

# Public Document Pack

## Cabinet

---

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

---

Meeting date  
**Wednesday, 18 July 2018**

---

Meeting time  
**4.30 pm**

---

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



County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

12 July 2018

---

The use of Welsh by participants is welcomed. If you wish to use Welsh please inform us by noon, two working days before the meeting

---

### AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
-----------	------------------

To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
-----------	---------------------------------

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

<b>3.</b>	<b>BANW C.P. SCHOOL AND LLANERFYL C. IN W. (FOUNDATION) SCHOOL</b>
-----------	--

To consider a report by County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Finance.

(Pages 3 - 70)

<b>4.</b>	<b>21ST C SCHOOLS PROGRAMME - WELSHPOOL PRIMARY PROJECT AND YSGOL CALON CYMRU</b>
-----------	---

To consider a report by County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language and County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport.

(Pages 71 - 108)



## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

## CABINET EXECUTIVE

18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Aled Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

**SUBJECT:** Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation)  
School

**REPORT FOR:** Decision

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends the commencement of formal consultation on the closure of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and the opening of a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.
- 1.2 The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Options Appraisal

Appendix B – Report of survey of Banw and Llanerfyl parents

Appendix C – Response from the St Asaph Diocese

Appendix D – Impact Assessment

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School are two small Welsh-medium primary schools situated in the Banwy Valley in North Powys. The schools are situated approximately 2.5 miles apart, and serve the villages of Llanerfyl, Llangadfan and Y Foel, along with the surrounding rural area. Current pupil numbers<sup>1</sup> at the two schools are as follows:

	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Banw C.P. School	0	2	2	1	7	4	4	6	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	2	3	4	6	1	5	5	5	32

<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Total	2	5	6	7	8	9	9	11	57

- 2.2 Pupil numbers in the area have reduced over recent years, and in the summer of 2017, Banw C.P. School contacted the Schools Service, to express concern about the current and projected numbers at their school, and to request that a solution is identified in order to safeguard the provision of education in the Banwy Valley.
- 2.3 The Council has subsequently undertaken a review of the two primary schools in the Banwy Valley. The review process has included the following steps:
- Discussions with the governing bodies – this has included individual meetings as well as joint meetings with both governing bodies
  - Initial engagement with parents – a questionnaire was distributed to parents of pupils currently attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin. A report outlining the findings is attached as Appendix B
  - Options appraisal
  - Information presented to the Learning and Skills Programme Board
  - Recommendation ratified by members of the Learning and Skills Programme Board
  - Recommendation presented to Cabinet

**Information about the two schools**

2.4 Data about the two schools is provided below:

i) General Information

	<b>School Type</b>	<b>Language Category</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	Community Primary	Welsh-medium	8
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	Foundation Church in Wales	Welsh-medium	7

ii) Pupil Numbers

Current pupil numbers

	<b>N2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	0	2	2	1	7	4	4	6	26
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	2	3	4	7	1	5	5	5	32
<b>Total</b>	2	5	6	8	8	9	9	11	58

Projected pupil numbers

	<b>January 2019</b>	<b>January 2020</b>	<b>January 2021</b>	<b>January 2022</b>	<b>January 2023</b>
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	22	18	17	13	15
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School (R-Yr6)</b>	28	30	29	31	28
<b>Total</b>	50	48	36	44	43

iii) Building Capacity and Condition

Capacity

	<b>Current Capacity</b>	<b>Maximum Capacity</b>
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	72 + 10 nursery / reception	99 + 10 nursery / reception
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	44 + 5 nursery / reception	59 + 5 nursery / reception

Building Condition

	Condition	Suitability
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	C Generally poor	B Generally satisfactory
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	B Generally satisfactory	C/D Poor to bad This assessment is based on the perceived limitation of having no hall, and the significant limitations due to conversion and extension of the original property

iv) Quality and standards of education

Estyn

	<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>
Date of Inspection	September 2016	November 2014
School's Current Performance	Good	Adequate
Prospects for Improvement	Good	Adequate
Follow Up Activity	No follow up activity	Estyn Monitoring  Estyn Monitoring visit January 2016 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring

School Categorisation (2017)

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	N/A	A	Green
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	N/A	C	Yellow

v) Financial information

Cost per pupil (2018/19)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	£156,330	£6,013	£5,493	£6,025
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	£152,093	£5,432	£7,105	£6,020
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£3,752	N/A	N/A

Current budgetary position (as of 1<sup>st</sup> May submittal by full governing body)

	2017/18 Actual Cumulative Outturn	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget
<b>Banw C.P. School</b>	£28,525	£15,582	(£1,576)	(£23,536)
<b>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	£19,422	(£969)	(£25,852)	(£50,624)

vi) Home to school travel

Closest school

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 58 pupils that were attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Ysgol Llanerfyl in November 2017. The closest Welsh-medium provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	<b>Pupils attending Banw C.P. School</b>	<b>Pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	<b>Total</b>
Banw CP School	25	1	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	0	29	29
Ysgol Llanbrynmair	0	2	2
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng	1	0	1

Average Travel Distance

The current average travel distance for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is 4.01 miles.

The current average travel distance for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanerfyl is 1.79 miles.

If there was no school in Banw, the average travel distance for all current pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Llanerfyl would be 3.31 miles.

If there was no school in Llanerfyl, the average travel distance for all current pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Banw would be 3.57 miles.

(Note: in this section, 'all pupils' includes pupils for whom Ysgol Dyffryn Banw or Ysgol Llanerfyl is not their closest provider of Welsh-medium education)



### Furthest Travel Distance

Of the pupils that currently attend Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 8.48 miles. If there was no school in Banw, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision at Llanerfyl would be 10.01 miles.

Of the pupils that currently attend Ysgol Llanerfyl, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Ysgol Llanerfyl is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 4.71 miles. Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision at Banw would be 5.85 miles.

### **3. Options Considered / Available**

- 3.1 See Appendix A – Option Appraisal for information about the options considered.

### **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 4.1 The options appraisal concluded the following:

‘From the assessment that was carried out, there is very little to differentiate the two school sites as a base to establish a new school. However, the main differences are in the following areas:

- a) Strategic location – Llanerfyl scores higher
- b) Learning environments – Ysgol Dyffryn Banw scores higher
- c) Potential achievability – Llanerfyl scores higher
- d) Value for money – Llanerfyl scores higher

On this basis, the **preferred option** is to establish a new school on the Llanerfyl site.

- 4.2 Based on the outcome of the options appraisal, the preferred choice is to commence formal consultation on the following proposal:

‘To close Llanerfyl Church in Wales Foundation School and Banw C.P. School, and to establish a new Welsh-medium Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on the Llanerfyl site.’

- 4.3 The reasons for this are as follows:

- The recommendation would result in one larger school in the Dyffryn Banw area which would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium education
- Llanerfyl is the best strategic location for the whole Dyffryn Banw area – pupil numbers are currently slightly higher in Llanerfyl and

are projected to remain higher. Parents already travel in to Llanerfyl to access Early Years provision.

- Current projected pupil numbers are higher in Llanerfyl than Dyffryn Banw
- The current Llanerfyl building is large enough to accommodate all current pupils and projected pupil numbers
- The Llanerfyl building has been assessed to be in a better condition than the Banw building
- Potential capital receipt from sale of the Banw C.P. School building – the authority is in ownership of this school, whilst Ysgol Llanerfyl is owned by a Trust, therefore a capital benefit wouldn't be available to the authority if this site was to close.
- The proposal to close both schools would ensure all staff currently employed at the two schools would have an equal opportunity to secure a position in the new school
- The recommendation would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales denominational provision in the Dyffryn Banw (the nearest alternative Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision is in either Rhayader C. in W. School or Trefonnen C. in W. School, Llandrindod. Both of these are dual stream schools, located approximately 40 miles from Llanerfyl)
- This recommendation has been supported by the Diocese and therefore has a higher level of achievability.

4.4 Whilst it is recognised that the facilities at Llanerfyl are not as extensive as the facilities at Banw C.P. School, the condition of the building has been categorised as being better than the condition of the Banw building, and the building is able to accommodate current and projected pupil numbers in the area.

4.5 Should the authority proceed with a proposal to establish a new Voluntary Aided School on the current Llanerfyl site, there may be an opportunity to apply for capital funding as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The Welsh Government provides 85% of funding towards Voluntary Aided schools, with the remaining 15% coming from the Local Authority and/or the Diocese.

4.6 Whilst there is a potential to achieve a capital receipt from the sale of the Banw C.P. School building, there is a community centre attached to the school, which may cause difficulties regarding sale of the site.

4.7 It is estimated that implementation of the recommendation would lead to revenue savings of £63,426 per year. However, this figure does not take account of any redundancy costs which may initially be required.

### Risks

4.8 As with all school reorganisation proposals, there is an element of risk associated with the recommendation. The following risks have been identified:

- i) Based on the current pupil projections, there would still be less than 50 pupils in the new school in a few years time
- ii) Pupils may transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers
- iii) As the new school would be a small Welsh-medium school in a rural area, it may not attract a headteacher
- iv) Welsh Government may not provide capital funding for investment in a school of this size
- v) The current configuration of the school at Llanerfyl may cause challenges for the new school in relation to curriculum delivery following the introduction of the new curriculum

#### Consultation with the Diocese and the Trust

- 4.9 Local authorities are required to follow the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code when implementing school organisation proposals. The Code states the following on page 31:

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

- 4.10 As Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is owned by a trust, and has the school has a designated religious character, there is a requirement to carry out consultation with the St Asaph Diocese and the Priscilla Foster Trust. The Council wrote to the Trust and the Diocese on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018, requesting their comments on the recommendation set out above. The response received from the St Asaph Diocese is attached as Appendix C.
- 4.11 No response has yet been received from the Priscilla Foster Trust. Should a response be received, this will be tabled at the meeting.

#### The decision making process and timescales

- 4.12 Should Cabinet approve the commencement of the statutory process in respect of this recommendation, the Council would need to follow the process set out in the School Organisation Code. This process is as follows:

- i) Consultation

Consultation would be carried out with stakeholders as required by the Code. This includes consultation with the pupils at both schools, to ensure that their views are taken into account, in

accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

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

ii) Statutory Notice

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

iii) Implementation

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

4.13 Should the recommendation to commence formal consultation be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in September 2018.

4.14 The target date for closure of the two schools would be the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, with the new school to open on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

**5. Impact Assessment**

5.1 Is an impact assessment required? Yes

5.2 If yes is it attached? Yes (Appendix D)

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

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

## **6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

- 6.1 Learning and Skills is one of the four priorities outlined in Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-23. Within this priority, the Plan includes a commitment to 'Improve our schools infrastructure'. In order to achieve this, 'we will implement our new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan to develop a more efficient schools network, with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve.'

## **7. Local Member(s)**

- 7.1 Cllr Myfanwy Alexander, Local Member for the Banwy ward, has commented as follows:

'Fel cynghorydd lleol, mae'n anodd cyfaddau bod pwysau demograffig wedi ein gorfodi ni i wynebu'r fath benderfyniad. Mae'r ardal arbennig yma yn gadarnle i'r iaith Gymraeg a chrud i'w diwylliant. Os bydd i'r iaith ffynnu i'r dyfodol, rhaid gwarchod yr ardaloedd prin hynny lle mae'r Gymraeg yn parhau yn iaith naturiol y gymuned. Rwyf felly yn croesawu unrhyw ymdrechion i gryfhau'r economi leol. Heb swyddi, ni fydd plant i lenwi ein hysgolion.'

Mae sawl un wedi beirniadu'r oedi o fewn y broses yma, yn enwedig yn syth ar ol y Nadolig. Os oes rhaid i ni, fel cymunedau, wynebu newidiadau heriol fel hyn, byddai'n llesol i'r penderfyniad gael ei weithredu cyn gyntedd a phosibl. Ni yw cyfnodau o ansicrwydd byth yn help i neb, yn enwedig y plant a'r staff. Mae gennym ni ddyletswydd tuag at y dyfodol i warantu addysg Gymraeg i blant y Dyffryn, i gyflawni polisiau'r Sir a Llywyodraeth Cymru.'

'As a local councillor, it is difficult to admit that demographic pressures have forced us to face a decision such as this. This special area is a stronghold for the Welsh language and a haven for its culture. For the language to thrive in the future, we must protect those rare areas where Welsh continues to be the natural language of the community. Therefore, I welcome any efforts to strengthen the local economy. Without jobs, there will be no children to fill our schools.'

A number of people have criticised the delay in this process, particularly immediately after Christmas. If we, as communities, must face challenging changes such as this, it would be beneficial if the decision was implemented as soon as possible. Periods of uncertainty are never helpful for anyone, particularly children and staff. We have a

duty to the future to ensure Welsh-medium education for the children of the Valley, to fulfil the County and the Welsh Government's polices.'

**8. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council?                      Yes/No

If so please provide their comments

**9. Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report?      Yes

Have they made a comment?      'The report is of considerable public interest and requires use of news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision'.

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

10.1 Legal –

10.2 Finance – 'The financial aspects of the report have been worked on and verified by finance'.

10.3 HR – 'The Schools HR Team will continue to work with and support Headteachers, Governors and staff to ensure that Powys County Council's policies are adhered to, and to minimise any risk of redundancy resulting from decisions that are made in relation to these schools.'

**11. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised?                      No

**12. Statutory Officers**

The Section 151 Officer notes the comments made by Finance.

The Monitoring Officer

**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.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
To carry out consultation as required by the School Organisation Code on a proposal to close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School and to open a new Welsh-medium Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on the Llanerfyl site, with a target date of closing the two schools on the 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020 and opening the new school on the 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020.	To ensure the continued provision of Welsh-medium education in the Banwy Valley through the establishment of one larger school.

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	School Organisation Policy		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>Cllr Myfanwy Alexander</b>
----------------------------------	-------------------------------

<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Marianne Evans</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>End of September 2018</b>

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sarah Astley
<b>Tel:</b>	01597 826265
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:sarah.astley@powys.gov.uk">sarah.astley@powys.gov.uk</a>

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

This page is intentionally left blank



# Options Appraisal

**Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and  
Ysgol Llanerfyl**

**July 2018**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to set out the business case for the future organisation of primary education in the Banwy Valley.

Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Ysgol Llanerfyl are two small Welsh-medium primary schools situated in the Banwy Valley in North Powys. Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is a Community Primary School, whilst Ysgol Llanerfyl is a Foundation Church in Wales School.

The schools are situated approximately 2.5 miles apart, and serve the villages of Llanerfyl, Llangadfan and Y Foel, along with the surrounding rural area.

Current pupil numbers<sup>1</sup> at the two schools are as follows:

	<b>N2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	0	2	2	1	7	4	4	6	26
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	2	3	4	6	1	5	5	5	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	2	5	6	7	8	9	9	11	57

---

<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## 2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### 2.1 Policy context

The Council has recently agreed a new School Organisation Policy, which sets out the council's aspiration for developing the educational infrastructure in Powys. The policy states Council's aims for the Powys schools infrastructure, which are as follows:

'The Council aspires to ensure that Powys has the right number of schools in the right place, and in the right condition, for the current and future pupil population.

The Council aims to have an educational model which fulfils the following:

- Provides all learners with the opportunity to achieve their potential
- Has high quality, resilient leadership and management
- Has high quality learning environments, with the long term aim that all schools will be assessed as condition A or B
- Has a greater focus on collaboration and partnership working, in order to enable schools to provide the best possible opportunities for learners
- Enables schools to operate effectively and efficiently within the funding available
- Increases demand for Welsh-medium provision and provides access to provision which will enable pupils to become confident Welsh speakers
- Develops our schools into establishments that are central to community activity
- Has a high quality ICT infrastructure that will enable all schools to provide enhanced opportunities for learners
- Provides access to high quality early years provision
- Provides support for learners with additional learning needs which aligns with the requirements of the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act
- Provides access to high quality post-16 provision in schools, which is attractive to learners, financially sustainable and minimises learner travel'

Further to this, the Policy states that:

'In order to move towards a more efficient schools network, a new Delivery Plan will be implemented with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve, and on alternative models of delivering education, such as collaboration models, federation, multi-site schools and all-through schools.

The Council's Delivery Plan will focus on delivering the following priorities:

- Secondary schools to become 'all-through schools', or part of multi-sited arrangements

- Small primary schools<sup>2</sup> to be part of formal collaborations / federations / amalgamations
- Remove infant / junior split by creating ‘all-through’ primary schools
- New Welsh-medium provision to be established
- Improvements to the Powys schools estate, either as part of the Welsh Government’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme or as part of the Council’s Asset Management Programme
- A new model for delivering post-16 provision to be implemented
- Transforming the delivery of support for pupils with additional learning needs

In addition to the above priorities, the Council will encourage all schools to:

- Identify areas where staff and / or services can be shared across more than one school in order to improve efficiency
- Develop the use of ICT links between school sites to provide distance learning opportunities’

## 2.2 Information about the two schools

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	Community Primary  School building owned by PCC with a community centre attached to the school.	Welsh-medium	8
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	Foundation Church in Wales  School building owned by the Pricilla Foster Trust. School responsible for its own admissions.	Welsh-medium	7

### 2.2.1 Pupil Numbers

#### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>3</sup>

	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	0	2	2	1	7	4	4	6	26
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	2	3	4	6	1	5	5	5	32

<sup>2</sup> The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school that contains fewer than 91 registered pupils in the Education (Small Schools) (Wales) Order 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1133/made>

<sup>3</sup> Teacher Centre, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018

<b>TOTAL</b>	2	5	6	7	8	9	9	11	57

ii) **Historical pupil numbers<sup>4</sup>**

	<b>Jan. 2011</b>	<b>Jan. 2012</b>	<b>Jan. 2013</b>	<b>Jan. 2014</b>	<b>Jan. 2015</b>	<b>Jan. 2016</b>	<b>Jan. 2017</b>
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	45	50	46	38	35	33	28
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	47	51	42	41	38	37	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>63</b>

iii) **Projected pupil numbers**

	<b>January 2019</b>	<b>January 2020</b>	<b>January 2021</b>	<b>January 2022</b>	<b>January 2023</b>
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	22	18	17	13	15
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl (R-Yr6)</b>	28	30	29	31	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>

## 2.2.2 Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

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

	<b>Current Capacity</b>	<b>Maximum Capacity</b>
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	72 + 10 nursery / reception	99 + 10 nursery / reception
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	44 + 5 nursery / reception	59 + 5 nursery / reception

ii) **Building Condition**

---

<sup>4</sup> PLASC

In the Spring of 2018, the Council commissioned HOWPS to carry out updated condition and suitability assessments of the two schools.

Detailed reports have been provided for two schools, however the overall assessments are as follows:

	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	C Generally poor	B Generally satisfactory
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	B Generally satisfactory	C/D Poor to bad  This assessment is based on the perceived limitation of having no hall, and the significant limitations due to conversion and extension of the original property

### 2.2.3 Quality and standards of education

#### i) Estyn

The following table summarises the last Estyn inspections of the two schools:

	<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	September 2016	November 2014
<b>School's Current Performance</b>	Good	Adequate
<b>Prospects for Improvement</b>	Good	Adequate
<b>Follow Up Activity</b>	No follow up activity	Estyn Monitoring  Estyn Monitoring visit January 2016 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring

## School Categorisation

The latest categorisations of the two schools in accordance with the National School Categorisation System for 2017 are as follows:

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	N/A	A	Green
Ysgol Llanerfyl	N/A	C	Yellow

### 2.2.4 Financial information

#### i) Cost per pupil (2018/19)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	£156,330	£6,013	£5,493	£6,025
Ysgol Llanerfyl	£152,093	£5,432	£7,105	£6,020
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£3,752	N/A	N/A

#### ii) Current budgetary position (as of 1<sup>st</sup> May submittal by full governing body)

	2017/18 Actual Cumulative Outturn	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	£28,525	£15,582	(£1,576)	(£23,536)
Ysgol Llanerfyl	£19,422	(£969)	(£25,852)	(£50,624)

## 2.2.5 Home to school travel

### i) Closest School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 58 pupils that were attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Ysgol Llanerfyl in November 2017. The closest Welsh-medium provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	<b>Pupils attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	<b>Pupils attending Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	25	1	26
Ysgol Llanerfyl	0	29	29
Ysgol Llanbrynmair	0	2	2
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng	1	0	1

### ii) Average Travel Distance

The current average travel distance for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is 4.01 miles.

The current average travel distance for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanerfyl is 1.79 miles.

If there was no school in Banw, the average travel distance for all current pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Llanerfyl would be 3.31 miles.

If there was no school in Llanerfyl, the average travel distance for all current pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Banw would be 3.57 miles.

(Note: in this section, 'all pupils' includes pupils for whom Ysgol Dyffryn Banw or Ysgol Llanerfyl is not their closest provider of Welsh-medium education)

### iii) Furthest Travel Distance

Of the pupils that currently attend Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 8.48 miles. If there was no school in Banw, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision at Llanerfyl would be 10.01 miles.



Of the pupils that currently attend Ysgol Llanerfyl, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Ysgol Llanerfyl is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 4.71 miles. Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision at Banw would be 5.85 miles.

## 2.2.6 Equalities information<sup>5</sup>

### i) National identity

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017)

	Welsh	English	Scottish	Irish	British	Other	Refused	Not supplied	Total pupils
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	12	1	0	0	11	0	0	0	24
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	11	2	0	0	14	0	0	0	27

### ii) Ethnic Group

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017)

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained	Total pupils
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	24	0	0	24
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	25	0	2	27

### iii) English as an Additional Language

	EAL pupils
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	0
<b>Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	0

### iv) Free School Meals

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
<b>Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	3

<sup>5</sup> PLASC January 2018

Ysgol Llanerfyl	0
-----------------	---

v) Pupils in care

	Number of pupils in care
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	0
Ysgol Llanerfyl	0

vi) SEN

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	5	4	0
Ysgol Llanerfyl	5	0	0

vii) Welsh at Home

	Does not speak Welsh at home	Does speak Welsh at home
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	23	3
Ysgol Llanerfyl	8	24

### 2.2.7 Early Years Provision

One early years provider – Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw – serves pupils from the whole area. This setting meets in Llanerfyl village hall. The setting receives 3+ funding from the Council.

## 4. CASE FOR CHANGE

### 4.1 Existing arrangements – the problem with the status quo

The case for change is based on the need to ensure that Welsh medium primary education in the Banwy Valley is sustainable.

The current challenges are:

- Low numbers of pupils at both schools – the Welsh Government’s definition of a ‘small school’ is schools with under 91 pupils. Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Ysgol Llanerfyl currently have 57 pupils between them.
- Pupil numbers have fallen significantly over the last few years and are projected to decrease further.
- Both schools provide high quality education, but the low pupil numbers is creating increasing challenges for both schools – educationally and financially.
- Financial sustainability of both schools – deficit budgets forecasted for the next two years, which is even more challenging to address given the size of both schools.
- Both schools provide high quality education through the medium of Welsh – however, free home-to-school transport is now provided to pupils who wish to have an English medium education and 26 pupils are accessing this provision and travelling to Llanfair Caereinion CP’s English stream.
- Both schools have condition/suitability issues which are explored further below.

During discussions with both governing bodies, it was agreed that **the most suitable way forward would be for the two schools to come together, to ensure that there would be one larger school in the area.**

The scope of this business case, therefore, include **options to establish a single primary school in the area.** Clustering, collaboration and federation are discounted as options at this stage as these would not enable the creation of a single school and are therefore outside the scope.

As the condition/suitability of both school sites is a key consideration in this assessment, Heart of Wales Property Services was commissioned to provide an updated evaluation of both sites. The information received in these evaluations is summarised below.

#### i) Maintenance costs

The council commissioned HOWPS to carry out updated condition assessments of the 2 current school buildings. These assessments included an estimate of the maintenance expenditure that would be required on the two school buildings over the next 5 years.

These estimated costs are summarised in the following table:

Year	Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	Ysgol Llanerfyl
0 – 2018	£87,500.00	£0.00
1 – 2019	£271,050.00	£54,250.00
3 – 2020	£20,500.00	£94,750.00
3 – 2021	£7,225.00	£3,700.00
4 – 2022	£2,000.00	£8,500.00
5 – 2023	£0.00	£16,500.00
<b>5 year total</b>	<b>£388,275.00</b>	<b>£177,250.00</b>

## ii) Condition and suitability assessment

HOWPS also assessed the suitability of both schools to accommodate up to 60 pupils and any works required to remodel the schools to meet the requirements of Building Bulletin 98 for primary schools.

The assessment received was as follows:

	Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	Ysgol Llanerfyl
<b>Summary of assessment</b>	<p>The teaching accommodation at Banw is broadly of the appropriate size, however the current provision is within 4 small classrooms. The learning resource area is smaller than expected but is offset by over-provision within the general classrooms. It is considered that internal alterations could be made to open the classrooms into 2 teaching bases.</p> <p>The school is over-provided with halls and dining facilities.</p> <p>Staff and administration areas are only a quarter of the current design area.</p>	<p>The teaching accommodation at Llanerfyl is broadly of the appropriate size, however the current provision is within three classrooms and these cannot easily be re-configured into 2 classes.</p> <p>The school does not currently have a hall or dining room.</p> <p>Staff and administration areas are around half of the current design area.</p> <p>Overall, the school is around half the size required by current guidelines for teaching 60 children.</p>

	<p>Overall, the school is (including the halls and dining facilities) around a quarter larger than that would be required from the design targets. However, any imposition of modern targets on a school designed to earlier standards is problematic, and will inevitably lead to a compromised design solution. That said, it is considered that the school could accommodate 60 pupils by the construction of a relatively small extension to provide an enhanced staff room, disabled toileting and storage.</p>	<p>The greatest shortfall is the absence of a multi-purpose hall, but additional staff, admin, storage and toileting space is also required. An extension of 250m<sup>2</sup> would meet the headline shortfall, but planning this effectively would be problematic given the current arrangement of the school over two floors.</p>
--	--	--

## 5. AVAILABLE OPTIONS AND IDENTIFYING THE PREFERRED OPTION

In order to assess the advantages and disadvantages of potential options, options will be evaluated according to how well they meet the key objectives and critical success factors.

### 5.1 Investment Objectives

The investment objectives are as follows:

1. To deliver a sustainable model of high quality primary education for the pupils of the Banwy Valley
2. To ensure that primary provision is delivered in the most strategic location to serve the Banwy Valley
3. To provide education in good quality teaching and learning environments
4. To provide a more efficient education infrastructure

### 5.2 Critical Success Factors

Options will also be appraised against the following Critical Success Factors:

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The options must satisfy all 5 investment objectives and business needs</li> <li>• The option must optimise the benefits as presented in the Main Benefits Criteria</li> <li>• The option must be aligned with and promote the national, regional and local strategies presented in sections 6 and 7</li> </ul>
2 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted revenue of participating organisations</li> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding of participating organisations</li> </ul>
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must be acceptable to learners, staff, governors and the wider community</li> <li>• The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level</li> <li>• The option must be achievable within current legislation</li> <li>• The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable</li> </ul>
4 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning</li> <li>• The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning</li> </ul>

--	--

### 5.3 Options Considered

A range of options were considered that could potentially provide a solution.

Option	Description
1	Establish a new school operating across the two current sites
2	Establish a new school operating from the current Dyffryn Banw site
3	Establish a new school operating from the current Llanerfyl site
4	Establish a new school operating from a new site in the area

### 5.4 Advantages and disadvantages of all options

SWOT analysis' for each of the four options are provided below. As well as input from officers, these also reflect comments provided at a drop in session held with parents on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

#### Option 1: A new school operating across the two current sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in both villages</li> <li>- Bringing the two schools together under a new name and a new headteacher would bring the communities and the pupils together</li> <li>- Benefits in terms of leadership and management</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Possibly the most straightforward option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There would still be small numbers of pupils on each site</li> <li>- Pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still be running two buildings which would mean twice the cost</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places in the area</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving to the council</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possibility that the schools could separate again if numbers were to increase</li> <li>- Opportunity to include Cylch Meithrin / Ti a Fi on one of the sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the future, it's possible that parents would opt for one site over the other</li> <li>- Possible conflict between church school and community school</li> </ul>

--	--

### Option 2: A new school operating from the current Dyffryn Banw site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is the larger site of the two and could accommodate all current pupils in the area</li> <li>- There are more facilities on this site e.g indoor hall, dining hall, large playground and playing fields, plenty of parking</li> <li>- All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places in the area</li> <li>- Would lead to a financial saving to the council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There would be no provision in Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Not having primary provision in the village would impact on the Llanerfyl community</li> <li>- Additional transport would be required for Llanerfyl pupils</li> <li>- Would be more difficult for Llanerfyl pupils to access after school activities</li> <li>- The council would not benefit from any sale of the Llanerfyl site as it isn't owned by the council</li> <li>- Some investment would be needed in the Dyffryn Banw building</li> <li>- There are no safe walking / cycling routes to the school</li> <li>- Would be less convenient for Llanerfyl parents, many of whom work in the opposite direction</li> <li>- Current pupil projections are lower for Dyffryn Banw than Llanerfyl</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sufficient space to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in the future</li> <li>- Opportunity to accommodate early years provision on the site</li> <li>- Opportunity to bring the two communities together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some Llanerfyl parents may choose for their children to attend a different school</li> <li>- Concern that Llanerfyl pupils would not travel up the valley to Banw</li> </ul>

### Option 3: A new school operating from the current Llanerfyl site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current numbers at Llanerfyl are slightly higher than Banw, therefore this would be a more convenient location for the majority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There would be no provision in Llangadfan</li> <li>- Not having primary provision in the village would impact on the Llangadfan community</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current pupil projections at Llanerfyl are higher than Dyffryn Banw</li> <li>- Building is currently in a better condition than Banw</li> <li>- All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places in the area</li> <li>- Would lead to a financial saving to the council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern about the impact on Banw Community Hall if there was no school located on the site</li> <li>- Sale of the Banw site could be difficult due to the co-location of the community centre</li> <li>- Additional transport would be required for Llangadfan pupils</li> <li>- Would be more difficult for Llangadfan pupils to access after school activities</li> <li>- Capacity of the building is lower than Dyffryn Banw's</li> <li>- No separate dining area / canteen</li> <li>- No access to a hall on the school site – pupils have to walk up the road</li> <li>- Access to the school is down a narrow lane – this could be problematic if there were more pupils attending the school</li> <li>- Limited parking on the site</li> <li>- Capital investment would be required to provide additional facilities</li> <li>- Currently there is nowhere to accommodate Cylch Meithrin / early years provision on the site</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for capital receipts from the sale of the Banw site – this could be used to invest in Llanerfyl school e.g. better parking, bigger playing field</li> <li>- Llanerfyl is more central in the area which meant that it could attract Welsh-medium pupils from Llanfair and the area</li> <li>- There is land nearby which could be purchased to extend the car park and buildings</li> <li>- Opportunity to bring the two communities together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some Banw parents may choose for their children to attend alternative schools</li> </ul>

**Option 4: A new school operating from a new site in the area**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
------------------	-------------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would be a fresh start for the area</li> <li>- Could be located in a central location which would be equally accessible to the two communities</li> <li>- All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places in the area</li> <li>- Could lead to a financial saving to the council</li> <li>- Any new building would include all required facilities, disabled access, early years provision, a hall, playing fields etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are already two buildings in the area</li> <li>- Would be an expensive option</li> <li>- No land has currently been identified</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to access 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding from the Welsh Government</li> <li>- Could attract pupils from further afield</li> </ul>	

## 5.5 Financial Assessment

### i) A new school operating across the two current sites

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
<b>Total</b>	<b>£308,423</b>
<b>Revised Estimated Funding/Costs</b>	
1 school across 2 sites	£321,577
Management saving	£4,679
<b>Total</b>	<b>£316,898</b>
<b>Saving / (Cost)</b>	<b>(£8,475)</b>
<b>Estimated Saving / (Costs)</b>	<b>(£8,475)</b>

### ii) A new school operating from the current Dyffryn Banw site

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Current Catering Costs	£27,596
<b>Total</b>	<b>£336,019</b>

<b>Revised Estimated Funding/Costs</b>	
1 school 1 site (Dyffryn Banw)	£227,265
Catering costs	£24,572
<b>Total</b>	<b>£251,837</b>
<b>Saving / (Cost)</b>	<b>£84,182</b>
Estimated Additional Transport Costs	£34,956
<b>Estimated Saving / (Costs)</b>	<b>£49,226</b>

iii) **A new school operating from the current Llanerfyl site**

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Current Catering Costs	£27,596
<b>Total</b>	<b>£336,019</b>
<b>Revised Estimated Funding/Costs</b>	
1 school 1 site (Llanerfyl)	£213,065
Catering costs	£24,572
<b>Total</b>	<b>£237,637</b>
<b>Saving / (Cost)</b>	<b>£98,382</b>
Estimated Additional Transport Costs	£34,956
<b>Estimated Saving / (Costs)</b>	<b>£63,426</b>

iv) **A new school operating from a new site in the area**

It is not possible to estimate the cost of this option at this stage as it would be dependent on the size / location of the new school. Should this option be taken forward, a detailed financial appraisal would need to be carried out as part of a business case process.

## 5.6 Options Appraisal

The options were appraised against the investment objectives and critical success factors using the following simple scoring methodology:

- X Does not meet the objective
- ? May meet the objective
- ✓ Meets the objective
- ✓✓ More than meets the objective

	<b>Option 1: New school across 2 sites</b>	<b>Option 2: New school in Banw</b>	<b>Option 3: New school in Llanerfyl</b>	<b>Option 4: New school in a new location</b>
1 – To deliver a sustainable model of high quality primary education for the pupils of the Banwy Valley	X	✓	✓	?
2 – To ensure that primary provision is delivered in the most strategic location to serve the Banwy Valley	✓	✓	✓✓	?
3 – To provide education in a fit-for-purpose learning environment	?	✓	?	✓✓
4 – To provide a more efficient education infrastructure	x	✓	✓	?
<b>Critical Success Factors</b>				
Strategic Fit	✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓
Potential Affordability	x	✓	✓	?
Potential Achievability	x	✓	✓✓	x
Value for Money	x	✓	✓✓	x
<b>No. of ticks</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

## **6. Conclusion and Preferred Option**

### **6.1 Summary of Options Appraisal**

The options appraisal is summarised below:

#### **Investment Objective 1 – To deliver a sustainable model of high quality primary education for the pupils of the Banwy Valley**

Option 1 is considered unsuitable.

Options 2, 3 and 4 – Merging the two current schools on either site or a new site would provide a model of provision that could potentially be sustainable in the future – however, even with a merger of both schools, they are significantly below the Welsh Government's threshold for a small school.

#### **Investment Objective 2 – To ensure that primary provision is delivered in the most strategic location to serve the Banwy Valley**

Option 3 (Llanerfyl) scores higher because the current pupil numbers at Ysgol Llanerfyl are slightly higher than at Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, therefore this would be a more convenient location for the majority. Also, pupil projections at Ysgol Llanerfyl are higher than at Ysgol Dyffryn Banw. Parents are already travelling in to Llanerfyl to attend the Cylch Meithrin.

#### **Investment Objective 3 – To provide education in a fit-for-purpose learning environment**

Option 2 (Ysgol Dyffryn Banw) more than meets this objective. This is the larger site of the two and could accommodate all current pupils in the area. There are more facilities on this site e.g. indoor hall, dining hall, large playground and playing fields, plenty of parking. In terms of suitability, the building was categorised as 'B', 'generally satisfactory'. However, the condition of the school is categorised as 'C', which means that the overall condition is assessed to be 'generally poor'. Capital investment would be required to improve the condition of the school.

Ysgol Llanerfyl has many challenges in terms of suitability, and was assessed as 'C/D' – 'poor to bad'. However, the condition of the school is categorised as 'B', which means that the overall condition is assessed to be 'generally satisfactory'. The main issue in terms of suitability is that the school has no hall. However, this is similar to many other schools in Powys. The school does have access to, and makes use of, the village hall, which is located a short walk away from the school. Pupils are fully supervised when they walk to the hall. Capital investment would be required to improve the suitability of the school.

The option that scores the highest is a new school built on a new site, as this would be built to Building Bulletin 99 standard.

#### **Investment Objective 4 – To provide a more efficient education infrastructure**

Option 2 (Banw) and Option 3 (Llanerfyl) both meet this objective. The costs of running and maintaining two separate buildings would reduce as there would only be one building to maintain. Fewer staff would be required as all the pupils would be taught in the same setting. Both options would provide a financial saving.

Option 4, a new build on a new site, also has the potential to be more efficient in terms of running costs, however an additional capital outlay would be required.

Option 1 is the least efficient of the options.

### **Critical Success Factors**

- **Strategic Fit**

As all the options involve the merger of both schools to create a single school, they all meet the authority's aspirations for schools, as outlined in the School Organisation Policy.

Strengthening Welsh medium education is also a key part of the authority's WESP.

- **Potential affordability**

Option 1 does not meet this CSF because maintaining both schools with such low numbers is unsustainable.

Option 2 and 3 meet this criteria.

Option 4 could meet this criteria, however additional capital outlay would be required which may make this unaffordable.

- **Potential achievability**

Option 1 is not achievable as both schools have recognised that this is not a sustainable model.

Option 2 (Banw) is supported by some parents as evidenced in the informal consultation, however Option 3 (Llanerfyl) has scored higher because it also has the support of some parents, and also has the support of the Diocese, a key stakeholder.

Option 4 was not supported by many parents during the informal consultation.

- **Value for Money**

The option that scores highest is Option 3 (Llanerfyl). There is a higher revenue saving to the authority.

Ysgol Dyffryn Banw school/site is owned by Powys County Council. If the site was no longer required for educational purposes, it could potentially provide a capital receipt or re-investment potential for the authority.

Ysgol Llanerfyl is owned by the Priscilla Foster Trust, and therefore there would be no opportunity for the authority to receive a capital receipt should the site no longer be required for educational purposes.

Based on the HOWPS assessment, a greater level of investment would be required in the current Ysgol Dyffryn Banw building compared with the Ysgol Llanerfyl.

Option 4 scores the lowest because of the additional capital outlay that would be required.

## 6.2 Preferred option

Options 1 and 4 are **discounted** because they scored the lowest against the investment objectives and the critical success factors.

From the assessment that was carried out, there is very little to differentiate the two school sites as a base to establish a new school. However, the main differences are in the following areas:

- a) Strategic location – Llanerfyl scores higher
- b) Learning environments – Ysgol Dyffryn Banw scores higher
- c) Potential achievability – Llanerfyl scores higher
- d) Value for money – Llanerfyl scores higher

On this basis, the **preferred option** is to establish a new school on the Llanerfyl site.

## 6.3 Risks

However, as with all school reorganisation proposals, there are risks associated with this options. The following risks have been identified in respect of the preferred option:

- i) Based on the current pupil projections, there would still be less than 50 pupils in the new school in a few years time
- ii) Pupils may transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers
- iii) As the new school would be a small Welsh-medium school in a rural area, it may not attract a headteacher
- iv) Welsh Government may not provide capital funding for investment in a school of this size
- v) The current configuration of the school at Llanerfyl may cause challenges for the new school in relation to curriculum delivery following the introduction of the new curriculum

## 6.4 Denominational status and category of the new school

### 6.4.1 Denominational status

Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is currently a non-denominational Community Primary school whilst Ysgol Llanerfyl is a Foundation Church in Wales school. Any new school established could either be a Community Primary School or a Church in Wales school.

The survey of parents carried out in the spring of 2018 asked parents to specify their preference in terms of the denominational status of any new school. 25% of respondents stated that they would prefer the school to be a Community Primary School, 29% stated that they would prefer the school to be a Church in Wales Primary School, whilst 43% of parents stated that they had no preference. 3% of respondents did not answer this question.

The nearest alternative Church in Wales provision is located in Castle Caereinion, approximately 10 miles from Llanerfyl. However, this is an English-medium school. The nearest alternative Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision is in either Rhayader C. in W. School or Trefonnen C. in W. School, Llandrindod. Both of these are dual stream schools, located approximately 40 miles from Llanerfyl.

In order to continue to provide access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision in Llanerfyl, and as this is supported by the views of parents as expressed in the survey carried out in the spring of 2018, the preferred option is that the new school is a Church in Wales primary school.

### 6.4.1 Category of the new school

A Church in Wales school can either be a Voluntary Controlled school or a Voluntary Aided school. These two categories are broadly defined as follows<sup>6</sup>:

- **Voluntary controlled schools** – these are run by a voluntary organisation (in Wales this is typically the Roman Catholic Church or the Church in Wales) and yet closely controlled by the local authority. The local authority employs the staff and sets the entrance criteria, but the school land and buildings are owned by a charity (often the church) which appoints some members of the governing body.
- **Voluntary aided schools** – these are run by a voluntary organisation and enjoy greater policy and financial independence than voluntary controlled schools. They tend to be religious or faith schools, in Wales typically the Roman Catholic Church or Church in Wales. The governing body employs the staff and sets the entrance criteria and the school buildings and land are usually owned by a charity (often the church).

---

<sup>6</sup> Taken from <http://law.gov.wales/publicservices/education/school-and-other-education-for-children/Schools-maintained-by-local-authorities/?lang=en#/publicservices/education/school-and-other-education-for-children/Schools-maintained-by-local-authorities/?tab=overview&lang=en>



Ysgol Llanerfyl is currently a Foundation school. It is no longer possible to establish a new Foundation school. The closest category to a Foundation school is a Voluntary Aided school, because similarly to Foundation schools, Voluntary Aided schools have control over their own admissions arrangements.

The Welsh Government provides a more attractive rate for capital funding related to Voluntary Aided schools. Typically, capital developments as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme attract 50% of funding from the Welsh Government, with the remaining 50% coming from the Local Authority. However, for Voluntary Aided schools, the Welsh Government provides 85% of funding, with the remaining 15% coming from the Local Authority and/or the Diocese.

Based on these factors, the preferred option is to establish a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales primary school in Llanerfyl.

This page is intentionally left blank

**REPORT ON SURVEY OF PARENTS/CARERS OF PUPILS ATTENDING YSGOL DYFFRYN BANW, YSGOL LLANERFYL AND CYLCH MEITHRIN DYFFRYN BANW**

**MARCH 2018**

**1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

Council officers have been meeting with the governing bodies of Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Ysgol Llanerfyl over the last few months. Separate meetings with the two governing bodies have been held, as well as two joint meetings with both governing bodies. At the meetings, the two governing bodies agreed that there was a need for the two schools in the Dyffryn Banw area to merge, due to the small number of pupils attending both schools, however the governing bodies had asked the Council to make a recommendation in terms of where the new school should be located.

Having assessed the two current sites in terms of their ability to accommodate all pupils currently attending the two schools, the Council had identified strengths and weaknesses associated with both current locations. The Council's conclusion was that initial engagement with parents of pupils currently attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin was needed in order to determine a preferred option for the future delivery of education in the Dyffryn Banw area.

To facilitate this, a questionnaire was prepared and distributed to current parents. This report outlines the findings of the questionnaire.

**2. METHODOLOGY**

A written questionnaire was prepared and distributed to current parents at a drop-in session for parents held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018. A record was kept of the parents that received copies of the questionnaire at the session, and copies were posted to any parents who did not receive a copy at the session. A copy of the questionnaire is attached in Appendix A at the end of this report.

A pre-paid envelope was provided with the questionnaire, and respondents were asked to return the questionnaires by Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.

**3. RESPONSES RECEIVED**

Questionnaires were distributed to 35 families whose children currently attend Ysgol Dyffryn Banw or Ysgol Llanerfyl, and 6 families whose children currently attend Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw but do not currently attend Ysgol Dyffryn Banw or Ysgol Llanerfyl. In addition, a number of copies were provided to Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw for distribution to parents of pupils attending the Cylch's Ti a Fi session.

28 completed questionnaires were returned.

#### 4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

The following section summarises the responses received to the questionnaire.

##### 4.1 Part 1 – About You

- 4.1.1 Respondents were asked to indicate which of the current providers in the area their children currently attended.

The provider/s currently attended were as follows:

Provider/s	Number of questionnaires
Ysgol Llanerfyl only	12
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw only	6
Ysgol Llanerfyl and Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw	4
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw	2
Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw only	1
Not currently attending any of the above	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

Responses were received from parents representing the following number of primary / pre-school aged children currently attending each provider:

Provider	Number of pupils
Ysgol Llanerfyl	24
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	13
Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw	7
Other pre-school aged pupils	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

- 4.1.2 Parents of pre-school aged children were asked to indicate which of the current schools in the local area they expected their children to attend. The following responses were received:

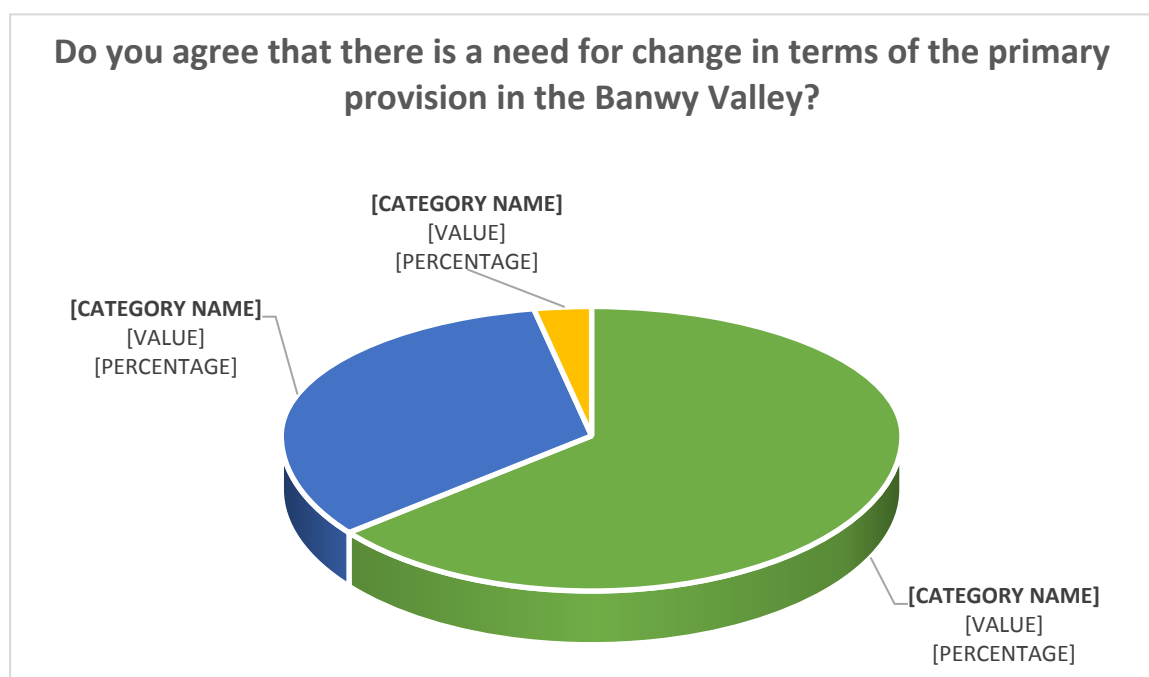
Provider	Number of responses	Number of pupils
Ysgol Dyffryn Banw	7	9
Ysgol Llanerfyl	6	6
Don't Know	1	1
Other	0	0

##### 4.2 Part 2 – Future Options for Primary Provision in the Banwy Valley

- 4.2.1 Respondents were asked to answer 'Yes' or 'No' to the following question:

'Given the number of pupils currently attending the two primary schools in the area, do you agree that there is a need for change in terms of the primary provision in the Banwy Valley?'

The following chart summarises the responses received:



Respondents who answered 'No' were asked to explain why. The following issues were raised in the responses received:

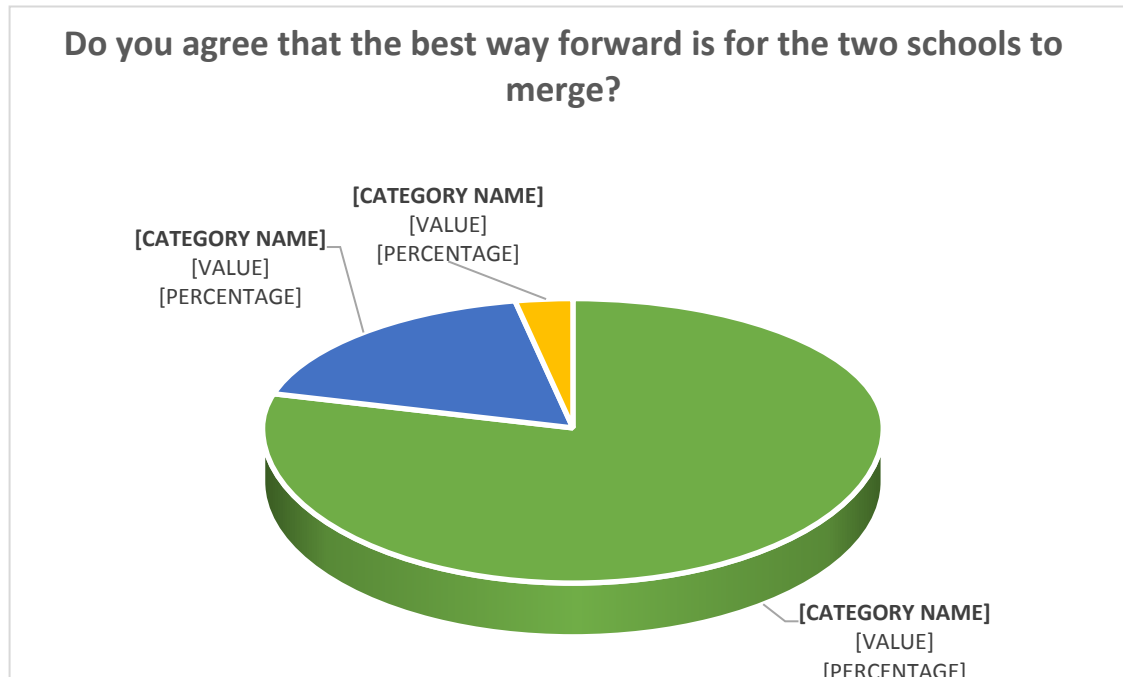
<p><b>i) There is no need for anything to change in Ysgol Llanerfyl</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers in Llanerfyl are healthy whilst Banw are struggling</li> <li>- The fact that Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is unable to attract pupils is not a problem for Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Young people move back to the area so that their children can attend Ysgol Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Only one school has a problem, there is no need to change anything in Llanerfyl. However Banw pupils would be welcome to attend Ysgol Llanerfyl</li> </ul>
<p><b>ii) Concern about the impact on the Welsh language</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl is a rural, friendly school where the Welsh language is heard naturally on the yard</li> <li>- Llanerfyl is a natural Welsh-medium school where most pupils come from Welsh-speaking homes</li> <li>- Any decision to close Ysgol Llanerfyl will impact on Welsh culture and the Welsh language in the area and will go against the aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050</li> </ul>
<p><b>iii) Pupil numbers in the area could increase</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers have been low before in the area but have bounced back – the same could happen again</li> <li>- Would be better to attract families to the area to increase numbers than to change the schools</li> </ul>
<p><b>iv) Like the current low pupil numbers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Like the fact that children are benefitting from a very low teacher: pupil ratio</li> </ul>

--	--

4.2.2 Respondents were asked to answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to the following question:

‘The governing bodies of Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Ysgol Llanerfyl have agreed in principle that there is a need for the two schools to merge to become one school. Do you agree that this is the best way forward?’

The following chart summarises the responses received:



Respondents who answered ‘No’ were asked to explain why. The following issues were raised in the responses received:

<b>i) Concern about how successful merging the two schools would be</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Any forced change would result in a dysfunctional school</li> <li>- Concern about the two schools merging due to comments made about one school community by the other school community</li> </ul>
<b>ii) Ysgol Llanerfyl should not close</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not true that the governing body of Llanerfyl agreed to this</li> <li>- Closing Ysgol Llanerfyl would be the end of Welsh-medium primary education in the Banwy Valley</li> <li>- Ysgol Llanerfyl should continue as it is and Ysgol Dyffryn Banw should close</li> </ul>

4.2.3 Should the two schools merge, four options were described in terms of where the school should be located. Respondents were asked to rank the options in terms of which would be the best option for the area for the future, where 1 was the preferred option and 4 was the least preferred option.

The number of rankings received for each option and the average ranking is summarised in the following table. Some respondents did not rank all options.

Option	Number of rankings received	Total rankings				Average ranking
		1	2	3	4	
A new dual sited school operating across the two current buildings	25	2	5	10	8	<b>2.96</b>
A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building	25	12	3	5	5	<b>2.12</b>
A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building	25	11	11	0	3	<b>1.8</b>
A new school built on a new site in the area	25	2	6	9	8	<b>2.92</b>

4.2.4 Respondents were asked to outline any other options they thought the Council should consider. The following suggestions were received:

<b>i) Increase pupil numbers at both schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide backing to both schools to keep their numbers buoyant</li> <li>- Stop providing free transport to nearest English-medium school – should be promoting access to Welsh-medium school</li> <li>- Attract new families to the area</li> </ul>
<b>ii) Only close one of the schools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Close Banw and all children to come to Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Llanerfyl building as it is can provide education for all children in the area. The cost of a new building would be a waste of tax payers money</li> </ul>
<b>iii) Alternative dual sited model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dual sites school with infants on one site and juniors on the other</li> </ul>
<b>iv) Leave the schools as they are</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Keep the schools as they are as there are two separate communities who will never agree</li> </ul>
<b>v) Alternative new build suggestions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build a new Welsh-medium primary in Llanfair Caereinion</li> <li>- One new school for Llanfair and Dyffryn Banw pupils</li> </ul>
<b>vi) Other comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would like the opportunity to go around both schools to compare them. Lack of a hall in Llanerfyl is a concern</li> </ul>

	- Banw is a better site as there are facilities for more pupils and a hall on the site, plus room for 4 classes or more, and a room to serve food
--	---

4.2.5 If any of the options was taken forward, respondents were asked to indicate how likely they are to choose that option for their child/children. The number of responses received for each is summarised in the following table:

	Very likely	Likely	Unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know	Did not answer
A new dual sited school operating across the two current buildings	12	3	2	7	1	3
A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building	14	3	2	8	0	1
A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building	19	5	0	2	0	2
A new school built on a new site in the area	11	5	1	3	3	5

4.2.6 Respondents who answered 'Unlikely' or 'Very Unlikely' for any of the options in the previous table were asked to indicate which alternative schools they would choose for their children to attend.

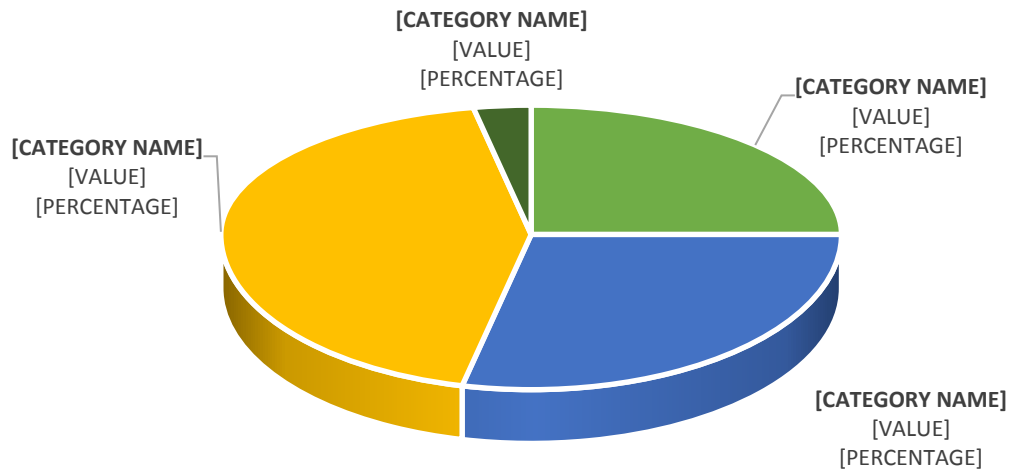
The following table indicates the alternative schools that were named, and the number of times they were named:

School	Number
Llanfair Caereinion CP School	9
Ysgol Pontrobert	4
Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng	2
Meifod	1
Ysgol Rhiw Bechan	1

4.2.7 If there were a new primary school in the area, respondents were asked to indicate their preference in terms of the denominational status of this school. The following chart summarises the responses received:



**If there were a new primary school in the area, would you prefer the school to be a community primary school or a Church in Wales primary school?**



4.2.8 Respondents were invited to provide any other comments about the matters covered by this questionnaire. The comments received are summarised below:

<p><b>i) Positives about Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dyffryn Banw can accommodate all children in the area</li> <li>- Dyffryn Banw has a canteen where there is plenty of room to sit and eat</li> <li>- Dyffryn Banw has plenty of safe parking available</li> <li>- Community centre is on site</li> <li>- Large playing field at Dyffryn Banw</li> <li>- Sufficient classrooms which can be adapted to suit teaching requirements</li> <li>- Banw has a hall attached to the school, so no need to walk to the community centre which ensures pupil safety</li> <li>- Area sports held at Banw – there is a large grassed area, which is available for all sports activities</li> <li>- More room in Banw – e.g. play areas, parking, classrooms</li> <li>- No need to waste money on a new building as there is a building in Dyffryn Banw which has everything that is needed</li> <li>- Plenty of space in Dyffryn Banw to accommodate any growth in pupils numbers</li> <li>- Common sense would say that the current Dyffryn Banw building meets the requirements – there is a hall attached, plenty of space to play and a safe area to drop off and pick up the children, as well as a canteen and kitchen</li> <li>- Dyffryn Banw is the better site as there are facilities for all pupils and a hall attached. Room for 4 classes or more and a room for serving food whereas this happens in a classroom in Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Dyffryn Banw building is used by Dyffryn Banw football club</li> <li>- Llangadfan isn't too far for Llanerfyl pupils – children will come to the school if it's a good school – and it will be</li> </ul>
---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No need to spend millions on land in Llanerfyl to build an extension when there is an ideal school / location up the road in Banw</li> </ul>
<b>ii) Negatives about Ysgol Dyffryn Banw</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Banw building is too large to run and heat for a small number of pupils</li> <li>- Poor bullying policy at Banw School – children have moved from Banw to Llanerfyl due to bullying</li> <li>- £1500 more expensive per pupil to run Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, therefore moving all pupils to Llanerfyl would result in more savings</li> <li>- Dyffryn Banw Estyn report 2016 – only 94% of children felt that bullying was taken seriously vs 100% of children at Ysgol Llanerfyl</li> <li>- If the two schools joined at Banw, the number of surplus places would be nearly 60% - School Organisation Code states that significant surplus places is considered to be 25% or above</li> <li>- Dyffryn Banw is inconvenient for parents to travel to work in Welshpool direction</li> <li>- Llanerfyl pupils would have to travel further to attend after school activities</li> <li>- There are no safe walking and cycling routes to Dyffryn Banw as per the requirements of Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013</li> <li>- The location of Banw school is inconvenient and unlikely to attract children from other areas</li> <li>- Banw school is much too big – and it will be too big if all children from the 2 schools attend it</li> <li>- Have no confidence that Dyffryn Banw would attract enough pupils to keep it open</li> <li>- Only a small minority of Llanerfyl children would go to Banw school</li> <li>- It's Banw that has stirred things up so Banw School should close</li> </ul>
<b>iii) Impact on Banw community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- YFC, football club and Ysgol Theatr Maldwyn all depend on the Banw Hall</li> </ul>
<b>iv) Positives about Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl can accommodate all the children</li> <li>- Llanerfyl has funding support from parents and locals who are happy to help if work needs doing</li> <li>- Most children can walk or cycle to school at Llanerfyl. This reduces the council's transport costs</li> <li>- Llanerfyl School has had regular sporting achievements over the years</li> <li>- Ysgol Llanerfyl is unique in Powys in terms of its Welsh ethos, links with the community, and it has been providing education in the same place for nearly 300 years</li> <li>- NICE, the WHO and the BMA emphasise the importance of physical activity; Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 promotes walking and cycling to school. Research shows that children who walk or cycle to school have better physical and mental health, learn</li> </ul>

	<p>better in school and are better behaved. It would be a shame for Llanerfyl children to lose these benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 80% of Llanerfyl pupils come from homes where at least 1 parent speaks Welsh</li> <li>- Llanerfyl has more pupils – it would be immoral to close the school with the most pupils to save a school with less children</li> <li>- It costs less to run a school which is nearly full in Llanerfyl than an school that is quarter full in Banw</li> <li>- The Llanerfyl community is very supportive to the school and will seek a judicial review if the council insists on closing this school</li> <li>- The Church of Wales owns the site at Ysgol Llanerfyl – PCC could look at selling the site of Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and investing the money in Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Llanerfyl is fine as it is, Banw children would be welcome to join us</li> <li>- Current Cylch Meithrin pupils – 7 due to start in Llanerfyl by Sept 2019, only 4 due to start in Dyffryn Banw. Why move the majority of learners for the benefit of the minority?</li> </ul>
<b>v) Negatives about Ysgol Llanerfyl</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern about parking at Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Query re safe transport to school if the schools merge at Llanerfyl – coming out of the junction onto the main road is a hazard</li> <li>- No parking at Llanerfyl – would parents be expected to park at the village hall and walk down to the school?</li> <li>- Village hall is quite a distance from Llanerfyl school – concern about having to walk in the rain on a hazardous road</li> <li>- In Llanerfyl, children have to eat in the classroom, and the smell of the food hangs around all afternoon</li> </ul>
<b>vi) Impact on Llanerfyl community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The village of Llanerfyl would be fine if there was no school – the hall, chapel, church etc will still operate</li> <li>- Closing Llanerfyl School would have a negative impact on the Welsh language and the community</li> </ul>
<b>vii) Comments regarding community split</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a lot of historical bias and feuds which mainly stem from Llanerfyl. As someone from outside the area I don't understand what the issues are</li> <li>- Decision needs to be made soon as it's dividing the community and putting new parents off sending their children to either school</li> <li>- The Banwy Valley is one community, any split based on schools would be ridiculous</li> </ul>
<b>viii) General support for the need to change in the area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is not only Banw's problem, although Llanerfyl people want to believe that. We have to be realistic and sensible. It's the children that are important, we must think with our heads not our hearts</li> <li>- The community needs to come together to merge 2 wonderful schools to create 1 amazing school</li> <li>- The best way forward is one successful school in the Valley and to bring the two schools together</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both schools are excellent providers of Welsh-medium education and a critical part of the valley, but it would be better to have one school</li> <li>- Hope everyone will come to the conclusion of merging the two school to ensure the future of the Welsh language and to ensure the best education for our children and future children in Dyffryn Banw</li> <li>- Something needs to be done – hope the Council decide quickly and follow through with the transition fairly and openly</li> <li>- The council needs to ensure a future for education for children in the Valley</li> <li>- There is room to strengthen the current provision to attract parents to send their children to the school</li> <li>- Concern that the Council will choose Llanerfyl site in order to avoid too much fuss. Need to look further to the future – there may be some difficult years ahead but it will be worth it to have an excellent school for the whole valley</li> </ul>
<b>ix) Need to consider what's best for the children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The welfare of the children should be the most important consideration</li> <li>- Need to consider where the best facilities are for the pupils</li> <li>- The education provided to the children is what's important, not the location of individuals</li> <li>- A school with at least 40 children is better for them to learn and interact</li> <li>- Children in both schools are missing out on activities in and out of school</li> <li>- The current situation is not sustainable or healthy for the children</li> <li>- Teaching years 3-6 in one class is challenging. There are many advantages in having year 3-4 and year 5-6 separate</li> </ul>
<b>x) Possible growth in pupil numbers in the future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Should be wary of providing a long term solution to a short term issue – has there been any consultation with major employers who may have plans in the area that could bring more families to the area? Whilst there could be a further fall in pupil numbers, an increase is more likely</li> </ul>
<b>xi) Need to ensure Welsh-medium education in the area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main interest is high quality Welsh-medium education with a Welsh ethos</li> <li>- The important thing for us as parents is to have Welsh-medium education in the valley.</li> <li>- The council's priority should be to ensure a Welsh-medium school in the area – whether that is in Llanerfyl or Llangadfan</li> </ul>
<b>xii) Comments relating to the drop-in session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concern about derogatory comments by Dyffryn Banw community about Llanerfyl</li> <li>- Felt intimidated at the session in Llanerfyl Hall by members of the Llanerfyl community who don't have children in the schools</li> </ul>
<b>xiii) Other queries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the two schools close if they don't merge?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the two schools merged to create one body of staff, would these positions be filled from the current staff, or would the positions be advertised, which could mean that the staff at the new school could not include any of the current staff at the two schools?</li> <li>- Is there any evidence that Church status makes any difference?</li> </ul>
--	---

## 5. MAIN FINDINGS

### 5.1 Respondents

- 16 questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Llanerfyl, whilst 8 were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw.
- Parents of pre-school aged pupils were asked to indicate which of the 2 current schools they expected their children to attend. Of these responses, 9 prospective pupils were identified for Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, and 6 prospective pupils were identified for Ysgol Llanerfyl, with 1 pupil unsure.

### 5.2 The need for change in the Banwy Valley area

- 18 respondents (64%) agreed that there was a need for change in terms of the primary provision in the Banwy Valley
- 22 respondents (78%) agreed that the best way forward is for the two schools to merge.

### 5.3 Preferred options

- Respondents were asked to rank 4 options for the future of provision in the area. An average of all rankings received for each option was calculated, and on this basis, the lowest average ranking was for 'A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building', which received an average ranking of 1.8. In terms of the average ranking, the options were scored as follows:
  - 1 A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building – 1.8
  - 2 A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building – 2.12
  - 3 A new school built on a new site in the area – 2.92
  - 4 A new dual sited school operating across the two current buildings – 2.96
- However, the order is different if we consider the number of times each option was ranked '1', the preferred option. On this basis, the order in terms of preference is as follows:
  - 1 A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building – 12
  - 2 A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building – 11
  - =3 A new school dual sited school operating across the two current buildings – 2

- =3 A new school built on a new site in the area – 2
- Whilst 16 questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Llanerfyl, only 11 questionnaires ranked the option of ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’ as their preferred option. In contrast, only 8 questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, however 12 questionnaires ranked ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’ as the preferred option.
- There is a significant difference, however in the 2<sup>nd</sup> preference figures. Whilst 11 respondents indicated ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’ as their 2<sup>nd</sup> preferred option, only 3 respondents indicated ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’ as their 2<sup>nd</sup> preferred option.
- Further analysis of the responses received reveals that the vast majority of respondents who ranked ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’ as their preferred option ranked ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’ as their 2<sup>nd</sup> preferred option. This is not the case for those that selected ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’ as their preferred option – the majority of these respondents ranked ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’ as either their 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> preference

#### **5.4 Likelihood of attending**

- Respondents were asked to state how likely it is that they would attend each of the options if that option were to be taken forward.
- The option respondents were most likely to attend was ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’, with 24 out of 28 respondents stating that they would be Very Likely or Likely to choose that option for their child/children.
- The option which respondents were second most likely to choose for their child/children to attend was ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’, with 17 out of 28 respondents indicating that they would be Very Likely or Likely to choose that option for their child/children.
- However, ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’ was the option that the highest number of respondents indicated they would be less likely to choose for their child/children, with 10 out of 28 respondents indicating that they would be Unlikely or Very Unlikely to choose that option for their child/children.
- In contrast, only 2 respondents indicated that they were Unlikely or Very Unlikely to attend ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’ if that option was taken forward.

#### **5.5 Denominational status**

- Whilst 8 respondents (29%) indicated that they would prefer any new school in the area to be a Church in Wales school and 7 respondents (25%) indicated that they would prefer any new school to be a Community Primary school, 12 respondents (43%) indicated that they had no preference.

25<sup>th</sup> June 2018



Mrs Marianne Evans  
Senior Manager Schools Transformation  
Powys County Council,  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

Dear Mrs Evans,

**Re: Llanerfyl Church in Wales Foundation School and Banw CP School**

Thank you for the pre-consultation documentation. Powys County Council has considered carefully the future of education in Llanerfyl and Banw.

The cabinet report explains the current position of schools in the area and we firmly believe that at the heart of any school is its children and their needs are the most important consideration. We have considered the contents of the documents that you sent carefully.

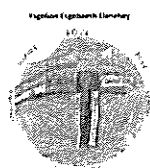
The needs of the current and future pupils at the new school are our priority, the Diocese of St Asaph wishes to support a way forward that enhances the educational opportunities for pupils so that the children of Llanerfyl and Banw and the wider community can benefit.

To enable this to happen the Diocese will in partnership with Powys County Council and the local communities support the proposal to establish a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales school in Llanerfyl.

We wish to work together with all stakeholders creating a school that gives every child the very best opportunities to learn and achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely

  
**Rosalind Williams**  
Director of Education and Lifelong Learning



Diocese of St Asaph, Diocesan Office | Esgobaeth Llanelwy, Swyddfa'r Esgobaeth  
High Street, St. Asaph, LL17 ORD | Stryd Fawr, Llanelwy, LL17 ORD

01745 582245

stasaph.church.wales.org.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



# 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.**

**Draft versions of the assessment should be watermarked as "Draft" and retained for completeness. However, only the final version will be made publicly available. Draft versions may be provided to regulators if appropriate. In line with Council policy IAs should be retained for 7 years.**

<b>Service Area</b>	Schools Service	<b>Head of Service</b>	Joanna Cassey	<b>Strategic Director</b>	Ian Budd	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Aled Davies
<b>Proposal</b>	To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and to open a new Welsh-medium Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on the Llanerfyl site						
<b>Outline Summary / Description of Proposal</b>							
In the summer of 2017, Banw C.P. School contacted the Council to express concern about the current and projected numbers at their school, and requested a solution be identified in order to safeguard the provision of education in the area. Meetings were held with the governing body of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, which is located approximately 2.5 miles away, and initial engagement with parents also took place. A report was considered by the Council's Learning and Skills Board, who subsequently agreed the recommendation to close the two schools and open a new Welsh-medium Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on the Llanerfyl site. Should the proposal be implemented, the current target date is for the two schools to close on the 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020, with the new school opening on the 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020.							

Page 57

Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
£ None	£ None	£36,999	£26,427	£None	£63,426

### 2. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline	Feedback considered
Public consultation required	If approved by Cabinet, it is anticipated that consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code will commence in September and the consultation stage of the process will be concluded by the end of 2018.	No

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

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Sarah Astley	Schools Transformation and Welsh-medium Education Programme Manager	10/07/18

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



### 4. Impact on Other Service Areas

**Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Including implication for Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting)**  
**PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY**

Should a decision be made to proceed with implementation of the proposal as a result of the statutory process, input from other service areas, such as HR, Property, Legal, Communications and Finance would be required. Representatives of these service areas are invited to attend meetings of the School Reorganisation Project Board, therefore are aware of the recommendation, and will receive regular updates as the statutory process moves forward.

**Service Area informed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact Officer liaised with:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mitigation**

\_\_\_\_\_

Page 58

### How does your proposal impact on the council's strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<b>The Economy</b> We will develop a vibrant economy	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Health and Care</b> We will lead the way in effective, integrated rural health and care	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Learning and skills</b> <b>We will strengthen learning and skills</b>	The proposal would result in one larger school in the Banwy Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the valley, and would have a positive impact on the quality of education provided to pupils. However, the Llanerfyl building is smaller than the Banw building and provides access to less facilities. In particular, there is no access to a hall on site, although the school does access the village hall which is located at the end of the lane.	Neutral	Investment could be provided in order to enhance the learning environment and to enable the school to embrace new technology. Consideration to be given to the level of investment required and how this can be funded.	Good
<b>Residents and Communities</b> <b>We will support our residents and communities</b>	The proposal would mean that there would be no provision in the village of Llangadfan. Banw CP School is co-located with a community hall, therefore closure of the school / site could impact on the community hall.	Poor	Consideration to be given to possible future uses of the Banw building, which would safeguard the community hall.	Poor

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
Initial engagement with parents

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

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>A prosperous Wales:</b> An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	The proposal would lead to a small increase in travel, as pupils currently attending Banw CP School would need to travel to Llanerfyl. However the additional distance would be minimal, and the number of pupils would be relatively small. Implementation of the proposal would lead to a reduction in the number of school buildings.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>A resilient Wales:</b> A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	The proposal would lead to a small increase in travel, as pupils currently attending Banw CP School would need to travel to Llanerfyl. However, the additional distance would be minimal, and the number of pupils would be relatively small. Implementation of the proposal would lead to a reduction in the number of school buildings.	Neutral		Choose an item.

Page 60

<p><b>A healthier Wales:</b>  A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<p>There is no access to a hall on the Llanerfyl site. Whilst the school does have access to the village hall, which is located approximately a quarter of a mile walk away, the lack of a hall on site could make it more difficult to access the hall for activities when needed. Many Llanerfyl pupils live in the village and currently walk to school. This recommendation would enable them to continue to do so.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b>  Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>In the longer term, the authority would hope that the proposal would bring the two communities together. However in the short term, it is acknowledged that there will be significant tensions between the two communities.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Work closely with the two current schools / communities when establishing the new school to ensure that all are involved, with the aim of bringing the two communities together.</p>	<p>Good</p>
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales:</b>  A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:</b> A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>				
<p><b>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</b></p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would see the establishment of one larger Welsh-medium school to replace two small Welsh-medium schools.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</b></p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would see the establishment of one larger Welsh-medium school to replace two small Welsh-medium schools.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Page 62

<i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i>	Implementation of the proposal would see the establishment of one larger Welsh-medium school to replace two small Welsh-medium schools. There could be a small reduction in overall staff numbers, however being part of a larger group of staff would provide improved opportunities for Welsh speaking staff.	Good		Choose an item.
<i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i>	There is no hall on the current site, which could impact on opportunities to take part in sport and recreation activities. However, there is access to the village hall, which is located approximately a quarter of a mile away. In addition, there is a yard and a playing field on site which can be used for sport and recreation activities. The recommendation would result in pupils being part of a larger cohort, which could provide opportunities for them to take part in a wider range of activities.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>A more equal Wales:</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).				
<i>Age</i>	The proposal will improve provision for primary school aged pupils in the Banwy Valley.	Good		Choose an item.
<i>Disability</i>	A number of pupils at both current schools receive support for ALN. It is expected that the recommendation would provide improved provision for pupils with ALN as there would be more teachers / staff to provide support.	Good		Choose an item.
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

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

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



<b>Race</b>	The proposal would provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils, regardless of their race. Based on the information provided on the 2018 PLASC returns, no pupils at either school are recorded as belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Religion or belief</b>	Establishment of a new Church in Wales primary school would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision in the Banwy Valley. Should any parents not wish their children to attend Church in Wales provision, Welsh-medium Community Primary provision is available nearby at Ysgol Pontrobert and Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Sex</b>	The proposal would provide improved educational opportunities for girls and boys	Good		Choose an item.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Page 63

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
PLASC

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

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)</b>				
<b>Long Term:</b> <i>Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.</i>	Pupil numbers in the Banwy Valley area are declining, placing both schools at risk. By establishing one new larger school, the authority hopes to safeguard the provision of high quality Welsh-medium education in the valley.	Good		Choose an item.
<b>Collaboration:</b> <i>Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	Discussions with the two governing bodies have taken place whilst developing this recommendation, however ultimately the recommendation was made by the Council.  The two schools already collaborate to some extent as part of a collaboration of three small schools. Should the proposal be implemented the new school would be expected to continue to collaborate with the third school, and other neighbouring schools.	Neutral		Choose an item.

Page 64



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b>  <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.</i></p>	<p>Discussions with two governing bodies have taken place whilst developing this recommendation, however ultimately the recommendation was made by the Council.</p> <p>Initial engagement with parents also took place when developing the recommendation, this included an informal session in Llanerfyl, and a questionnaire which was circulated to the parents of pupils currently attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin.</p> <p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the recommendation, full consultation would be carried out with stakeholders in accordance with the School Organisation Code which will ensure the opportunity for all interested parties to give their views. The findings of this exercise will be reported to Cabinet and will be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. This impact assessment will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Prevention:</b> <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i></p>	<p>The authority has identified that pupil numbers in the Banwy Valley are declining, placing both schools at risk. By establishing one new larger school in the area, the council hopes to safeguard education provision in the valley.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Integration:</b> Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Preventing Poverty:</b> Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Unpaid Carers:</b> Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account	Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. All stakeholders would have the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, this would unpaid carers in the area.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Safeguarding:</b> Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.	Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. This would include consultation with pupils, which would ensure that their views and any concerns would be taken into account. Should the proposal be implemented, it is expected that there would be more support for pupils, as they would be part of a larger school with more staff.	Good		Choose an item.

Page 66

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

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



Page 67

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Impact on Powys County Council Workforce	The proposal will impact on the current staff at the two schools. Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and supported by the relevant LA teams (eg HR). This would include consultation with staff, which would ensure that they had an opportunity to give their views on the recommendation. Should the recommendation be implemented, a management of change process would take place, and there would be an opportunity for staff to apply for positions in the new school. The staffing procedures required include an opportunity for staff to be redeployed.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				
PLASC				

8. Achievability of proposal?

Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
Low	Medium	Medium
<b>Mitigation</b>		

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating
Based on current pupil projections, there would still be less than 50 pupils in the school in a few years time	Medium		Medium
Pupils may transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers	Medium	Move forward with the process as swiftly as possible in order to limit the period of uncertainty for the community. Should the recommendation be implemented, work with the two school communities to shape the new school	Medium
As the new school would be a small Welsh-medium school in a rural area, it may not attract a headteacher	Medium		Medium
Welsh Government may not provide capital funding for investment in a school of this size	High		High
The current configuration of the school at Llanerfyl may cause challenges for the new school in relation to curriculum delivery following the introduction of the new curriculum	Medium	Capital investment in the school	Low
<b>Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)</b>			
<b>Very High Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Medium Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>
		x	

10. Indicative timetable for actions to deliver change proposal, if approved

Action	Target Date	Outcome	Decisions made
Statutory consultation in accordance with School Organisation Code	Consultation to commence in September, and to continue until late October.	Consultation report	Whether or not to proceed with the publication of statutory notices
Publication of statutory notices	Approximately early 2019	Objection report	Whether to proceed with implementation of the proposal
Establishment of shadow governing body to take forward the establishment of the new school	September 2019	Shadow governing body established	
<b>Portfolio Holder decision required</b>	No	<b>Date required</b>	
<b>Cabinet decision required</b>	Yes	<b>Date required</b>	Various stages during the process

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



<b>Council decision required</b>	No	<b>Date required</b>	Whilst no full council decision is needed, there is a need for a full council discussion on the consultation report before a Cabinet decision is made on how to proceed.
----------------------------------	----	----------------------	--

### 11. Indicative resource requirements (FTE) – link to Resource Delivery Plan

Support Requirements	2018-19				2019-20				2020-21			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4

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

<b>Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)</b>	<b>Cabinet Report Reference:</b>	

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

<b>What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?</b>

### 14. On-going monitoring arrangements?

<b>What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?</b>
<b>Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.</b>
This impact assessment will be reviewed at each stage of the process.

### 15. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
<b>Impact Assessment Lead:</b>	Marianne Evans	<i>Marianne Evans</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Joanna Cassey	<i>Joanna Cassey</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>Strategic Director:</b>	Ian Budd		

Portfolio Holder:	Aled Davies		
-------------------	-------------	--	--

16. Governance

<b>Decision to be made by</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date required</b>	Initial decision 18 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
-------------------------------	---------	----------------------	---

**FORM ENDS**

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

## CABINET EXECUTIVE

19 June 2018

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor M Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Learning and Welsh Language  
County Councillor A Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance

**SUBJECT:** 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme – Welshpool Primary Project and Ysgol Calon Cymru

---

**REPORT FOR:** Decision

---

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report requests Cabinet approval to
- increase the funding allocation for the Welshpool Primary Schools Project to £16,794,385, an increase of £3,816,591 to be split between Band A and Band B of the 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme
  - to utilise any unallocated funding in Band A to support capital investment in Ysgol Calon Cymru.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council's major capital investment programme for schools is the 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme, which is jointly funded by the Welsh Government and the Council. The Programme is split into two tranches of funding: Band A (2014 to 2019) and Band B (2019 – 2025). Band A supports projects that total £79,602,184, which was approved by the Cabinet and the Welsh Government in 2011, and Band B was approved by Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and has subsequently received approval in principle from the Welsh Government – the value of the Band B Programme is £113,924,276.

- 2.2 As part of Band A, Cabinet approved a major reconfiguration of primary education in Welshpool. The project has two stages:

**Stage 1: Review of primary provision in Welshpool**

This review resulted in the closure of four schools in September 2017:

- Ysgol Maesydre,
- Oldford N & I School,
- Gungrog N & I Infant School,
- Ardwyn N & I School

These are to be replaced by two new schools:

- Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng, operating from the former Ardwyn site;

- Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School, operating from the former sites of Ysgol Maesydre, Oldford and Gungrog.

## **Stage 2: Construction of two new school buildings**

It was intended that the two schools would transfer to two new school buildings by September 2018:

- Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng, a 150 place school to be built on the former Ysgol Maesydre site (known now as the Howell Drive site of Welshpool CiW Primary School)
- Welshpool CiW Primary School, a 360 place school to be built on land at Welshpool High School, known as Salop Road.

- 2.3 Welsh Government funding was secured through the approval of a Full Business Case for the total project cost of £12,977,794, for the construction of the two new schools and a contractor, Dawnus Construction Ltd, was appointed via a competitive tendering process. In 2017/18, designs were developed and agreed with the two governing bodies and the Schools Service, and the next step in the process was to apply for planning permission.
- 2.4 It was intended that the construction process for both schools would take place concurrently. Once Welshpool CiW School's new building was ready, pupils would vacate the Howell Drive site and it was planned for the building to be demolished to complete the groundworks for the new Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng.
- 2.5 However, on 16 March 2018, the authority received notification that Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, had decided to list the former Ysgol Maesydre building. The following paragraphs are direct quotes from Cadw's letter of notification:

*'Consequently, I have listed Ysgol Maesydre for its special architectural and historic interest. It is a well-designed late C19 county intermediate school by one of the leading architects of the period. It was constructed during an important phase of school development which allowed for regular provision for state secondary education for the first time. The 1889 Welsh Intermediate Education Act emphasised technical education and this school was provided with specific facilities for this purpose and it survives largely intact. However, it is not my intention to list the extensions of 1955 as they are not considered to be of special interest.*

*This decision has immediate effect and introduces a requirement for listed building consent to demolish the building or alter, or extend it in a way which affects its character as one of special architectural or historic interest. However, the listing is not a preservation order and many listed buildings are capable of being brought into modern day use. While works must be properly justified, that does not mean that adaptation is impossible.'*

- 2.6 This decision has had a significant impact on the project and requires a change of approach. Whilst plans for the new Welshpool CiW Primary School were submitted for planning approval in order to make progress with one school, the authority carried out an options review to assess if there were alternative sites that could possibly accommodate Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng. However, this review concluded that there were no alternative options available. The



authority therefore instructed the contractor to develop new designs that included the listed building.

- 2.7 New designs have now been developed which include constructing a new block for the school but also remodelling the listed building. It is the authority's view that this design will provide Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng with an excellent learning environment whilst also protecting the historical aspects of the listed building. However, it will not be possible to build the two schools concurrently, as originally intended, because works on the listed building and the site cannot commence until pupils have vacated the building i.e. the new Welshpool CiW Primary School needs to be built first, then works can commence on the Howell Drive site. This adds a delay to the project, with the likelihood that the new building for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng won't be ready for occupation until at least September 2020.
- 2.8 The re-design has resulted in an increase in estimated cost of the overall project to £16,794,385, which is an increase of **£3,816,591** from the funding agreed in the Full Business Case.  
This is due to:
- Re-design costs and costs associated with remodelling a listed building;
  - Economies of scale no longer achievable due to the schools now being built sequentially rather than concurrently;
  - Further site investigation on the Salop Road site (the Welshpool CiW Primary School site) identified that the topsoil needs to be removed and re-filled, due to a historical use of the land.

### **3 Proposal**

3.1 The Cabinet is asked to approve an overall increase in the funding for the Welshpool Schools Project to £16,794,385. The authority is confident that the new cost estimation offers the most economically advantageous route to delivery of this project. There is close management of the cost planning by HoWPS, who are administering the contract, and Dawnus, the main contractor. This provides good visibility of the supply chain costs and helps to manage the significant variations that have occurred since the project was tendered. The costs put forward are accurate and the visibility of the supply chain will allow HoWPS to work with the contractor to ensure the most economically advantageous sub-contract packages are utilised.

3.1 In order to manage this increase, it is proposed also that the Welshpool Schools Project is split into two separate projects:

- Welshpool CiW Primary School - £10,011,592, to be funded from Band A
- Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng - £6,154,143, to be funded from Band B.

3.3 This will result in Band A having an unallocated funding.

It is therefore proposed that any unallocated funding in Band A is utilised to support investment in Ysgol Calon Cymru, the authority's new school that is being established in September 2018 following the merger of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools. There are significant condition and suitability issues on the Llandrindod site and the investment would enable the school and the

authority to support a major Schools Transformation project. The consultation document published in 2016 during the formal consultation stage states the following:

*'Backlog maintenance costs within the current school stock is also a concern. The schools were recently re-surveyed by the Council's Property Service, which confirmed that the grades remained the same. The re-survey also confirmed that there has been significant deterioration in the condition of certain blocks.*

*The following table shows the grades given to the condition, suitability, sustainability and compliance with disability legislation of each school building:*

<b>School</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>DDA</b>
<b>Builth Wells High School</b>	B	B	B	A
<b>Llandrindod High School</b>	C	B	C	C

*Maintaining the current school building stock adds further financial pressures for the Council. The following table provides an estimate of current backlog maintenance costs, supplied by the Council's Property Service:*

<b>School</b>	<b>Estimated backlog maintenance costs</b>
<b>Builth Wells High School</b>	£1,743,600
<b>Llandrindod High School</b>	£3,607,800

#### **4 Options Considered / Available**

**4.1 Option 1:** To keep with the original plan of building the two schools using the amended design and increase Band A funding envelope for the Welshpool Schools Project to £16,794,385

Benefits:

- This would allow the project to proceed as a single project with economies of scale benefits.

Risks:

- Cabinet and Council may not approve this increase of over £3m.
- Band A ends in March 2019 – however, work on Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng will not start until at least September 2019 and is therefore not eligible to be funded from Band A. There is a risk that the Welsh Government may not approve a carry forward beyond the Band A Phase if the project has not yet started and may not be able to proceed.
- If the Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng project is unable to proceed, then there is a significant reputational risk for the authority and there will be inequity in terms of primary provision in Welshpool, as English-

medium pupils will be taught in 21<sup>st</sup> C school facilities, whilst Welsh-medium pupils will have to remain in a poorer learning environment.

4.2 **Option 2:** To split the Welshpool Schools Project into two separate projects to be funded from Band A and Band B.

Benefits:

- This enables Welshpool CiW Primary School to proceed according to the current timescales, with pupils able to enjoy a new learning environment from September 2019, with a clear timeline for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng.
- No increase in the Band A funding envelope is required
- This option also frees up funding in Band A (about £3M) to support investment in Ysgol Calon Cymru, therefore maximising benefits for pupils.
- The Band B programme can accommodate this additional project.

Risks:

- The Band B programme will be reduced by approximately £6m for utilisation on other schemes.

## 5 **Preferred Choice and Reasons**

5.1 The preferred choice is Option 2 as it enables both schools to be built whilst also supporting new investment in Ysgol Calon Cymru.

## 6 **Impact Assessment**

6.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

## 7 **Corporate Improvement Plan**

7.1 Learning and Skills is a key priority within the Corporate Improvement Plan, and the Council is committed to 'improving our schools infrastructure'.

8 Local Member(s)

Welshpool Members:

Ysgol Calon Cymru Members:

## 9 **Other Front Line Services**

9.1 Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? Yes

## 10 **Communications**

10.1 Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

10.2 Have they made a comment? If Yes insert here.

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

11.1 Legal

The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.

## **11.2 Finance:**

Splitting up the project into two construction phases will enable at least one school to be built in the Band A phase and at a cost of £10m. This can be contained within the approved budget and also will free up some £3m of the £13m budget that has already been approved in Band A for this project, to be used on other projects.

The Welsh Medium School could then be included in the Band B programme with an allocation of £6m from the £113.9m that has been earmarked for Band B. There is the risk that the Welsh Government may recall their share of the £3.8m that will be freed up from this option, and/or may not approve of this option, however early indication from on-going discussions suggest that they are in support of this option. This means that the council will benefit from a reduction in borrowing of about £1.9m which is our share of £3.8m which will be freed up in Band A. There will also be the benefit of a reduced interest payment on borrowing.

However, in the unlikely event that the Welsh Government does not approve this option, this position could change drastically, requiring the Council to borrow an extra £3m to enable the Welsh Medium School to be built. Were this to happen, there will be implications for revenue in terms of borrowing cost.

There is also the added risk of cost escalation, depending on how well HOWPS manages this complex project within the approved budget. It will be crucial that they keep the cost down through the duration of the project to ensure that cost is kept within the margins of the allocated budget.

**11.3** Corporate Property (if appropriate)

**11.4** HR (if appropriate)

**11.5** ICT (if appropriate)

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

## **12 Scrutiny**

12.1 Has this report been scrutinised? Yes / No?

12.2 If Yes, what version or date of report has been scrutinised?

12.3 Please insert the comments.

12.4 What changes have been made since the date of Scrutiny and explain why Scrutiny recommendations have been accepted or rejected?

## **13 Statutory Officers**

The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) comments: I note the comments provided by the Capital and Financial Planning Accountant.

Monitoring Officer: "I note the legal comments 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.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
That Cabinet approves an increase in the budget for Welshpool Schools Project to £16,794,385 to be split between Band A and Band B.	To enable the two schools to be built in Welshpool therefore improving the learning environment for pupils.
That Cabinet approves that any unallocated funding in Band A is invested in improvements at Ysgol Calon Cymru.	To improve facilities for pupils in a major Schools Transformation project.

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	Schools Organisation Policy 2018, Schools Asset Management Policy		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	Welshpool members and Ysgol Calon Cymru catchment members
----------------------------------	---

<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	Schools Transformation Team
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	immediately

<b>Is a review of the impact of the decision required?</b>	<b>Y / N</b>
<b>If yes, date of review</b>	
<b>Person responsible for the review</b>	
<b>Date review to be presented to Portfolio Holder/ Cabinet for information or further action</b>	

Contact Officer:	Marianne Evans
Tel:	01597 826155
Email:	Marianne.evans@powys.gov.uk

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**



**Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee  
Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools – Welshpool Primary  
Schools and Ysgol Calon Cymru**

This matter was considered at Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 where a Local Member asked a series of questions and Cabinet approved the following recommendation:

<b><i>RESOLVED that, subject to the views of Scrutiny</i></b>	<b><i>Reason for Decision:</i></b>
<b><i>Cabinet approves an increase in the budget for Welshpool Schools Project to £16,794,385 to be split between Band A and Band B.</i></b>	<b><i>To enable the two schools to be built in Welshpool therefore improving the learning environment for pupils.</i></b>
<b><i>Cabinet approves that any unallocated funding in Band A is invested in improvements at Ysgol Calon Cymru.</i></b>	<b><i>To improve facilities for pupils in a major Schools Transformation project.</i></b>

The Committee were tasked with examining the following areas:

- Why have the costs of the Welshpool Schools Project increased?
- What is the rationale for where and how the additional £3 million now available in Band A will be spent.

The Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee together with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit Committee met on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and would like to thank the Portfolio Holders, Officers and Representatives from the Heart of Wales Property Service who provided the report and gave evidence at the meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee considered the following papers related to this matter:

- Cabinet Report of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- Scrutiny Briefing
- Schools Service report to scrutiny

Additional commercially sensitive information was provided to the Chairs of Scrutiny and Audit after the meeting:

- Welshpool CiW Salop Road site – contamination costs and basis of tendering
- Detailed breakdown of cost increases

## **Background**

This matter relates to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme which is a joint Welsh Government/Powys County Council programme of capital investment in schools. There are two phases to the programme: Band A (2014-2019) and Band B (2019-2025). Further details regarding the programmes are outlined in the Cabinet Report of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The Committee make the following observations to Cabinet in respect of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools – Welshpool Primary Schools and Ysgol Calon Cymru on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

### **Why have the costs for the Welshpool Schools Project increased?**

The Welshpool Schools Project intends for the four schools closed in September 2017 and replaced by two new schools Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng (operating from the former Ardwyn site) and Welshpool Church in Wales Primary School (operating from the former sites of Ysgol Maesydre, Oldford and Gungrog) to move to the following locations:

- Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng to be built on the former Ysgol Maesydre site
- Welshpool CiW Primary School to be built on land at Welshpool High School

The Schools Service report to scrutiny notes that approval for the Welshpool Schools Project was secured with a total project cost of £12,977,794. Cabinet is now being asked to approve an increase in the costs of this project to £16,794,385. This is an increase of **£3,891,591** and will necessitate moving Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng from Band A to Band B of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. This increase is due to:

- Re-design costs and costs associated with remodelling a listed building;
- Economies of scale no longer achievable due to schools now being built sequentially rather than concurrently
- Further investigation in to the Welshpool CiW Primary School site identified that the topsoil needs to be removed and re-filled due to a historical use of the land.

Information provided to the Chairs after the meeting revealed that the two schools for different reasons need to increase their budgets quite substantially:

- Welshpool Church in Wales (English Medium) school by £1,583,641, and
- Ysgol Gymreig y Tranllong (Welsh Medium) school by £1,480,243

On top of these figures there is a contingency and revenue stream cost of £750k. When reading the report to Cabinet these figures are not included and it reads as if the CADW listing was the main reason for the £3.8m increase. This is not the case as there is a substantial increase in the CIW school also.

### **Why have the costs risen in relation to Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng?**

Scrutiny was advised that in November 2017 CADW contacted Powys County Council to advise that a request to List Ysgol Maesydre had been received and would be investigated. The authority entered into correspondence with CADW regarding the Listing and received the decision of CADW in March 2018. Whilst CADW had Listed the core buildings of Ysgol Maesydre as Grade 2 for its special and historic architectural interest, the 1950s extension was not included in the Listing as it did not meet the criteria.<sup>(1)</sup>



Scrutiny was advised that when the authority were advised of the application to CADW actions were taken in case the Listing was successful. These actions included:

1. a full search of available land in the centre of Welshpool including land owned by the authority and land not owned by the authority which could either be purchased or subject to a land swap. No suitable land for a school was identified which was not in the floodplain.
2. Consideration of co-locating both the English Medium and Welsh Medium school on the site at Welshpool High School. This was rejected as the site was too constrained for both schools to be sited there.
3. The incorporation of the Listed Building into the design for the new Welsh Medium School.

Scrutiny was advised that the Authority have a legal duty to maintain the Listed Building which is in a poor state of repair and, in the event the Welsh Medium School was not built on the Ysgol Maesydre site, this duty to maintain the building would remain. The Authority is working closely on pre-planning matters with the Schools Service, Heart of Wales Property Services and the contractors producing new designs incorporating the Listed Building to use for administrative areas and pre-school provision.

It became apparent during the meeting that the individual who had applied to CADW for Ysgol Maesydre to be Listed had contacted the Schools Service during the consultation period for the Welshpool Schools Project. It was not clear during the meeting if this letter outlined an intention to apply for Listed Building status or included more general observations. The Schools Service did not feel that the consultee had the support of the community. Scrutiny are unable to comment on whether this letter gave indication of the potential for the building to be Listed at that stage and if so, was sufficient regard given to any such letter, having not had sight of the letter.

Scrutiny was advised that the service had worked closely with CADW who would now be consultees as part of the planning process regarding the remodelling of the project to include Ysgol Maesydre. CADW would have firm views on the use of the land around Ysgol Maesydre and it would only be appropriate to locate the new build behind the existing building or there would be an adverse impact on the visual amenity of the Listed Building. CADW were supportive of sympathetic remodelling and would wish to see the building used.

Of particular concern is that it is understood that the increased costs at the Welsh Medium site are estimated figures which arise out of the Listing of Ysgol Maesydre the details of which are commercially sensitive. Scrutiny had sight of the project costs for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng and expressed concern that the contingency had been set at 3.89%. It is understood that a usual contingency would be 5% and that it would be prudent, particularly in light of the Listed Building Status of this project, if this were raised to 5%.

## Findings

- That the costs for this project have increased due to the Listing of Ysgol Maesydre part way through the Welshpool Schools Project.
- That the identified costings are estimates with the potential that these may increase

- Ysgol Maesydre had been poorly maintained and some additional costs relate to putting right neglected maintenance.
- That alternative options to site Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng on other land within Welshpool or co-location with the Welshpool CiW Primary School were investigated and rejected on the grounds that no suitable land within the Council's ownership or private ownership could be found. Co-location was also rejected due to site constraints.
- That remodelling costs have been kept to a minimum but are subject to planning consents and that the contingencies allowed for are considered to be insufficient.
- Attention is drawn to the Finance comment in the Cabinet report of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 which states:

There is also the added risk of cost escalation, depending on how well HOWPS manages this complex project within the approved budget. It will be crucial that they keep the cost down through the duration of the project to ensure that cost is kept within the margins of the allocated budget.

This is of particular concern given HOWPS' acknowledgement that costs at this stage are estimates.

### **Why have the costs risen in relation to Welshpool CiW Primary School?**

The Welshpool CiW Primary School is to be located on part of the playing fields of Welshpool High School. The Schools Service acknowledge that additional costs due to topsoil issues at this site were not identified until recently. The site is used by the High School and local junior football teams and site investigations were not undertaken until later to allow for users to continue to have access to the site for as long as possible. It became apparent in the meeting that costs for projects are prepared on the basis of a 'perfect site', which, in practice few sites are. The additional costs in relation to Radon gas should have been anticipated. It was not possible to ascertain during the meeting if the Contaminated Site Register had been consulted at an appropriate stage in the process, i.e. at the site selection stage. It was also understood that there is local knowledge regarding the historic use of this site which was not shared with the Project Team until the site investigations had revealed the contamination. In hindsight this is unfortunate. It was later confirmed that:

*'The contract for the design and build of the two primary schools in Welshpool was tendered using the Sewscap2 Contractor Framework. This route to market is preferred by Welsh Government and was approved by them throughout the business case process.*

*To ensure that tendering contractors submit prices on a like for like basis they're invited to submit bids based on perfect site conditions. It's recognised that no site will be perfect and as such tendering contractors are required to submit a costed risk register to account for likely site-specific risks. Risk registers submitted at tender stage not only identify potential risk, but also the most appropriate risk owner. A scored assessment of the risk register is carried out by the tender evaluation team, and forms part of the contractors overall final score.*

*Actual ground conditions are identified once a contractor has been appointed and during the planning and detailed design stages of a project. Many other surveys and reports are also required at this stage to both inform the detailed design stage and ensure compliance with the Planning and Building Control regulations.'*

However, the costs of dealing with the contamination will always have been present for this site and, had they been picked up earlier, this may have altered the outcome of the site selection process. If the site had remained the favoured option the costs of

dealing with the contamination would have been included within the project costs for this new school.

It is understood that the increase in costs at the Church in Wales School is made up of £770k (the additional costs required for dealing with what has turned out to be an imperfect site). The remaining additional costs appear to relate to changes in specification from the client side. This is of concern for future 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Projects. When Cabinet are agreeing to commit to capital spend on such projects this should be with confidence that the full costs have been identified.

### **Findings**

- That the Contaminated Site Register is checked to ensure that it is up to date and that it is consulted at the scoping and site selection stage for all future projects undertaken by the authority, including on land owned by the authority
- That communities and local authority Members/Officers are encouraged to use local knowledge and corporate memory to identify potential concerns during project planning in local communities
- A rigorous site selection model should be developed to ensure that environmental issues are considered at the appropriate stage

### **Why was Ysgol Calon Cymru prioritised for the newly available capital funding from Band A?**

Funding from Band B includes a number of major projects which are beginning to be progressed but also includes a sum to undertake smaller scale upgrades to existing older schools. Ysgol Calon Cymru is a new school opening in September 2018 on two existing sites – Builth High School and Llandrindod High School. Llandrindod High School was assessed as Condition C in 2016 (as detailed in the Cabinet Report) and the scrutiny meeting was advised a more recent assessment shows it has deteriorated to Condition C/D and was the highest ranked school in terms of level of need (Schools Service report to Scrutiny). Scrutiny sought to ascertain if there were other Condition D schools which should have been considered alongside Ysgol Calon Cymru and were advised that three primary schools were condition D and were in the Band B programme for consideration. It was confirmed that the improvements at Ysgol Calon Cymru would benefit the most pupils as this is a High School rather than a Primary School.

### **Findings**

- The information provided to scrutiny confirms Ysgol Calon Cymru as the school with the highest need to benefit from being moved forward from Band B to utilise the available Band A funding.
- That there are three other primary schools with Condition D buildings. These schools need to be a priority under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme either under Band A if any funding is available once the necessary improvements at Ysgol Calon Cymru have been made, or in Band B.
- That whilst moving Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng from Band A to Band B will be finance neutral (there is sufficient funding within Band B to absorb the additional costs of the Welshpool Primary Schools Scheme) the impact of an increase in costs of the Welshpool Primary Schools will be an opportunity cost of less funding now available in Band B to upgrade other poor condition schools in Powys.

## Other matters

### Capacity

Whilst scrutinising the matter raised at Cabinet it became apparent that the project intends to provide school places for 510 pupils between the two new schools. The case for change to reorganise schools in Welshpool includes the statement 'excess surplus places with 434 currently available between four schools 92 (19%) of which are unfilled. Surplus capacity is planned at 30% (2016 figures) or alternatively it would need an increase of pupil numbers of nearly 45% for these schools to be full. This directly contradicts the case for change. Whilst it is accepted that new schools attract pupils and understood that up to 100 pupils from surrounding schools may 'repatriate' to Welshpool this does raise questions regarding the viability of surrounding schools which is outside the remit of this investigation but will need careful consideration by the Schools Service.

Audit have the following particular concerns:

The Church in Wales school is being built to accommodate 360 pupils which equates to £28k (plus contingency) per place. Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng is being built to accommodate 150 pupils which equates to £41k (plus contingency) per place. We were unable to accurately check the spend against similar builds across Wales and the UK and would recommend that this is done.

When we calculate the cost per place based on the present pupil numbers the Welsh school costs rise from £41k (plus contingency) per pupil to £77k (plus contingency) per pupil and the CIW school costs rise from £28k to £37k (plus contingency).

Finally Members note that the short time scale between referral to scrutiny and the meeting there was a delay in obtaining relevant financial information which made it difficult to explore all the issues fully. The conclusions reached by audit, in particular regarding the per place cost of builds, projected pupil numbers and impact on other schools around the catchment require further consideration. Members are also concerned that adequate financial information was not made available or requested at the Cabinet meeting in order to fully understand the issue and are pleased that this matter was referred to scrutiny.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. That the contingency fund for each of the Welshpool Schools be increased to 5%.**
- 2. That the Contaminated Land Register and Radon maps are consulted at the scoping and site selection stage for all projects in which the Council is involved including those on land owned by the authority.**
- 3. That the money released by moving Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng to Band B is used to improve the Llandrindod site of Ysgol Calon Cymru and if any funds remain in Band A when this work has been completed then those primary schools with Condition D buildings are prioritised for improvements.**
- 4. That further work is undertaken on pupil numbers, appropriate levels of excess capacity when building new schools, cost per pupil of new builds and impact of new schools on surrounding schools to inform the Schools Transformation programme.**

Membership of the Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

County Councillors **P Roberts (Chair)**, M Barnes, G Breeze, K W Curry, B Davies, D O Evans, D R Jones, E M Jones, G Jones, D Jones-Poston, K Laurie-Parry, I McIntosh, S McNicholas, L Roberts, D Selby, R G Thomas and Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs A Davies and Mrs S. Davies and Church Representative M Evitts.

Invited representatives from Audit Committee:

County Councillor J Morris and Independent Member J Brautigam

#### **References:**

1. British Listed Buildings (<https://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/300087750-ysgol-maesydre-welshpool#.WzJZVMuWzcu> accessed 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018)

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Report to the Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Subject: Cabinet Report: 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme – Welshpool Primary Project and Ysgol Calon Cymru June 18<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**For Discussion**

**Lead officer: Marianne Evans (Senior Manager, Schools Transformation)**

---

### **Introduction**

1. On June 18<sup>th</sup> 2018, Cabinet considered a report with the following recommendation:

*‘This report requests Cabinet approval to:*

- *increase the funding allocation for the Welshpool Primary Schools Project to £16,794,385, an increase of £3,816,591 to be split between Band A and Band B of the 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme*
  - *to utilise any unallocated funding in Band A to support capital investment in Ysgol Calon Cymru.’*
2. Cabinet approved the increase, subject to further scrutiny by the Learning, Skills and Economy Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet will be reconsidering the recommendation along with comments from the Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting in July.

### **Background**

3. The 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme is a jointly funded initiative between the Welsh Government, local authorities and further education institutions and is the largest capital investment programme in schools and college estate across Wales since the 1960s.
4. The authority’s Programme is split into two bands of funding: Band A, which runs from 2014 to 2019 and Band B, which runs from 2019 to 2024/5. The authority’s Band A programme supports just under £80m of investment in a number of school projects, mostly new builds replacing buildings in poor condition, or remodellings. Band B is a £113m investment programme. 50% of the funding is provided by the Welsh Government, with the authority providing the other 50%.
5. The 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme is overseen by the Learning and Skills Programme Board, which is chaired by the Director of Education, and includes portfolio holders for education, property and finance.

6. Operational Programme Management takes place at the Schools Transformation Capital Project Board, chaired by the Senior Manager Schools Transformation, with members including finance, HOWPS, property, as well as project managers for each scheme. Cross-service project teams meet regularly on individual schemes.
7. The delivery of each scheme is commissioned to Heart of Wales Property Services, and a tendering exercise takes place for contractors (usually on a design and build basis) through the appropriate procurement frameworks.
8. Welsh Government is a part-funder of the Programme. In order to successfully gain Welsh Government funding, each project is subject to a rigorous business case approval process, based on HM Treasury's Five Case Business Model. Projects over £5m are required to submit 3 different business cases – a Strategic Outline Case (SOC), an Outline Business Case (OBC) and a Full Business Case (FBC). These are thoroughly scrutinised by an internal panel of officers and by the Welsh Government's Capital Panel.
9. A SOC, OBC and FBC have been approved by the Welsh Government for the Welshpool Schools Project.
10. Delivering this transformation of primary education in Welshpool is key to meeting the expectations of Powys County Council and the Welsh Government to deliver Powys's 21C Schools Programme.

The **Strategic Case** makes the case for change predicated on:

- The poor quality of school buildings
  - Excess surplus places with currently 434 available places between the four schools, 82 (19%) of which are unfilled
  - A challenging educational model likely to affect social cohesion and pupil performance with three infant schools feeding into one junior school
  - A lack of growth in the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Welshpool compounded by dual stream infant and junior provision of Welsh-medium education
  - Poor provision of faith based education
11. The business actions required are therefore to improve the quality of the schools' infrastructure; consolidate the educational estate, reducing the number of surplus places whilst retaining sufficient flexibility to expand if required and improving access to Welsh-medium and faith based education.
  12. Successfully delivering these business needs will deliver significant key benefits including:
    - **Improved learning outcomes** through provision of a flexible learning environment creating primary schools with a seamless transition from the



- Foundation phase to key stage 2 and providing a curriculum appropriate to Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 from two single sites
- **Cost reduction** through reduced governance/management costs; staffing costs; backlog maintenance and premises running costs and pupil transportation costs
  - **Sustainable primary education** in the area and services/facilities that enhance community engagement, meeting best practice and regulatory standards for learning environments
  - **Improved opportunities for Welsh medium pupils** and raised awareness of the Welsh language and culture

### **Project Request**

13. Following revised project estimates this is a request for an increase in the funding allocation for the Welshpool Primary Schools Project to £16,794,385, an increase of £3,816,591 to be split between Band A and Band B of the 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme. The request does not increase the cost or size of the programme. It is wrong to refer to an overspend as there has been no overspend and revisions to initial estimates are normal within the business planning approach.
14. Welshpool Church in Wales School will be funded within Band A, as per original plan. The funding for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng will be sourced from currently unallocated Band B funding. This frees up unallocated funding which we are requesting to be utilised at Ysgol Calon Cymru.
15. The Strategic Outline Programme for Band B was approved by Cabinet in November 2017 and subsequently by the Welsh Government in December 2017, and funding will be released subject to the successful approval of business cases. Band B includes the following:
- Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
  - Newtown development (Primary, Secondary and Special)
  - Remodelling of schools (schools to be confirmed)
  - Welsh-medium Primary provision Mid Powys
  - Brecon town area review
16. The Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng project will be included in Band B. This does not mean that the Band B funding envelope needs to increase because the school will be funded from the 'remodelling of schools' priority, which is as yet unallocated. The impact of this will be that the funding available for 'remodelling of schools' reduces.
17. Ysgol Calon Cymru would have been one of the schools considered for funding as part of the 'remodelling of schools' priority in Band B, based on its condition assessment (see page 7) but it can now be fast-tracked, due to the splitting of the Welshpool project will releases unallocated funding in Band A.

18. A response to the questions raised, and other issues, can be found on pages 4 – 8.

## **Questions**

**Q1. One local member was under the impression that Cadw would foot the bill for the additional capital required to refurbish the former Maesydre School or that the increased costs for the Welsh medium school would be footed solely by Welsh Government.**

### **Response**

- This has never been communicated and is an incorrect assumption
- Council officers have approached Cadw to evaluate which grants are available and will continue discussions with Cadw
- Terms and conditions of 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools grants state that the funding will always be 50/50 split between LA and WG, unless the school is Voluntary Aided

**Q2 Would descaling the Welsh-medium project be an option to reduce costs?**

### **Response**

- The bulk of the additional costs are for the refurbishment costs following Cadw's listing of the old Maesydre building. The new design for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng has not been an easy process, having to balance the requirement of working within listed building regulations, finding solutions to sympathetically restore the old Maesydre building whilst also trying to provide 21<sup>st</sup> C teaching and learning spaces and all with value for money as a key requirement within the programme. The old building will include the administrative, early years and community areas, with 5 classrooms and hall to be contained within a new school extension adjoining the older building.
- Descaling Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng is not an option. There are currently 80 pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng, and the authority has a clear commitment in its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to support and facilitate the growth of Welsh-medium education, in accordance with the national initiative to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Reducing the capacity of the school would be seen as a cap on growth in the Welshpool area, which is contrary to County Council and national strategies.
- Due to the Cadw listing, Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng is already in a situation where it is not on an equal basis with Welshpool CiW Primary School, as the latter will have a brand new building, and Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng will be partly in an old listed building, albeit restored. Equitability between both schools has always been a fundamental principle of the Welshpool schools development, and any further descaling would only add to inequity.

**Q3. What are the other options considered apart from increasing the costs?**

- When the Cadw listing was first mentioned, the authority immediately commissioned Corporate Property to look for other viable sites in and around Welshpool for Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng, both within Council ownership and private, in order to be able to develop a new school building without refurbishment costs of a listed building. However, no viable sites were found.
- **Reducing the size of both schools to be affordable within the original budget** – this was not considered a viable option due to the projected increase in pupil numbers in the area;
- The potential of **co-locating both schools** on the same site at Salop Rd was considered, however the site was very constrained, with access and traffic issues, as well as the need to share facilities, which could create operational difficulties.

**Q4. Were the developers (Dawnus) given a free hand to develop the Welsh-medium school costs?**

**Response**

- The redesign of the Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng has been managed very tightly between the authority and Heart of Wales Property Services. Dawnus have been fully aware of the need to work within the budget.
- The costs have been rigorously scrutinised. HOWPS QS, in his expert opinion, is content that what is being presented is reasonable given the circumstances.

**Q5. No breakdown of additional costs is provided within the cabinet report**

- A verbal response will be given

**Q6. Why were the issues not identified earlier in the process? Why were we not aware that the Salop Road site was previously used as a dumping ground to enable the construction of the Welshpool bypass?**

**Response**

- The listing of the Maesydre building has been identified as a cost and project risk at the Schools Transformation Operational Project Board meetings of January, February, March, and subsequently at the Schools Transformation Capital Projects Board in April, and escalated to the Learning and Skills Programme Board meetings.
- The actual confirmation of the listing did not happen until mid March 2018 although the authority was notified that Cadw were considering a request to list the building in December 2017. The final costs were received by the authority on 1<sup>st</sup> June and brought to Cabinet's attention on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

- The issue of the additional costs due to topsoil issues at Salop Road were not identified until recently.
- To complete site investigation works, big trenches need to be dug up on several areas of the development site. To ensure that sound samples are taken, the digs have to take place on the building corners/ pinch points, as designed within the plans. If site investigation works had started earlier in the process, the entire site would be out of use for some time, and the fields are heavily used by Welshpool High School and local, junior football teams.
- HOWPS are evaluating the issue of site investigations to ensure that issues are known and dealt with at the earliest opportunity.

**Other issues raised**

- **Ysgol Calon Cymru – why has Ysgol Calon Cymru been prioritised for capital investment in Band B?**

The authority assesses information relating to the condition, suitability and sustainability of school buildings on a regular basis, as part of its School Investment Prioritisation. Llandrindod High School (soon to become part of Ysgol Calon Cymru) has the following assessment:

<i>School</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Suitability</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>	<i>DDA</i>
<i>Llandrindod High School</i>	<i>C/D</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i>

- The Llandrindod High School site is the highest ranked school in terms of level of need.
- Investment in the Llandrindod site will focus on remodelling the Technology and Design block, which has seen significant deterioration, to create a new Technology, Expressive and Creative Arts Hub. This will be a productive environment in which students can develop the skills they will require in the workplace and teachers are facilitators of their learning. The focus of the Hub will be on students experiencing the environment they will enter as modern day workers and developing their higher order thinking skills, effective communication skills, collaboration skills, making them adept with using technology and all other skills that they will need in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.
- This will create a 21st Century teaching and learning environment that inspires and motivates staff and students alike and supports Ysgol Calon

Cymru's vision to deliver outstanding and innovative technology, expressive and creative arts provision.

- Other schools requiring investment will be considered for Band B funding, subject to sufficient funding being available in Band B, or will be considered as part of the Council's Major Improvement Scheme.

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



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

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

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