people	<p>The authority does not agree with this statement. 'Could' is used on page 22 of the consultation document in the following paragraph:</p> <p>'Should the proposal be implemented, it is possible that some pupils would transfer to English-medium provision at Brecon High School rather than transferring to an alternative school to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. Whilst this would mitigate the impact of additional travel and separation from friends, this <i>could</i> have a negative impact on pupils' Welsh language skills.'</p> <p>The impact of transferring to English-medium provision on pupils' Welsh language skills will depend on the pupils' individual circumstances, therefore the authority's view is that the use of 'could' is appropriate in this context.</p>
19.3.8	The document is biased towards Builth Wells	The document provides factual information and provides the most up to date

	being the only option for Welsh-medium education	data that was available at the time of writing. Alternative options are discussed on pages 19-21, however as explained in the document: 'The authority is currently going through the statutory process to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod Wells High School and establish a new secondary school across two sites. The proposal is that the new school will be a dual stream school, with the current dual stream provision being retained on the Builth Wells site. Therefore, the only options now available to the authority in relation to the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is whether or not to retain this provision.'
19.3.9	If you are to propose removing Welsh-medium secondary education from Brecon this consultation needs to be run correctly and honestly without contracting information and biased used of language	The consultation has been carried out in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
19.4 Other issues with the consultation documentation		
19.4.1	The consultation document contains inflammatory statements stating that closure of the stream would benefit the English-medium stream, these statements are intended to divide people and students – this can be said about any Welsh-medium provider in Powys Why would it be beneficial for Brecon to focus solely on English-medium provision but not any other Powys school that teaches Welsh-medium secondary education?	The consultation document considers the impact of the proposal on Brecon High School. It is likely that any consultation document on the closure of either an English-medium or Welsh-medium stream at any Powys school would conclude that closure of one stream would have a positive impact on the other stream. In their response to the consultation, Estyn states that the authority 'has reasonably identified the overall positive impact that the proposal could have on English-medium education in Brecon High School.'
19.4.2	Disagree with the statement in the document that says that English-medium pupils in Brecon are being disadvantaged by the Welsh stream being in Brecon	The consultation document does not say that English-medium pupils in Brecon are being disadvantaged by the Welsh stream being in Brecon. In fact, the authority acknowledges on page 23 of the consultation document that 'the proposal could have a negative impact on the Welsh language skills



		<p>of English-medium pupils attending Brecon High School’.</p> <p>On pages 25 and 26 of the consultation document, the authority identified that the proposal could have a positive impact on the English-medium provision at the school, however this is not the same as saying that English-medium pupils are being disadvantaged by there being a Welsh-medium stream being at the school.</p>
19.4.3	Paragraph 8.1 and paragraph 8.3 contradict each other	The authority notes this comment. As stated in paragraph 8.1, ‘transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. As this transport is already provided, implementation of the proposal would not incur any additional transport costs.’
19.4.4	Can’t compare this situation to Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Caereinion – the distance from Ysgol y Bannau to Builth is a further 10 miles, plus many children have an extra journey before that to reach the main bus (YDLI to Caereinion is 11.9 miles, YyB to Builth is 20.5 miles)	The authority’s view is that these two situations can be compared. Whilst it is true that the mileage between Ysgol y Bannau and Builth Wells High School is greater than the mileage between Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Caereinion High School, the road between Brecon and Builth Wells is much better, therefore it is likely that the difference in terms of travel time would not be as great.
19.4.5	Disagree with the statement that any reduction in pupil numbers will be reversed in the longer term through development of close links between Ysgol y Bannau and Builth Wells High School	The authority notes this comment.
19.4.6	<p>The statistics in the consultation document are the result of the council’s own failings</p> <p>The consultation document seeks to downplay the enormously adverse effect PCC’s proposal had on the Welsh stream and then attempts to use the consequent reduced numbers as a reason for closing it</p>	<p>The consultation document includes factual data which is the latest data that was available to the council at the time.</p> <p>On page 13 of the consultation document, the authority acknowledges that ‘it is likely that the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school has contributed to the decrease in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School.’</p>

19.4.7	Are you expecting children from the Sennybridge area to travel out of county to Ystalyfera rather than Builth?	As stated in the proposal on page 3 of the consultation document: 'Pupils living in the Sennybridge area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera'.
19.4.8	The consultation document relies heavily on numbers	The consultation document has been written in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which requires the authority to provide a large amount of data.
19.4.9	The consultation document seems to all be based on subjective facts and assumptions – if it were a business case being put forward in the private sector, it would be thrown out at the first hurdle as there are no hard facts or figures	The authority does not agree with this statement. The consultation document has been written in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and includes the latest data that was available to the council at the time.
19.4.10	<p>The proposal in its current form cannot be classed as a robust proposal that could be carried to conclusion</p> <p>The council has produced a biased and partial consultation document which does not recognise, and indeed casts aspersions upon, the quality of education through the medium of Welsh currently being provided by Brecon High School</p> <p>The document is not open and truthful about the reality of the Welsh language in the area and seeks to deny parental choice</p>	The authority does not agree with these statements. The consultation document has been written in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. All issues raised during the consultation period will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
19.4.11	The document is misleading as it implies that it is a failing of Brecon High School that the school does not offer A levels through the medium of Welsh, however that is determined by the South Powys Consortium – Welsh-medium pupils can choose to study subject offered at other schools	The authority notes this comment. The south Powys consortium for post-16 education is a collaborative model that has been developed jointly by the authority and schools. For a number of years, since before the establishment of the South Powys Consortium, Builth Wells High School has provided a number of Welsh-medium post-16 courses, however Brecon High School has not provided any Welsh-medium post-16 courses. Whilst it is true that Welsh-

		medium pupils could choose to study Welsh-medium subjects at other schools, no pupils have chosen this option.
19.4.12	Why is there suddenly a desire in Powys County Council for 'more robust progression'?	<p>There is not 'suddenly' a desire for 'more robust progression'. One of the Strategic Aims in the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2014-17 was 'to provide robust linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education.'</p> <p>This reflects the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy, which states on page 15 that 'Welsh-medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education, offers the best conditions for developing young people who are truly bilingual.'</p>
19.4.13	In order to be fair, every time you mention the low numbers in Brecon Welsh stream in any of your documents, you must state that this is mostly due to this being the third consultation to close the Welsh stream. In the impact statement it is not mentioned once that this is the reason for the small numbers	The authority acknowledges on page 13 of the consultation document that 'it is likely that the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school has contributed to the decrease in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School.'
19.4.14	The authority states in the report that the children of Ysgol y Bannau will strengthen the Welsh stream at Builth Wells, but these children should be strengthening the Welsh stream at Brecon High School	The authority notes this comment, however the number of Welsh-medium pupils in Brecon High School is currently small which makes the provision unviable, and the authority's view is that the small class sizes and limited Welsh-medium provision do not provide an appropriate educational experience for pupils. In addition, the authority's view is that the current number of Welsh-medium secondary pupils in south Powys is not sufficient to support two streams
19.4.15	The consultation document states that there is 'medium' likelihood of a 'high' impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau – this smacks of short term planning, given the money spent on building Ysgol y Bannau only a few years ago	As stated in this comment, the authority has acknowledged the risk in relation to pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau should the proposal be implemented on page 17 of the consultation document. The authority has also included risk management measures, which include working with other organisations to promote the benefits of Welsh-medium education. Whilst the authority acknowledges this risk, the authority is committed to Ysgol y Bannau as a

		provider of Welsh-medium education in Brecon, and would hope that the improved clarity with regard to secondary progression would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at the school in the long term.
19.4.16	The document states that the authority 'would expect pupil numbers to recover and increase' (p.29) however no evidence is given for this claim	The authority notes this comment. The use of 'would expect' in this statement reflects the fact that there is no guarantee that this would happen, therefore the authority's view is that this wording is appropriate.
19.4.17	Consultation document claims that Ysgol y Bannau will be supported and that the impact on pupil numbers may only be short term, however this cannot be known – there is real potential for numbers to continue to fall in Ysgol y Bannau	The authority has identified the risk that 'pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon' on page 17 of the consultation document. It is true that the impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau cannot be known, however whilst there is potential for numbers to continue to fall, there is also potential for numbers to increase, due to the increased clarity in relation to secondary progression.
19.4.18	The proposal offers no clarity, no parity and no choice for Brecon Welsh learners	The current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is very limited, and does not offer clarity, parity or subject choice for Welsh-medium learners. The authority's view is that implementation of the proposal would improve the equality of provision available to Welsh-medium learners, however it is acknowledged that there are a number of disadvantages and risks associated with the proposal, which are outlined in the consultation document.
19.4.19	The reasons for re-consultation were 'to provide a more sustainable, educationally and linguistically viable model of Welsh-medium secondary education' however the proposal does not meet these 3 reasons	The authority's view is that the proposal does meet these 3 reasons.
19.4.20	The consultation document does not reflect the true picture in Brecon	The consultation document provides factual information on the current situation at Brecon High School and other schools at the time of writing.
19.4.21	The arguments in the proposal are weak	The authority does not agree with this comment. The authority's view is that the current Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School does not provide equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils.

19.4.22	The council sometimes refers to Builth Wells as being in south Powys and sometimes refers to it as Mid Powys – this misleads the reader by implying that Builth Wells and Brecon are both in South Powys. However, Brecon and Builth aren't in the same area. Builth Wells is holding the Urdd Eisteddfod the year that it is the turn of North Wales, this acknowledges that Builth Wells is north and not south – if Brecon held the Eisteddfod it would be the year of the south	<p>The authority notes this point. Builth Wells is part of Brecknockshire, therefore the authority considers that it is part of south Powys. However, the authority has also been reviewing secondary provision in the Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells area, therefore it is likely that this is the cause of the confusion.</p> <p>It is true that the Urdd Eisteddfod is being held on the Royal Welsh Showground in 2018. The title of this is 'The 2018 Brecon and Radnorshire Urdd National Eisteddfod', which suggests that the Urdd considers Brecon and Builth Wells to be within one area.</p>
19.4.23	So much of the proposal is based on convenient, inaccurate short term judgements and very little vision and optimism	The authority does not agree with this comment.
20. GENERAL CRITICISM OF THE COUNCIL		
20.1 Criticism of the council's treatment of Brecon High School		
20.1.1	<p>In the last consultation the council repeatedly talked of Brecon High School as a failing school</p> <p>The council has repeatedly stated over the last 2 years that Brecon is a 'failing' school – why does the council never state that Builth is a 'failing' school?</p> <p>Now that Brecon is no longer in special measures, request for the council to no longer label Brecon as a failing school</p>	<p>The authority has not described Brecon High School as a 'failing' school. The press release issued by the authority when Brecon High School went into Special Measures is provided below:</p> <div> </div> <p>PR 5977 - Brecon High School.docx</p> <p>The press release does not refer to Brecon High School as a 'failing' school.</p> <p>Whilst the above press release is what was issued by the authority to the media, the authority has no control over the headlines used by the media when reporting on council issues. If the term 'failing' was used for Brecon High School in the media, this would have been the editorial decision of that particular media outlet, not the council.</p>

20.1.2	<p>Why did the portfolio holder show support immediately for Builth Wells High School when it went into Special Measures but did not do this for Brecon and Llandrindod – why is Builth Wells High School favoured so much?</p>	<p>When a school goes into Special Measures, a press release is issued jointly by the authority and the school involved.</p> <p>The press releases issued by the authority when Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School went into Special Measures are provided below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <p>PR 5977 - Brecon High School.docx PR 7676 - Builth Wells High School.d</p> <p>The authority does not agree that the press release issued in respect of Builth Wells High School shows a greater level of support of this school compared with that shown towards Brecon High School.</p>
20.1.3	<p>The proposal is an insult and shows no compassion or gratitude towards the headteacher and staff of Brecon High School who have made great improvements in order to bring the school out of special measures</p> <p>Why has the council not publicly praised Brecon High School for the work it has done and the improvements it has made to come out of special measures?</p> <p>Still waiting the council's official 'well done' to Brecon High School to be published in the Brecon and Radnor</p>	<p>In the consultation document, the council acknowledges that 'there has been a good improvement trajectory of performance in recent years' at Brecon High School. In addition, officers congratulated the school on the school's improvement at the end of the meeting for parents and the community held at Brecon High School as part of the recent consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream.</p> <p>The current proposal is not a reflection on the headteacher and staff of Brecon High School. As stated in the consultation document, the reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education <p>The authority does not issue a press release when a school is removed from special measures, however schools are able to issue something themselves. However, the Schools Service Management Team will consider whether press</p>

		releases should be issued as a matter of course when schools are removed from the category of special measures.
20.1.4	Feel let down by the council's lack of vision and ambition regarding the provision of Welsh-medium education at Brecon High School	The authority's vision for Welsh-medium education is set out in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The authority has recently carried out consultation on a revised Plan for 2017-20. The draft Plan sets out the authority's aim 'To provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys'. The current provision at Brecon High School does not provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys.
20.2 Issues relating to indecision by the council		
20.2.1	<p>Hope that this process will result in a final resolution to this issue</p> <p>A decision needs to be made ASAP and the programme needs to be moved forward to start to concentrate and focus on providing good Welsh-medium education for our children now</p> <p>Please do not prolong this situation any longer than necessary for fear of losing even more pupils from Welsh-medium education</p>	The authority notes these comments and agrees that a decision needs to be made in order to end the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and in order to move forward in relation to the development of Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys.
20.2.2	<p>The council has behaved in a shamefully chaotic way with these consultations</p> <p>Exasperated by the council's inability to make a decision on the future of Welsh-medium in south Powys</p> <p>The council's indecision has weakened Welsh-medium altogether and if this continues there will be no children left to make the decision for</p>	The authority acknowledges the impact of the ongoing uncertainty in relation to the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, and is keen to move forward with this process quickly in order to bring an end to this period of uncertainty.

	Anger at lack of decision making by the council	
20.2.3	The council is losing any thread of respect it has left among the community by repeatedly proposing to close the only Welsh stream available to many	The authority has identified a number of disadvantages and risks associated with the proposal, as well as the potential impact on pupils, in the consultation document in respect of this proposal. This includes the additional travel that would be required. These issues, and all other issues raised in the consultation period, will be taken into consideration by the Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.
20.3 Issues relating to the council's financial situation		
20.3.1	<p>The next time the council tries to cut something like bin collections, we won't believe that you have no money as you seem happy to waste it on transporting children out of their local area</p> <p>The people of Powys who are constantly being told the council has to make cuts will be appalled that the council could even consider wasting such large sums of money</p>	The authority notes this comment.
20.3.2	It seems that the council accepts Westminster's 'austerity' as a matter of course and are willing, without any complaint, to cut anything in public services	The authority notes this comment.
20.4 Other		
20.4.1	The council has failed to effectively communicate a positive vision for Welsh-medium secondary education provision in Brecon over more than a decade, and this failure is now being used to justify removal of Welsh-medium provision completely in Brecon	Since 2014, the authority's vision for Welsh-medium education has been set out in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Prior to this, it was set out in the Welsh-medium Education Plan. The authority has continued with the current model of delivery of Welsh-medium secondary provision via two Welsh-medium streams, one in Brecon and one in Builth Wells, however this has not led to any growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the Brecon area in particular. Whilst the authority committed in 2011 that all dual stream

		secondary schools would work towards becoming category 2B schools, the challenging financial situation faced by the council meant that no additional financial support could be provided, beyond the additional support provided to dual stream schools via the fair funding formula. The authority now believes that a new approach is needed in order to improve the opportunities available to Welsh-medium pupils area, encourage confidence in the system and lead to an increase in the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the future.
20.4.2	The council is not taking the views of parents on board – you keep putting us through this process and you don't seem to listen at all	The authority is taking the views of parents on board. However, the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small, and has reduced since the last consultation. This is making the provision increasingly unviable, and the authority's view is that the very small class sizes in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.
20.4.3	Concerned about the Cabinet's blasé, lethargic and tiresomely bureaucratic attitude	The authority notes this comment.
20.4.4	How are Cabinet members qualified to make decisions on education? How many have a background in education?	Cabinet members, and their specific portfolios, are determined by the Leader of the council. All members of the council selected through the democratic process.
20.4.5	Convinced that the council is acting unethically, if not unlawfully	The authority disputes this comment.
21. REFERENCE TO OTHER PROPOSALS		
21.1 Proposals for Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School		
21.1.1	Concern that there is uncertainty about the future of Builth Wells High School How is greater clarity going to be given in relation to the proposal for secondary schools in mid Powys?	As stated on page 3 of the consultation document, 'on the 18 th October 2016, Powys County Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the establishment of a new dual-sited dual-stream school that will operate from the current sites of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools from the 1 st September 2018.' The Objection Report outlining the issues raised in the objections received was considered by Cabinet on the 28 th February 2017,

		when Cabinet approved the proposal.
21.1.2	The council is trying to close Builth school to wipe out the fact that it is in special measures	The proposal to establish a new dual-sited school that will operate from the current sites of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools is intended to deliver a sustainable model of secondary education in the area, which would be able to provide high quality education. The proposed new school would replace two schools that are currently in special measures. The fact that the schools are in special measures is a key reason for the proposal.
21.1.3	<p>Concern about the proposal to close Builth High School and merge with Llandrindod due to the additional distance to Llandrindod</p> <p>Request for reassurance that there will be no uncertainty about Welsh-medium provision being in Builth given the proposal around Llandrindod and Builth High Schools</p> <p>It is not clear where Welsh-medium provision will be located if the mid Powys proposal is approved, although you state that the preference is for Welsh-medium provision to be in the Builth area</p> <p>Will pupils have to move to Llandrindod?</p> <p>Unclear how it can be proposed that Welsh-medium will be provided from Builth when there are also plans to close and co-located Llandrindod and Builth</p>	<p>The proposal is to establish a new dual-sites schools that will operate from the current sites of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools. The authority is proposing that Welsh-medium education remains on the Builth site of the proposed new school, however ultimately, the decision on how to structure the school will be made by the school's governing body and management team. Should the governing body wish to structure the teaching in a different way, which could have an impact on where Welsh-medium provision is provided, the authority would expect the governing body to consider the impact on the well-being of pupils and staff. In addition, there would need to be further discussions with the authority about the transport implications.</p> <p>The consultation document in relation to the proposal for Builth and Llandrindod states that the proposal to establish a new school on the two current sites is the first stage of potential wider plans for secondary education in the area. The second stage, which aims to establish the new school on a single site in the locality of Builth, requires further work to understand the overall capital cost and feasibility, and would be subject to another consultation if Cabinet decided to proceed to the second stage.</p>
21.1.5	Parents are moving their children to Hereford because of the lack of clarity in relation to what is happening to secondary education in Llandrindod	The authority is aware that there are increasing numbers of post-16 pupils who are choosing sixth form provision at Hereford Sixth Form College and other out of county providers. This has been occurring over a number of years and is due in part to the availability of subjects at those providers compared to the current availability within the Powys post-16 partnership. However, it is

		recognised that any school reorganisation process creates a period of uncertainty for pupils and that some pupils are choosing out of county providers for this reason as well.
21.1.6	The Equality Impact Assessment for Builth and Llandrindod assumes that the Brecon Welsh stream is closing – any objections will be based on the assumption that Brecon Welsh stream will be closed – this is predetermination	<p>In accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, the authority published draft impact assessments (equality, community and Welsh language) as part of the formal consultation process that took place between the 6th April and 1st June 2016. These impact assessments were updated to take account of feedback received during the consultation, and were included in papers for the consideration of Cabinet on the 27th September 2016. Cabinet were also considering the outcome of consultation on an associated proposal for Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School at the same time. Therefore, the Equality Impact Assessment (draft and final) reflected the proposals for all four schools.</p> <p>New draft impact assessments were published as part of the current consultation on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, which considered the ongoing proposal in relation to Builth and Llandrindod High Schools. These will be updated to take account of feedback received during the consultation, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p>
21.1.7	Concern that the proposal for Builth and Llandrindod does not offer long term assurance in terms of Welsh-medium education	The authority's intention is to provide equality of provision. Builth Wells High School currently provides a more equitable distribution of subjects between English-medium and Welsh-medium streams. The authority believes that building a critical mass in one school will enable the development of a vibrant and viable Welsh stream. The improved choice and Welsh-medium experience will enable pupils to become even more confident Welsh speakers. The authority believes that learners will be more attracted to Welsh-medium provision in future if there are clear progression routes, and continuity of provision throughout their educational life. The authority's view is that centralising provision would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.

21.1.8	Should the proposal be implemented, the provision and staffing would depend on decisions made by the school's managers.	The authority acknowledges that the decision on how to structure the school would be made by the school's governing body and management team.
21.1.9	Many staff would have to work on two sites – Welsh-medium staff won't always be on the Builth site, so won't be there to answer questions or contribute to a Welsh ethos and activities.	The decision on how to structure the school would be made by the school's governing body and management team. As the sole provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys the authority would expect the new school to ensure that the provision was structured in order to enhance the Welsh-medium provision available.
21.2 Reference to previous proposals		
21.2.1	What were the critical elements which meant that the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream in Brecon High School wasn't abandoned like the other proposals?	On the 27 th September 2016, Cabinet considered the consultation report in relation to the proposals related to Brecon and Gwernyfed High Schools. On the basis of the issues raised during the consultation period, Cabinet approved a recommendation to reconsult on element c of the original proposal, i.e. closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. The reasons are outlined on pages 4 and 5 of the cabinet report considered on the 27 th September 2016. The reason for the recommendation was 'To provide a more sustainable educationally and linguistically viable model of Welsh-medium secondary education'.
21.2.2	Of the 4 public consultation meetings held in 2016, Brecon was the only one where Welsh was used	This comment is noted.
21.2.3	Responses to many comments/criticisms in previous consultation reports are 'the authority notes this point' – is this because you have no answers or because the answers undermine your arguments?	The authority acknowledges that there are disadvantages and risks associated with every proposal. Whilst the authority endeavours to mitigate these, there are some issues which cannot be totally eradicated. In these cases, the only response available to the authority is to 'note' the point made. These issues, along with all other issues raised during the consultation, will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
21.2.4	In previous consultation report you 'accept and acknowledge' comments/criticisms on four	The authority has not carried out any further risk assessments or mitigating action plans in relation to issues raised in previous consultation reports related

	<p>occasions – have you carried out any risk assessments to measure the impact of these and can you provide details of these together with any subsequent mitigating action plans</p> <p>On many occasions you ‘accept and acknowledge’ comments/criticisms and put the onus on the school to work with pupils and parents to ‘find a solution’. What risk assessments/action plans have been identified for implementation?</p>	<p>to the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School as no decision has yet been made to proceed with the closure of the stream.</p>
--	--	--

Appendix C – Minutes of meetings with School Councils, Staff, Governors and Parents / Community

	Page
1. Notes of meeting with Pupils	2
1.1 Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School	2
1.2 English-medium pupils at Brecon High School	3
1.3 Ysgol y Bannau	4
1.4 Sennybridge CP School	5
2. Minutes of meeting with Staff	7
3. Minutes of meeting with Governors	16
4. Minutes of meeting with Parents / Community	27

1. Notes of meetings with the School Councils

1.1 Meeting with pupils from the Welsh-medium Stream at Brecon High School

What do you think of the proposal?

- It's worrying, it's a big thing to happen and lots of our friends have already moved to Builth Wells High School
- Work is a lot harder without Welsh, the work is harder in English
- If there was no Welsh Stream here I would move
- If the Welsh Stream closes next year, will I still be able to do subjects in Welsh until I finish school?
- Pupils have gone to Ystalyfera because Builth Wells High School is in special measures
- Speaking Welsh is harder and have difficulty remembering words because of the lack of lessons through the medium of Welsh

Pupils were asked whether they would stay at Brecon High School if the Welsh-medium stream was removed or if they would transfer to alternative schools.

- Around half of the group said they would stay in Brecon High School and go to the English Stream

What is it like in the Welsh Stream here?

- Everyone is like a community, we are the only ones who speak Welsh in Brecon High School
- If it closes it will affect the numbers going to Ysgol Y Bannau
- We're like one family
- If one goes then everyone goes like sheep, that's why the numbers decreased
- Lots of year 6 pupils from Ysgol Y Bannau are coming here if the stream stays

What's the effect this will have on you?

- If the stream closes then we would have to choose between staying with our friends or keeping the Welsh language
- It would be more difficult to attend appointments and we would have to miss more school when we have them
- If we moved to the English Stream then we would have to do Welsh Second Language
- The stream is important to the country, we should have the chance to speak and learn in Welsh
- This is happening because of money
- We would miss out on education because of the travelling
- It would be easier to close Builth Wells Welsh stream because there isn't a Welsh medium school there like there is here in Brecon
- The area is very anglicised, there's no future for Welsh here if the stream closes
- If the stream moves to Builth would we have to go to Llandrindod as well?
- Builth is in special measures and Brecon is improving

New build?

- In the booklet it suggests that the Welsh Stream won't be in the new building – it's as though you have already made the decision
- You are splitting friendships
- The ethos of the school will change
- If there isn't a Welsh stream here, then parents won't choose Welsh for their children
- What will happen to the teachers who only teach subjects through the medium of Welsh?

- How much money are you spending on transport to Builth?
- If you hadn't made it so obvious that you were going to close the Welsh stream here then parents wouldn't have moved their children

What about the effect on after school clubs?

- There are lots of revision classes after school, which would be hard to go to if we moved to Builth Wells
- It will affect our extra-curricular activities
- Would have to stop going to clubs

Anything else you would like to add?

- Apart from the size of the Welsh Stream, what is the actual problem with the stream here?
- In year 7 we had lots of lessons in Welsh but now there are only 2
- Teachers have moved because of the consultation
- Have you been to Ysgol Y Bannau to speak with them?

1.2 Meeting with English-medium pupils at Brecon High School

Is there anything you would like to say or ask us?

- We want to keep the Welsh Stream open, we need to keep the Welsh language local, it's important for Brecon town
- It would have a massive impact on the school if the Welsh Stream was closed. Everyone is Welsh here and Ysgol y Bannau is here
- If pupils missed the bus to Builth then their parents would have to pay for them to get there
- When Powys started these consultations the numbers in the Welsh Stream started to decrease

What will the impact be if the Welsh stream was closed?

- It would be a big impact. We have Welsh events here, like the Eisteddfod and if there was no Welsh stream then there would be less Welsh events and it would have an impact on the cultural side of the school
- Lots of Welsh stream pupils have left already, if the Welsh stream stays then we would have enough pupils for sports teams.
- If it stayed then more people would come here
- We should be able to have a choice of school
- If more Welsh students came here then they would have more choice
- You are restricting their choice

What impact would there be on pupils that had to move schools?

- They wouldn't have many friends
- It would be harder because they would have to travel and that would affect their learning

What would the impact of travel be on the pupils?

- They would have to leave early and will be tired which will affect their learning
- Some may suffer from travel sickness
- They won't have time to do after school activities
- Parents will have to pay for travel to after school clubs
- Having more subjects in Welsh won't be as good if the travelling effects their learning and study
- If the Welsh Stream goes, will Welshness go as well?

How do you feel about the New Build?

- A Welsh Stream would enhance the new build
- If the Welsh stream have to move to Builth Wells then it's like saying "You can't come here"
- All schools in Wales should have a Welsh Stream or have the opportunity to have a Welsh Stream
- If the Welsh Stream closed no one would send their children to Ysgol Y Bannau
- If the Welsh Stream remained in the new build then the Welsh Stream would appeal to more parents
- If parents wanted their children to go to Builth Wells High School then they would have sent their children to primary school in Builth Wells to start with

What do you think would happen to the pupils in the Welsh Stream now?

- They would go to a different school
- Some Welsh pupils may be forced to go into the English Stream
- They would have to choose between losing friends and losing their Welsh
- They should be able to choose between going to Brecon High School or Builth Wells High School
- It would be a big impact on our year
- If Builth Wells can have a Welsh Stream and more subjects, why can't we?
- If we get a new school, would we get new/additional teachers?
- When you learn 2 languages, it improves productivity and moving from lessons in Welsh and lessons in English helps

1.3 Meeting with pupils from Ysgol y Bannau

Do you have any questions or anything you want to say about what's happening?

- You are spending millions on a new school but you are not letting Welsh come into it.
- If people play instruments, then there won't be any time for us to have lessons before going to school if we have to go to another school
- What will happen to Ysgol y Bannau? If the Welsh goes from the high school, parents will think what's the point in sending their children to Welsh education and the numbers will go down

What do you like about there being a Welsh Stream at Brecon High School?

- It's good but if it moves then we won't have Welsh next door
- People here want to still speak Welsh, they feel more clever because they are bilingual
- The teachers like the children from Ysgol y Bannau

What don't you like about there being a Welsh Stream at Brecon High School?

- Only some of the classes are in Welsh
- That there is going to be a new school but no Welsh Stream will be there
- Going into an English Stream after going to a Welsh school
- Less people in the community will speak Welsh if there's no Welsh stream at the high school
- Wouldn't like to be in a small class of 2 or 3

What would the effects be, if the Welsh Stream was to close?

- You won't hear Welsh in the corridor

Would you still go to Brecon if there was no Welsh Stream?

- One person said no, the rest said they would still go there and join the English stream
- More pupils from Ysgol y Bannau are going to Brecon High School this year

Do you worry about being split from friends?

- We grew up together and then we won't get to see each other
- It would be different
- Different because they wouldn't know the school because it would be a new place and new people
- If you are ill in school, it is really far for parents to come and get them
- Maybe parents don't want their children to travel

Do any of you go to any clubs outside of school? What time are they?

- The clubs attended are at the sports centre which are at 4:30/5 or at 7
- Year 5 and 6 went to Brecon High School to play games
- Pupils in Brecon High School go to the Welsh Stream but they have some lessons with the English Stream

How would the closure of the Welsh Stream effect you?

- We would have to get used to having lessons in English

What about if you had to go to another school?

- It would be hard to go from a Welsh school to having some lessons in English and then move to a Welsh school again

What do you think of the idea of a Welsh-medium secondary school instead of a dual stream secondary school?

- I like the Welsh model like Ystalyfera and prefer it to a dual stream school
- In a Welsh-medium school you can speak Welsh and everyone understands you, if you go to a dual stream school not everyone speaks Welsh so you have to speak English
- In a dual stream school you can help others to speak Welsh

Anything you would like to say or ask?

- Think about all the fumes because of the extra buses, in school we say "Think Global, Think Local"
- Worrying about the numbers that will attend Ysgol Y Bannau
- The consultations are making parents send their children elsewhere
- Family member has gone through Welsh education and it upsets her that she may not get to
- The number of pupils is decreasing and teachers are losing their jobs.
- Worried that Ysgol Y Bannau will have to move as well.

1.4 Meeting with pupils from Sennybridge

What is good about there being a Welsh Stream at Brecon High School?

- If you're in the English Stream then pupils in the Welsh Stream can teach you Welsh
- People can speak Welsh in school
- You can learn in 2 languages
- Speak in Welsh about the work
- Carry your education on in Welsh
- It's local, Welsh is staying local

- If you're friends with people in the English Stream in primary school then you can stay together in High School
- People in Brecon can decide to go to either stream
- If Welsh Stream closes then will probably go to the English Stream
- There will be less people speaking Welsh if the Welsh stream closes

Is there anything you don't like about there being a Welsh Stream in Brecon High School?

- There aren't many pupils in the Welsh stream
- It's a waste of classes because there are only 19 pupils there
- It's a waste of teachers and money because they are teaching small classes

If the Welsh Stream were to close, how would it affect you?

- The travelling is inconvenient to parents
- You won't hear much Welsh around Brecon
- The numbers in Welsh will go down
- It will affect the language

Would anything be better if there wasn't a Welsh Stream at Brecon High School?

- We would have more Welsh speaking friends in a Welsh school
- They would save money because there would be more students in a class
- There are more people in Builth so you would hear more Welsh
- It would boost the Welsh language in Builth Wells and Ystalyfera but there would be a negative effect on Brecon

What would be worse if there wasn't a Welsh Stream at Brecon High School?

- You would have to travel more
- May not make it back in time for extra-curricular activities
- You have to make new friends
- Friends would live miles away

Do you worry about splitting up from your friends?

- Yes but it may boost your confidence because you will have more friends
- Won't affect us because we don't learn in Welsh so our friends will be with us

How do you think it will affect pupils with disabilities?

- They will be used to one teacher and if they move then they won't have that teacher any more
- They may be happier in smaller classes like in Brecon High School
- If someone is in a wheelchair then they may find it easier to move around a smaller school

Do you have any questions or anything you want to tell us?

- What if parents can't travel to Builth or Ystalyfera?
- It will affect the language because you can't really speak Welsh in Brecknockshire so closing the Welsh stream will have an effect on the language
- If the Welsh Stream closes then the English Stream pupils won't have the opportunity to learn and practice their Welsh

2. Minutes of meeting with Staff

Minutes of a consultation meeting with staff of Brecon High School, held on Tuesday, 29th November, 2016, at Brecon High School, in relation to a proposal to close the Welsh medium stream at the school from 31st August, 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from 1st September, 2017

Present

Marianne Evans, School Transformation Manager
Jane Thomas, Professional Lead Finance
Gareth Jones, Senior Manager, School Central Support Service
Rachael Lingard, HR Business Partner

Brecon High School staff

R. Broadbridge	R. Carpenter
Linda Jones	Rhian Owen
Anna Stephens	Niall Bell
Tracey Gibbs	Geraint ?
Jane MacLennan	Richard Wyatt
Donna Watson	H East
Nia Williams-Price	J Hosking
M. Humphries	Gareth Gillard
Jenny Bentley	H Davies
Alex Griffiths	L Cross
J Bryant	A Morgan
M Hirst	

Marianne Evans informed staff that consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh stream at the school from 31st August, 2017, began on 21st November, 2016, and closes on 9th January, 2017. She explained why this was the third consultation on the proposal. When the report on the first consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh stream was considered by Cabinet in September 2015 Members decided that Welsh-medium education should be included in the wider review of secondary schools. Consultation on the wider proposal was carried out in April, 2016, and a report was considered by the Cabinet in September 2016, when Cabinet members decided to abandon the proposal consulted on. As the proposal to remove the Welsh medium stream from Brecon High School was part of a wider proposal, legal advice was that there should be re-consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh stream. Cabinet therefore directed officers to start a fresh consultation on removal of the Welsh stream. Legally, this is a new consultation.

Marianne Evans explained the two reasons for the proposal:

- The low number of pupils in the stream;
- the need to ensure linguistic progression for Welsh medium learners through to the end of KS4 and into KS5.

The following comments/questions were received from staff:

1. How long ago was Ysgol y Bannau built?

Response

About 20 years ago.

2. **At the time Ysgol y Bannau was built there was a lot of talk about Welsh medium primary pupils being able to choose Welsh medium provision at this school but there has been a change of view.**
3. **I have a niece who attended the Welsh stream in Sennybridge CP School and then the Welsh stream at this school. She is now employed as a Welsh speaker and she could not have done that had she not attended the Welsh stream here. The culture and ethos of Brecon High School has been strengthened by the Welsh medium learners here. The Authority has impacted on our numbers by awarding home to school transport to other schools.**

Response

In terms of home to school transport, the Authority has a duty to provide transport to the closest school to the learner's home address, which provides education through the language of choice. Transport is currently provided to Ysgol Ystalyfera following a transport appeal.

4. **By providing transport to out of county you have undercut the Welsh medium provision at this school.**

Response

The precedent was set as a result of a transport appeal.

5. **So you are expecting children from the Sennybridge area to travel out of county to Ystalyfera rather than to Builth?**

Response

We will be discussing with Neath Port Talbot Council whether they will extend the catchment area of Ysgol Ystalyfera to include Sennybridge, if this proposal goes through.

6. **So Powys County Council's solution is to transport Welsh medium pupils from the Sennybridge area out of county for Welsh medium education?**

Response

There are not enough Welsh medium learners to allow a viable Welsh medium stream at Brecon High School. Numbers of Welsh medium learners have not grown significantly since Ysgol y Bannau was established 20 years ago.

Does it matter whether a parent chooses an out of county provider or not as long as the child gets appropriate provision?

7. **The nearest Welsh medium provision to Sennybridge is at this school.**
8. **The fact that the state of the school buildings here has not been addressed is part of the problem. I can understand why parents opt for other Secondary schools when they see the state of the school buildings here. Parents want their children to be taught in a nice environment.**

Response

The state of the school buildings at Ysgol Ystalyfera is quite tired and we understand that Neath Port Talbot Council are planning a capital investment to remodel the school. As an Authority we recognise

Brecon High School is the only secondary school in Powys that is in a very bad condition - condition D. Gwernyfed High School has a mixture of school buildings in different states of condition.

9. **Historically, the numbers in the Welsh medium stream at this school have always been high. I have been teaching here in the Welsh stream in classes of 25- 30. 20 years ago my classes always had around 24 pupils. Last year, all of a sudden, my class went to around 3-4 within 6-8 weeks because of the uncertainty about the Welsh stream. You are talking about the numbers in the Welsh stream decreasing but they have not dipped historically as they are doing now. That document is biased and does not reflect the true picture.**

Response

Welsh Government require us to provide data for 5 years within the consultation document.

10. **The context of the situation is missing. You need to explain that the Welsh stream at Brecon High School was viable until everyone panicked and there was a domino effect once it was suggested that the Welsh stream was under threat. The consultation had a massive effect on pupil numbers in the Welsh stream.**
11. **You talk about building capacity at Builth, but you fail to understand that many parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau are non-Welsh speakers who take a “leap of faith” when they choose Welsh medium education for their children. We are a truly bilingual school. Those parents will not take that “leap of faith” to send their children across the county for Welsh medium education. You will be losing students to Welsh medium education at a time when Welsh Government is trying increase Welsh medium provision. You seem to be listening to Rhag which is led by parents who want their children to be taught in designated Welsh medium schools. Students here benefit hugely from 1st language Welsh students being on this campus. By putting Welsh medium learners in a designated Welsh medium school you “ghetto” the language. We successfully integrate the Nepalese community and students from Eastern Europe but now you want to take the Welsh medium voice out of Brecon High School.**
12. **Rhag is a vocal group but it doesn’t necessarily represent all the Welsh speaking community.**
13. **You don’t want to listen to us. We want the best for our children but you are not listening to the views of the majority of parents.**

Response

We recognise if the proposal goes forward there may be an impact on the numbers in Welsh medium provision in the first few years but Welsh medium provision has grown in Newtown and a new Welsh medium primary school has been built. The pupils who transfer to Secondary education from the Welsh medium primary school in Newtown don’t access Secondary Welsh medium education in Newtown, they travel to Llanfair Caereinion High School for Welsh medium education.

14. **We had a meeting last night with parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau and most said they would not transfer their children to Builth for Welsh medium education. They want them to be educated here.**

Response

Rhag is a national organisation with local branches. Rhag is a consultee of this consultation. I would suggest, without putting words in Rhag’s mouth that their view is to support designated Welsh

medium schools. I think they would probably not support this proposal as it does not propose to replace the current provision with a designated Welsh medium school. At the end of the day, the Cabinet has to listen to what has been said and no decision has yet been made.

15. Powys is such an enormous county. I don't think it is helpful to compare this area to Montgomeryshire. When you did earlier consultation you hoped you would create a critical mass by moving Welsh medium learners to Builth. You do not have that critical mass. Not all Welsh medium learners have transferred from this school to Builth. It has had the opposite effect because you have split the Welsh medium group. You have taken away a thriving Welsh medium provision at Brecon High School. A lot of parents are not going to move their children to Builth. It is not what they want.

16. When my child was in Ysgol y Bannau all her cohort transferred to Welsh medium provision at Brecon High School but, last year, the children transferred to 6 different schools

17. Parents of pupils in Ysgol y Bannau don't want their children to travel to Builth so they are sending their children to Gwernyfed or to Crickhowell. There is also leakage out of county and into English medium education.

18. I don't speak Welsh. I can't understand it. We are a school now which is on the way up. Spiritually, and linguistically, the feeling of being Welsh only happens if you are surrounded by people who speak Welsh. Brecon has always had a strong Welsh speaking community. We offer opportunities for Welsh speakers at this school. We are having new buildings here. How was it ever considered to take Welsh provision out of this school? You should be supporting us to provide for Welsh medium learners.

19. How central will Welsh medium provision be? What is the most southerly Welsh medium primary school?

Response

Ysgol Dyffryn y Glowyr, which is one of the new primary schools in Ystradynlais.

20. Where will the most southerly dedicated Welsh medium stream secondary school be?

Response

In Powys, Builth

21. Brecon has good links to the southern part of the county.

22. I attended this school and many of my friends were Welsh medium pupils. I would be devastated if those friends had gone to different schools and if there had been separate schools for English and Welsh speaking students.

Response

If this school became an English medium school you could still deliver some subjects through the medium of Welsh. In a category 4 school it would be expected that the school promotes Welsh culture and language as it does currently.

Response

I would expect that when the new school is built the pupil retention rate will be higher than it currently is.

23. You will have a Welsh medium primary school directly opposite a new building and you will be saying that those pupils will not be coming to Brecon High when the school has a Welsh ethos. Brecon High School is improving. Your proposal is financially, not educationally, driven.

Response

The points you are making are valid. The school is in an improving situation and there will be a new school building. The school is in a different position to where it was in April and that will have to be reflected in the Cabinet report.

24. In the light of an improving situation I know that parents of Welsh medium pupils in Sennybridge CP School will be moving their children to Brecon High School when the new school building is opened. The numbers in the Welsh stream at Sennybridge School are very buoyant. Are you saying that those parents can only choose a single language secondary school? There is an opportunity to extend and improve Welsh medium provision at this school.

25. I am not a Welsh speaker but my father was a Welsh speaker and was head of Welsh in a Swansea school. My father did not teach me Welsh. If I had been here and there had not been an opportunity to speak Welsh, I would have been disappointed. Your proposal is retrograde step which goes against Welsh Government policy of trying to promote Welsh.

26. The wording in the document makes it sound as if it is a “done deal” and that Welsh medium pupils will be unable to access the new building.

27. You said that a Category 4 school can still have some Welsh medium lessons. How does that work?

Response

In a category 4 school pupils will be taught mainly through English but it is possible to provide one or more subjects through the medium of Welsh, which can include Welsh first language.

Response

Newtown and Welshpool High Schools deliver 1st language Welsh to a number of pupils.

26. There are Welsh language pupils who do not want to travel. Can our Welsh language pupils still continue to do Welsh first language? They clearly could not choose Welsh second language.

27. What about those pupils who have completed Key Stage 3 as Welsh first language. What is going to happen to those children in year 9 who do not want to go to Builth High School because they cannot do Welsh 2nd language? You say you are going to allow pupils entering Year 11 to do Welsh first language.

Response

If those students stay at the school we would need to look at funding the school for a first language Welsh course for 2 years to allow them to complete the GCSE.

28. About 20 years ago when I was appointed as a head of PE, one of criteria when making appointments was to appoint a Welsh speaker. If a Welsh speaking applicant and an English

applicant had the same qualifications and experience, priority would have been given to the Welsh speaker. When there was a change of Headteacher that policy changed and it hasn't been supported over the years. It is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If there are no teachers to deliver subjects through the medium of Welsh then Welsh provision will decrease. That should not have been allowed. There has to be a positive drive to promote Welsh medium education, led and supported by the Authority. There has to be consistency. I am concerned about the amount of support for Welsh medium provision at Brecon High School. Welsh medium provision has not been fully supported and has been undercut repeatedly and consistently. The Welsh medium stream is an essential part of this school. 20 years ago I heard children speaking Welsh at this school. It is more than just the language that is in jeopardy when you lose the Welsh medium provision.

29. In the consultation document, it says Welsh medium provision will continue to be provided to years 11 and 12. Can you confirm there will be an amendment to this document? It needs to be clarified in the document. You have to make this document clear for parents and it is not.

30. There are parents of pupils in Ysgol y Bannau who want to bring their children to this school. How many it will take for you to listen and do what they want? Is there are number?

Response

There isn't a number. This is a stand-alone consultation which will run its course and a decision will be taken by the Cabinet. You have seen, over the last 6 months that Cabinet members have listened and changed their minds on a number of consultations. That it is the nature of the consultation process.

31. This document does rely heavily on numbers. You have to state a viable number for the Welsh medium provision to continue.

32. The numbers in Welsh medium are low because of the consultation. We are still in that situation because of the uncertainty. Parents would still be prepared to take that "leap of faith" and opt for Welsh medium education if the Welsh stream was retained at Brecon High School. People in Brecon want to keep the Welsh medium provision at this school.

33. This school is "on the up". Why would parents want their children to go to a school that is failing and is 20 miles away?

34. Have you considered how much more it is going to cost the Authority in transport costs by transporting the pupils? It is not just from one area. It will be from multiple areas and you may end up with minibuses with one pupil in. That will increase costs. What is the financial burden you will incur?

35. The reliance on home to school transport will make it more difficult for children to take part in extra-curricular activities. You will need to provide more transport for Welsh medium pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities.

Response

The Authority does not provide transport for extra-curricular activities but how Welsh medium pupils from the Brecon area would be able to access extra-curricular activities, if the stream closes, along with other pupils who are transported into the school, is a real issue that needs to be recognised. In terms of the cost of transport, free transport arrangements are already in place to transport Welsh

medium learners to Ystalyfera and there is already transport going to Builth High School and therefore the additional impact of this proposal is minimal.

36. Some parents may be able to provide transport for their children to attend extra-curricular activities but some may not. Those pupils will be disadvantaged.

37. It is hard for parents to get their children to extra-curricular activities even when it is just a short journey. When are the children expected to do their homework with all the extra travelling?

38. There is a socio-economic aspect to this. There are quite a lot of pupils attending Ysgol y Bannau now who are from fairly deprived backgrounds and whose families may not have the means to provide transport to and from after school activities.

Response

Those are key factors which will be highlighted.

39. If implemented, the proposal will have a huge impact on pupils.

40. There is a bus already going to Builth. That extra bus is as a result of the last consultation when pupils transferred to Welsh medium provision in Builth. The earlier consultation has undermined the Welsh medium provision at this school.

41. I was at Builth High School, at the time Welsh medium pupils transferred from this school, and it was difficult to accommodate all the Welsh medium learners. There is such a rich tapestry here. Pupils from the Nepalese community hear incidental Welsh. Now they have an opportunity to integrate with children who speak Welsh as a first language. That opportunity will be taken from them.

42. Powys County Council was supposed to support Brecon High School to get to category 2b status and you did not support us but you say on page 9 of the consultation document that the Authority is committed to promoting the benefit of Welsh medium education.

Response

All schools were given the same level of support in 2011 to become category 2b schools. We worked hard with those schools and other organisations as well. In 2015, the Cabinet decided to start a new consultation and recognised that the category 2b target may not be achieved.

43. We have been financially held back and that has been used against us.

Response

The problem with the challenge to all schools to be category 2 b schools, at that time, was that you need the staff to teach through the medium of Welsh and how to build that capacity when facing financial pressures.

44. We showed commitment to employ Welsh speaking staff but, as a result of the consultation, pupils in the Welsh stream “jumped ship” and we had to shelve our commitment to take on Welsh medium staff. We were “stabbed in the back” by the consultation process. When pupils left the school it compounded the problem because there were financial implications.

45. How is greater clarity going to be given in relation to the proposal for Secondary schools in mid Powys?

Response

The proposal for Builth and Llandrindod High Schools is currently in an objection period, i.e. a statutory notice has been published for closure of both schools and to open a new school on the two sites from September 2018. .

46. I know parents who are moving their children to Hereford because of lack of clarity in relation to what is happening to Secondary education in Llandrindod.

Response

I understand that uncertainty has an impact and that uncertainty has had an impact on numbers in the Welsh stream in Brecon High School.

Response

The proposal is that the Key Stage 3 and the Key Stage 4 curriculum will be delivered on both sites (in Builth and in Llandrindod) but it will be down to the governing body of the new school to decide from which site Post 16 provision will be delivered. The Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum will be delivered from both sites and the proposal is for Welsh medium education to be provided from the Builth site.

47. I have been fascinated by listening to our staff speak with such passion. I am aghast as to why the proposal to remove Welsh medium education from Brecon High School is even being considered. People have expressed themselves with such eloquence and passion.

48. You can't use the same model for Brecon as that used for other areas. The geographical make-up of Brecon is different. Brecon is unique. It has employment. It has a Welsh medium primary school and good communication. It seems unbelievable that a brand new school without Welsh medium provision is being considered.

49. Look at the pupils who have gone through Brecon High School. The majority of the high fliers who are getting "A*s" and "A" grades are coming from the Welsh stream. You cannot say that removal of the Welsh stream will not have an impact on the school.

50. Pupils in the Welsh stream are completely immersed in the life of the school. They are involved in the sports and musical life of the school.

51. Rob Broadbridge:

I wonder why there is no councillor representative here today because they were here last time. It is striking. What value is being placed on this consultation? This is the third time there has been consultation on this proposal and staff have invested in this again.

Response

Councillor Arwel Jones was unable to attend this meeting but will be at the meeting with governors and the parents and community.

52. Rob Broadbridge

The timing of this consultation is going to have an impact on our ability to design a curriculum for the next academic year. What curriculum do I put together? How can the curriculum be planned when it is not known whether or not there will be a Welsh stream

next year? March is far too late for staff to put a curriculum together. There are some staff here who will be affected by that decision. How do I employ those staff if there is no Welsh curriculum? There is uncertainty for staff. The timing of the consultation does not help year 6/7 transition. Last year we had to extend the deadline for applications from Welsh medium pupils to July. You are talking about numbers increasing again but we don't know what our pupil numbers will be? There could be an impact on funding. £3k per pupil means "a big hit" for us.

What has the impact of creating the critical mass been? What difference has it made for Builth High School? What difference has it made post 16? The South Powys Consortium was set up so that Welsh medium "A" levels could be delivered from Builth. What difference is it going to make in terms of increasing Welsh medium provision at post 16? What difference will it make to those learners? We can see what the difference will be here.

53. Rob Broadbridge

Transport costs are going to increase.

Response

We recognise that additional costs have been incurred for school transport.

Response

There is no best timing for any school consultation and reorganisation. We know that the current timescale does not help you. This consultation finishes on 9th January. Should Cabinet give approval to proceed to a statutory notice, the notice would be published for one month. A final decision could be expected by mid-April. There is no quick way to complete the statutory process.

54. Rob Broadbridge

We understand that but consultation is about understanding the impact. I could have some key members of staff choosing to leave because of this consultation.

51. This school has been under pressure for so many years. Yet the same staff are still here. This shows the commitment of the school's staff to keep the Welsh stream open. We will keep fighting this battle.

55. There is going to be more of a fight than councillors realise.

Response

If the proposal is taken forward, discussion will be needed around timing and financial and funding matters. The minutes of this meeting will be shared with the school but they won't pick up the emotion expressed by staff.

Response

I can assure you that finance is not the main driver for the proposal. The savings from the first proposal were far more than for this proposal. Finance is a consideration but it is not the main driver.

53. My children attended the Welsh stream in this school and they were both in small cohorts. They both live in England now but they still use the Welsh language. They did not have every subject taught through the medium of Welsh. I am proud of what they achieved thanks to this school.

3. Minutes of meeting with Governors

Minutes of a consultation meeting with governors of Brecon High School held on Tuesday, 29th November, 2016, at Brecon High School, in relation to a proposal to close the Welsh medium stream at the school from 31st August, 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from 1st September, 2017

Present

Cllr Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education
Ian Roberts, Head of Schools Service
Marianne Evans, Senior Manager, School Transformation
Gareth Jones, Senior Manager, School Central Support Service
Jane Thomas, Acting Head of Financial Services
Rachael Lingard, HR Business Partner

Brecon High School governors

E T Morgan N Maughan Sean O'Connor Martha Rees Helen East Jane Mackenna	Sian Drinan Gareth Gillard Alan Canning Alison Phillips David Meredith Peter Rowlands
--	--

Cllr Arwel Jones welcomed governors to the meeting. Governors were reminded that the consultation period runs from 21st November, 2016, to 9th January, 2017, and meetings with staff, governors and parents were being held as part of the consultation process. Cllr Arwel Jones reminded governors of the proposal under consultation, which is:

To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August, 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from 1st September, 2017.

The following comments/questions were received from governors:

- 1. It is a shame that the Portfolio Holder and Head of Schools Service were not present at the consultation meeting with staff to see the passion shown by members of staff on behalf of the Welsh stream. We seriously want to keep the Welsh stream open.**

Response

Please accept my apologies. Unfortunately I had another commitment which meant I could not attend the meeting with staff.

- 2. Are the pupils being consulted and when?**

Response

Yes, a meeting has been arranged to hear the pupils' views.

- 3. In the consultation document you say that 19 Welsh medium pupils is insufficient for a viable Welsh medium stream. What would be sufficient pupil numbers to keep the Welsh stream open?**

Response

In terms of funding, there are 2 elements – one element is pupil-led. The school also receives a dual stream uplift if the school is delivering 100% curriculum through Welsh and English medium which is equivalent to 2.5 FTE teachers, half a teacher per year group. To be viable a school would need a minimum of 12-15 Welsh medium learners per year. This would only fund a single teaching group per year.

Response

In terms of curriculum provision at Key Stage 4, the number of Welsh medium pupils at this school would mean it is difficult to provide breadth of choice. If there were 19 Welsh medium pupils in every year group it would be different, but there are only 19 Welsh medium pupils from Years 7-11 in the school. Viability is driven by finances and the number of pupils, and this will dictate the curriculum offer.

Response

You would need a year group of 35-40 pupils at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 to make the Welsh stream financially viable and allow the school to offer 2 teaching groups per year.

I think Builth High School, in two of the Key Stage 3 year groups, has 2 Welsh medium teaching groups but we can check that information.

- 4. Can we have historical figures to see the impact this consultation has had on pupil numbers in the Welsh stream? If you look at the table which shows historical data, we had a huge drop in numbers due to pupils leaving this school to go to Builth High School because of the uncertainty over the future of the Welsh stream here.**

Response

The consultation report that goes to Cabinet will make it clear that the uncertainty about the future of the Welsh stream, over the last 3 years, has had a negative impact on the number of pupils in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School and has resulted in an increase in the number of Welsh medium pupils at Builth High School.

Response

At the staff consultation meeting, it was strongly emphasised that the consultation process has had a strong impact on pupil numbers. Another point made by staff was that the consultation document was restricted to 5 years of data but a more historical context needs to be provided.

- 5. My daughter left Brecon High School 3 years ago, and, at that time, there was uncertainty. Uncertainty has had a detrimental effect in sustaining pupil numbers in the Welsh stream because people are not sure what it is happening. In 2014, there were 19 in my daughter's Welsh medium class and by the next year it had dropped off to 13 due to uncertainty about the future of the Welsh stream. This is not just short-term. The uncertainty has been going on for a long time.**

Response

It is important that you respond to the consultation in writing to that effect. If you have the evidence of uncertainty beyond the consultation period, please put that into writing.

6. **If you are aiming for two classes in each cohort we would dispute that. We have not had that situation in Brecon High School. We just had one class and it provided an excellent education. We have Welsh medium pupils in classes of 2 and 3 but it is more important to them to have their education here than to have to travel to Builth. We firmly believe Welsh medium provision should be here in the community where there is a Welsh presence.**
7. **There is quite a groundswell of demand from parents of current year 6 pupils in Ysgol y Bannau who fully intend to send their children to this school for Welsh medium education when the children transfer to Secondary school. If there was no Welsh medium stream in Brecon High School, they would start taking their children out of Welsh medium completely. We know some students in the Welsh stream here who would have opted for English medium education rather than travel to Builth if there had been no Welsh stream in Brecon High School.**
8. **I would dispute the statement that, over a number of years, some pupils in Sennybridge have transferred to Welsh medium provision in Ystalyfera due to parental preference. It is because of the uncertainty about the future of the Welsh medium stream in Brecon High School that those parents chose to send their children to Ystalyfera when they would have preferred to send them to this school.**

Response

The uncertainty about the future of Welsh medium provision at Brecon High School, over last 3 years, has affected pupil numbers in the Welsh stream. I cannot deny that. It has had an impact. I accept what you say.

9. **The uncertainty about the future of the Welsh stream in Brecon High School is also affecting pupil numbers in Ysgol y Bannau. Some parents have chosen English medium over Welsh medium because of the uncertainty.**
10. **Numbers in the 3-year-old setting at Ysgol y Bannau have significantly decreased over the last two years. Before the uncertainty parents who did not speak Welsh themselves were “taking a leap of faith” and were choosing Welsh medium education for their children. English parents will take the step to send their children to Welsh medium provision if they know their children can have continuity of provision locally. A lot of the parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau weren’t Welsh speaking but there was a significant drop in the number of parents opting for Welsh medium education because of uncertainty about continuity of provision.**
11. **What happens to the Welsh stream at Brecon High School may have a significant impact on Ysgol y Bannau. Has there been any engagement with parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau?**

Response

Yes, that will be part of the consultation process.

Response

I would expect parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau to attend the public meeting. It is an open meeting and parents of Ysgol y Bannau and other primary schools have received information about the consultation.

Response

We are also meeting with pupils in the school.

- 12. Can we be reassured that if Welsh medium provision does not remain in Brecon High School that there will be no uncertainty about Welsh medium provision being in Builth, given the proposal to close Llandrindod and Builth High Schools and to open a new school?**

Response

A report on the outcome of the statutory notice in relation to the proposal for Llandrindod and Builth High Schools will be considered by the Cabinet. It is likely to be February or March before Cabinet takes the final decision on the proposal for Llandrindod and Builth High Schools. It would have been wrong for Cabinet to take a decision on the Welsh medium aspect as part of the Gwernyfed/Brecon proposal. The consultation on the proposal to remove the Welsh stream from Brecon High School is a totally separate consultation. This is a totally separate consultation and subject to a separate Cabinet decision.

Response

I know there has been a period of uncertainty. There is always a period of uncertainty with any school proposal. Could you envisage that, in 5 years' time when things are settled, there will be a strong relationship between Ysgol y Bannau and the school in Builth?

- 13. It does not make sense.**

Response

There is evidence in some areas of Powys, where there is breadth of curriculum offered through Welsh medium parents have taken that "leap of faith" to opt for Welsh medium education for their children. In some areas of Powys, we now have Welsh medium schools where over 50% of pupils are from non-Welsh speaking homes.

- 14. I think there are a lot of people in Brecon who would not want their children educated other than in Brecon.**
- 15. We have spoken about a more optimistic vision for Brecon, especially with the new school build. If you are a pupil in Ysgol y Bannau and you see a brand new secondary school across road and know that if you speak Welsh you have to go to a school 20 miles away, what message does that send in relation to diversity and inclusion?**
- 16. Removal of the Welsh stream at this school will mean that those parents who are quite confident in their Welsh language skills will send their children to Ysgol y Bannau and then on to Builth High School but English speaking parents will not opt for Welsh medium education for their children. You will not be growing or building Welsh medium any more. I don't think that is what we want for the Welsh language. I would have never been able to choose Welsh medium education for my children if it had been in Builth because I don't drive. The people it is going to affect are those families who do not run two cars or children with learning difficulties and medical problems. Welsh medium education is not going to be an option for them. In terms of equal opportunities, the proposal is not a good idea.**

Response

I understand there is an issue with travelling distance but there is evidence to indicate that parents will opt for Welsh medium education if they want continuity and breadth of curriculum and many

parents who opt for Welsh medium education do not necessarily have cars. It is down to parental choice. I understand the point you made about pupils in Ysgol y Bannau looking across the road at a 21st Century school which may only provide for English medium pupils.

- 17. My son has gone out of county to Merthyr College to study. My son has to travel and he is very tired by end of the week. I have a friend whose children started off going to Builth and they got too tired so came back to Brecon. Taking the Welsh medium provision from Brecon High School will also mean splitting children from their friendship groups. If children have to attend doctors or dental appointments in Brecon during the school day, it will mean taking a lot more time out of school if they are studying in Builth.**
- 18. Hopefully, on Thursday, there will be parents of pupils in Ysgol y Bannau who will say they would be prepared to accept a not so broad curriculum providing it is local. You say that the Authority is committed to increasing the number of Welsh medium pupils so why can't support be there for pupils to come to Brecon High School?**
- 19. Why are we sending pupils to Builth High School for Welsh medium education? The distance those pupils have to travel has an impact on their ability to take part in extra-curricular activities such as sporting events, revision classes after school, drama and musical events. Those pupils will be prevented from taking part in extra-curricular activities in Builth. Some of our best rugby players at this school were in the Welsh medium stream.**
- 20. No mention has been made of Welsh medium pupils from Sennybridge. It concerns me that there are over 30 children travelling daily to Ystalyfera. What is it costing the County Council education budget to educate those children in Ystalyfera? Last year, between 4 and 6 Year 6 pupils from the Welsh medium stream in Sennybridge CP School transferred to the Secondary school in Ystalyfera and 2 came out of Welsh medium education to come to the English medium stream at this school. What is it costing to transport those children to Ystalyfera day in day out? New parents feel there has been little dialogue with them and they have had little choice. If it was decided to retain Welsh medium provision in this school, parents of those pupils in Sennybridge who opted for Welsh medium education in Ystalyfera would probably decide to transfer their children to Brecon High School**
- 21. Numbers in the Welsh stream classes lower down the school at Sennybridge are buoyant.**

Response

Yes, numbers in the Welsh medium stream at Sennybridge CP School are increasing. The Cylch Meithrin Early Years setting is having a positive impact on the Welsh stream at the school. The number of pupils between the English and Welsh stream at Sennybridge CP School is now more balanced.

- 22. Can you look at the potential number of pupils going out of county or waiting to come to Welsh provision at Brecon High School if it was available?**

Response

Transport is currently provided for Welsh medium pupils to the school in Ystalyfera as a result of a successful transport appeal by parents.

There is also school transport running from the Sennybridge area into Builth.

23. How is Brecon High School categorised according to the National Model for Categorisation of schools?

Response

The categorisation won't be published until end of December but we will ensure documentation that goes to cabinet reflects any change of categorisation.

24. This documentation is biased. When a former pupil of Brecon High School read the consultation document they were appalled. This document is a damning indictment on the Authority. I have never understood why this school was not supported by the Authority to become a Category 2b school. It costs the Authority £110K to transport Welsh medium pupils to Ysgol Ystalyfera and Builth High School. What would it cost to bring this school up to at 2b status? The school currently gets £58K to deliver Welsh medium education. To bring the school up to 2b status would cost £47K. It is costing the Authority a lot of money to transport Welsh medium pupils to other schools, more than it would cost to bring Brecon High School up to 2b status. Who was responsible for not supporting the school to come up to 2b standard? The Authority is throwing away £50K because of the decision to grant transport to Builth High School for Welsh medium pupils. Why are people making those decisions? The decision not to bring this school up to a 2b standard should be subject to scrutiny. Someone within the Authority has to be responsible for that decision. Parents of pupils in Ysgol y Bannau are very passionate as to why they don't want to send their children to Builth High School. Why was the decision taken to pay for transport to Builth High School? How can you justify spending that amount of extra money to transport children to Builth after all you have heard tonight?

Response

Cllr Meredith is asking for the reason why transport was granted. Are we able to provide that information?

Response

The first appeal was held around school transport provision to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. That was heard by the sub-committee of the Board which included the then portfolio holder Cllr David Jones. The parents were successful in their appeal and pupils were awarded transport. When Welsh medium pupils from Brecon High School transferred to Builth High School last year, free home-to-school transport was initially refused by the authority. Parents then appealed that decision, and won their appeal. The figures you quoted are in line with the figures taken to Scrutiny around the transport costs to Builth from Brecon.

25. The decision was taken because Builth High School is a Category 2b school. If it had been stated that the finance would be provided to bring Brecon High School up to 2b status then those pupils would have stayed. Why was that decision taken when it has cost authority a lot of money?

Response

In 2011, the Cabinet decided to give all secondary schools with Welsh streams the challenge of getting up to 2b status. All schools were at different levels at that time in terms of their Welsh-medium provision. That was the decision taken by Cabinet following the informal consultation in relation to secondary schools in 2011. In terms of support to schools - no school received a financial incentive, other than support by officers, to achieve Category 2b status. In January, 2015, the Cabinet recognised that insufficient progress had been made and decided to start a new review of secondary schools, which included a proposal to close the Welsh-medium provision in Brecon. It is

still the Council's policy to aim for Secondary Schools to be Category 2b until the current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan runs out in March. Every school was given same target challenge. Brecon High School grasped the challenge. Looking back, I question whether it was the right strategy because, in order to expand the level of provision offered through the medium of Welsh, there needed to be investment to provide teachers who could teach subjects through the medium of Welsh, and this was at a time when the authority and schools started to face the financial challenges that are now upon them.

26. We have had taken decisions that have had a huge impact financially. We have chosen to continue with Welsh medium provision but there has been a huge exodus of Welsh medium pupils and that trend will continue. A Welsh-speaking Maths teacher left and it was not possible to replace him. We won't have the funding for the teachers so then we will have a financial deficit. If we can't employ the Welsh speaking staff because we can't afford to, it is not possible to provide breadth of curriculum for Welsh medium pupils. If we do employ the staff then it is seen as mismanaging our budget. There is a huge burden on both sides. Whatever decision we make we are damned. Fund us properly so we can provide local medium provision and the Welsh medium pupils are not transported elsewhere because they speak Welsh.

27. We could not provide 2b status on the current budget but now the Authority is spending £50K more to transport Welsh medium pupils to Builth than what it would have cost to bring this school up to 2b status. How can you justify spending an extra 50K transporting children? How can you justify that to the public? It is appalling.

28. I notice that there is going to be change at Ysgol Ystalyfera. There is going to be a new campus in Neath Port Talbot. How well known is that?

Response

Neath Port Talbot CBC is planning to have a split-site school run from Ysgol Ystalyfera, with another site in the south of the borough in or close to Port Talbot.

29. Are parents in this area aware of that proposal?

Response

I believe the formal consultation process took place in 2015. In terms of parents from Powys. It is my understanding that the proposal will not have an impact on pupils. Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 Welsh medium provision will continue on the current Ysgol Gyfun site in Ystalyfera.

30. When will you know what the intake from Ysgol y Bannau to Brecon High School in 2017/18 academic year will be?

Response

The School Admissions Team is currently going through the process to allocate places.

31. Do the projected figures have any bearing on this document? They should influence a decision about the future of the Welsh language in this school.

Response

We can include projected numbers of Welsh medium pupils transferring from Ysgol y Bannau to Brecon High School in the consultation report that goes back to Cabinet, but we need to be aware that parents can change their minds up to the time pupils are admitted.

We can include early data that we have.

32. Does everyone who wants to go to Builth High School have to apply for school transport?

Response

As the officer with responsibility for entitlement to transport, I would review the level of Welsh medium provision available in the local school. There would have to be a significant change in the level of provision, either a decrease in Welsh medium provision in Builth or an increase in Brecon High School to justify a different decision.

If Brecon became a 2b school from next September then the decision would be different.

33. I am concerned that on page 31 of the consultation document, final sentence of 8.1, it says that the saving if the proposal was implemented would be £58,475. Those figures are inaccurate. I think this consultation document should be withdrawn because the document is misleading.

Response

Currently, there would be no additional transport cost as that transport is already in place.

34. The consultation document is not an honest document. It is biased.

35. I would like to make a point about quality of provision. There has been a lot of talk about breadth of curriculum. We are forgetting about quality of provision. We are an improving school. We have committed staff. Welsh medium staff are some of the top teachers in the school. We are looking at the Welsh medium provision being transferred to a school that has just gone into "special measures".

Response

We have to be careful how we compare the progress Builth High School may be making. It is inappropriate to bring Builth High School into the debate at this time.

Response

Estyn is a consultee and will take a view on the proposal.

36. I would like to see data for transporting pupils from different areas. We would like to see a proper comparison of what the school transport for Welsh medium pupils is costing. We need more data about transport costs for a longer period, say 5 years.

Response

In terms of any costs, they will increase. When we provide figures it is based on the current level of cost.

37. We need data that will reflect the shift in parental decision of where their children are educated.

Response

There are currently 2 school transport routes going to Builth High School from the Brecon area and these cost £91K per annum. One route starts in the Sennybridge area and the other comes from Bwlch. We are also transporting some primary aged children to Builth CP School.

- 38. There has been an increase of more than £50K in a year because of the decision taken to transport Welsh medium pupils from the Brecon area to Bwlch High School.**

Response

I would expect that transport cost to increase.

- 39. Would it not be best to invest that money into teachers rather than in school transport?**
- 40. We need information which would help us in our response. The number of buses and the number of pupils.**
- 41. We need to know where these children are coming from. Did you not mention some learners are coming from the Crickhowell area?**

Response

One route starts in Bwlch.

- 42. These are all costs to the authority. The consultation document does not state what it would cost to bring this school up to a 2b status.**
- 43. It is not just about the costs; it is also about the work life balance for the children. We are paying no attention to that for our children.**
- 44. Pupils are under increasing pressure to achieve more and more and we are asking them to do more with less time.**
- 45. I don't know how you can promote that as an ideal for everyone. You are meant to be investing in the future for the children. Your money is going on the roads of Powys. How can you promote that?**
- 46. The reference to post 16 education in the consultation document implies that it is a failing of Brecon High School that it has not offered post 16 subjects through the medium of Welsh but Brecon High school is part of the South Powys Consortium and Welsh medium pupils can choose to study Welsh medium subjects at post 16 which are offered at other schools in the Consortium. The document is misleading in that it implies that it is a failing that Brecon High School does not offer "A" levels through the medium of Welsh.**

Response

I am not sure when Brecon High School last offered "A" levels through the medium of Welsh and whether that was before collaboration.

- 47. The way the Consortium runs is that there is a quota of subjects per school. Subjects not offered in one school can be accessed via another school in the Consortium**

Response

A Welsh medium uplift has been allocated to the four Powys Secondary schools offering "A" levels through the medium of Welsh.

- 48. There are a number of subjects that could be offered through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School, which have not been included in the table on page 14 of the**

consultation document. If there was sufficient student demand, there are a number of other subjects which could be offered through the medium of Welsh.

49. We have capacity to offer “A” level history through the medium of Welsh.
50. It would be a fairer document if it showed the capacity of the school to offer Welsh medium “A” levels.
51. My son wanted to do history through the medium of Welsh but because of budgetary restrictions, “A” level history could not be offered through the medium of Welsh.
52. Most other schools have not had the same drain of pupils while still trying to offer the same level of curriculum. The drop in the number of Welsh medium pupils at the school has had an impact on the school’s ability to offer a wider curriculum and employ more staff.
In previous years we have offered history “A” level through the medium of Welsh. We have tried to keep as many Welsh medium pupils as possible but we are unique in that the uncertainty has led to a decrease in the number of Welsh medium pupils at the school.

Response

It is acknowledged that uncertainty has had an impact. I am not going to deny that.

53. The decrease in the number of Welsh medium pupils has had an impact on the school finances and there has been a ripple effect across the school.

Response

So you think it should be made clear in the document that pupils wishing to access Welsh medium subjects can do so via the Consortium?

54. Yes, context is important.
55. It should be stated at the beginning of the document that the fall in the number of Welsh medium pupils has had an impact. Contextual information should be included. It is not just a factual document.
56. When we have a new school there will be changes in what curriculum can be provided.

Response

Allocation of funding will be determined by pupil numbers. The Secondary school in Powys which offers the most subjects at Post 16 is Crickhowell High School and that school has a 6th form of around 200 pupils.

57. Change is happening. When the new school is built, we could be looking at 150 in the 6th form and this could have a massive impact on the curriculum offer at Post 16. We could offer more Welsh medium classes at that point in time. It is important to state that things can change.

Response

When the brand new building is ready in 3 years' time, we would expect numbers in Brecon High School to increase and we would expect the 6th form to be bigger than it is now as it is hoped that the transfer rates from feeder primary schools will increase in September, 2017, and future years.

Response

How would you define a bilingual school?

58. A school with a Welsh medium stream. I think there should be a Welsh stream in every school because that is the way the Welsh language will be promoted. It will become the norm and be accepted rather viewed as separate. In Powys we could do something that would be a forward step in promoting the Welsh language. Why not show the way? Why not have the vision?

59. Part of ethos of Brecon High School is that it is more inclusive than some other schools. We support students across the board. We have students from Eastern Europe and Nepal at this school. Getting rid of the Welsh stream here, when Welsh is the native language would be a "crying shame".

60. Losing the Welsh stream would have a big impact on Brecon High School. The cultural element would be lost and that is very important to the school. A lot of the English medium children are very proud of the Welsh medium stream in this school.

61. When is the report on the outcome of consultation likely to be considered by the Cabinet?

Response

The earliest date the report is likely to be considered by the Cabinet is in February.

62. Could there be a new Cabinet considering the final report?

Response

The consultation period ends on 9th January. We would expect the report on the outcome of consultation to be considered by Cabinet on either 7th or 28th February. If Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice will be published for a period of 28 days. Potentially the final decision on the proposal could be taken by a different Cabinet.

Response

Staff raised concerns about the timing of the consultation and its impact on the ability of school to plan the curriculum. We will do our best to get an earlier resolution if we can but it is out of our hands. Timing of the final outcome will depend on the number of responses received and the Cabinet decision.

Cllr Arwel Jones thanked governors for attending. He reminded governors that the consultation period ends on 9th January, 2017. Governors were told that every issue raised during the consultation period would be responded to within the Cabinet report.

4. Minutes of meeting with Parents / Community

Minutes of a consultation meeting with parents and community of Brecon High School, held on Thursday, 1st December, 2016, at Brecon High School, in relation to a proposal to close the Welsh medium stream at the school from 31st August, 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from 1st September, 2017

Present

Cllr Barry Thomas, Leader of the Council
Cllr Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education
Marianne Evans, Senior Manager, School Transformation
Gareth Jones, Senior Manager, School Central Support Service
Jane Thomas, Acting Head of Financial Services

Parents and Community Members of Brecon High School

Attendance list attached below:



Attendance list
public consultation

Cllr Arwel Jones welcomed parents and members of Brecon community to the meeting. He conveyed apologies from Ian Roberts, Head of Schools Service, who was unable to attend due to a family commitment. Panel members introduced themselves.

Marianne Evans provided a brief presentation attached below.



Brecon
Consultation Meetir

Marianne Evans explained the context leading up to the present consultation. It was noted that consultation had taken place in June 2015. When the report on the first consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh stream was considered by Cabinet in September 2015, members decided that Welsh-medium education should be included in the wider review of secondary schools. Consultation on the wider proposal was carried out in April, 2016. When the consultation report was considered by Cabinet in September, 2016, members took the decision to abandon the proposals for Brecon and Gwernyfed High School and it was Cabinet's wish that consultation should take place again around the future of Welsh medium provision in Brecon High School. Because the proposal to remove the Welsh medium stream from Brecon High School was part of that wider proposal, legal advice was that there should be re-consultation on the proposal to close the Welsh stream. Legally, this is now a new consultation.

Attendees were reminded of the proposal which is:

To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.

It was noted that those GCSE students taking courses through the medium of Welsh would be allowed to complete their courses but from 1st September 2018, it is proposed that there will be no Welsh medium provision at Brecon High School and that for those students wishing to study through the medium of Welsh transport will be offered to the nearest Welsh medium provider. Reasons for the proposal are: concerns about the future viability of the Welsh stream due to low pupil numbers and the Council's aspiration to ensure that pupils entering Welsh medium have access to a broad curriculum at each stage of their education. Those present were informed that consultation meetings with governors and staff of Brecon High School had taken place on Tuesday afternoon and evening, 29th November, when it had been acknowledged that student numbers in the Welsh stream had decreased in the last two years due, in part, to the uncertainty of ongoing consultation.

Those present were reminded that the consultation runs from 21st November, 2016, to 9th January, 2017, and that at the end of the consultation, all responses to the consultation would be collated and a report would be presented to Cabinet who will take a decision as to the next steps. Attendees were informed that the purpose of the consultation meeting was to hear their views on the proposal.

The following Questions/comments on the proposal were received from parents and community members:

Parent of 3 children in Welsh medium provision at Ysgol y Bannau and Brecon High School

1. My children have had fantastic education in the Welsh stream at Ysgol y Bannau and Brecon High School. Has Powys County Council actually asked parents what we really want? I have never been asked. What would make the Welsh stream in Brecon High School viable? We must keep the Welsh stream in Brecon to ensure everyone has access to Welsh medium education. Are you happy with student numbers in the cohort in Builth High School now? The majority of parents of year 6 pupils in Ysgol y Bannau wish their children to transfer to Brecon High School in September 17. If the Welsh stream closes parents will still send their children here. Parents are being forced to make a choice about Welsh medium education. If the Welsh stream here closes my children will have to come out of Welsh medium education. For them to travel to Builth High School is a 51 round mile trip. There would be a cost to family of the children having to travel to Builth for schooling. They would miss out on extra-curricular activities. I would have a logistical nightmare because I would have children in schools 20 miles apart. The consultation document does not reflect the true picture in Brecon. The timing of the consultation, over the Christmas period, is at a hard time and there is insufficient time to respond. For the consultation to finish on 9th January is not acceptable and we should ask for an extension of the consultation period. Everyone must write all their letters again even if they have already responded to the previous consultation. I request you to send a letter to every parent stressing that they need to write in again to respond to this consultation.

Response

We are required to consult for 6 weeks, or 42 days. We have already extended this consultation to seven weeks, to take account of the Christmas period. It is a balance between concluding the consultation period in order for Cabinet to take its decision so there is certainty for all, but also providing enough time for responses to be submitted, recognising that this is a particularly busy period. We will write to parents to remind them of the timescale and the fact that this is a new consultation, and they should send in new responses or resubmit the previous responses, if they so wished. This consultation is a stand-alone consultation. It does not take account of views gathered in previous consultations but this does not mean we have not recognised views expressed in the previous consultation.

You asked about the viability of the Welsh medium stream in Builth High School. For a Welsh stream to be viable you are looking at a school with two teaching classes per year group. I believe Builth High School currently has 2 year groups in years 7, 8 and 9 – a total of 150 pupils.

There are single teaching groups in Key Stage 4 and two teaching groups in years 9 & 10.

1. Is the Welsh medium stream currently viable?

Response

In relation to Brecon, the current number of pupils in the stream and the current funding, the stream at the school is not sustainable. In relation to Builth, the funding provided allows the stream to be viable.

In terms of Ysgol y Bannau – we are aware of the choices parents have made to date based on the current configuration and more than half of parents of Year 6 children transferring to Secondary school have chosen Brecon High School.

2. Why don't you put that in the consultation document?

Response

The admissions process has not yet been finalised. Places are currently being allocated. We need to reflect that in the report that goes back to cabinet.

Response

The numbers will be noted in consultation report that goes back to cabinet.

Response

We acknowledge that the travel to Builth can impact on the wellbeing of families. That is a huge issue and we can't take away from the fact that, for some learners, it will be a long journey, in terms of miles and distance, in order to access Welsh medium education.

3. The consultation document does not reflect the true situation we have here in Brecon.

Response

We acknowledge there are historical issues

4. Comment from one of the founders of Welsh medium education in Brecon in 1970s - We fought "tooth and nail" to set up some form of Welsh education in Brecon and it is going "to be washed away" by Powys County Council in one jolt. We started off in the 1970s with 6 pupils, then numbers grew so we pushed for two rooms and eventually we had two subjects taught in Welsh at Brecon High School. How many subjects are going to be taught through the medium of Welsh in Brecon and in Builth? Have you consulted the pupils? How are you going to achieve the Assembly's target of £1m Welsh speakers by 2025 if the Welsh stream is closed? Are we going backwards or forwards?

Response

Currently 6 subjects are taught through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School at Key Stage 3. We want more options to be offered through the medium of Welsh at the end of Key Stage 3. In terms of categorisation of schools - Builth High School is a Category 2c and Brecon High School is a Category 3. In terms of post 16 provision only 2 or 3 Welsh-medium subjects are offered at Builth High School via collaboration.

Builth High School offers 12 subjects at Key Stage 3 and 9 subjects at Key Stage 4. The proposal aims to provide the choice of subjects to which Welsh medium learners are entitled. .

5. Governor for secondary school in Brecon and parent of pupil at Ysgol y Bannau. You have spoken about numbers and critical mass. With regards to numbers what have you done to increase the number of Welsh medium learners coming into Brecon High School?

6. The numbers in the Welsh stream in Brecon High School have decreased and there are not enough numbers of Welsh medium learners coming to Brecon High School so what have you done, as an Authority, to increase the numbers?

Response

It is recognised the Authority could have done more to increase the number of Welsh medium students but there has been significant growth in the number of Welsh medium learners in the primary sector in mid and north Powys but, if you refer to page 12 of the consultation document you will note that the number of Welsh medium learners in the primary sector in Brecon and Sennybridge have remained fairly constant in the last five years.

7. With regard to the numbers in this consultation document, have you considered them and why not?

Response

There was a Welsh medium workstream established as part of the Gwernyfed Area Review that was carried out a few years ago, which concluded that there should not be any demand for Welsh-medium primary provision in that area, although this could be reconsidered in future.

8. We haven't got the choice here today. If Welsh medium education was compulsory in primary schools then we would increase the numbers. Have you considered the wellbeing of future generations in this consultation? By closing the Welsh stream in Brecon High School there will be increased transport on the roads? Has that been considered? If you took the pupils who currently travel to Builth and Ystalyfera for Welsh medium and you increased provision at Brecon High School the stream would be viable.

Response

The consultation takes into account all the provision of the Wellbeing Act.

Response

What support we have given to schools here to grow Welsh medium provision? In 2011 when the Council challenged all schools to increase Welsh medium provision, the authority established a learning partnership which included all Welsh-medium providers in South and Mid Powys, Clwstwr y Ffynnon, but unfortunately that did not continue.

Response

You made the point that Welsh medium education should be compulsory, but already it is mandatory for all learners to study Welsh as a second language up to Year 11. In terms of the number of Welsh medium learners travelling to Ystalyfera, I would estimate this to be over 100 including those from the Ystradgynlais area.

9. What is the cost to the Authority of transporting Welsh medium students to Ystalyfera? £450 pounds a day? The bus service to Ystalyfera is paid out of recharge to the Schools Service.

10. I would like to say due to increase in the number of children in Cylch Meithrin we have had to increase the opening hours. There is quite a high demand for Welsh language but parents do not currently have a choice. In Brecon there are 3 English medium primary schools and only one Welsh medium primary school so parents do not currently have a choice.

Response

There is a level of surplus places in Ysgol y Bannau but your point is noted.

Response

A point was made at the consultation meeting with governors that if there was no follow-on Welsh medium provision at Brecon High School that parents would not take the “leap of faith” at the outset to opt for Welsh medium education for their children but if this proposal is approved people would see progression of Welsh medium education to Builth Wells or to another school.

11. No. We are not willing to take chance.

12. Comment from Governor of Brecon High School and retired teacher

I have read all the documentation and attended all the meetings. We don't argue with the numbers. We know the impact of the uncertainty on the Welsh stream at Brecon High School. What I would like the cabinet to consider is the following: I would like the Welsh stream in Brecon High School to continue. I would like the teachers to teach in both schools. In that way you would increase Welsh in both schools. Also, you would not incur the extra transport costs. Teachers could go to Builth one day and Brecon another. I would like to propose that Powys County Council stops paying for transport to out of county schools. We know why parents have been moving elsewhere. We need a positive route. Councils should encourage Schools Service Senior Management to promote Brecon High School in the community as a bilingual school. There must be a more positive approach to promoting a bilingual school in the community. We have a lot of talent in the community. Why not use that talent and expertise? You have a bilingual school to be proud of.

13. I live at Llangorse and commute to Builth High School and back with my children. That is completely unacceptable.

14. Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick

My question is directed to the portfolio holder. Why hasn't the Council assisted Brecon High School to maintain numbers in the Welsh stream? This consultation is not a level playing field. There wasn't any assistance given to Brecon High School to maintain the numbers in the Welsh stream and I find that quite astonishing. It is unfair that other secondary schools were able to go ahead with increasing Welsh medium provision. Would you agree with me that the most sensible thing a parents can do is get children to a school where there is no threat?

Response

This is the third consultation on the Welsh medium stream at Brecon High School. We appreciate the uncertainty will affect numbers in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School and appreciate that the numbers have decreased. Secondary schools were encouraged to achieve 2b status but that wasn't taken up.

Response

18 months ago a number of parents decided to move their children to another school for Welsh medium education. As an admission authority we cannot refuse those children a place if there are places available in the chosen school. When parents applied to Builth High School there were available

places so we could not reject their applications. In relation to the transport process, when applications were received for school transport to Ystalyfera and to Builth, they were initially refused at Stage 1 & 2. Following this the applications for transport were taken to appeal and the appeal panel took the decision to award transport.

15. I have two children in the Welsh medium stream at Brecon High School. I think Powys County Council has behaved in a shamefully chaotic way with these consultations. My eldest son started at Brecon High School with 19 pupils in class and now there are only 3. The Welsh stream at Brecon High School has always been well regarded. Pupils have gone on to fantastic achievements Powys has really let us down. By sending my children to the Welsh stream here I saw it as supporting Welsh culture. I don't speak Welsh but my two children are competent Welsh speakers. I can't cope with all this chaos. I need security for my children's' education. You need to reassure us about the quality of education. I have a child with additional needs who does not travel well. You haven't said how you can support my child with additional needs. My child gets car sick so travelling to Builth is not going to make him a happy pupil.

Response

There has been 2 years of discussion around this proposal and I understand the difficulty for yourselves and the school. We want to get all views and issues through the consultation. It is important for the Cabinet members to hear the views of everyone who responds to the consultation. We don't want ongoing uncertainty for years.

16. This is a rural community and you have to be more creative in delivering services. We have four buses a day if that. The best thing about rural communities is if you treat them they will treat you. If you keep the Welsh stream here you will grow Welsh in this part of Wales.

Response

Part of the consultation is to hear other options and Cabinet members will need to consider any other options put forward as part of the consultation.

17. The idea of teachers travelling between schools was mentioned in previous consultations. It seems you are not taking our views on board. You keep putting us through this process and you don't seem to listen at all.

18. Former pupil of Ysgol y Bannau and form head boy at Brecon High School. Page 15 of the consultation document lists the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. I would like to point out the difference in the language used to describe the advantages and disadvantages. Under advantages it says the proposal "would enable Brecon High School to run more efficiently as a single stream school" Under disadvantages it says the proposal "may have a negative impact on pupils numbers at Ysgol y Bannau" "Possible reduction in transfer rates from Welsh medium primary provision to Welsh medium secondary provision for pupils from Brecon catchment in the short term." Very vague language used when listing the disadvantages.

1st language Welsh students at Brecon High School contribute to the development of the Welsh language in the school and in Brecon as a community. How could they contribute without a Welsh stream in the High School?

Response

The language skills those students would acquire as part of larger setting would benefit them.

The respondent quoted comments from a number of former students of the Welsh stream at Brecon High School. These comments included:

- **Is the Council proud of the Welsh language? When I was a student at Brecon High School I only heard Welsh spoken at school**
- **Fewer people choosing Welsh will mean the Welsh language will not grow in Brecon. People will not speak Welsh other than in school. Removal of the Welsh stream from Brecon High School will not encourage the Welsh language to grow.**
- **Now, more than ever, Powys should be investing in the Welsh language when it failed previously to do so.**

My second question is about extra-curricular activities which are just as important as the curriculum. If it was not for the wider opportunities offered to me at Brecon High School, I would not have graduated from the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Additional travel will mean that fewer Welsh medium learners are able to take part in extra-curricular activities. Travelling will take at least 2 hours. There will be less time spent in school and those students having to travel will have a lower attention span because they will be tired. How can you guarantee that Welsh language students will not be at a disadvantage in taking part in extra-curricular activities because of the travel implications?

Response

It is a fact that pupils living further away from a school means it is more difficult for them to take part in extra-curricular activities. All our high schools are in rural areas and transport is ongoing issue. All we can do is to support schools in helping students to access extra-curricular activities.

19. Schools may provide extra-curricular activities but can students access them?

Response

Activities can be held during lunchtimes as an alternative.

20. Additional comments received from former Welsh stream students were read out as follows:

- **Students want to socialise at lunchtimes and lunchtimes are too short for extra-curricular activities.**
- **There are implications for 2nd language Welsh students at Brecon High School if the Welsh medium stream is removed. 2nd Welsh language students improve their language skills by speaking to 1st language students.**
- **The Welsh language environment is strengthened by the 1st language Welsh medium students.**

21. What opportunities would you expect Brecon High School to provide to second language students to use the Welsh language if 1st language Welsh speakers were removed from the school?

Response

Yes there would be an impact if 1st language Welsh speakers were removed from Brecon High School.

22. Why did not you say in the consultation document that there “would” rather than there “could” be an impact?

23. The Local Authority has failed people in not providing an environment for the Welsh language to grow. The Authority's indecision has provided a situation where people are losing faith. Brecon is a proud town steeped in Welsh culture. Will your proposal secure the future of the Welsh language in Brecon? No it won't. It denies it completely.

24. I have 3 sons - two in Ysgol y Bannau and my eldest son has been at Builth High School for a year. The guiding principles of the Welsh language standards are that the Welsh language should be treated no less favourably than English. People in Wales should be able to live their lives through the medium of Welsh if they choose to do so. This proposal is flying in face of the Welsh Language standards. There are no Welsh speaking members in the Court of Appeal. There are not enough Welsh speakers to translate the statutes of Wales into Welsh. This policy is an erosion of the language and I don't understand it. The whole point of the Welsh Language Measure is to have roles fulfilled by Welsh speakers. I went to a Welsh speaking school and we were taught in Welsh. Powys County Council is ignoring the Welsh Language Measure. If you go ahead with this proposal, I will challenge you. I will ask the Welsh Language Commissioner to get involved in this consultation. How dare you spend millions of pounds on a new Brecon High School and disenfranchise Welsh speakers! Speaking the Welsh language has never been about money. That is a fundamental error. Being able to be taught through the medium of Welsh is a statutory right for my children. You are bound in statute regardless of cost. Your desire to eradicate the Welsh language from Brecon High School is a false economy. The cost of transporting Welsh medium learners to alternative schools is astronomical. A lot has been spoken about parents moving children to Builth. In June 2015, when the stress of consultation forced my child to have a day of school, I met with the head of Brecon High School. I didn't feel there was not the quality of provision I wanted for my child. It is vital to ensure the new school maintains a Welsh medium stream for our children. You need to ensure that it is not only fit for purpose but it is the best it can possibly be and then I will move my child back to Brecon High School. I will fight every step of the way to ensure that provision and to ensure that the Welsh speaking community will continue to grow and strengthen. If we succeed in persuading you in your consultation response and report to Cabinet, I urge you to deal with the point that teachers travel between sites. There has been a personal cost to my 11 year old son. He was so stressed about the proposal to remove the Welsh medium stream from Brecon High School, he was sick. His move to Builth High School has meant a huge cost to my family. My son taking part in extra-curricular activities in Builth has meant I have been driving to Builth every night after a full day's work. Some parents will not do that. My son is getting a quality education and he is very happy at Builth High School but he is missing out due to the travelling. I implore you to work with us. We are here to strengthen the Welsh stream at Brecon High School if you allow it. Let your legacy be next Welsh speaking Lord Chief Justice and not the annihilation of the Welsh speaking community in Brecon.

25. I have been educated in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School. We are here to work with you and not fight against you. I don't feel as if you thought about our emotional feelings as well. I felt very unhappy about the pressure of moving. We go to Welsh youth club which you are about to close and that is the only place we can go to speak Welsh. If I had the opportunity to come back to Brecon High School with a strong Welsh stream, I would, because I was really happy here.

Response

There will be further consultation with pupils.

Response

In relation to the finance aspect – in terms of funding the school, we fund schools based on current pupil numbers. We do not fund schools ahead on projected numbers. We do not provide funding to

Neath Port Talbot for the Powys pupils attending Ysgol Ystalyfera unless the learner has a Statement of Special Educational Needs but we do fund the transport for qualifying pupils.

26. 70 Welsh medium students from Powys are attending Ysgol Ystalyfera and Neath Port Talbot is getting that money when it could be here.

Response

No the only circumstance that Powys would pay another local authority for education provision for a Powys pupil is where a pupil with special educational needs and a statement is in a specialist placement in another local authority area. Then Powys would pay to support that placement.

27. If you take the decision to close the Welsh stream our child will be forced to go to Ystalyfera to continue with Welsh medium education. Children who are currently travelling from Sennybridge to Ystalyfera for Welsh medium education are traveling on a public service bus. The bus travels at fast speeds in the winter. If the Welsh stream at Brecon High School closes, we want to be assured that there will be a designated bus for those learners and that seat belts will be provided. We would prefer our child to come to Brecon High School. It is impossible for Powys children attending school in Ystalyfera to maintain social friendships with children from Swansea and Neath who attend that school. There are advantages of a bilingual school. In Sennybridge School, the standard of Welsh of the children in the English stream is at an extremely high level when they transfer to Secondary school. Being in a bilingual school is a huge advantage for them. It would be a disadvantage for the English medium pupils here if they lose Welsh stream in Brecon High School.

Response

I cannot give you an assurance that there will be dedicated transport for Powys pupils travelling to Ysgol Ystalyfera because the Authority has to make the most efficient transport provision and does use public service buses where available.

28. I have heard that there have been occasions when there has been insufficient space on the bus for all the children to have a seat and they have had to stand all the way from Sennybridge to Ystalyfera.

29. The children are not supervised on the public service bus. It not a safe way for them to travel.

30. There may be members of the public on the bus who don't want to be sharing the bus with school children.

31. I am a parent of children in Ysgol y Bannau and Brecon High School. I would like to revisit the question raised at the last consultation. Don't you consider that paying for transport to other schools is predetermination? How is paying for transport provision to other schools before the outcome of consultation is known not predetermination?

Response

It is not predetermination. We did not automatically offer those parents transport. It was the decision of the Transport Appeal process to award transport. I was not prepared for other officers or myself to take a decision which would have impact on the numbers in the school so the decision was referred to the Appeals Committee. We needed to follow the process.

32. Someone in the Council had a role in taking that decision.

33. You are not supporting our local area by doing that.

34. Are you still funding transport for new pupils to Ysgol Ystalyfera?

Response

Appeals have been refused on the basis that there is closer provision in Builth. Appeals heard last year were for learners living in the Sennybridge area. The previous transport appeal were heard a number of years ago.

35. So the Authority is no longer supporting transport of pupils to Ystalyfera from the Brecon area?

36. The Authority turned down funding for transport to Ystalyfera on the grounds that there was closer Welsh medium provision in Builth but the closest Welsh medium provision for Welsh medium learners in Sennybridge is Brecon High School.

37. That decision is an example of predetermination.

38. What were the critical elements which meant that the proposal to close the Welsh stream in Brecon High School wasn't abandoned like the other proposals?

Response

The low numbers in the Welsh stream and lack of continuity.

39. Can you state how you will meet Welsh Government targets of 25% of the Welsh population being Welsh speakers by 2050?

Response

We look forward to having a strong progression so pupils can see where they can go from early years to primary, to Secondary and then to post 16 through the medium of Welsh. We feel pupils will choose to study through the medium of Welsh if they can see that progression and that numbers of Welsh medium learners will increase but we understand that that is not the view in this community.

40. You are going to see the detriment of this decision for longer than 3 years.

41. You postponed consideration of the Welsh medium element because you wanted to consider it at same time as the mid Powys proposal. It is not clear where Welsh medium provision will be sited if the mid Powys proposal is approved although you state that the preference is for Welsh medium provision to be in the Builth area.

Response

The proposal for Llandrindod and Builth is for a dual-sited Secondary school with Welsh medium provision being delivered from the site in Builth.

42. But there are no guarantees?

Response

The statutory objection period in respect of the proposal for Llandrindod and Builth finishes a week today. Following the end of the objection period an objection report will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet for a final decision. When Cabinet consider the objection report will depend on the number of objections received but we expect Cabinet to consider the report sometime early in the New Year.

43. Cllr Gillian Thomas

There has always been a thriving Welsh medium cohort in Brecon High School. This is the third consultation in relation to the proposal for the Welsh medium stream. You have said that the proposal is to remove the Welsh medium stream from Brecon High School and to centre Welsh medium provision in Builth but Powys County Council has a responsibility under the Welsh Language Measure to provide services through the language of choice. It has a responsibility to provide Welsh medium schooling if that is what parents want. Does it meet those requirements if you add travel time for Welsh medium learners? It is 18 miles from Sennybridge to Brecon and a further 20 miles to Builth. That is not meeting our responsibility under the Measure. We are failing the people of Brecon in providing Welsh medium education to the people of Brecon. It is the uncertainty that has created the drift of Welsh medium learners away from Brecon High School. If you don't do the consultations properly that is the problem. You need to get consultation right in the first place.

44. Question from pupil

I am dyslexic and attend extra classes after school. How could I do that if I have to rely on school transport to and from Builth? Also what would you do about wheelchair access on school transport?

Response

In terms of school transport the needs of individual learners will be taken into account. If there was a learner who needs specific transport arrangements, those would be made.

Response

It would be difficult to provide additional support after school if parents are not able to provide transport but we would expect the school to provide you with the support you need.

45. In the consultation document it says from 1st September, 2017, there will be no Welsh medium provision for pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and that consideration will be given for Welsh medium provision for learners in Year 11 to September, 2018. When the children arrive at end of Key Stage 3 in Welsh 1st language, they are assessed and given a grade. What will happen to those children this year who get that grade? Will they have to do 2nd language Welsh?

Response

As an Authority we need to ensure those pupils in year 9 can study 1st language Welsh.

46. How will you deal with the next two years in years 10 and 11?

Response

We will make the commitment that those learners starting in year 9 who have taken that assessment will be allowed to study Welsh first language in key stage 4 at the school.

47. Why weren't facilitators used for this consultation as for the previous consultation on the Gwernyfed/Brecon High School proposal?

Response

Minutes are being taken of tonight's meeting. We did hire facilitators last time as we were carrying out a large scale consultation that included four high schools, plus a number of primary schools. The facilitators were brought in to carry out the task of analysing responses. That is not to say that this consultation is any way less important than that consultation. ORS was brought in to support the authority in analysing the responses to the previous consultation. We were expecting a large number of responses and officers only had 13 weeks to bring back a consultation report to Cabinet but this consultation is exactly the same status as the previous consultation.

48. When you submitted the business case for funding for the new school to Welsh Government were they aware of your proposal to remove Welsh medium provision from this site?

Response

Welsh Government are aware that this was the proposal we were going out to consult upon.

49. You have already decided to raise the school admission age. I cannot guarantee that Ysgol y Bannau will make the changes.

50. The wheel keeps turning and nothing gets done. Why aren't we more forward- thinking? Where are you going to get the Welsh teachers from? You need to have peripatetic teachers. Is it necessary to be bussing children when there could be a hub in Brecon which could be a centre of excellence? If the hub was in Brecon use could be made of modern technology to present lessons to students.

51. International learning is taking place. The woman who lives next door to me teaches students in Saudi Arabia and USA and has no trouble whatsoever. You are misusing the English language in saying this is a consultation.

52. This is a presentation and not consultation. It is a publicity stunt. You are taking Welsh medium education away from Brecon - the second biggest town in Powys. Who dreamt up this proposal? Where is the sympathy, respect and tolerance for a language that has been in existence for 2000 years? It is being treated like a football! The problem is money. What is the total budget for education in Powys?

Response

Approximately £100m

53. How much goes on administration? £30m at least! You should be ashamed of yourselves supporting this proposal! The people here care about the language. It is official Welsh policy and all you are trying to do is cultural cleansing in this part of Powys!

54. Parent of pupil in Brecon High School and governor of Ysgol y Bannau

I think in all the talk about linguistic continuity and pupil numbers it has been forgotten that a school is part of its community. That is something which should not be forgotten. Brecon High School is an important part of community. It is the life blood of community. The Welsh stream is an important part of the Brecon High school community and is the life blood of the school. You are forgetting community. By taking Welsh stream away from the school, you don't just remove it from school, you remove it from the community. It will mean a death blow to Welsh in the community. What I am saying is we, as a Welsh community, who want to see the Welsh language survive in this community, would like you to listen to us. Please would you listen to us this time?

Response

The support for the Welsh language in Brecon has come through in these meetings.

55. As Chair of the governing body at Brecon High School, I want it to remain a bilingual school in future when have new school. In November 2011, Powys County Council mooted the idea of the school becoming 2b status but there was no financial help. How can you expect the school to come up to 2b status without financial support? The cost of transporting Welsh medium learners to Ystalyfera and Builth is £100K. Brecon High School currently receives £58K to deliver Welsh medium education. To bring the school up to 2b status would cost £47K. It is costing the Authority more to

transport pupils to Builth and Ystalyfera than to bring this school up to 2b status. If you gave us the funding that the Welsh stream requires then we wouldn't be here today. It is a damning indictment on the Authority as a whole. We don't want Welsh medium learners to have to travel. We want them to receive Welsh medium education here. On page 31, paragraph 8.1, it says that implementation of the proposal would save the Authority £58,475. Is this actually correct? Should you be able to do this consultation if the facts and figures in the consultation document are not right? We are going to fight to retain Welsh medium education in this school.

Response

The figures are accurate. In terms of 2b funding we don't have a formula for this. We don't provide funding ahead of provision. If the Welsh stream was moved from Brecon High School it would save £58K.

Response

The consultation report going to cabinet will include the cost of school transport including the cost of provision already being provided.

56. It is ridiculous to expect the school to get up to 2b status without having the money to do so. It does not add up. Unless the school has the money to bring in staff to deliver the Welsh medium education we cannot bring the school up to 2b status. We needed that money to enable the school to employ teachers to bring the school up to 2b status. How did you expect us to do this? This is why Powys County Council is in a mess because of ideas like this.

57. Why do you budget forward the transport costs but not the education costs?

Response

Once a decision has been made, we have to put that funding provision in place.

Response

Schools have always been funded school based on numbers prior to the start of the financial year using January PLASC data for funding. That is process that has been followed since Local Management of Schools.

58. Rob Broadbridge – Headteacher

- **My thanks for the commitment of parents and pupils who are still in the Welsh medium stream and who are helping to make sure it still has a future. We are trying to do as much as we can with that Welsh medium provision.**
- **One thing done in previous consultations was to criticise the school on the basis of standards. Standards are now one of the best in the whole of the county and that is down to the commitment of staff and partly due to the commitment to the Welsh medium stream.**
- **Welsh 2nd language standards have increased due to the contribution of the Welsh 1st language stream.**
- **Little has been said about Ysgol y Bannau but I am very worried about the future of Ysgol y Bannau if this proposal goes through. If the decision is taken to remove the Welsh medium stream from Brecon High School, it is one-way decision and the Welsh stream would never be reinstated.**
- **We are already talking about the new school building and we don't know if it is going to have a Welsh stream or not. How can I be expected to make a commitment to plans when we don't know whether there will be Welsh medium provision? The decision should have been made ages ago.**

- **At a meeting with parents of pupils at Ysgol y Bannau a year ago, I made a commitment to increase Welsh medium curriculum provision. The money was found to increase Welsh medium provision for that year. I hope that is an indication of my commitment to Welsh medium provision. I want you to understand the impact this whole process has had on this community, on me, and on staff, pupils, and parents. You have to make the right decision and it is clear the right decision is to continue with Welsh medium provision. Fund it so that it is viable make it and so that I can provide the curriculum, recruit staff and support their professional development. Next week, I hope to have positive news about this school and I hope to build on that. All of this is making it very hard for me to achieve the very best education and high standards so that our current students get the same opportunities in future.**
- **You have got to create an opportunity for the Welsh stream in Brecon High School to be viable in terms of numbers. How can we get the learner numbers we need to ensure viability of the Welsh stream? I would question the response you gave in relation to the minimum number of learners needed to make the Welsh stream viable.**
- **We have been criticised about breadth of Welsh medium curriculum provision as compared to Builth High School. Builth provides 12 subjects through the medium of Welsh at Key Stage 3, whereas Brecon High School provides 6. The reason Brecon High School only offers 6 subjects is down to learner numbers. I can't justify having full breadth of provision because of the number of Welsh medium learners. Give us the numbers and we will ensure the breadth of Welsh medium provision. Thank you to everyone tonight for their contributions.**

Response

On behalf of Ian Roberts, who cannot be here tonight, I applaud the school on its improvement journey which we all hope will continue. I think there is a slightly different context compared to previous consultations. A new school build is on its way and standards at the school are improving and this needs to be taken into account when Cabinet members taken their decision.

59. I would like to finish on a positive note. I am Chair of the Governing Body at Ysgol y Bannau. We want to work with you and we have options to offer you. We have able people in this room. We are here and ready to give of our time to keep the Welsh medium stream here and to expand Welsh medium provision here and in Builth High School. We need investment or we will be back to Ysgol y Bannau being just in one room. On behalf of Ysgol y Bannau, you haven't contacted us about the Welsh stream in in this school. There has been a decrease in the number of Welsh medium learners and we want to work with you to increase the number so please speak to us. Hopefully, a decision will be taken to retain the Welsh stream in this school. As Chair of Governors, I would like a copy of the minutes to be sent to me.

Cllr Arwel Jones thanked all present for attending the meeting.

Proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

Appendix D – Impact Assessments

Updated following consultation

	Page
1. Integrated Impact Assessment	2
2. Equalities Impact Assessment	23
3. Community Impact Assessment	33
4. Welsh Language Impact Assessment	36

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making

1. Integrated Impact Assessment

This **Impact Assessment (IA)** toolkit incorporating Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation.

Service Area	Schools Service	Head of Service	Ian Roberts	Strategic Director	Jeremy Patterson	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Arwel Jones
Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving	School Transformation Policy						
Outline Summary							
This Impact Assessment relates to a proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.							

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

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Sarah Astley	Project Manager, Schools Transformation	10/11/16
2	Sarah Astley	Project Manager, Schools Transformation	27/02/17

2. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the council’s strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the policy / change objective impact on this priority?	<u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement

<p>Supporting people in the community to live fulfilled lives</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would mean that no secondary Welsh-medium provision would be provided in Brecon, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils in order to attend Welsh-medium provision. This could impact on the ability of pupils to access extra-curricular activities, particularly where these take place after school. In addition, the additional travel could impact on pupils' ability to take part in other activities in the community when they return from school.</p> <p>Whilst home to school transport would be provided to pupils in accordance with the council's policy, it is acknowledged that there would be additional travel and time pressures on parents to collect children from activities or to attend meetings and other activities at the school.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>The alternative schools pupils would be expected to attend should the proposal be implemented already serve large catchment areas and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the alternative schools to ensure that pupils reliant on home to school transport are not disadvantaged compared with other pupils at the school, and that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities is available to them. This could mean providing access to activities during lunchtime instead of after school. However it is acknowledged that it would not be possible to totally mitigate the impact on pupils and their families.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Consultation Document / Consultation Report</p>
--	--	-------------	---	-------------	--

<p>Developing the economy</p>	<p>During the consultation period, concern was expressed that implementation of the proposal would lead to a reduction in Welsh speakers locally and would make it more difficult for employers such as the Brecon Beacons National Park to recruit Welsh speakers.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh-medium pupils would attend alternative provision where they would be part of a larger cohort of Welsh-medium learners, and would receive an increased level of subject provision through the medium of Welsh. This would enable them to continue to develop their Welsh language skills through their time in secondary school, and are better equipped to use Welsh in the workplace when they leave education.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with organisations such as Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed and Mudiad Meithrin to promote Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area, to ensure that pupils in the Brecon area continue to access Welsh-medium education to ensure that local employers can recruit Welsh speaking employees in the future.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation Document / Consultation report</p>
--------------------------------------	---	----------------	--	-------------	--

<p>Improving learner outcomes for all, minimising disadvantage</p>	<p>The proposal aims to provide access to improved Welsh-medium secondary provision in mid and south Powys.</p> <p>Since the start of the consultation period, Brecon High School has been removed from Special Measures. However, the number of pupils accessing the stream remains very small. Builth Wells High School remains in Special Measures, however it is showing signs of improvement. Estyn’s response to the consultation document concluded: ‘the proposer appears to have suitably demonstrated that, given the small numbers of pupils in the Welsh medium stream, that overall the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education in the area.’</p> <p>Concern was expressed during the consultation period that pupils from low income families would be disadvantaged and would be unable to continue to access Welsh-medium provision should the proposal be implemented. Whilst home to school transport would be provided to all eligible pupils, concern was expressed about the impact on families and the additional travel costs required in order to attend activities at the alternative schools.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Consultation Document / Consultation Report</p>
---	--	----------------	--	----------------	--

The integrated approach to support effective decision making

<p>Remodelling council services to respond to reduced funding</p>	<p>The proposal will provide better value for money for the council in the long term, by ensuring more equitable distribution of funding.</p> <p>The current number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small. Closure of the stream and centralising provision for mid and south Powys in Builth Wells would ensure that provision was delivered in a more cost effective manner.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation Document / Consultation Report</p>
--	---	-------------	--	-------------	--

3. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the Welsh Assembly’s well-being goals?

<p>Well-being Goal</p>	<p>How does the policy / change objective contribute this goal?</p>	<p><u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below</p>	<p>What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?</p>	<p><u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below</p>	<p>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement</p>
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	---

<p>A prosperous Wales:</p> <p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The proposal will provide better value for money for the council in the long term, by ensuring more equitable distribution of funding.</p> <p>During the consultation period, concern was expressed that implementation of the proposal would lead to a reduction in Welsh speakers locally and would make it more difficult for employers such as the Brecon Beacons National Park to recruit Welsh speakers.</p> <p>In addition, concern has been expressed about the environmental impact of increased reliance on home to school transport.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, WM pupils would attend alternative provision where they would be part of a larger cohort of WM learners, and would receive an increased level of subject provision through the medium of Welsh. This would enable them to continue to develop their Welsh language skills through their time in secondary school, and are better equipped to use Welsh in the workplace when they leave education.</p> <p>The authority would work with organisations such as Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed and Mudiad Meithrin to promote WM education in the Brecon area, to ensure that pupils in the area continue to access WM education to ensure that local employers can recruit Welsh speaking employees in the future.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that additional travel would have an environmental impact. However transport to alternative providers is already provided, therefore the additional transport that would be required would be minimal.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation document / Consultation report</p>
--	--	----------------	--	-------------	--

<p>A resilient Wales:</p> <p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>Concern has been expressed about the environmental impact of increased reliance on home to school transport, and the potential impact of increases in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the future.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>A large number of secondary Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon catchment area are already travelling to alternative schools due to parental choice, and transport is provided by the authority, therefore the additional transport that would be required would be minimal. However, it is acknowledged that the transport required could increase in the future should there be an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers from the Brecon area.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Consultation document / Consultation report</p>
--	--	-------------	--	----------------	--

<p>A healthier Wales:</p> <p>A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would involve additional travel for Welsh-medium pupils, which could have a negative impact on their well-being.</p> <p>In addition, reliance on home to school transport could impact on pupils’ ability to take part in sports activities in the community outside school.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>A large number of pupils from the Brecon catchment have already chosen to travel to alternative provision instead of attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. The number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, and the authority’s view is that the very small class sizes are not providing an appropriate educational experience for pupils.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the alternative schools to ensure that pupils reliant on home to school transport are not disadvantaged compared with other pupils at the school, and that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities is available to them. This could mean providing access to activities during lunchtime instead of after school. However it is acknowledged that it would not be possible to totally mitigate the impact on pupils.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Consultation document / Consultation report</p>
--	--	-------------	--	----------------	--

<p>A Wales of cohesive communities:</p> <p>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would mean that no secondary Welsh-medium provision would be provided in Brecon, therefore there would be additional travel required for pupils in order to attend Welsh-medium provision. This could impact on the ability of pupils to access extra-curricular activities, particularly where these take place after school. In addition, the additional travel could impact on pupils' ability to take part in other activities in the community when they return from school.</p> <p>Concern has also been expressed that pupils living in the Brecon community but attending school elsewhere would be less integrated into the Brecon community by not attending school in Brecon.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>The alternative schools pupils would be expected to transfer to already serve large catchments and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the schools to ensure that pupils reliant on home to school transport are not disadvantaged compared with other pupils at the school, and that an appropriate range of activities is available to them. This could mean providing activities during lunchtime instead of after school. However it is acknowledged that it would not be possible to totally mitigate the impact on pupils and their families.</p> <p>BW High School already serves a large catchment area, and has links with town and villages across the area. Should the proposal be implemented, the school / the new Mid Powys Secondary School would aim to establish links within the Brecon community, initially by strengthening links with Ysgol y Bannau.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>
--	--	-------------	--	----------------	--

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making

<p>A globally responsible Wales:</p> <p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>The authority’s view is that the proposal seeks to improve the opportunities available for Welsh-medium learners in mid and south Powys, and that the proposal has the best interests of the child at heart. However, concern has been expressed about the proposal’s impact on pupil well-being due to the additional travel that would be required and the impact on the ability of pupils to access after-school activities.</p> <p>The authority met with pupils during the consultation period, and Cabinet will give full consideration to their views when determining how to proceed.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>					

<p><i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language</i></p>	<p>The number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, which limits the Welsh-medium opportunities the school can provide for these pupils. Implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils would be able to access greater level of Welsh-medium provision, would be part of a larger group of Welsh-medium learners and would benefit from increased opportunities to use Welsh.</p> <p>Brecon High School would continue to teach Welsh as a Second Language and would be expected to provide appropriate opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh outside the classroom.</p> <p>Concern has been expressed that closure of the stream would lead to a reduction in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in the Brecon area. The following risks are also identified by the authority in the consultation document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school ii) Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon. 	<p>Good</p>	<p>The authority has provided risk management measures in respect of the risks outlined in the consultation document. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government’s priorities, and the authority will work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term ii) Work with Ysgol y Bannau, Menter Brycheiniog and other organisations to promote the benefits of Welsh-medium primary education in the Brecon area. 	<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>
---	--	-------------	---	-------------	--

<p><i>Treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i></p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would no Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon – pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision would need to travel to access provision elsewhere.</p> <p>Concern has been expressed during the consultation period that the council is treating the Welsh language less favourably than the English language, and that the proposal is discriminating against the Welsh language.</p> <p>However, the number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has decreased in recent years as parents have chosen for their children to attend alternative provision. As a result, the level of Welsh-medium provision available at Brecon High School has decreased, and the Welsh-medium provision currently provided is limited. The authority’s view is that the current situation does not provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils, and does in fact treat the Welsh language and Welsh-medium education less favourably than the English language / English-medium education</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>
--	--	-------------	------------	-------------	--

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making

<p><i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i></p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon. However Ysgol y Bannau would continue to provide primary Welsh-medium provision in the town.</p> <p>In contrast to other Welsh-medium schools in Powys, pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau have remained fairly stagnant over recent years. It is hoped that greater clarity and a greater level of Welsh-medium provision in the secondary provision will provide a new opportunity to promote Welsh-medium education in the area, and the authority will work in partnership with organisations such as Menter Brycheiniog a Maesyfed to do this.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>
<p><i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i></p>	<p>It is acknowledged that the proposal could impact on staff currently teaching through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>If a decision is made to proceed with the proposal, any implications for changes to staff employment will be taken forward by the school in accordance with the authority's Management of Change procedures.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>

<p><i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i></p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would involve additional travel for Welsh-medium pupils via home to school transport, which could impact on their ability to take part in extra-curricular activities, especially where these take place after school. In addition, the reliance on home to school transport could impact on pupils' ability to take part in sport, art and recreation outside school.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>The alternative schools pupils would be expected to transfer to already serve large catchments and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the schools to ensure that pupils reliant on home to school transport are not disadvantaged compared with other pupils at the school, and that an appropriate range of activities is available to them. This could mean providing activities during lunchtime instead of after school. However it is acknowledged that it would not be possible to totally mitigate the impact on pupils and their families.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Consultation document / consultation report</p>
<p>A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>					
<p><i>Age</i></p>	<p>Please see separate Equality Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>	
<p><i>Disability</i></p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>	
<p><i>Gender reassignment</i></p>	<p>As above</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>	

<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
<i>Race</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
<i>Religion or belief</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
<i>Sex</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	
<i>Equality Impact on PCC Staff</i>	As above	Choose an item.		Choose an item.	

4. How does your policy / change objective / budget saving impact on the council’s other key guiding principles?

Principle	How does the policy / change objective impact on this principle?	<u>Inherent Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>Residual Judgement</u> Please select from drop down box below	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Sustainable Development Principle					

<p>Long Term: <i>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</i></p>	<p>This proposal will provide better value for money for the council in the long term, by ensuring more equitable distribution of funding.</p> <p>Pupils will be able to access Welsh-medium provision in alternative schools which offer more Welsh language provision for pupils, and Brecon High School would be able to run more efficiently as a single stream school.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Good</p>	
<p>Collaboration: <i>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</i></p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for Builth Wells High School / the new Mid Powys Secondary School. Strong links would be established between the two schools, to ensure effective transition arrangements for pupils and to ensure the well-being of all pupils.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Neutral</p>	
<p>Involvement: <i>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</i></p> <p>Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>Full consultation on the proposal has taken place in accordance with the School Organisation Code which has given all interested parties the opportunity to submit their views on the proposal. All views expressed during the consultation period will be taken into consideration by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to the proposal.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Neutral</p>	

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making

<p>Prevention: <i>How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</i></p>	<p>The number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small. As a result the Welsh-medium opportunities available to pupils are limited, and do not meet the aspirations of the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP).</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils would be able to access a greater level of Welsh-medium provision in alternative schools, and Brecon High School would be able to run more efficiently as a single stream school.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Good</p>	
<p>Integration: <i>Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

<p>Preventing Poverty:</p> <p>Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.</p>	<p>Free transport will be provided to all qualifying pupils to their closest alternative provider.</p> <p>However, concern has been expressed that implementation of the proposal would mean that it would be more difficult for pupils from lower income backgrounds to access Welsh-medium education due to the additional travel that would be required of parents in order to attend activities at the school, or to collect pupils from after school activities.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, free home to school transport would be provided to all eligible pupils, regardless of their socio-economic background.</p> <p>The schools pupils would be expected to transfer to serve large catchment areas and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils and families from a range of backgrounds.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the Headteacher and Governing Body of the named receiving school and other schools pupils may wish to transfer to, to ensure that participation in all school activity is maximised for all learners and their families. However, it is acknowledged that it would not be possible to totally mitigate the impact on pupils and their families.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	
<p>Safeguarding:</p> <p>Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</p>	<p>Safeguarding is of the utmost importance and safeguarding measures are in place in any other school pupils may wish to transfer to.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Neutral</p>	

Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making

<p>Corporate Parenting: Enabling our looked after children to fulfil their potential.</p>	<p>The authority has no concerns about looked after children moving to any of the other schools they may wish to transfer to.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Neutral</p>	
<p>Impact on Workforce</p>	<p>Staff at Brecon High School may be adversely affected by the proposal. In addition, it is possible that the proposal would have an adverse impact on staff at Ysgol y Bannau, should pupil numbers reduce significantly as a result of the proposal.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Staff with 2 years or more continuous service would be entitled to a redundancy payment. The authority will also attempt to identify alternative employment for staff through the redeployment process.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	

Page 636

5. Achievability of Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving?

Impact on Service / Council	Deliverability of Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving	Inherent Risk
<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>

6. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving?

Description of risks
<p>Risks associated with this proposal are outlined in the consultation document, along with risk management measures. The risks that have been identified in relation to this proposal are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school 2 Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon 3 The alternative schools are unable to accommodate additional pupils

4 Additional travel has an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment			
Judgement (to be included in service risk register)			
Very High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk
			X
Mitigating Actions			Residual Risk
Risk management measures in respect of each individual risk are provided in the consultation document.			Choose an item.
			Choose an item.
			Choose an item.
Does the Policy / Change Objective / Budget Saving have potential to impact on another service area?			
No			

Page 637

7. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)	Cabinet Report Reference:	
The proposal aims to provide improved Welsh-medium provision for pupils living in mid and south Powys, and aims to establish a sustainable provision which can be further developed in the future. The negative impact of the proposal is related to additional travel requirements for learners and potential difficulties with accessing after school activities.		

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

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
Consultation document, consultation report

9. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?
<p>The School Transformation Programme Board is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the modernisation agenda: setting direction, implementing change, monitoring and reporting to the Cabinet of the Council.</p> <p>Equality monitoring will form an integral part of the County Council’s arrangements for any school reorganisation and will be undertaken where a significant or material change in provision is proposed.</p> <p>The Head of Schools Service will be responsible for on-going monitoring.</p>
Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.
<p>If it is decided to proceed with the publication of Statutory Notices in respect of closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the Impact Assessment will be reviewed if required to take account of any additional issues raised during the Objection Period.</p>

10. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Service Manager:	Marianne Evans	Marianne Evans	28/02/17
Head of Service:	Ian Roberts	Ian Roberts	01/03/17
Strategic Director:	Jeremy Patterson	Jeremy Patterson	06/03/17
Portfolio Holder:	Arwel Jones	Arwel Jones	02/03/17

3. Equalities Impact Assessment



/Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) – Decision Assessment reporting template

This EqIA reporting template is designed to assist in the analysis of gathered data and evidence, to determine the equality impact of a proposal to change existing practices of a Council service. Once complete, the template should be made fully accessible to the public e.g. inclusion with publicly available Cabinet reports and/or publication on the Powys County Council website. For confidential matters, this should be made available once a decision has been taken.

N.B. Please contact the Council's Organisational Development Officer (Equalities) early on in the process if you require advice to conduct an assessment.

Proposal	To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31 st August 2017	Lead Person undertaking the assessment	Sarah Astley
Service Area	Schools Service	Relevant Head of Service who has agreed this assessment	Ian Roberts Head of Schools
Date of Assessment	November 2016 Updated 27 th February 2017		

The Equality Act 2010, requires that public sector organisations in the exercise of their functions, pay due regard to the following 'general duty':

- (a) Eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;**
- (b) Advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;**
- (c) Fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.**

The protected characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation. This assessment also includes a consideration of impact upon people and communities whose language of choice is Welsh.

The specific regulations for Wales [Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011] require public sector bodies to monitor relevant policy and practises and then assess and report on the impact based upon an analysis of relevant data and evidence.

1. AIM or PURPOSE	
Briefly describe the aim or purpose of the change proposal being assessed.	<p>Powys County Council recently carried out consultation on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017. <p>Should the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School close, Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to attend Builth Wells High School or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>From the 1st September 2018, all pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to access provision at the Builth Wells site of the New Mid Powys Secondary School or their closest Welsh-medium provision.</p>
2. OBJECTIVES	
Please state the current business objectives of the change proposal.	<p>The reasons why the authority is proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School - Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages
3. BENEFITS and OUTCOMES	
i) What are the intended benefits or outcomes from the change proposal?	<p>The benefits of the proposal, as outlined in the consultation document, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a critical mass of Welsh-medium secondary learners in Mid / South Powys - Additional Welsh-medium opportunities to be provided to Welsh-medium pupils from Brecon through access to a wider range of Welsh-medium subjects - Would enable the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at post-16 - A larger group of Welsh-medium pupils will enable Builth Wells High School to build on the progress already made in relation to developing Welsh-medium provision - An increased number of Welsh-medium pupils would enable Builth Wells High School to further develop its Welsh

	<p>ethos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social and emotional benefits to Welsh-medium pupils from being part of a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils - More opportunity for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh - More financially efficient model of delivery for secondary Welsh-medium provision in Mid and South Powys - Would enable Brecon High School to run more efficiently as a single stream school - Welsh-medium pupil numbers could grow to a point where a Welsh-medium secondary school could be considered viable 						
4. CORPORATE RELEVANCE							
<p>How does this change proposal relate to the Powys Change Plan and/or Powys One Plan?</p>	<p>The proposal supports Powys County Council’s vision for education, which is outlined within the One Powys Plan for 2014-17. ‘Transforming Learning and Skills’ is one of the priorities within this plan, and the authority’s aim is to ensure that ‘All children and young people are supported to achieve their full potential.’</p> <p>Within this priority, the Plan states that</p> <p><i>‘We need to re-organise schools (primary, secondary and post 16) to ensure affordability, sustainability and appropriate leadership capacity’</i></p> <p>In addition, the proposal supports the strategic aim stated in the council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2014-17 to ‘Provide more robust linguistic progression for Welsh-medium learners’</p>						
5. DATA USED							
5.1. What data has been used to conduct this assessment?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d4f1d4;">Profiling of service users, providing a breakdown of who uses the service by the protected characteristics.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d4f1d4;">Service user satisfaction rates, broken down by the protected characteristics.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d4f1d4;">Qualitative data (analysed against the protected characteristics) which provides evidence about current services users experience accessing the service.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Profiling of service users, providing a breakdown of who uses the service by the protected characteristics.	✓	Service user satisfaction rates, broken down by the protected characteristics.		Qualitative data (analysed against the protected characteristics) which provides evidence about current services users experience accessing the service.	
Profiling of service users, providing a breakdown of who uses the service by the protected characteristics.	✓						
Service user satisfaction rates, broken down by the protected characteristics.							
Qualitative data (analysed against the protected characteristics) which provides evidence about current services users experience accessing the service.							
Tick/shade boxes as appropriate.							

	Qualitative data gathered from those that are not currently using the service.	
	Complaints monitoring against the protected characteristics	
	Wider research reports and findings.	
	Relevant service based Equality Impact Assessment	
5.2. Are there any gaps in the data?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please state the gaps: N/A How will the gaps be addressed going forward? N/A	No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. DATA ANALYSIS		
<u>6.1 Quantitative</u>	<u>Brecon High School Welsh Stream</u>	
Summarise the key quantitative data analysis results, providing key headline statistics. Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. statistics generated from a consultation questionnaire. Key questions: i) Are certain groups currently underrepresented in service user figures? Will a change affect this? ii) How do satisfaction levels compare	At the time of the consultation period, there were 19 pupils in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School. The following pupils belonged to the protected characteristic groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free school meals: 5% of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream receives free school meals - SEN: 21% of pupils have special educational needs. 0% of pupils have statements, 10.5% of pupils are on School Action and 10.5% of pupils are on School Action Plus - English as an Additional Language – Welsh or English is the first language of all pupils in the Welsh stream - Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 95% of pupils in the Welsh stream is White British. 5% of pupils have an ethnic group other than White British The number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, therefore the number of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected by the proposals is very small.	

across the protected characteristic groups? How will a change affect this?

Ysgol y Bannau

The following shows the profile of pupils attending Ysgol y Bannau according to PLASC information provided in January 2016 for 142 pupils in total, which includes 108 pupils aged 5 and over:

- Free school meals: 6% of pupils are eligible for free school meals
- SEN: 1% of pupils have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. 8% of pupils are on School Action
- English as an Additional Language: English or Welsh is the first language of all children
- Ethnicity: PLASC only provides information about the ethnic group of the 108 pupils aged 5 and over. The ethnic group of 98% of pupils is White British. The ethnic group of the remaining pupils is as follows: Other mixed background – 1%, White other – 1%

Sennybridge CP School

At the time of the consultation period, there were a total of 45 pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Sennybridge CP School. The following pupils belonged to the protected characteristic groups:

- Free school meals: 2 pupils in the Welsh stream receive free school meals
- SEN: 2 pupil has special educational needs. Of these, 0 pupils have a statement, 1 pupils are on School Action and 1 pupil is on School Action Plus
- English as an Additional Language – Welsh or English is the first language of all pupils in the Welsh stream
- Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 100% of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream is White British. The ethnic group of the remaining 2% of pupils is White Asian

This information shows that the number of pupils that will be affected by this proposal that belong to the protected characteristic groups is small. A number of pupils that have additional learning needs will be affected by the proposal, and a number of pupils who are in receipt of free school meals will be affected by the proposal.

As the proposal relates to changing Welsh medium secondary provision in Brecon, all of the pupils affected are fluent Welsh speakers, who are educated through the medium of Welsh, therefore Welsh speakers are

	the key group that will be affected by this proposal.
<p><u>6.2 Qualitative</u></p> <p>Summarise the key qualitative data analysis, providing key themes or patterns.</p> <p>Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. protected characteristics focus group on the proposal.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <p>i) Do certain groups have a different service user experience? How will a change affect this?</p> <p>ii) Have any areas for improvement been communicated by particular groups? Will a change have an impact upon these views?</p> <p>iii) What are the reasons behind some groups not using the service? How will a change affect this position?</p> <p>iv) What has consultation on your proposals revealed about impact on the protected characteristics?</p>	<p>Consultation on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013), and included meetings with pupils at the affected schools. This provided qualitative data in respect of the proposal, and the impact on pupils that belong to the protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>The following issues were raised in relation to the proposal’s impact on those in the protected characteristic groups:</p> <p><u>Impact on pupils with additional needs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposal will affect children with learning difficulties and medical problems - Concern about how the council will support pupils with additional needs - Concern about pupils with additional needs who don’t travel well - Concern about the impact of additional travel on pupils with learning difficulties - Concern that pupils with special needs will be unable to carry on in Welsh-medium education - Concern about the impact on dyslexic pupils who attend extra classes after school – they wouldn’t be able to do so if they were reliant on school transport - There is inadequate provision for pupils with additional learning needs – a school day is already tiring for pupils on the Autistic Spectrum, added travel either side on a noisy crowded bus will mean that the school day will become overwhelming and they will be unable to meet their potential in school or at home - Some pupils with additional needs might be happier in a smaller class, as they are in the Welsh stream at Brecon High School - Concern about wheelchair access on school transport for wheelchair users
<p>7. EqIA RESULT</p>	

Based on an analysis of the available qualitative and quantitative data, please tick/shade the appropriate box opposite to provide the EqIA assessment result.	The proposal does not present any adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 10]	
	The proposal presents some adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 8]	✓
	The proposal presents significant impact on equality [Proceed to question 8]	
8. AREAS for IMPROVEMENT		
<p>Please provide detail of weak or sensitive areas of the proposal identified by the assessment.</p> <p>i) Which protected characteristic groups are particularly affected? ii) Will people on low incomes be affected? iii) Will Welsh speakers be affected?</p>	<p>i) The protected characteristic group that will be mostly affected by the proposal is those with disabilities / additional learning needs</p> <p>ii) Some people on low incomes will be affected. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to alternative provision, it is likely that the greater distance to travel to the school for other activities would have a greater impact on people on low incomes</p> <p>iii) As this proposal is to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, the proposal will impact on Welsh speakers. This aspect is considered in the Integrated Impact Assessment and in the Welsh Language Impact Assessment</p>	
9. EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT		
<p>9.1 Having identified problematic aspects to the proposal, how will this now be addressed?</p> <p><i>i.e. Are you able to involve (in some capacity) people from protected characteristic groups, Welsh Speakers, people on low incomes, to assist you in this process?</i></p>	<p>The consultation paper related to this proposal sets out how the authority will provide alternative provision that meets the needs of pupils that would have accessed the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School:</p> <p>‘From the 1st September 2017, there would be no Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School for pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. However, Welsh-medium provision would continue to be</p>	

<p>i) Can the impact be mitigated, and how will this be done?</p> <p>ii) Does the proposal require modification to reduce or remove this impact?</p> <p>iii) Should the proposal be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have?</p>	<p>provided at Brecon High School for those pupils who would be entering year 11 in September 2017. This provision would continue until July 2018.</p> <p>From the 1st September 2017, pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to attend Builth Wells High School or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>From the 1st September 2018 all pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High school would be able to access provision at the Builth Wells site of the new dual-sited secondary school in Mid Powys (“the New Mid Powys Secondary School”) or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>From the 1st September 2018, there would be no Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School.</p> <p>Pupils living in the Sennybridge area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.</p> <p>Pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.’</p> <p><u>Disability</u> – the authority is confident that any of the other schools pupils may access should the proposal be implemented can meet the needs of all pupils currently receiving Welsh-medium education in the Brecon area, including those with additional learning needs. Any pupil with a disability is assessed on an individual basis and relevant modifications, adaptations or reasonable adjustments are made where applicable. The authority’s specific responses to the individual issues raised during the consultation period relating to the proposal’s impact on pupils with additional needs are provided in the consultation report in respect of the proposal.</p> <p><u>Free School Meals</u> – Free home to school transport will be provided to the alternative provision for qualifying pupils, this will ensure that the proposal does not have an adverse impact on pupils from lower income families. The alternative schools pupils would transfer to in order to access Welsh-</p>
---	---

	<p>medium secondary provision serve large catchment areas, and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport and pupils and families from a range of socio-economic backgrounds. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the alternative schools to ensure that families from lower income backgrounds are not disadvantaged compared with other pupils at the school, and that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities is available to them. However it is acknowledged that it would not be possible to totally mitigate the impact on pupils and their families.</p> <p><u>Welsh language</u> – the number of pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is very small, which limits the Welsh-medium provision the school can offer. The Welsh-medium provision available at the alternative providers would be greater than the provision that is currently available at Brecon High School. The authority is confident that all pupils, including those in the protected characteristic groups, would benefit from the enhanced level of provision available.</p>	
<p>9.2 Will the management of the impact as outlined in 9.1, be included in the Service Improvement Plan?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date added.....</p> <p>Reference.....</p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please explain why not:</p> <p>Need was not identified at time of writing Service Strategy</p>
<p>10. ONGOING MONITORING</p>		
<p>How will the decision now be monitored on an ongoing basis to consider its impact over time?</p>		<p>Please tick/shade</p>
	<p>Equality monitoring of uptake of the service within which the decision was made</p>	
	<p>Satisfaction monitoring of service users (broken down by protected characteristic)</p>	
	<p>Recording and analysing complaints/requests/compliments</p>	

	Targeted periodic focus groups/service user interviews/feedback sessions	
	Other (please specify)	
Monitoring arrangements		
<p>The Learning in the Community Programme Board is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of the modernisation agenda: setting direction, implementing change, monitoring and reporting to the Cabinet of the Council.</p> <p>Equality monitoring will form an integral part of the County Council's arrangements for any school reorganisation and will be undertaken where a significant or material change in provision is proposed.</p> <p>The Head of Schools Service will be responsible for on-going monitoring.</p>		
Publication of results of the impact assessment		
The results of the impact assessment will be published on the Council's website		
Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan		
Any actions identified as a result of this impact assessment will be taken forward for inclusion in the Schools Service Business Plan.		

4. Community Impact Assessment – Final

Background

A draft Community Impact Assessment was published as part of the Formal Consultation on the following proposal:

To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.

The consultation was held between the 21st November 2016 and the 9th January 2017.

This community impact assessment has been updated where appropriate to take account of any issues or information raised during consultation about the impact on the community.

4.1 Current use of Brecon High School buildings as a community resource

The facilities of Brecon High School are hired out by a number of organisations, including the South Powys Youth Orchestra, Brecon Athletic Club and Brecon Basketball Club. The facilities have also been made available for Road Safety events, and are let for use by Caravan Clubs based in Gwent. NPTC Group of Colleges also have two rooms based on the school site.

4.2 Other facilities provided by Brecon High School

A number of extra-curricular activities are organised by teaching staff at different points during the year. These include the following:

Music activities: Ensembles, Performance opportunities, School Musical

Sports activities: Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Athletics, Hockey, Cricket, Football, Swimming

Other clubs: Domino Club, Revision Club, Additional Maths Club

In addition, the school's facilities are used for different events such as the cross country championships and events such as 'Race to the Sun'.

4.3 Information/issues raised during consultation

A number of concerns in relation to the proposal's impact on the community were raised during the consultation period on this proposal. These included the following:

- The proposal would have a negative impact on the community
- The impact on organisations in the community such as Brecon Swimming Club
- Impact on the economy of the community
- Impact on Welsh culture, tourism and attraction to foreign visitors
- Issues relating to the rural nature of the area

A number of concerns were also raised relating to the proposal's impact on the ability of pupils to access extra-curricular activities. These included the following:

- Children will miss out on being able to attend after school activities due to the additional travel
- Pupils will be forced out of Welsh-medium education because they don't want to give up activities out of school
- Pupils travelling to school will miss out on being able to attend clubs in Brecon

In addition, issues were raised in relation to the impact of additional travel for pupils. These included the following:

- Concern about the additional travel time that would be required, and that this would be a waste of pupil's time
- Concern that the additional travel would put pupils at a disadvantage compared to other students
- Concern that pupils would be tired due to the additional travel that would be required
- Concern about the impact of the additional travel on the health and well-being of pupils

These issues, along with the local authority's response to these issues, are listed in the consultation report in respect of this proposal. Issues relating to the impact on the community are listed in section 14 of the list of issues, issues relating to the ability of pupils to access extra-curricular activities are listed in section 1.2 of the list of issues raised, and issues relating to the impact of additional travel on pupils are listed in section 1.3.

4.4 Conclusion

Following the consultation period, the authority's view on the impact of the proposal on the community remains the same.

The number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small. As the proposal does not involve closure of Brecon High School, it is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact on the facilities available to the community.

It is acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would lead to additional travel for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon catchment, however a significant proportion of pupils are already travelling out of Brecon to access Welsh-medium secondary provision elsewhere. It is acknowledged that this additional travel could have an impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities, particularly those that take place after school, however should the proposal be implemented, the council would work with the schools pupils might choose to transfer to in order to ensure that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities are available to all pupils. All schools pupils might choose to transfer to instead of Brecon already serve large catchment areas, and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport, including in terms of ensuring access to an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities.

Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could either transfer to alternative Welsh-medium provision at other schools or they could access English-medium provision at Brecon High School. The authority acknowledges that should the proposal be implemented, pupils and their parents would need to make difficult decisions with regard to pupils' future education, taking the additional travel into consideration.

5. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Background

A draft Welsh Language Assessment was published as part of the Formal Consultation on the following proposal:

To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.

The consultation was held between the 21st November 2016 and the 9th January 2017.

This Welsh language impact assessment has been updated where appropriate to take account of any issues or information raised during consultation about the impact on the Welsh language.

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment should be read in conjunction with the Integrated Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment earlier on in this document.

5.1 Standards in Welsh

The following tables provide information about Standards in Welsh First Language at Brecon High School and the schools the alternative schools pupils would be expected to transfer to should the proposal be implemented for the last 3 years.

Whilst this is useful as background information, the relatively small number of pupils in each year group at each school mean that it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from this information with regard to standards in Welsh at the two schools.

i) End of Key Stage 3

Brecon High School

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh First Language	19	13	8	10	4

Number of pupils that achieved Level 5+	19	10	8	10	4
% of pupils that achieved Level 5+	100%	76.9%	100%	100%	100%

Builth Wells High School

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh First Language	17	17	22	26	30
Number of pupils that achieved Level 5+	15	16	20	23	28
% of pupils that achieved Level 5+	88.2%	94.1%	90.9%	88.5%	93.3%

Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh First Language	173	159	150	173	191
Number of pupils that achieved Level 5+	139	136	129	147	176
% of pupils that achieved Level 5+	80.3%	85.5%	86.0%	85.0%	92.1%

5+

ii) End of Key Stage 4

Brecon High School

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Provisional)
Total number of GCSE Welsh First Language entries	18	12	18	12	8
Number of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	7	6	14	9	8
% of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	38.9%	50%	77.8%	75%	100%

Builth Wells High School

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Provisional)
Total number of GCSE Welsh First Language entries	13	22	17	16	19
Number of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	10	13	13	11	11
% of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	76.9%	59.1%	76.5%	68.8%	57.9%

Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

(Provisional)					
Total number of GCSE Welsh First Language entries	142	156	170	145	143
Number of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	99	112	135	100	97
% of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	69.7%	71.7%	79.4%	69.4%	67.8%

5.2 Welsh language activities provided by the schools

Brecon High School

The majority of extra-curricular activities at Brecon High School are carried out through the medium of English, however some activities take place in Welsh or bilingually, depending on which member of staff is responsible and which pupils are taking part. The impact of the previous Welsh Medium consultations on the certainty of future provision, had led to an impact on the overall number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school. This has limited the provision that could be offered. The Welsh Department has developed links with the Urdd to offer opportunities such as camping events, as part of their wider provision.

The south Powys Urdd Eisteddfod is held in Brecon High School each year.

Builth Wells High School

A number of the school's extra-curricular activities and clubs are Welsh or bilingual, depending on which member of staff is responsible and which pupils are taking part.

In addition, the school provides a range of additional opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom. The school choir takes part in Urdd competitions, and pupils also take part in written competitions. Workshops are arranged with Welsh speakers from speciality areas, as well as workshops with Welsh poets and Welsh bands. The school holds an annual Eisteddfod, which gives additional opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh. The school puts on a musical every two years, and this is always bilingual, with some of the songs being in Welsh.

The school also supports the local 'papur bro', 'Y Fan a'r Lle', by submitting information to be included in the paper, and also supports the local Eisteddfod held annually in Llanwrtyd Wells.

Welsh for Adults lessons are held at the school on a weekly basis.

Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium school, therefore all extra-curricular activities provided by the school take place through the medium of Welsh. These activities include the following:

- Activities provided by Urdd Gobaith Cymru,
- Music and drama activities, including whole school productions, drama productions, religious services both within the school and the community, school choirs, school orchestra and various ensembles
- Sports activities
- Duke of Edinburgh award
- Other clubs, including Reading Club, Handwriting Club, Chess Club, Art Club, Numeracy Club
- Fundraising activities

5.3 Information/issues raised during consultation

A number of concerns in relation to the proposal's impact on the Welsh language were raised during the consultation period on this proposal. These included the following:

- Concern about the impact on pupils' Welsh language skills if they transfer to English-medium provision
- Concern about the impact on the Welsh language skills of English-medium pupils
- The proposal is discriminating against the Welsh language
- Concern about Welsh-medium pupil numbers
- Concern that the proposal is limiting access to Welsh-medium provision
- Concern that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language / Welsh language organisations and activities in the Brecon area
- Criticism of the council's treatment of the Welsh language
- Impact on the ability of employers in the local area to employ Welsh speakers
- The proposal goes against various policies and strategies relating to the Welsh language, e.g. the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, A Million Welsh Speakers by 2050, the Welsh-medium Education

These issues, along with the local authority's response to these issues, are listed in the consultation report in respect of this proposal.

5.4 Conclusion

Following the consultation period, the authority's view on the impact of the proposal on the Welsh language remains the same.

It is acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would mean that Welsh-medium secondary provision would not be available in the town of Brecon. This could be perceived to be detrimental to the Welsh language in the area. However, provision would continue to be provided to pupils living in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School through the provision of home to school transport to alternative providers. The continued presence of Ysgol y Bannau in Brecon, along with the Welsh-medium stream at Sennybridge C.P. School, will continue to provide local access to Welsh-medium primary provision in the Brecon area. Should the proposal be implemented, these schools would establish transition links with the alternative secondary providers to ensure a clear pathway for Welsh-medium pupils.

Whilst Welsh-medium pupils would be leaving Brecon to access Welsh-medium secondary provision, they would continue to live in the town and surrounding areas, and will continue to be able to participate in Welsh language activities in the local community. The authority's view is that the increased level of Welsh-medium provision available to them will enable all Welsh-medium pupils to become more confident Welsh speakers, who will be able to play a greater role in terms of the Welsh language in the community.

The authority's view is that the proposal will provide positive benefits for the Welsh language and Welsh-medium education through improved linguistic progression and through providing additional opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils to use their Welsh through all key stages of education. The Welsh-medium subject provision at the alternative schools which pupils are likely to attend to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision should the proposal be implemented is greater than that at Brecon High School, and the Authority's view is that accessing a greater level of subjects through the medium of Welsh will enable the learners to become more confident Welsh speakers.

In addition, pupils would be part of a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils at the alternative schools, which would ensure that there would be more opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh outside the classroom, further

strengthening their confidence in using the language. However, the authority accepts that it might be more difficult for pupils from the Brecon area to access after school activities at the alternative schools, due to their reliance on home to school transport.

As with all proposals, it is acknowledged that there are risks associated with this proposal. Risks relating to the proposal's impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers were identified on pages 16 and 17 of the consultation document, along with proposed risk management measures.

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE 14th March 2017

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Tony Thomas
Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning

SUBJECT: Growing Mid Wales

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current status and activities of the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) partnership, and inform them of proposed activities and potential resource implications for 2017.
- 1.2 The report also notes that the current partnership working for transportation under the TraCC arrangements, which Powys has an Inter- Authority Agreement with Ceredigion and Gwynedd (Meirionnydd area). The work of this partnership will now report via the Growing Mid Wales Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group which Members are asked to endorse

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Key stakeholders, including Powys County Council, were encouraged to come together and form the Growing Mid Wales Partnership by the previous Welsh Governments Economy Minister Edwina Hart. The Partnership seeks to provide a strategic focus and lead for the economic development of the Powys and Ceredigion areas, and has been meeting quarterly since early 2015.
- 2.2 The partnership comprises of representative bodies from across the private, public and voluntary sector in mid Wales, and the chairmanship rotates between the leaders of Ceredigion and Powys County Councils. It is supported by a small officer group, part of which is funded with support from ESIF via the Mid Wales Regional Engagement Function.
- 2.3 The partnership is developing quickly and already forms the key arrangement for economic development and strategic transport working across the Mid Wales region. Furthermore, the partnership is seeking to influence regional skills issues and other related issues which will support economic development.
- 2.4 The speed of this development has been partly in response to the WG Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government's proposals for

local government reform, in which he advocates a ‘two footprint model’¹ – with one footprint based on regional economic partnership arrangements and covering strategic transport, land-use planning and economic development and another footprint based on health board boundaries for services such as social services and public protection.

- 2.5 The white paper detailing this approach ‘Reforming local government: Resilient and renewed’ was published on the 31st of January 2017. Formal consultation on the paper will close on April 11th 2017. In the paper, regional economic development is identified in ‘the list of functions to be carried out on a mandatory and systematic basis’. In the paper, the Welsh Government also seeks views on what specific functions might be exercised on a regional basis to contribute to the economic development of regions, and whether or not the geography of proposed regional arrangements for these functions offer the most effective structure ‘to secure economic prosperity’. In the document, the Growing Mid Wales area is listed as a ‘sub-region’ under the wider umbrella of the Central and South West Wales Joint Governance Committee area, along with the Swansea Bay City region. If such a structure was to be implemented, future governance arrangements will be critical to ensure the needs of the Growing Mid Wales region are recognised and not subsumed. The Chief Executive is preparing the Council’s response to this white paper.
- 2.6 2017 will see a rapidly changing policy and funding landscape. Developments that will likely have implications for the work of Growing Mid Wales include;
- Implications of EU Transition, especially any potential replacement of Structural Funds and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
 - The Welsh Government’s development of four umbrella strategies meeting the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act’s seven goals
 - A new Economic Development Strategy for Wales, accompanied by a new Infrastructure Commission and new National Development Framework
 - The development of an Industrial Strategy by UK Government (BEIS)
 - The further emergence of City Deals and Growth Deals in Wales
 - Local Government reform in Wales (please see above)
- 2.7 A work plan for 2017 was put forward at the recent Growing Mid Wales Partnership meeting held on the 6th of January. Key actions identified for the first half of 2017 included;
- Planned meetings with the WG Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs and Minister for Skills and Technology
 - Engagement with key stakeholders to understand fully the BEIS Industrial Strategy approach, and develop a Mid Wales region response

¹ Welsh Government, White Paper – Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed (31st January 2017)

- Develop a regional Strategic Development Plan in line with proposed Welsh National Development Framework
- Progress Cross border cooperation / activities, including sector-specific work with Marches LEP and s second joint summit
- Establish a private sector engagement group

2.8 At this point in time the Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team, which support the Growing Mid Wales Partnership, are leading on the production of a regional response to the Call for Evidence for a new Welsh National Development Framework, with the long term aim of developing a regional Strategic Development Plan. Consultation has been ongoing since the start of 2017 and has included both partnership members and wider stakeholders in the region. A proposed response is due to be discussed at the next GMW Cross Sector Working Group on the 15th February, before being circulated to wider members with a view to being considered by the Chair and Vice Chair of GMW at the start of March. This regional approach taken by GMW to a national planning policy issue is reflective of the proposed regional approach to strategic land use planning as detailed in the recent Welsh Government white paper on local government reform.

2.9 Given the evolving landscape it is natural the full extent of the work required for the whole of 2017 is not known at present and will change in response to policy and funding decisions made by both Welsh and UK Government; some in direct response to EU transition and others through new policy initiatives. However, some of the key actions identified for 2017, especially the production of a regional Industrial Strategy and regional Strategic Development Plan, will require substantial additional resources and specialist skills and knowledge.

3. One Powys Plan

3.1 The Growing Mid Wales partnership has the potential to contribute to several objectives of the One Powys Plan, namely;

- Stronger Communities
- Transforming Learning and Skills
- Organisation and Partnership Development

3.2 Furthermore the Growing Mid Wales partnership and its Framework for Action is closely aligned with the strategic objectives and ideas listed in the new Powys Economic Development Strategy, a key output of the Stronger Communities Programme.

4. Options Considered/Available

4.1 Three delivery models were considered by TraCC and presented as options to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership meeting on the 6th of October 2016;

A) Reduce the number of TraCC Management and Board meetings from four to two per annum.

B) Implement a new structure for meetings and reporting of activity

- i) An officer only level group meeting for TraCC engagement to discuss operational and policy level collaboration (GMW Connectivity and Infrastructure Group).
- ii) An annual TraCC Meeting for Council Members of TraCC Board (In order to keep the inter-authority agreement on collaboration active) and ensure good governance.
- iii) Bring TraCC and GMW Partnership together once a year (Annual Regional Transport Day/ Meeting) focusing on improving strategic communications, accessibility and Infrastructure across the GMW region.
- iv) The GMW Partnership meetings would have a report from the Growing Mid Wales Connectivity & Infrastructure Working Group each quarter.

C) Retain four management group meetings and four Board meetings each year.

4.2 The paper produced by TraCC recommended Option B to be implemented for several reasons. It was felt important to maintain at least one formal board meeting each year, in order to ensure both appropriate governance and compliance with inter-authority agreements. It was also felt that strategic infrastructure and connectivity issues were pertinent to the role and remit of both TraCC and the officers supporting Growing Mid Wales, and there was a potential for duplication of activity. Furthermore, aligning strategic transport planning activity as part of the Growing Mid Wales partnership arrangements would consolidate functions in line with the then anticipated Welsh Government White Paper on Local Government reform.

4.3 Option C was dismissed as it was felt maintaining the existing format of the TraCC Management Group and Board meetings with at least four meetings of both bodies per annum was resource-intensive for both Council Members and for senior officers.

5. Preferred Choice and Reasons

5.1 The report recommends that Cabinet continue to support the Growing Mid Wales Partnership and the development of the economy in rural Mid Wales.

5.2 The report also recommends that Cabinet support the consolidation of TraCC as part as part of the Growing Mid Wales economic partnership (Option B), where TraCC will continue to function as the Growing Mid Wales Infrastructure and Connectivity Group. In addition to rationalising resources, aligning strategic transport planning activity with Growing Mid Wales demonstrates progress in consolidation of functions in line with

the economic footprints as detailed in the Welsh Government's White Paper on Local Government reform.

6. Sustainability and Environmental Issues/Equalities/Crime and Disorder,/Welsh Language/Other Policies etc.

6.1 At this point in time, the Growing Mid Wales Partnership is not responsible for any major pieces of work or projects which may have an impact on the policy areas listed above. Equality Impact Assessments, and any other assessments deemed necessary, will be undertaken on a regional basis as decisions are brought forward in the future.

6.2 All official written material relating to the Growing Mid Wales partnership is produced in both English and Welsh and complies with the Welsh Language Standards

7. Children and Young People's Impact Statement - Safeguarding and Wellbeing

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. Local Member(s)

8.1 This is a county-wide initiative.

9. Other Front Line Services

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report

10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

10.1 The Professional Lead-Legal has no comment, on a legal services basis, to make on the recommendation in this report.

10.2 Finance Business Partner notes the context of the report and supports the economic development and strategic transport working across the mid Wales region. The service has confirmed that there is no additional funding requirements at this stage.

11. Local Service Board/Partnerships/Stakeholders etc.

11.1 Given the potential the Growing Mid Wales partnership has to contribute to the objectives of the One Powys Plan, Members may wish to consider the need to report minutes of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership to the Powys Local Service Board.

12. Corporate Communications

12.1 No proactive communication action required at this stage.

13. Statutory Officers

The Strategic Director Resources (S151 Officer) notes the comments made by finance.

The Monitoring Officer has commented "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report."

14. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
Cabinet continue to support the Growing Mid Wales Partnership and the development of the economy in rural Mid Wales.	To rationalise resources, aligning strategic transport planning activity with Growing Mid Wales demonstrates progress in consolidation of functions in line with the economic footprints as detailed in the Welsh Government's White Paper on Local Government reform.
Cabinet support the consolidation of TraCC as part of the Growing Mid Wales economic partnership.	

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y
Relevant Local Member(s):			
Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Professional Lead for Regeneration		
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	1st April 2017		
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Fax:	Email:
Jan McDonald	01597 826517		Jan.McDonald@powys.gov.uk

Background Papers used to prepare Report:

C75- 2017

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

C76- 2017

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank