

## Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee

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Meeting Venue  
**By Zoom**

Meeting Date  
**Tuesday, 17 October 2023**

Meeting Time  
**1.30 pm**

For further information please contact

**Katharine Flanagan-Jones,  
Senior Scrutiny Officer**

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County Hall  
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11/10/23

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Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod. Rhowch wybod pa iaith rydych am ei defnyddio erbyn hanner dydd, ddau ddiwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod.

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

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### AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</b>
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To receive any disclosures of interest by Members relating to items to be considered at the meeting.

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP</b>
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To receive disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78(3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

(NB: Members are reminded that under Section 78 Members having been given a prohibited party whip cannot vote on a matter before the Committee.)

<b>4.</b>	<b>SCHOOLS TRANSFORMATION - NEWTOWN SCHOOLS REVIEW</b>
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To receive and consider the reports on Schools Transformation for the Newtown Schools Review.

(Pages 3 - 126)

<b>5.</b>	<b>SCHOOLS TRANSFORMATION - IRFON VALLEY CP SCHOOL</b>
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To receive and consider the reports on Schools Transformation for Irfon Valley Community Primary School.

(Pages 127 - 196)

<b>6.</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>
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To note that future meetings of the Committee are scheduled as follows:

(Pages 197 - 198)

**Committee Reflection**

Following the close of the meeting the Committee is asked to spend 5 to 10 minutes reflecting on today's meeting.

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Pete Roberts  
Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys

**REPORT TITLE:** Plans for Newtown Schools

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The aim of this paper is to outline the findings of the engagement which has taken place on the potential enlargement of the new building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in Newtown.

1.2 The report requests Cabinet approval to commence the statutory process on the following proposal:

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

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

1.3 The report is supported by the following appendices:

Appendix A – Newtown Options Appraisal  
Appendix B – Newtown Engagement Report  
Appendix C – Impact Assessment

**2. Background**

**Review of Newtown Schools**

2.1 In September 2021, the Council merged Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School in Newtown to establish a new school, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The school was established on the existing school sites, with the intention that a replacement building would eventually be provided.

2.2 Since then, the Council has been developing plans for the new school building. A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been developed and

approved by the Council's Cabinet and Welsh Government, and plans for the new building had been developed to the end of RIBA Stage 2.

- 2.3 The intention is that the planned replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen will be part of the North Well-being Programme's new Health and Well-being Campus. The Council has been working closely with colleagues from the North Powys Well-being Programme throughout the development of plans for the replacement school building.
- 2.4 Following consideration of these plans by the Council's Cabinet, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.
- 2.5 Current pupil numbers at these three schools are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr6
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	40	36	44	25	34	39	33	251
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	10	15	15	9	16	14	27	106
<b>Maesyrrhandir C.P. School</b>	12	11	12	10	15	19	16	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>452</b>

### The Case for Change

- 2.6 The reasons why the plans to provide a replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen are being reviewed are as follows:

#### **2.7 Decrease in pupil numbers**

Total pupil numbers at the three schools decreased from 619 in 2016 to 452 in 2023. This is a decrease of 167.

The latest projected pupil numbers also show that total pupil numbers across the three schools are projected to decrease further in the coming years.

#### **2.8 Increase in surplus places**

<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Currently the three schools combined have a surplus capacity of 276 pupils, or 37.9%.

As pupil numbers in the three schools are expected to fall, these surplus places will increase. By 2027, according to the projections, surplus places across the three schools could be 346 places or 47.5%.

## **2.9 Building condition**

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

### **Engagement Period**

- 2.10 A period of engagement with the three school communities was carried out in June and July 2023, to understand the views of stakeholders at the three schools on the plan to potentially increase the scope of the new building to include additional schools. The findings of this exercise are outlined in the Engagement Report which is attached as Appendix B, and are summarised below.
- 2.11 During the engagement period, face to face meetings were held with staff and governors at the three schools. The issues raised at these meetings are summarised in the Engagement Report.
- 2.12 In addition, an online questionnaire was developed which was available from the 23<sup>rd</sup> June to the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Information about the questionnaire was circulated to the three schools to share with their school communities.
- 2.13 301 responses were received to the questionnaire. This included 111 responses from stakeholders associated with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, 101 that were associated with Treowen C.P. School and 55 that were associated with Maesyrrhandir C.P. School. 34 respondents stated that they had no association with any of the schools.
- 2.14 The questionnaire asked respondents about the benefits of the idea to increase the size of the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen replacement building and include pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen. The following is a summary of the responses received:
- Improved facilities for all pupils
  - Potential reduction in costs
  - Financial benefits for the Council
  - Potential integration of communities across Newtown
  - The proposal could lead to more funding for a larger school
  - One school would be easier for parents
  - Positive experience for pupils from all backgrounds

- 2.15 The questionnaire also asked respondents to outline their concerns relating to the idea to increase the size of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen replacement building to include pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen. The following is a summary of the responses received:
- Concern about the impact of pupils attending a larger school
  - Concern about traffic and parking
  - Concern about the impact on staff
  - Concern about loss of community identity and facilities
  - Concern about land and facilities for the replacement building
  - Concern about location and access to the new building
  - Suggestions that smaller schools are preferred
  - Concern around wellbeing, bullying and behavioural issues
  - Concern around loss of parental choice
  - Concern around the impact on pupils with ALN
- 2.16 Respondents were asked to outline any specific local issues which the Council would need to consider when exploring the idea further. The following is a summary of the comments received:
- Traffic and parking in the Park Street area of Newtown
  - Impact on pupils and learning around class sizes
  - Impact on communities and families
  - Concerns around the North Powys Wellbeing Programme
  - Size of the new school
  - Accessibility and transport from Treowen and Maesyrrhandir

### **Options Appraisal**

- 2.17 An options appraisal has also been carried out to consider options for the three schools. This is included as Appendix A. This document includes the following:
- An overview of current provision and key data related to the three schools
  - Identification of possible future options for the three schools
  - An assessment of the options against Critical Success Factors
  - A SWOT assessment of options
  - Identification of possible implementation options
  - An assessment of the implementation options against Critical Success Factors
  - A SWOT assessment of implementation options
  - A financial evaluation of implementation options
  - Further consideration of the emerging preferred option against factors listed in the School Organisation Code (2018) as factors to be taken into account when developing school organisation proposals.
- 2.18 Based on the options appraisal carried out, the paper identified the following preferred option for the schools:

- **New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School**
- **The expansion of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to incorporate the Treowen C.P. School site from September 2025**
- **All pupils to transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen when this is ready.**

2.19 The reasons for this are as follows:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment
- A larger school provides a more efficient model of education
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals – this would enable a positive transition process
- Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools
- New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act
- New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets
- Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers
- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

2.20 This would mean that Maesyrrhandir C.P. School would continue as a standalone school as options which would result in changes to this school were discounted in the options appraisal (Appendix A).

- 2.21 In addition to the options appraisal exercise, the document also considers the impact of the preferred option on the factors listed in the School Organisation Code as factors to be taken into account when developing school organisation proposals.
- 2.22 The preferred option aligns with the vision and guiding principles as set out in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030.
- 2.23 Implementation of the preferred option is subject to the statutory process outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

### **Statutory Process for School Organisation Proposals**

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

i) Consultation

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

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

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

ii) Statutory Notice

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

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

iii) Implementation



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

### **3 Advice**

- 3.1 Based on the findings of the options appraisal exercise and the engagement exercise carried out, the advice of officers is that Cabinet approves commencing the statutory process to implement the following proposal:

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

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

- 3.2 The reasons for this are set out in 2.19 above.
- 3.3 However, it must be noted that the assessment in the options appraisal has been carried out based on the fact that the site will be shared with the North Powys Wellbeing Campus. If the whole site was available, the preferred option may have been different, and may have included all three schools.
- 3.4 Should the recommendation to commence the statutory process be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in November 2023.
- 3.5 It must also be noted that implementation of this proposal does not preclude schools from being part of future reorganisation proposals.

### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The intention initially is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site. No savings to the Council would be identified at this stage in terms of delegated funding, however the school would be able to combine resources and potentially reduce management costs for the school, as there would be one senior leadership team.
- 4.2 There would be no additional transport costs associated with this phase, however there may be some additional costs associated with extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, such as new signage. This is estimated to be in the region of £15k and would be funded by the Council's Corporate Transformation budget.
- 4.3 Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is

estimated that the capital cost of this (excluding optimism bias, risk, client costs and fees) would be £16m at today's prices, however this would be reviewed and updated as the design process moves forward.

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

4.5 The Scheme for Financing Schools also states the following in section 3.7.2:

'In order to ensure effective stewardship of the resources available to schools, the Authority may impose additional restrictions on a school scheduled to close, including but not limited to:

- Restriction of expenditure to agreed plans
- Removal of powers of virement'

The Council will consider the use of these powers of intervention where appropriate.

4.6 Implementation of the proposal would require involvement from various service areas, including staff from the Schools Service, Finance, HR and ICT. These service areas will be kept informed of the development of the proposal throughout the statutory process.

4.7 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the contents of this report and supports the recommendation.

**5. Legal implications**

5.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view provided the statutory process for school organisation proposals in the School Organisation Code (2018) are followed.

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and support the recommendations"

**6. Climate Change & Nature Implications**

- 6.1 Implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new build primary school in Newtown. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings. The school will be built to meet Welsh Government standards for net zero.
- 6.2 Implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, however the distance from Treowen C.P. School to the Calon y Dderwen site is less than 1 mile. Whilst it is unlikely that pupils would be eligible for home to school transport, it is possible that the change in location would result in pupils being transported in cars to the new site.
- 6.3 Should Cabinet agree to proceed, further consideration will be given to the impact of the proposal in terms of carbon emissions related to the above, and will be reflected in future Cabinet papers related to the proposal.

## **7. Data Protection**

- 7.1 N/A

## **8. Comment from local member(s)**

- 8.1 To follow.

## **9. Impact Assessment**

- 9.1 An initial impact assessment in respect of the recommendation is attached as Appendix C. The impact assessment considers the proposal's impact on the Welsh Government's well-being goals, as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 9.2 The summary of the impact assessment is as follows:
- 'This impact assessment suggests that the impact is generally positive with some negative aspects, such as the requirement for some pupils to travel further than they currently do to school, and loss of provision in Treowen. Whilst the intention is to close Treowen C.P. School and initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site, the intention is that the school would move to a new building. This would provide much improved buildings and facilities for pupils compared with the current poor condition buildings, ensuring that future pupils would be taught in facilities that are fit-for-purpose, improving their learner entitlement and experience. The new facilities would be fully DDA compliant, supporting learners with disabilities.'
- 9.3 Should Cabinet approve the commencement of the statutory process, the impact assessment would be updated throughout the process, to take account of feedback received.

## 10. **Recommendation**

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

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

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

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CABINET REPORT NEW TEMPLATE VERSION 3



# Plans for Newtown Schools

## Options Appraisal

July 2023



### Version control

Version	Date	Brief Summary of Change	Author
0.1	July 2023	Document created	RW
0.2	24/08/23	Version for Transforming Education Officer Group	SA
0.3	29/08/23	Part C Updated following Transforming Education Officer Group	RW
0.4	01/09/23	Version for Transforming Education Programme Board	SA
0.5	05/10/23	Version for Cabinet EMT	SA
0.6	11/10/23	Version for Cabinet	SA/ME

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

In September 2021, the Council merged Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School in Newtown to establish a new school, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The school was established on the existing school sites, with the intention that a replacement building would eventually be provided, which would be co-located with the North Powys Well-being Programme's planned Health and Well-being Campus.

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

However, following consideration of these plans by the Council's Cabinet, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.

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

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

Following the completion of the engagement exercise, the purpose of this paper is to review and explore options for the provision in Newtown, and to identify a preferred way forward.

# PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

## 2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### 2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

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

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

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

The Strategy sets out a number of Strategic Aims which will underpin the Council's work to transform the education infrastructure over the coming years. One of these Strategic Aims sets out the Council's commitment to developing a network of all-age schools and reconfiguration and rationalisation of primary provision, as indicated by the Strategic Aim 'to improve learner entitlement and experience'.

This is supported by the following Strategic Objectives:

S.O.1.1      *Develop a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations*

S.O.1.2      *Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision*

### 2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

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



The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council, as outlined in the Strategy:

**i) High proportion of small schools**

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 43% of the primary provision in the county. 15 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

**ii) Decreasing pupil numbers**

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 5% by 2026.

**iii) High number of surplus places**

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

**iv) Building condition**

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

**v) Financial pressures**

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

**vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education**

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes

are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

**vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer**

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

**viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision**

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

**ix) Historical lack of political decision making**

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

## 3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN NEWTOWN

### 3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

The transformation of education in Newtown began in 2017, with an initial review of schools in the town. At the time, there were 7 primary education providers located in the town itself, along with Newtown High School:

- Hafren Junior School
- Ladywell Green Infant School
- Maesyrhandir C.P. School
- St. Mary's Catholic School
- Treowen C.P. School
- Penygloddfa C.P. School
- Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd – Welsh-medium school

Following the review, it was agreed to merge Hafren Junior School and Ladywell Green Infant School, and, following a school reorganisation process, Cabinet approved the establishment of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

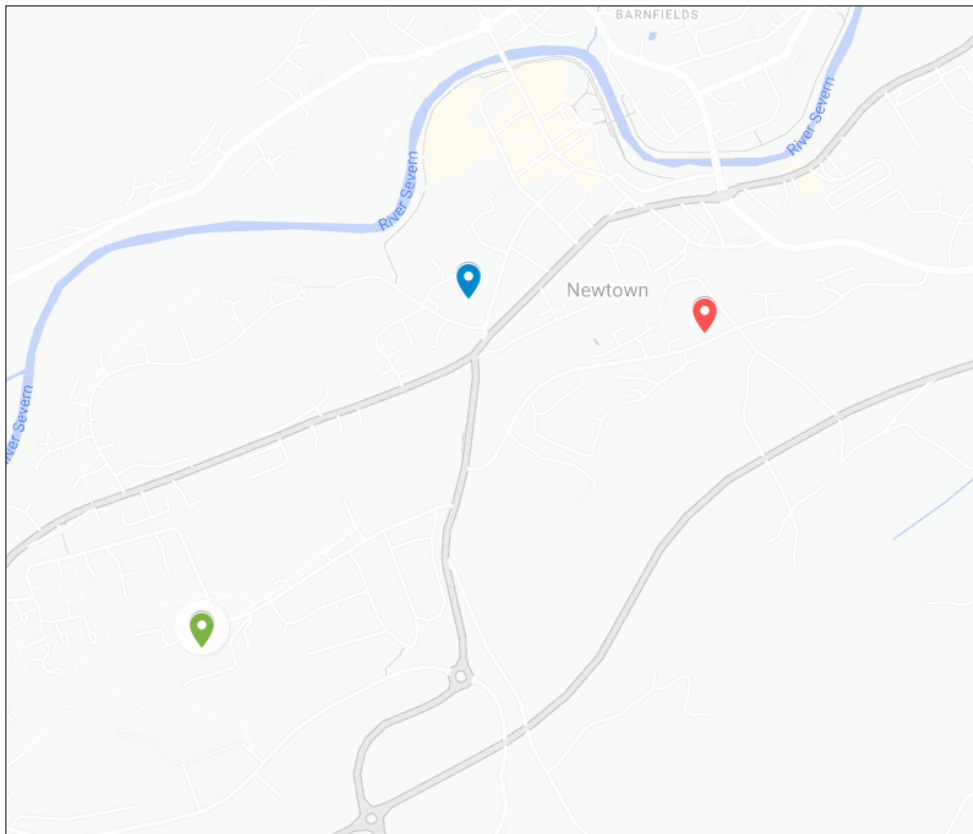
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is an English-medium primary school located in the town of Newtown in North Powys. It was established in September 2021 following the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School.

Whilst Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was established in the previous Ladywell Green and Hafren buildings, the intention was that eventually a replacement building would be provided on the existing site. There is also an intention to provide a new Health and Well-being Campus as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme on the site, so the Council has been working closely with the North Powys Well-being Programme when developing plans for the new school building.

Following consideration of initial plans for the new school building, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.

The scope of this option appraisal is Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, along with Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrhandir C.P. School. All three are English-medium primary schools predominantly serving pupils who live in the southern part of Newtown, however all schools attract some pupils from all over the town.

The 3 schools are shown on the following map of Newtown:



Blue – Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Red – Treowen C.P. School, Green – Maesyrrhandir C.P. School

A summary of key data related to the 3 schools is provided below. Further data is provided in [Appendix A](#).

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number <sup>1</sup>	Rural School? <sup>2</sup>
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English-medium	48	No
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English-medium	24	No
<b>Maesyrrhandir C.P. School</b>	Community Primary	English-medium	30	No

<sup>1</sup> Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24

<sup>2</sup> Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>) includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

	School building owned by the Powys County Council			
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## Pupil Numbers

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

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr6
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	40	36	44	25	34	39	33	251
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	10	15	15	9	16	14	27	106
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	12	11	12	10	15	19	16	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>452</b>

### i) Historical pupil numbers<sup>4</sup>

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	285	270	256	264	239	231	230	230
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	132	146	146	145	131	136	135	114
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	202	210	193	172	144	139	116	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>462</b>

### ii) Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)<sup>5</sup>

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	232	239	235	225	225

<sup>3</sup> Teacher Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

<sup>4</sup> PLASC

<sup>5</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2022 & Birth Rates (Reception to Year 6) – Projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available

<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	110	108	95	94	87
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	104	91	83	73	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>382</b>

### Building Capacity and Condition

#### i) Capacity

	<b>Capacity<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Currently Filled</b>	<b>Surplus Capacity</b>
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	342	251 (73.4%)	91 (26.6%)
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	172	106 (61.6%)	66 (38.4%)
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	214	95 (44.4%)	119 (55.6%)

#### ii) Building condition<sup>7</sup>

	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	C – Poor	B - Satisfactory	No
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	B – Satisfactory	B - Satisfactory	Yes
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	B/C – Satisfactory Poor	B/C – Satisfactory Poor	Yes

### Financial information

#### i) Cost per pupil<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

<sup>7</sup> Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard - 2022

<sup>8</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/2024

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	£986,000	£4,401	£55,000	£63,250
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	£485,000	£4,528	£38,000	£28,750
<b>Maesyrrhandir C.P. School</b>	£538,000	£5,323	£79,000	£63,250
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,729	N/A	N/A

### 3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN NEWTOWN

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

The reasons for this are as follows:

#### i) Decrease in pupil numbers

As shown in the table on page 9, total pupil numbers at the three schools have decreased from 619 in 2016 to 452 in 2023. This is a decrease of 167.

The projections on pages 9-10 suggest that pupil numbers are projected to continue to decrease significantly at Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, whilst remaining steady at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

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

#### ii) Increase in surplus places

Currently the three schools combined have a surplus capacity of 276 pupils, or 37.9%. This is much higher than the current 21% of surplus places in primary schools across Powys.

As pupil numbers in the three schools are set to fall, significantly in Treowen C.P. School and Maesyhandir C.P. School, these surplus places will increase. By 2027, according to the projections, surplus places could be 346 places or 47.5% based on the current configuration of schools.

**iii) Building condition**

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

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## PART B – OPTIONS FOR NEWTOWN SCHOOLS

The options assessment in this section has been carried out based on the assumption that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen’s new building already has a Welsh Government-approved Strategic Outline Case and will be part of an integrated development of the North Powys Wellbeing Campus.

The site available for the new building will be smaller than the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site.

### 4. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The following options have been identified which could potentially provide a solution:

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

### 5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with a modern new building to replace existing poor buildings</li> <li>- Provides a more efficient model of education as all pupils would be taught in a single building rather than across two separate buildings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not allow pupils from other schools to benefit from the investment in the new building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places in Newtown</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removal of backlog maintenance at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</li> <li>- New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act</li> <li>- New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets</li> <li>- No disruption to pupils, parents or staff at Treowen or Maesyrhandir</li> <li>- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff, who have only recently been through a change process, would not be affected by a further change</li> <li>- Schools would continue to be located in the various communities within Newtown</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not address issues with building condition at Treowen and Maesyrhandir</li> <li>- Would not provide any efficiency savings</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new attractive learning environment at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may attract more pupils, which may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrhandir C.P. School – this could have an impact on funding and staffing levels at these schools.</li> </ul>

**Option 2 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides the opportunity for all learners from the current three schools to benefit from an improved learning environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Constraints around space on the site, particularly as the site will be shared with the North Powys Wellbeing Programme</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A larger school provides a more efficient model of education</li> <li>- Removal of backlog maintenance at three schools</li> <li>- New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act</li> <li>- New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There would be no room to extend the school should there be an increase in pupil numbers in the future</li> <li>- Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir and Treowen would have to walk/travel further to get to school</li> <li>- Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/ travel further to school</li> <li>- Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools would lose their unique identities as provision would no longer be linked to those communities</li> <li>- Community opposition to the proposals</li> <li>- Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used to</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for more pupils, including those from deprived areas, to benefit from a modern learning environment</li> <li>- Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus</li> <li>- Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown</li> <li>- Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school</li> <li>- Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes</li> <li>- Reduces surplus places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new building would be almost full from the beginning, without any 'buffer' should pupil numbers in the area increase in the future</li> <li>- Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project</li> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability</li> <li>- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes</li> </ul>

**Option 3 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrrhandir C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen**

Strengths	Weaknesses
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment</li> <li>- A larger school provides a more efficient model of education</li> <li>- Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools</li> <li>- New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act</li> <li>- New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets</li> <li>- Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Treowen C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils from Treowen C.P. School would not be able to receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment</li> <li>- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrrhandir have a very different pupil profile which could make the transition into a new school more challenging – the percentage of pupils with additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher in Maesyrrhandir</li> <li>- Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir would have to walk/travel further to get to school than they do currently</li> <li>- Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/travel further</li> <li>- Community opposition to the proposals</li> <li>- Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a larger school than they are used to</li> <li>- Doesn't address backlog maintenance issues at Treowen C.P. School</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for more pupils, including those from a deprived area, to benefit from a modern learning environment</li> <li>- Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus</li> <li>- Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown</li> <li>- Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school</li> <li>- Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project</li> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability</li> <li>- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes</li> <li>- A new attractive learning environment at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may attract more pupils, which may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Treowen C.P. School – this could have an impact</li> </ul>

	on funding and staffing levels in future.
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**Option 4 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen**

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

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for more pupils, including those from a deprived area, to benefit from a modern learning environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project</li> </ul>

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

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032</li> <li>- Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032</li> <li>- Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme</li> </ul>
2 – 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>
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level</li> <li>• The option must be achievable within current legislation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable</li> </ul>
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives</li> </ul>
5 – 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>

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

- ✓ - meets the criteria
- ? – may meet the criteria
- X – does not meet the criteria

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

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

## 7. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the work carried out, the emerging preferred option for Newtown schools is:

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

The reasons for this are:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment
- A larger school provides a more efficient model of education
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals – this would enable a positive transition process
- Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools
- New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act
- New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets
- Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers

There are a number of possible implementation options within this emerging preferred option. These are considered below.



## 8. POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

The following emerging preferred option has been identified:

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

There are a number of implementation options within this option. These are as follows:

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

## 9. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

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

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

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Treowen would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- All staff at both schools would be treated in the same way and would have the same opportunity to secure positions at the new school</li> <li>- Both schools would have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new school's identity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- Both schools would lose their identity once the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place.</li> <li>- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process</li> <li>- Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building.</li> <li>- Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021.</li> <li>- Would incur costs to establish a new school.</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for greater collaboration / federation between the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen until both schools close.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability.</li> <li>- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.</li> </ul>

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

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

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

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- Treowen pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites.</li> <li>- Would enable the school to run more efficiently through shared staffing and resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place.</li> <li>- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All staff at both schools would be treated in the same way and would have the same opportunity to secure positions at the new school</li> <li>- Both schools would have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new school's identity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed.</li> <li>- Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021.</li> <li>- Would incur costs to establish a new school.</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- May address the issue of recruitment to leadership positions in Newtown.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability.</li> <li>- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.</li> </ul>

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

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

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for staff to be part of a larger team.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability.</li> </ul>

	- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.
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## 10. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the Critical Success Factors on pages 17 and 18 above. Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

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

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 4A	Option 4B	Option 4C	Option 4D	Option 4E
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	?	?	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	✓	✓	?	x	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	?	✓	?	x
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Total ✓</b>	4	3	4	3	4
<b>Total x</b>	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Possible</b>	<b>Possible</b>	Discount	Discount

Based on the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, options 4A, 4B and 4C are possible. However, having considered the SWOTs on each option carried out in Section 9, option 4C is the preferred option. This is as follows:

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

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

**The reasons for this are as follows:**

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

## **PART C – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PREFERRED OPTION**

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) outlines factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals.

Consideration is given below to the impact of the preferred option:

### **Option 4C – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Treowen C.P. School, extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include Treowen site and pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen**

This will be based on implementation of the emerging preferred option on a phased basis:

- **Phase 1:** Extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to operate over the Treowen C.P. School site and closure of Treowen C.P. School
- **Phase 2:** Moving to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site and closure of the Treowen site.

## **12. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

### **12.1 Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills**

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

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs.

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

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



## **12.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning**

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

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

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

## **12.3 Teaching and learning experiences**

### **12.3.1 Quality of teaching**

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

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

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

### **12.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum**

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

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

### **12.3.3 The provision of skills**

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

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

## **12.4 Care, support and guidance**

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

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

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

## **12.5 Leadership and Management**

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

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

The expanded Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be a larger school and would enable increased focus on leadership. Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to

include the Treowen site would also provide enhanced opportunities to develop leadership across the school, on both sites and would provide enhanced leadership opportunities for staff, and enhanced opportunities for improvement planning across the school.

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

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

### **12.5.2 Professional learning**

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

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

### **12.5.3 Use of Resources**

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

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

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

## **12.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

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

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

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

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

This would be further enhanced following the planned move to a brand new building.

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

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

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

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

## 13. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

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

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

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and buildings condition of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen:

School	Capacity	Current Pupils <sup>9</sup>	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	342	251	91	26.6%	C	B
Treowen CP	172	106	66	38.4%	B	B

This information shows that there is enough capacity within the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School buildings to accommodate existing and projected pupil numbers on the two sites.

The accommodation at both sites would be at least equivalent quality for current pupils until the new building is constructed, as pupils will remain on their existing sites until the new building is ready.

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

<sup>9</sup> Teacher Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

School	Capacity	Current Pupils <sup>10</sup>	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Maesyrrhandir C.P. School	214	95	119	55.6%	B/C	B/C
Penygloddfa C.P. School	312	266	46	14.7%	B	B
St Mary's RC School	117	63	54	46.2%	B	B/C

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

Welsh-medium provision is also available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. The following table provides information on Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd:

School	Capacity	Current Pupils	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	266	195	71	26.7%	A	A

Places are also available at this school for any pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision.

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

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are both English-medium community primary schools. The proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would provide continued access to community primary provision for pupils currently attending these schools. As indicated in section 13.1, there are sufficient places at the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and

<sup>10</sup> Teacher Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Treowen buildings to accommodate current and projected pupil numbers at these two schools.

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

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

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school. The Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site is approximately 0.8 miles from Treowen C.P. School, therefore whilst there would be additional travel time for all pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school, including SEN pupils, the nature of journeys and journey times would not be unreasonable, and would not exceed 45 minutes.

It is also acknowledged that Treowen C.P. School is located up a hill, which could mean that it would be less convenient for families from the Treowen estate to get to school following the move to the new building, however the additional distance is not considered to be excessive. As part of the process of developing the new building, consideration will be given to active travel arrangements, to ensure that there are safe routes for pupils to access the new building.

### **13.4 Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?**

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

terms of pupil numbers in Newtown. The following table provides the latest primary projections for all primary schools in Newtown<sup>11</sup>:

School	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	104	91	83	73	70
Treowen C.P. School	110	108	95	94	87
Penygloddfa C.P. School	301	303	306	302	297
St Mary's RC School	66	67	63	55	50
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	232	239	235	225	225
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	179	189	196	196	198
<b>Total</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>927</b>

### 13.5 Will the proposals improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010?

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

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

## 14. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

<sup>11</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2022 & Birth Rates (Reception to Year 6) – Projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available



#### **14.1 What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?**

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

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

#### **14.2 Do the proposals form part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for the Future and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?**

Plans to provide a new primary school in Newtown are included in the Council's SOP for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This is linked to wider plans to develop a multi-agency Health and Well-being campus in Newtown.

The Council intends to implement this change on a phased basis, and to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site. This is not dependent on Sustainable Communities for Learning funding.

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

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the increased rates charges for a new build which are currently estimated to be an additional £14.0k. This has been included in the delegated revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

It is also anticipated that utility costs borne by the school could rise in the new build by an estimated £20.0k.

#### **14.4 Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?**

No additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site. During this phase, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend school in the same location.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is currently projected that there would be no additional transports costs as the new building is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building.

#### **14.5 What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?**

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

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

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

However, the original SOC was based on a 270-place school, with an estimated cost of just under £12m, based on 2010 costs. It is noted that the Council would need to submit a revised SOC if the scope of the project was to change.

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

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is estimated that

the capital cost of this (including optimism bias) would be £16m, however this would be reviewed and updated as the design process moves forward.

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

**14.7 Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?**

Based on the latest information held by the Council's Finance Team<sup>12</sup>, Calon y Dderwen is projecting a cumulative surplus of £61,543 in March 2024, Treowen a projected cumulative surplus of £36,161 in March 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would result in the Treowen site becoming surplus. The Council would need to consider what to

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<sup>12</sup> August 2023

do with this site in the future. This would initially be considered through the Council's Strategic Asset Board.

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

## 15. OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

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

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would mean that pupils attending the school would need to transfer to the new site. For pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, this would require additional travel. However, the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building, so it is not expected that the additional travel required would impact on pupils' educational attainment.

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

Council would work with the school to prepare for the transition to the new building, to minimise any impact on attendance.

**15.2 Any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments**

Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the schools. However, the aim of the proposal is to improve the provision available for all pupils, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups.

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

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

**16. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES**

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

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

The preferred option is to retain the Treowen C.P. School building through the expansion of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen into a multi-sited school, until the new building is constructed for learners on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site.

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

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

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

Federation of Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has not been considered, as becoming part of a federation would not solve the key issues of surplus places and decreasing pupil numbers.

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

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

Upon transfer to the new building, the future of the Treowen site would be explored.

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

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that provision would continue to be available in Newtown. Ultimately, there would be a positive impact on the community in Newtown, through the provision of a new primary school with enhanced community facilities.

During the first phase, provision would continue on the current Treowen site, so the impact on the community would be minimal. However eventually, there would no longer be provision in Treowen. This would have a negative impact on the Treowen community and would result in the loss of primary provision in Treowen, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school.

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process in respect of the preferred option, a community impact assessment would be carried out, which would include input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community. This would be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received and would be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

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

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils.

## 17. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

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

**New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the expansion of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to incorporate the Treowen C.P. School site initially, the closure of the Treowen site with all pupils to transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen when completed.**

The reasons for this are:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment
- A larger school provides a more efficient model of education
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals – this would enable a positive transition process
- Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools
- New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act
- New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets
- Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers
- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on the proposal.

It is recommended that the consultation is on the following proposal, which would see the preferred option being implemented on a phased basis:

- **Phase 1:** Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025.
- **Phase 2:** Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to move to a new building located on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site during 2026/27, and the Treowen site closes.

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## APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

### Pupil Numbers

#### iii) Current pupil numbers<sup>13</sup>

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr6
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	40	36	44	25	34	39	33	251
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	10	15	15	9	16	14	27	106
<b>Maesyrrhandir C.P. School</b>	12	11	12	10	15	19	16	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>452</b>

#### iv) Historical pupil numbers<sup>14</sup>

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	285	270	256	264	239	231	230	230
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	132	146	146	145	131	136	135	114
<b>Maesyrrhandir C.P. School</b>	202	210	193	172	144	139	116	118
<b>Total</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>462</b>

#### v) Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)<sup>15</sup>

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	232	239	235	225	225

<sup>13</sup> Teacher Centre, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

<sup>14</sup> PLASC

<sup>15</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates (Reception to Year 6) – projections based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available

<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	110	108	95	94	87
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	104	91	83	73	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>382</b>

### Building Capacity and Condition

#### iii) Capacity

	Capacity <sup>16</sup>	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	342	251 (73.4%)	91 (26.6%)
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	172	106 (61.6%)	66 (38.4%)
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	214	95 (44.4%)	119 (55.6%)

#### iv) Building condition<sup>17</sup>

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficient
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	C - Poor	B - Satisfactory	No
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	B – Satisfactory	B - Satisfactory	Yes
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	B/C – Satisfactory Poor	B/C – Satisfactory Poor	Yes

### Standards of Education

#### i) Estyn

<sup>16</sup> Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

<sup>17</sup> Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard - 2022

	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	Treowen C.P. School	Maesyrrhandir C.P. School
<b>Date of inspection</b>	Not yet inspected	May 2018	June 2022
<b>Standards</b>	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement	N/A
<b>Wellbeing and attitudes to learning</b>	N/A	Good	N/A
<b>Teaching and learning experiences</b>	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement	N/A
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	N/A	Good	N/A
<b>Leadership and management</b>	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement	N/A
<b>Next steps</b>	N/A	School placed in Estyn Monitoring. Removed from monitoring in December 2019.	5 recommendations listed for action plan for implementation by school.

### Financial information

#### iv) Cost per pupil<sup>18</sup>

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	£986,000	£4,401	£55,000	£63,250
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	£485,000	£4,528	£38,000	£28,750

<sup>18</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/2024

<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	£538,000	£5,323	£79,000	£63,250
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,656.50	N/A	N/A

### Equalities Information

#### i) Free School Meals<sup>19</sup>

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census Day
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	36%
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	42%
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	56%

#### ii) Pupils in care<sup>20</sup>

	Number of pupils in care (rate per 100 pupils)
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	3.04
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	0
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	0

#### iii) SEN/ALN<sup>21</sup>

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
<b>Ysgol Calon y Dderwen</b>	18.6%	4.8%	0.4%
<b>Treowen C.P. School</b>	8.0%	11.2%	0.0%
<b>Maesyrhandir C.P. School</b>	20.9%	24.3%	1.7%

<sup>19</sup> PLASC 2023

<sup>20</sup> January 2023

<sup>21</sup> PLASC 2023



# Plans for Newtown Schools

## Engagement Report

July 2023



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## 1. Introduction

On the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the Council announced that it was considering expanding the new building currently being planned for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, to also include pupils attending Maesyrrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School. To help the Council understand the possible impact of this, a period of engagement was undertaken with the three school communities from the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 until the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.

As part of this, an engagement questionnaire was issued, to provide an opportunity for members of the three school communities to let the Council know their views on the possible plan. In addition, meetings were held with staff and governors at the three schools.

This report summarises the feedback received during the engagement period.

## 2. Meetings with Governors

During the engagement period, officers attended meetings with the governing bodies of the three schools.

The meetings were attended by the following Council officers:

- Lynette Lovell, Director of Education
- Marianne Evans, Service Manager, Transforming Education
- Sarah Astley, Strategic Programme Manager, Transforming Education

Notes were made outlining the issues / concerns / comments raised at these meetings. These are provided in [Appendix A](#), however a summary is provided below:

### **Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, 8th June 2023**

- Concerns about further uncertainty for staff who have already been through a merger process recently.
- Concern about the impact on space for playing and outdoor activities if there were more pupils attending the new school.
- Concerns about the availability of adequate car parking facilities to accommodate the increased number of students and staff.
- Concern about the ability of a larger school to meet the needs of all pupils.
- Concern about congestion in the area surrounding the new school if more pupils were attending, and the impact on traffic flow and safety. The health campus would add to this.
- Questions about the reference to "south of the river" in the press release that was issued.
- Queries about why other Newtown schools haven't been included in these plans.
- Concerns about pupils from the most deprived parts of town having to travel longer distances to school and its potential impact on attendance and participation.
- Concern that it would not be possible to accommodate any future increases in pupil numbers on the site.
- Queries about the possibility of an all-through Welsh-medium school being established in Newtown.
- Concern about the potential loss of the unique identities of the individual schools involved in the merger
- Concern that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's strengths would be lost

### **Treowen C.P. School, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

- Pupil numbers at Treowen have increased slightly, as new pupils have joined the school from other Newtown schools.
- Concerns about congestion, space, and safety at the site of the new building.



- A leaflet has been circulated by Cllr David Selby which suggests that decisions to move forward with these plans have already been made.
- Concern about access to the Calon y Dderwen site and road safety for pupils from the Treowen estate – there may be an impact on attendance.
- The news not well-received in Treowen, 'Treowen Action Group' formed on Facebook.
- Concerns about the ability of a larger school to meet learners needs compared to Treowen.
- Concern about a Headteacher having to manage such a large school
- Concern about potential job losses.
- Uncertainty about the future of the current Maesyrrhandir and Treowen buildings if the merger doesn't happen when Calon y Dderwen's new building opens.
- Concern about impact on Treowen School's identity and name if the merger happens.
- Concern that pupils / parents would choose other schools, not the new building, meaning that the big new building would be empty.
- Everyone knows each other at Treowen
- Concern about the ability to support children with additional needs in a larger school.
- Concern that pupil numbers in Newtown might increase in the future but there wouldn't be enough school places

#### **Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (via Teams)**

- Concern that the school's unique focus on nurture and well-being would be lost in a larger school.
- Worries about preserving Maesyrrhandir School's ethos and support for its pupils, and that pupils would be lost in a bigger school.
- Concern about families from Maesyrrhandir accessing the Calon y Dderwen site – getting pupils to school would be difficult.
- Maesyrrhandir School is unique due to its higher levels of ALN and deprivation.
- Concern about pupil transition to a larger school environment.
- Concern that it wouldn't be possible to give pupils the attention they need in larger classes due to the many different types of needs
- Concern that there could be an increase in pupil numbers in the future and there would be insufficient school places to accommodate these pupils.
- Reference to the importance of community links and safety for pupils.
- Concern that space would be limited in the proposed new building – additional space is needed for well-being and support.
- Concern about the ability to meet pupils' needs in a larger school.
- Concern about transport to the proposed new site – transport would need to be provided

- Concern about the walk to school for pupils from Maesyrrhandir – they would need to travel along a number of main roads, under the railway bridge, with high school pupils also using the path.
- Concern about staff well-being in a larger school
- Comments about the claim that "no children would be left behind" if the proposed merger were to go ahead – we're doing our best at Maesyrrhandir to ensure that no pupils are left behind now.
- It will be very difficult to bring the three school communities together.

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### 3. Meetings with Staff

During the engagement period, officers attended meetings with staff at the three schools.

The meetings were attended by the following Council officers:

- Marianne Evans, Service Manager, Transforming Education
- Sarah Astley, Strategic Programme Manager, Transforming Education
- Sarah Christoforou, HR Manager

Notes were made outlining the issues / concerns / comments raised at these meetings. These are provided in [Appendix B](#), however a summary is provided below:

#### Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- Questions about the timeline and decision-making process.
- Concern about impact on the well-being / morale of Calon y Dderwen staff who have already experienced a merger recently.
- Concern that there wouldn't be enough space and facilities for the proposed number of pupils on the site, given that part of the site will be occupied by the North Powys Well-being Programme.
- Would additional car parking, playground space, well-being areas also be provided if there was an increase in pupil numbers?
- It's possible that Calon y Dderwen's new building would impact on pupil numbers in other schools anyway.
- Concerns about the impact of one larger school on the community in Newtown.
- There are difficulties filling Headteacher and Deputy positions in Newtown.
- Calon y Dderwen would become a very different school if the proposed changes were to happen.
- Concern that there would be limited options for students having difficulty in a particular schools if the other schools were to close.
- Concern that staff wouldn't know the pupils and their families as well if the school increased in size
- Concern about the impact on the communities in Newtown
- Potential difficulties in accommodating pupils from future housing developments should pupil numbers in the area increase in the future.
- Comments about the importance of maintaining a nurturing and community-oriented environment.
- Need for infrastructure support and road safety for students from the other estates accessing the site.
- Concern that there would be an impact on attendance as it would be more difficult for pupils to get to school.

#### Meeting with Treowen staff – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- Concerns about pupil behaviour in one larger school.
- Would there be enough space in the new building to accommodate all pupils, and what would the impact be on playgrounds etc?
- Concern about traffic, car parking, and access to the new site.
- There would be challenges in meeting the diverse needs of pupils in a larger school.
- Concern about what would happen if there was an increase in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future.
- Concern about pupils being able to access the new site – lots currently walk to school.
- Potential impact on staff and job security.
- Concerns about divisions among parents from different communities.
- Questions about what would happen to the current school buildings and community groups using the premises.
- Concerns about the transition and the impact on pupils and families.
- Request for fair treatment of the staff at all schools as the process moves forward.

### **Meeting with Maesyrrhandir staff – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023**

- Concerns about safe routes and accessibility to the new building if the school was located further away.
- Worries about traffic and car parking at the site of the new building.
- View that Maesyrrhandir School is unique and should be retained.
- Request for examples and evidence of successful similar plans.
- Queries about staff numbers and the support that would be required in a larger school.
- Questions about what would happen to nursery provision.
- The school has worked hard to build relationships with families, this would be lost.
- Concern about the walk to school for pupils
- Concern about any increase in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future.
- Worries about the impact on well-being in a larger school setting.
- Request that all schools are treated fairly in the decision-making process.
- Concern that pupils would be lost in a larger school.
- There aren't currently any suitable bus routes to enable parents to access the town centre site.
- Concern that there would be a negative impact on pupil attendance if the school was further away.
- It's vital that pupils' needs and the impact on them is considered.
- Concern about the impact on staff well-being from having to teach larger classes.
- Concern about loss of community engagement and support.
- Emphasis on the importance of relationships and personalized care at Maesyrrhandir.

- Concern about the financial situation of families currently attending Maesyrrhandir School and how any change to the school could impact on this.

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## 4. Questionnaire

As part of the engagement exercise, an online questionnaire was issued, which was available on the Council's engagement website throughout the engagement period.

A total of 301 responses were received.

The following section summarises the feedback received in the response forms which were completed.

### Part 1 – About You

#### 1. Please indicate how you are responding to this questionnaire:

Response	Calon y Dderwen	Treowen	Maes-yrhandir	Other	Total
Parent, carer or guardian	81	67	35	3	186 (62%)
Prospective parent, carer or guardian	2	4	1	5	12 (4%)
Pupil	0	2	3	0	5 (2%)
Governor	3	2	1	2	8 (3%)
Member of staff	13	6	5	0	24 (8%)
Member of the community	5	14	7	22	48 (16%)
Other	7	6	3	2	18 (6%)
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>111 (37%)</b>	<b>101 (34%)</b>	<b>55 (18%)</b>	<b>34 (11%)</b>	<b>301</b>

### Part 2 – The Council's plans for Newtown schools

The responses provided to this part of the questionnaire have been broken down by the school the respondents indicated they were associated with.

#### i) Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

4. What do you think would be the benefits if the Council was to move forward with the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrhandir and Treowen schools?

111 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

### **Benefits**

15 of the 111 responses outlined potential benefits associated with the Council's plan. These are as follows:

**i) Improved facilities**

- Improved facilities and equipment in a new, larger school

**ii) Benefitting a wider population of children**

- Potential benefits associated with having a diverse pupil population attending one school

**iii) Potential reduction in costs**

- Potential reduction in staffing costs
- Potential reduction in administration

**iv) School funding / financial motivations**

- The plan would save money for the local council
- Financial benefits for the council, including land for sale and cost savings
- Potential better funding allocation for a larger school

### **Other comments**

Although the question asked respondents to outline the potential benefits associated with the plan, many respondents responded to this question by outlining concerns related to the plan. These are summarised below:

**v) Negative impact on pupils**

- Concern about disruption to children's learning
- Larger class sizes would affect individual attention and support
- Potential reduction in resources and provisions for pupils with additional learning needs
- Concerns about children getting "lost" in a larger school

**vi) Negative impact on the community**

- Reduced green space and land for the community
- Negative impact on the heart of the community (local schools)
- Increased traffic and congestion in the area
- Belief that the merger would not benefit anyone

**vii) Concern about the possible impact on the provision at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen**

- Fear that the quality of teaching at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be affected
- Worries about losing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's unique approach

**viii) Other concerns**

- This is just a cost cutting exercise for the Council

**5. What concerns do you have about the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrhandir and Treowen schools?**

111 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Concern about the impact on pupils of attending a larger school**

- Larger class sizes would impact on the support provided to individual pupils.
- Negative impact on pupils with additional learning needs.
- Reduced access to outdoor learning spaces and green areas.
- Loss of the personal care and support pupils receive in a smaller school environment.
- Potential for children falling through the system and not receiving adequate support.
- Possible negative effects on children's wellbeing in a larger and more overwhelming school environment.
- Potential difficulty in meeting the diverse needs of all pupils with larger class sizes.

**ii) Traffic and parking issues**

- Congestion and lack of parking in the area, leading to traffic problems.

**iii) Concern about the impact on staff**

- Impact on staff mental wellbeing due to the merger process and potential job losses.
- Concerns about increased stress on teachers and staff due to larger class sizes and increased workload.

**iv) Community identity**



- Loss of identity and the close-knit community feeling of individual schools.
- Fear that a larger school would lose its family and nurturing environment.

**v) Land and facilities**

- Concern about the amount of land available for the new school building and the impact on outdoor learning opportunities.
- There needs to be adequate green space for children's development and wellbeing.
- Uncertainty about the proposed health hub.
- Potential loss of green spaces and negative effects on children's exposure to nature.

**vi) Location and access**

- Concern about the distance some children would have to walk to reach the new school.
- There would be a negative impact on the community's ability to access the school conveniently.
- Safety concerns related to children's commute to and from school.
- Potential issues with traffic and transportation due to the location of the proposed school.

**vii) Other concerns**

- Dissatisfaction with how the process has been handled and communicated to staff and the community.
- Perceived focus on cost-saving rather than considering the wellbeing and needs of pupils and staff.

**6. Are there any other local issues the Council will need to take into consideration when considering whether or not to move forward with increasing the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

111 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Traffic and parking concerns**

- Traffic on Park Street will be horrendous, causing issues for work, doctors, medical centre, and family centre access
- Unsafe roads for children, especially with increased traffic and walking routes

**ii) Impact on students and learning**

- Need for smaller classes to accommodate children with learning disabilities.
- Concerns about bullying, students getting lost in the system, and pupil safety
- Concerns about ALN (Additional Learning Needs) provision and children with medical needs

**iii) Impact on communities and families**

- Impact on families who can't drive and would have to walk long distances, especially in bad weather.
- Concerns about breaking up communities.
- Impact on staff and potential job losses due to school consolidation.
- Concerns about elderly residents, care home, and private homes in the vicinity.

**iv) Concerns around the North Powys Wellbeing Programme**

- Concerns about the proposed health hub being on the same site as the school
- Safeguarding issues with a facility catering to a wide range of people being located near the school.

**v) Green Space and Playground**

- Concerns about loss of green space and playground for adequate exercise
- Reduced outdoor space due to the school expansion and the health hub

**vi) Size of the school**

- Concerns about the size of the school and impact on teachers and pupils
- Doubts about the viability and practicality of a "super" school

**vii) Access and transport**

- It would be difficult for parents to get their children to school, especially working parents.
- Impact on parents and children from Treowen and Maesyrrhandir in terms of travel distance and transportation options
- Need for improved transport options, such as free buses, for children coming from different estates.

**viii) Other concerns**

- Impact on house prices around Park Lane
- There is a lack of support for the proposal from staff, parents, and the local community
- Concern about the impact on play, and after-school activities

**7. Do you have any other comments?**

73 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Concerns about the impact on pupils**

- Concern that there would be a negative impact on children's learning outcomes and experiences.
- Concern about larger class sizes.
- Concern about the impact on pupil well-being
- Concern about the negative effects on children's educational needs and experiences.
- Concern about anxiety and stress associated with transitioning to a new school and potential loss of familiar environments, teachers, and friends.

**ii) Concern about the impact on staff**

- Concern about possible job losses
- Concern about staff well-being

**iii) Concerns about traffic**

- Concern that existing traffic issues and congestion could worsen.

**iv) Land related concerns**

- Concern about the reduction in outdoor space and the impact on the new curriculum that emphasises outdoor learning.
- Concern that there isn't enough land to accommodate the increased number of pupils and provide proper play areas.
- Issues with the location and size of the proposed site for the new school.

**v) General opposition to the proposal**

- Many respondents would prefer to keep the schools separate rather than merging the schools

- Disagreement with the idea of combining three schools into one "super school."
- It is not in the best interest of the students, staff, or the community.
- Concern that the plan is being driven by cost savings rather than the needs of staff, pupils and the local community.

**vi) Support for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen**

- Positive feedback about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's current environment, staff, and education.
- Support for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's headteacher and the school's unique and positive atmosphere.
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen should have a new building without any other changes.
- Ysgol Calon y Dderwen have recently been through a merger and could have the new building that was promised taken away without explanation.

**vii) Criticism of the Council**

- Criticism of the council's decision to pursue the merger without adequate information or community input.
- Disagreement with the council's priorities and perceived lack of consideration for staff, children, and families.
- Objections to the council's management, financial decisions, and focus on saving money.

**ii) Treowen C.P. School**

**4. What do you think would be the benefits if the Council was to move forward with the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

101 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**Benefits**

9 of the 101 responses outlined potential benefits associated with the Council's plan. These are as follows:

**i) Potentially more resources**

- Pupils may have access to more resources.

**ii) New building with modern facilities**

- Acknowledgment of a potential benefit of having a new building with modern facilities.

**iii) Potential cost-saving for the Council**

- References to a potential cost-saving for the council.

**Other comments**

Although the question asked respondents to outline the potential benefits associated with the plan, many respondents responded to this question by outlining concerns related to the plan. These are summarised below:

**iv) Impact on pupils**

- Concerns about the detrimental impact on pupils
- Worries that merging schools may lead to a loss of quality education and support for struggling students.
- The proposed plan would mean that staff and teachers would not be so familiar with the pupils.

**v) Impact on the community**

- Fears that Treowen school's closure would negatively impact the community.
- Emphasis on the importance of community connection and accessibility.

**vi) Smaller schools are preferred**

- Smaller schools should be maintained.
- Belief that smaller schools are beneficial for children's development.

**5. What concerns do you have about the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

101 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Impact on pupils**

- Concern that children's needs would not be met in larger school and that children with additional needs will not get proper support
- Concern that children with autism or social anxiety will struggle in bigger settings
- Concern that larger class sizes would mean that pupils would get less attention from teachers

- Concern that pupils that need additional help would not get the help and support they need
- Concern that pupils would have a less personalised education
- Concern that bullying would go unnoticed in larger classes
- Concerns that there would be a negative impact on children's education
- Concern that students would not receive the same level of education and attention
- Concern that learning experiences would be affected in larger schools
- Concern that there would be an impact on children's mental health and well-being
- Concerns about how children with behavioural issues may struggle in bigger schools
- Concern about how children with social anxiety, autism, ADHD, or other mental health problems would cope in larger environments
- Impact on the sense of belonging and familiarity for pupils

**ii) Impact on the community and local identity**

- Concerns about a loss of community spirit and local identity if schools are merged
- Smaller schools are important for community bonding and relationships
- Concerns about loss of community spirit and bonding within the local area
- Worries about the effect on parents and the community if the school is closed
- Fears that the community would fall apart if the school is moved or closed
- Concern about the loss of smaller school culture and the supportive family environment provided by smaller schools

**iii) Accessibility and transport**

- Concerns about walking distances for students living further away from the new school
- Issues with traffic, parking, and safety during school pick-up and drop-off
- Accessibility challenges for children with physical disabilities or health issues

**iv) Impact on staff and jobs**

- Concerns about staff job losses and increased workload
- Staff would potentially be less satisfied in larger school environments
- Queries about how staffing will be managed in a larger school

**v) Finances and funding**

- Worries about the financial motive behind the possible merger of the schools

- Concerns about budget cuts affecting the quality of education

**vi) Infrastructure / new facilities / buildings**

- Concerns about the new building's size, location, and lack of space
- Worries about the inadequate infrastructure and surroundings for a larger school
- Concern that there would be a lack of green space and outdoor areas

**6. Are there any other local issues the Council will need to take into consideration when considering whether or not to move forward with increasing the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

101 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Impact on pupils**

- Concerns about class sizes and the quality of education in larger schools.
- Worries about the well-being of children transitioning from small schools to larger ones.
- Implications for children's mental health and possible increased stress or anxiety.

**ii) Accessibility and transport**

- Difficulties for parents and children with disabilities to access the new school.
- Concerns about increased travel time, especially for those without cars or with mobility issues.
- Issues with public bus transport, particularly for those living on hills with mobility challenges.
- Safety concerns related to busy roads and hazardous conditions in winter.
- Concern about the cost of transport.
- Concern about increased pollution and increased carbon emissions due to more car usage.

**iii) Impact on the community**

- Worries about losing the sense of community and relationships between families and neighbours.
- Impact on local community spaces, like the community centre and access to multi-agency work.
- Fear that the closure of the school will lead to more housing development and potential negative consequences for the area.

**iv) Traffic and parking**

- Concerns about increased traffic congestion, especially in town areas.
- Challenges with parking around the new school site and the impact on safety.
- Worries about traffic accidents and risks for pupils and the public during school hours.
- Worries about potential hazards, such as traffic accidents, along busy roads near the new school site.

**v) Other suggestions**

- Suggestions to merge different schools or consider other options like merging Penygloddfa with Calon y Dderwen.

**vi) Other concerns**

- Worries about losing the link between Treowen Flying Start and the school, impacting transitions for younger children.

**7. Do you have any other comments?**

76 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Impact on pupils**

- It will be more difficult to meet the needs of individual pupils in a larger school.
- Concern about the impact on children's well-being.
- Concern about the impact on children's education and development.
- Belief that a smaller school offers a more supportive environment for children's development.
- Smaller community schools are better suited to meet children's needs.
- Doubt that merging schools would result in a better education, with concerns about larger class sizes and issues going undetected.

**ii) Concern about the impact on families**

- Concern that merging the schools would cause stress for families
- It would be more difficult for parents to deal with longer commutes and crossing dangerous roads

**iii) Comments about Treowen School**

- Pupils / the school community have an emotional attachment to the school
- The school plays an important role in fostering a strong sense of community



**iv) Criticism of the Council**

- The council's focus is on cost-saving rather than considering children's interests.
- Accusations of incompetence and lack of understanding from those proposing the merge.
- Suspicion that the council is prioritizing financial gain over the well-being of students.

**v) Other comments**

- Reference to negative experiences with school mergers in other areas, suggesting that similar outcomes may occur in this case.

**iii) Maesyrrhandir C.P. School**

**4. What do you think would be the benefits if the Council was to move forward with the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

55 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**Benefits**

7 of the 55 responses outlined potential benefits associated with the Council's plan. These are as follows:

**i) Larger school may have better resources**

- Potential for better resources in a larger school.
- The idea that a bigger school might offer more opportunities, classes, and equipment.

**ii) Communities will mix together**

- There is potential for greater integration and mixing of communities in a larger school.

**iii) The proposal could lead to more funding**

- Merging schools could lead to more funding for a single larger school.

**Other comments**

Although the question asked respondents to outline the potential benefits associated with the plan, many respondents responded to this question by outlining concerns related to the plan. These are summarised below:

**iv) Negative impact on pupils**

- There would be no benefits to children from merging the schools.
- Negative impact on children's well-being and transition to high school.
- Concerns about disruption for children receiving ALN support.
- Fear that merging schools would negatively affect ALN services and care.
- Concern about children having to walk longer distances to school.
- Concerns about the well-being and emotional impact on children and families.
- Concern about children having to move to a different school.

**v) Negative impact on the community**

- Belief that closing the smaller schools would be a loss to the community.
- Worries that merging would ruin the unique and special atmosphere of smaller schools.
- There would be a negative impact on the community.

**vi) Comments about funding / finance**

- The perception that the council's motivation is to save money through merging.
- Suggesting that the council sees the proposal as a cost-cutting venture.
- Criticism of the lack of renovations and improvements in current schools.
- Fears of funding cuts for smaller schools due to declining student numbers.
- Investing in existing schools would be a better approach.

**5. What concerns do you have about the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrhandir and Treowen schools?**

55 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Impact on pupils**

- Concern about the ability to meet the needs of every child attending the school.
- Concern that there would be less individual attention / support for children in larger classes.

- Concerns about attendance and engagement of pupils in a larger school.
- Concern about stress and anxiety for pupils due to changes to their routine.
- Concern about the ability of children to cope in a larger school environment, especially those with autism and ADHD.
- Concern about the ability of a larger school to meet the needs of pupils with additional needs

**ii) Community and sense of belonging**

- Concern about losing the sense of community and family support that exists in the current schools.
- Concern that merging schools could lead to a loss of community spirit and identity in parts of Newtown.

**iii) Traffic and access issues**

- Concerns about traffic congestion and limited access points to the new school.
- Difficulties for parents with limited mobility to take their children to the new location.
- Distance and safety concerns for pupils walking to the new school.

**iv) Impact on teachers and staff**

- Fears of staff redundancies.
- Worries about job losses and the potential reduction of support staff, affecting students with additional needs.

**v) Bullying and behavioural issues**

- Concerns that larger class sizes may lead to an increase in bullying incidents and behaviour problems.
- Concern that it would be difficult to manage social issues that may arise from bringing together pupils from different schools.

**vi) Impact on small schools**

- Worries about losing the benefits of smaller schools, which offer a close-knit community feel and personalized attention for children.

**vii) Green space and facilities**

- Concerns about the availability of sufficient space and green areas in the new school.
- Worries about the adequacy of facilities to support students with additional learning needs.

**viii) Impact on parents and loss of choice**

- Concern about the impact on parents' work schedules and time spent with their children due to longer travel distances.
- Concern that the merger limits parents' options for choosing the best school for their children.

**6. Are there any other local issues the Council will need to take into consideration when considering whether or not to move forward with increasing the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrhandir and Treowen schools?**

55 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Impact on pupils**

- Concerns about maintaining the quality of education in a larger school setting.
- Concern about the impact on teacher-student relationships and emotional support.
- Concerns about the ability to provide personalized attention and intervention programs.
- Concern about the impact of the merger on children's mental health and well-being.
- Anxiety and stress for children dealing with change.
- Concern about the provision for children with additional needs and neurodiversity.
- Concern about support for children with disabilities and learning difficulties in a larger school.

**ii) Distance and Travel**

- Concern about the distance between schools and the proposed new building.
- Travel time and safety issues for children and parents.
- Traffic congestion and road access to the new school site.
- Traffic management issues in the town centre, especially during school hours.
- Impact on roads and infrastructure with increased traffic.

**iii) Community and social impact**

- Loss of community identity due to the merger of schools.
- Impact on the social cohesion of the estates served by the existing schools.

- Importance of smaller schools in providing a family-like atmosphere.

**iv) Facilities and accommodation**

- Concern about the capacity of the new building to accommodate all students.
- Questions about what would happen to the existing school buildings.
- Access to facilities like parking, car parking, and breakfast clubs.

**v) Impact on parents and working families**

- Effect on parents who may need to travel long distances or change work schedules.
- Consideration of work entitlements and support for working parents.
- Impact on parents' mental health and stress due to changes in routine and uniform.

**vi) Financial and economic considerations**

- Concerns about the cost of building a new school in the current economic climate.
- Questions about the financial motives behind the proposal.

**vii) Other comments**

- Concern about the suitability of the proposed school location
- Consideration of the need for schools in growing residential areas.

**7. Do you have any other comments?**

45 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Concern about the impact on pupils**

- Worries about the impact of merging the schools on the children's education and well-being.
- Concern about disruption to pupils
- Concern about children's safety when walking long distances, especially in adverse weather conditions.
- Concerns about bullying and conflicts between high school and primary school students during travel.
- The importance of considering children's perspectives and allowing them to have a say in the decision.

**ii) Comments about support for pupils with ALN**

- Calls for better support for children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and neurodiverse children.
- Concerns that merging schools could negatively impact support for children with disabilities.
- Suggestions for training staff to understand and support children with ALN and diverse needs.

**iii) Concern about the impact on staff**

- Concern about job losses and the welfare of staff affected by the changes

**iv) Impact on the local community**

- Concern about the loss of a sense of community and the disruption caused by uprooting children from their familiar schools and teachers.
- The significance of schools as community hubs and their importance to the local area.
- Concerns about the loss of community identity with the merger of schools.
- Potential negative effects on businesses and homes in the surrounding area.

**v) Impact on parents**

- Concerns about the increased burden of transportation costs for parents without cars.
- Worries about the difficulty for parents in getting their children to the new school.
- Impact on parents' work schedules and job opportunities due to the changes.

**vi) Alternative options**

- The Council should invest in existing schools to improve facilities and support services.
- Comments about creating an all-through Welsh school in Newtown.

**vii) Comments about Maesyrrhandir school**

- Positive experiences and testimonies about the current schools, especially Maesyrrhandir.

- Opposition to the idea of changing the schools based on personal experiences of Maesyrrhandir School.

**viii) Other comments**

- Calls for more funding to be invested in the existing smaller schools.
- Questions about the allocation of funds and resources for the proposed merged school.

**iv) Other schools**

**4. What do you think would be the benefits if the Council was to move forward with the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

34 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**Benefits**

20 of the 34 responses outlined potential benefits associated with the Council's plan. These are as follows:

**i) More funding would be available / cost benefits**

- More funds available for better opportunities in one school.
- Benefit in terms of cost savings for the council.
- One site, one location for reduced building and running costs.
- Economies of scale in education spending.

**ii) One school would be easier for parents**

- Easier for parents with children attending different schools.

**iii) Better facilities and resources**

- Better facilities and resources for students to learn.
- Improved infrastructure and outdoor space for enhanced learning.
- Consistent approach to teaching and resources.

**iv) Potential to create a dedicated unit for additional needs**

- A unit for additional needs could be created in the new school.

**v) Potential to create a consistent approach to teaching**

- Consistent approach to teaching and resources.

**vi) Positive experience for pupils**

- Larger friendship groups and more experiences for children.

**Other comments**

Although the question asked respondents to outline the potential benefits associated with the plan, many respondents responded to this question by outlining concerns related to the plan. These are summarised below:

**vii) Traffic and parking concerns**

- Fear of increased congestion due to more students and staff.
- Negative impact on nearby residents.

**viii) Perception around financial motive / cost savings**

- Perception that it is a cost-saving measure for the council.
- Doubt about the real benefits for children and educators.

**ix) Lack of benefits for the community**

- No perceived benefits for the community or affected families.
- Limited benefits for the children, educators, and community.
- Uncertainty or lack of conviction about potential benefits.

**5. What concerns do you have about the idea to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrhandir and Treowen schools?**

34 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Traffic and transportation**

- Increased traffic on roads, especially around the new site.
- Insufficient pavements and safe foot and cycle paths.
- Concerns about safety and congestion in the town centre.
- Difficulty in transportation for children living on the outskirts of Newtown.
- Potential impact on emergency response times due to traffic bottlenecks.

**ii) Impact on current pupils**

- Disruption to pupils.
- Potential dilution of relationships between students and staff.



- Negative impact on children with special educational needs (SEN).
- Concern about the level of support that would be provided for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).
- Concerns about larger class sizes and less individual attention for students.
- Worries about the school becoming too big and impersonal.
- Fear of overwhelming pupils in a larger school.

**iii) Impact on staff**

- Concerns about losing jobs and staff cuts.
- Concerns about potential job losses due to the merging of schools.

**iv) Community and identity**

- Loss of community-driven schools and community hubs.
- Potential loss of community events and bonding between families.
- Negative effects on crime rates, mental health, and community strength.

**v) Comments / concerns about the site**

- Questions about the capacity of the site to accommodate a larger school.
- Worries about insufficient outdoor space and grounds for physical activity.
- Questions about the maximum capacity the council would allow on the site.
- Uncertainty about whether future expansion would be possible and potential need for temporary buildings.

**6. Are there any other local issues the Council will need to take into consideration when considering whether or not to move forward with increasing the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools?**

34 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Traffic and transport**

- Impact on road infrastructure and potential safety issues.
- Concerns about traffic bottlenecks and road capacity.
- Safety implications for children walking or cycling to the new site.
- Concerns about the long-term impact on traffic and transportation in the area.

- Concerns about the area's capacity to handle more traffic.
- Consideration needs to be given to pick-up areas and buses as potential solutions to congestion.

**ii) Impact on current pupils**

- Concerns about taking pupils out of their community and current place of education.
- Concern about the welfare of children.

**iii) Impact on staff**

- Concern about staff well-being.
- Concern about the loss of jobs for teachers and staff.
- Concerns about finding appropriate staff for the new school.

**iv) Impact on the community and local residents**

- Impact on local residents, particularly regarding increased traffic.
- Potential alienation of residents due to the new school's location.
- Negative impact on the existing community ethos.

**v) Other comments / concerns**

- There is a need to ensure that there are well-equipped facilities and outdoor areas for learning and play
- Request for more transparency in the council's proposal.

**7. Do you have any other comments?**

20 respondents provided a response. The responses received are summarised below:

**i) Concern about the future use of the current buildings**

- What will happen to the existing school buildings if they are no longer used as schools?
- Worries about leaving the current school buildings to rot or be vandalized.

**ii) Comments about the impact on the community**

- Concerns about removing the heart of the community and the impact on younger people.
- Concerns about the rise in anti-social behaviour due to the removal of community spaces.

**iii) Queries / comments about the process**

- Questions about why Maesyrrhandir and Treowen were chosen for the possible merger.
- A far-reaching and thorough consultation process is needed before making any changes.

**iv) Other comments**

- It's important that each school's unique ethos, vision, and policies are preserved.
- Why try to change something that isn't broken?
- Concern that there would be a social divide and stigma based on which school children attend.
- Concern about loss of choice of schools in the future.
- Reference to the importance of smaller schools for families in deprived areas.
- Need for careful consideration of traffic management, particularly at pick-up/drop-off times.
- Reference to the Welshpool school merger and its reception in the community.

### **Part 3 – Equalities**

#### **8. How old are you?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Under 16	6	2.0%
16-24	11	3.7%
25-34	105	35.6%
35-44	91	30.8%
45-54	37	12.5%
55-64	19	6.4%
65-74	10	3.4%
75-84	1	0.3%
85+	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	15	5.1%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### **9. What is your gender?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	42	15.1%
Female	235	84.5%
Gender Fluid	1	0.4%
Non-Binary	0	0.0%
Gender Neutral	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	0	0.0%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### **10. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	80	27.4%
No	161	55.1%
Prefer not to say	51	17.5%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	89	30.4%
No	103	35.2%
Prefer not to say	27	9.1%
Not applicable	74	25.3%

<b>Total responses</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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**12. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	63	21.5%
No	124	42.3%
Prefer not to say	35	11.9%
Not applicable	71	24.2%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**13. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	30	10.2%
No	232	78.6%
Prefer not to say	33	11.2%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**14. What is your ethnic group?**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	265	90.4%
Asian	4	1.4%
Black, African or Caribbean	2	0.7%
Mixed	3	1.0%
Gypsy/Traveller	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	19	6.5%
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 5. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the responses, it is evident that there are various concerns and opinions among the community regarding the proposal to increase the size of the replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to also accommodate pupils from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen schools.

Whilst some possible benefits were identified by some respondents, the proportion of respondents that identified possible benefits was fairly small in comparison with the number of respondents that identified concerns.

The possible benefits that were identified included the following:

- Ability for more pupils to benefit from the new facilities
- Improved resources
- More funding
- The ability to provide education more efficiently

Whilst slightly different concerns were raised by respondents associated with the different schools, many of the concerns raised were similar across the three schools. The concerns raised included the following:

The concerns that were identified included the following:

- Concern about the impact on pupils
- Concern about the impact on staff attending the three schools, due to uncertainty and potential job losses
- Concern about the impact on the local communities within Newtown
- Concern that the proposed new school would be too big and would be unable to meet the needs of pupils, particularly pupils with ALN
- Concern that it would be more difficult for pupils currently attending Maesyrrhandir and Treowen to access the new site, which could impact on attendance
- Concern about the impact on traffic in Newtown and congestion in the area around the school site
- Concern that the site wouldn't be large enough to accommodate all pupils, particularly as the North Powys Well-being Centre will also be located on the site

## Appendix A – Meetings with Governors

### Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, 8th June 2023

The following is a summary of the comments made by Calon y Dderwen governors on the Council's possible plan:

- Concern about more uncertainty for staff, job security
- Heads and deputies jobs in Newtown not being filled – that's concerning
- Concern about the impact on space for playing
- Concern about car parking
- Concern about congestion in the area
- Concern about the wording of the press release – reference to south of the river
- There were other schools that could have been considered – why is it only these three schools?
- Concern about pupils from the most deprived parts of town having to travel the furthest – what about the impact on attendance etc?
- What happens if there is an increase in pupil numbers in the future and there is no more room to expand on this site?
- All-through Welsh-medium – is that still on the cards? If that happened that might mean the Dafydd Llwyd building would be empty.
- Could an all-through school be located on the college site as they are asset stripping?
- Pupil numbers are up in Calon y Dderwen – this is thanks to the pre-school, the team at the school, the energy
- Concern about the schools losing their identities
- Could there be a middle ground? Shared management? Campus feel?
- What would happen in terms of early years provision? It's currently a strength for this school that the early years is located in Trehafren, Maesyrrhandir
- Concern about how the changes that need to be made to the design would work within the same footprint.
- Funding – would there be more funding for a bigger building?
- Congestion is a massive concern – footpaths and active travel etc might be needed
- Well-being centre will bring even more traffic
- Would one ALNCo be enough to cover 420 pupils? Particularly if the pupils were on different sites.
- Concern about the other schools – how would the teachers, staff at the other schools feel about potentially losing their identity?
- Headteacher roles aren't currently being filled in Newtown – that sends a message.
- As a school we have a track record of successfully creating a new school. There are massive strengths in the other schools though and it's important that these would be able to continue

- As a governing body, we'd be looking for certainty that our staff would have certainty beyond any date when the schools merge, if this was to happen
- Concern about parents having to buy new uniforms if there was a new uniform
- A request for the Portfolio Holder / Cabinet member to visit the 3 schools
- Can there be a discussion about the size of the health hub etc?
- Concern that if Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was expanded, it may not feel / look like Ysgol Calon y Dderwen any more

### **Treowen C.P. School, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

The following is a summary of the comments made by Treowen governors on the Council's possible plan:

- Current pupil numbers at Treowen are slightly higher than the latest numbers you have – some new pupils have joined the school recently, most of these are from within Newtown
- Concern about congestion around the site of the new building
- Concern about squeezing so many children on to the site, as well as the Health Board development
- You say that no decisions have been made, however a leaflet has been sent out by Cllr David Selby which makes it sound like it's a done deal
- Concern about access to the site from Treowen
- Concern about safety getting to the site – road safety measures will need to be put in place
- Some pupils already struggle to get to school on time when they live on the estate
- The news has not been very well received in the local community. A meeting for the community was held last night, and a 'Treowen Action Group' page has been set up on Facebook
- Concern that the new school would be too big and wouldn't be able to meet the learners needs – their needs are met at Treowen
- Concern that it would be a lot for a Headteacher to take on a school of that size
- Concern about the impact on school staff – they could lose their jobs. Do you know how many jobs would be lost?
- If there is going to be a new building in the centre of town, the other schools may lose pupils anyway. If the plan to bring all three schools into the new building doesn't go ahead, what does that mean for the existing buildings at Maesyrhandir and Treowen? They still need investment.
- Concern that the plan has been presented to us as a 'merger', but it's been reported in the press as 'closure'
- What would happen to Treowen School's identity if this went ahead? Would the school name still be Calon y Dderwen?
- Treowen School is a close, nurturing community, everyone has a rough idea about every child, even if they don't work closely with them. Children feel safe at the school, and so do the parents. Lots of the parents came to school here



themselves. We pull families who live across town into this community. 'Team Treowen' ethos.

- What happens if parents choose for their children to go to other schools, not the new, big school, and you end up with a big empty school?
- We're very lucky to have a community centre across the road. We work well with them, we have very good links with them.
- We have quite a lot of children that have additional needs but don't qualify for extra funding. They need small groups – how are you going to ensure these needs are met in a larger school? We haven't got the money to provide 1:1 support now.
- Isn't this discriminatory to those north of the river?
- Pupil numbers in Newtown might be decreasing now, but what happens if demographics change in the future and there are more pupils in Newtown? Or if some of the schools in nearby villages close?
- There were conversations a few years ago about merging Maesyrrhandir and Treowen, this wasn't a very popular idea then, so why are you now thinking about adding another school in?
- Need to ensure that the process isn't dragged out
- Concern that no meeting is being held for parents – although they can give their views via a questionnaire, they won't get responses to their queries.
- Concern that the news that this is being considered will put parents off coming here, and that we will have difficulty filling posts we need to fill
- Concern about the timing of sharing this information – Headteachers were told just before half term
- Concern about the well-being of staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen as they have already gone through a merger process where they have been concerned about the future of their jobs
- Concern about additional money being spent on exploring this idea when it could be put into school budgets
- We have close links with the community, we hold a school fair where people from the community come in and do stalls, children can go over the road to the farm to learn about animals, we visit Bethshan. The children will miss out on things like this if you move the school.
- Queries about accessibility in the new building – is there disabled access throughout?

### **Maesyrrhandir C.P. School, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (via Teams)**

The following is a summary of the comments made by Maesyrrhandir governors on the Council's possible plan:

- The school has worked hard on nurture, well-being because of the level of need in school – the staff have had to do this because of who the children / families are that attend the school – this makes the school unique. Concern that this would be lost if the schools were merged to create a larger school

- Concern that children would be lost because you can't have the same ethos across a big school as there currently is at Maesyrrhandir
- The pupils that come to this school are Maesyrrhandir children. Getting families out of the locality – Maesyrrhandir – would be a battle
- Maesyrrhandir School is more unique than others – high level of ALN, deprivation, skilled staff managing / meeting the needs of pupils
- Concern about pupils moving to a larger school environment
- Whilst pupil numbers at the school have dropped, there are houses due to open across the road which could impact on this.
- It's very difficult to project pupil numbers in Maesyrrhandir, however numbers do seem to be increasing with the introduction of Flying Start
- We are a community school – parents feel safe coming to us for other things, not just education
- We attract pupils that struggle elsewhere
- Concern about what would happen to the community of Maesyrrhandir if the school wasn't there.
- Concern about attendance if the school was further away from where pupils live
- Many safeguarding issues need to be dealt with on a daily basis, keeping on top of this in a larger school would be a concern
- Concern about pupils being in larger classes – it's not possible to give pupils the attention they need in a large class of 30 due to the many different needs we have to meet
- Many of the pupils need more specialist provision after leaving Maesyrrhandir – they go from Maesyrrhandir to Cedewain.
- The school provides a unique role in the cluster and the community – pupils have transferred here because of the support provided here, when they haven't managed in a mainstream school.
- Concern about how well Maesyrrhandir pupils would do in a larger school / larger classes without the support they get here.
- Concern about the distance to the proposed location – our family liaison officer often has to go and pick children up from their homes. Many children bring themselves to school – there are safety implications if the school was further away
- The school is a safe place for the community as well as the pupils
- Since the community centre was lost, the school has become somewhere the community can come for advice. It's taken a long time to build those relationships, to build trust
- If the proposed merger is going to happen, we would want to know that the needs of all pupils are going to be met.
- If a bigger building, other spaces as well as classrooms would need to be thought about – is there enough space for wellbeing, nurture etc?
- Even though there are surplus places in this school, all the space is being used – even with the pupil numbers we've currently got, we use all the space to provide well-being areas, areas to meet pupils needs

- Space is a big concern – space is vital to ensure the needs of all pupils are met.
- If the move is going to happen, transport must be provided – not just for the first year or so, this would have to continue
- Currently, not many pupils are having to cross main roads to get to Maesyrrhandir – this would change, it would be more dangerous to get to the other site
- Concern about pupils with ASD, ADHD, behaviour issues in mainstream provision – there is a higher level of need since the pandemic
- Concern that pupils' needs won't be met in a larger school – some thrive in a smaller school / classroom. How are the needs of pupils going to be met in a huge school?
- The quality at Maesyrrhandir is excellent, why would you want to lose that?
- The journey to school would change – pupils would need to travel along a number of main roads, under a narrow railway bridge, with high school pupils also using the same path – it will be really busy just at the time they will also be travelling to school – currently pupils have a safe journey to school, that may not be the case in the future.
- Some form of transport would need to be provided for families from this area, this would have to be funded from somewhere – our parents would not be able to afford to pay for transport to school
- Concern that the journey to school / a lack of transport would have an impact on attendance
- Concern that people are coming into the school and telling staff that the school will be flattened within 5 years – this makes it sound like it is a done deal, and also has a negative impact on staff morale
- Concern about staff and headteacher well-being in a bigger school – how will they cope with the amount of extra duties they will have to cope with when there are less staff?
- Being a teacher / member of staff in Maesyrrhandir is different to other schools – the teachers don't get an ALN allowance because we're not a special school, but the workload here is very different to any other school – the staff love working here, and they work really hard with the children
- The school's curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of the community – we worked really hard on this
- The press release that was sent out said that 'no children will get left behind' – we are ensuring now that pupils don't get left behind, the concern is that they would get left behind in a larger school
- Maesyrrhandir families are isolated from the rest of Newtown – concern that combining all the communities would do more harm than good, that the Maesyrrhandir families will be starting on a lower foot. Ensuring no one gets left behind will be impossible when trying to cater for three communities at the same time.
- Concern about the vast differences between the communities in Newtown, and how these could all be brought together.

- Concern about moving forward by closing Maesyrrhandir and Treowen and expanding Calon y Dderwen to protect Calon y Dderwen who have already been through a merger – wouldn't want Maesyrrhandir or Treowen to lose their identity. It would be difficult for two school communities to join an already established school – Maesyrrhandir or Treowen shouldn't come second to Calon y Dderwen.
- Will you be speaking to pupils as part of this process?
- Parental questionnaire – many of our parents don't have online access. Can we provide a list of concerns raised by parents?
- What happened to the Welsh-medium secondary idea, and the idea to move Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd out to a new all-through school, and move Maesyrrhandir and Treowen into that building?

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## Appendix B – Meetings with Staff

### Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The following is a summary of the comments made by Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff on the Council's possible plan:

- What is the timeline? When will we know if any proposals will be taken forward?
- If nothing goes forward, what would that mean for the timeline for the build?
- As you are talking about increasing the size of Calon y Dderwen's new building, does that mean Calon y Dderwen would stay?
- What would it mean for Calon y Dderwen staff who have already been through a merger process?
- We've been through this process before, staff at the other schools haven't, so why should they be protected, particularly when the decrease in pupil numbers might mean that their schools would close anyway?
- We know that you understand what we have already been through with the merger that has already happened, but do the politicians that will be making the decisions? Can you ensure that this is conveyed to them?
- A lot of work has already gone into establishing this new school, developing the new logo, values etc – it would be a total waste if this school was to close so that another new school could be established.
- Concern about the well-being and mental health of staff – can't imagine the impact that going through this again would have on staff in what's a challenging job anyway.
- Has there been a calculation on how many square metres of space are needed for the number of pupils you are planning for? The size of our site is already being cut in half, I can't imagine another 150 pupils at breaktimes.
- Would additional car parking, playground areas / space, well-being areas also be provided if the building's capacity was increased?
- Concern about the plan to bring all children south of the river together in one school – this would mean all the children from the more deprived areas coming together in one school. Concern that this would result in massive behavioural issues.
- Some of our children haven't had a successful time and have been moved either to this school or from this school to a different school and they have had a second chance – however if this plan happens, there won't be any other options for pupils.
- When a new school building opens, it attracts pupils so potentially there would be a significant decrease in pupil numbers in other schools anyway.
- We are struggling to fill headteacher and deputies roles in Newtown and beyond. The proposed plan would help to address this.
- Calon y Dderwen staff have chosen to work here because of the school, however if the plans happened, it would become a very different school.

Would the staff that are currently working here still want to work here? Would people want to send their children to that school?

- There are some big housing developments in Newtown – I don't know if 420 will be big enough to accommodate all pupils, I think it would need to be nearer 500 pupils.
- If the plan to close the other two schools does happen, there would be space available in Maesyrrhandir and Treowen. Couldn't one of these sites be used for the Health development, which would mean that more of the Calon y Dderwen site would be available for the school?
- If the two sites were sold off to build more housing, where are pupils going from these houses going to go to school as there wouldn't be enough places.
- Penygloddfa is too small for the amount of children that want to go there, but it seems that we aren't learning from this, and are now planning to do the same again and build a school that is too small for the number of pupils.
- Is there potential for the Health development to move from the site to a different site out of town?
- Wouldn't want the school to have to move to a site out of town to be able to accommodate more pupils.
- We know the pupils at this school and their families. Concern that if there were 420 pupils at the school, this wouldn't be the case. It would be less personal, more clinical, like a high school.
- Currently the Headteacher of this school knows every pupil, their names, their family – this means that they are approachable. If the school was bigger, they wouldn't be able to have this type of relationship with every family in a larger school.
- Concern that moving forward with this would destroy three communities
- We did a lot of work and research when we were establishing the new school, when we were considering the school name, the logo etc. We did a lot of work with parents, which kept them on board. Parents feel warmth, because of the experiences they and their children have had through Ladywell and Hafren, and now Calon y Dderwen.
- We are a nurturing school – we nurture the children and the families.
- We have excellent teachers, TAs, support staff here. They are all great leaders. If the plan was to move forward, there is no doubt that the team of staff we have here would be more than capable to do it.
- Concern about job security is what's overriding everything at the moment. If that was overcome, then we'd start to be able think about other things related to the plan. Job security is dictating a lot of our feelings at the moment.
- Concern about increased traffic, car parking, congestion, concern that there would be no choice for pupils / parents
- Some parents don't have the privilege of being able to drive to an alternative school, so wouldn't be able to choose.
- Concern about the walk to school – what infrastructure will be put in to support this? High school pupils already use the same path and would be going in the opposite direction at the same time. A lot of children make their

own way to school, but there would be roads to cross from Maesyrrhandir and Treowen

- Maesyrrhandir and Treowen are on the doorstep for pupils living on those estates. It may be that the only reason they get to school is because it's so close
- Concern about impact on attendance if pupils had to go further to get to school
- The other schools were built in the estates because this school became too big
- If you go ahead with this, more behavioural units will be needed as some pupils won't cope in school
- The police are struggling already with behaviour issues in Newtown – this would result in more issues.
- Maesyrrhandir provide specific support to a particular group of families. This is a strength, it would be difficult to replicate this here.
- In many ways, Treowen and Calon y Dderwen are more similar – the two schools have a similar level of FSM.
- Concern about the level of need within the classrooms – a large number of TAs would be needed classes given the level of need.
- Maesyrrhandir teach very differently to Calon y Dderwen to meet the needs of the pupils in their school.
- What happens if the school is built for 300 pupils as is currently planned but more pupils than that want to come here?
- Is there an option to build a bit bigger but not the whole way? E.g. build for 350/360?
- What about the impact on the learners? They've already been impacted by Covid, the process that has already happened. The learners are already suffering because of this – teachers are attending meetings which means they can't be focussing on planning, teaching and learning.
- What is the process for making a decision? Who would make the decision?
- If the overriding sentiment is negative, can a decision still be made to proceed?
- One set of parents have already decided their children are going to Penygloddfa not Calon y Dderwen, as they don't want their children to go to the 'superschool'.
- One of the strengths of this school is its diversity – we have professional parents and also parents living in deprivation. Some parents on one end of that have said that they wouldn't want their children to go here any more if this plan was to happen.

### **Meeting with Treowen staff – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The following is a summary of the comments made by Treowen staff on the Council's possible plan:

- Is saving money the main reason for this?

- There are quite a lot of schools in Newtown, so it makes sense to think about this.
- Pupil behaviour would be a concern if the plan was to go ahead
- We have experience of pupils running away from school during the school day – in a bigger school, there would need to be a lot of staff to keep an eye on pupils
- Concern about how the pupils would get along with each other – there have been fights between pupils from different schools / estates when they have gone to high school together
- Pupil from this school moved to Maesyrrhandir but the behaviour there was overwhelming so they came back here
- Having all the pupils in one school would be a challenge due to behaviour challenges
- Would the class sizes be bigger than they are now?
- Would there be enough space? If adding more classrooms to the building, would that take away from the playgrounds?
- Concern about traffic, car parking – would there be a one way system?
- Is there an opportunity for any other changes to schools in Newtown? E.g. is there an opportunity to move the Welsh school to a different building and move in there?
- Concern about pupils getting down to the site – buggies, lots currently walk to school. Some year 5 and 6 pupils walk themselves to school so would potentially have to walk further
- What about staff? Would there be more or less staff at the new school?
- What if pupil numbers in the area increase in the future and the Council ends up not having enough places?
- If a new health hub is going to be built, what will happen to the hospital? Would the hospital site then be surplus?
- Concern that the new school would be part of a building site for a number of years whilst the health buildings are completed.
- There are lots of children with additional needs across the three schools. How could one larger school cater for all of them, and ensure that all of their needs are met?
- Concern about impact on staff that would be affected.
- Would the Headteachers of the other schools be treated the same as the Headteacher of Calon y Dderwen?
- Whilst understanding that it wouldn't be nice for Calon y Dderwen in particular as they have already been through this type of process, we would prefer for everyone to be treated fairly
- Concern that families would have to go and buy a new uniform – the current uniform is passed down and reused
- Concern that if the plan were to go ahead, there could be divisions between the parents based on the different communities
- Community groups currently use Treowen School outside school hours – where would they go if the school wasn't here?



## Meeting with Maesyrrhandir staff – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

The following is a summary of the comments made by Maesyrrhandir staff on the Council's possible plan:

- Concern about safe routes to school if there was no school in Maesyrrhandir – pupils come to school on their own or bring their younger siblings to school, concern about the safety of this if the school was further away
- Concern about car parking at the new building – it's already congested
- Maesyrrhandir School is special – we don't want to lose this
- How do we know the plan would work? Where is the example where this has happened already? How many form entry would the new school be?
- Concern that access to the site is not good.
- How many staff would be needed on the site?
- What will happen to nursery provision?
- It's already dangerous around the Calon y Dderwen site. The police are horrified about the idea of having more pupils on the site.
- If anything is going to happen, it should affect all three schools the same – it wouldn't be fair if it only affected one school
- If you were to bring only one school into the plans, how would you decide which school?
- Would you take distance into consideration when deciding which school to bring in?
- Calon y Dderwen have only just been through a merger process – can understand that they don't want to go through another one.
- Would staff at Calon y Dderwen have more assurance that staff at the other schools because they've already been through the process?
- The site has a lot of green space in the centre of town – will that all be tarmacked over? That wouldn't be very good in terms of well-being etc.
- Can't see any benefit to the plan it at the moment – Maesyrrhandir is on the edge of town, we serve an economically deprived area. At the moment, it seems that by throwing everyone into one site, more would be lost than would be gained
- From the Council's perspective, I think this is just about saving money
- Concern about the children that come to Maesyrrhandir School, and about this part of town becoming the graveyard part of town. Some pupils don't leave the estate, they don't go on trips unless the school takes them – concern that no-one will come to this part of town if the school isn't here
- The school has worked hard to build relationships with the families that come here, this has taken a long time
- Most of the staff are Thrive trained, so give the same message
- The trust that we have built up with our pupils and their families might be watered down if the school was further away.
- Before Maesyrrhandir School was built, people living on the estate went to school in the centre of town. The community was really pleased when the

school was built, as taking the little ones to school in the town centre was along way

- Concern about pupils having to go to town under the railway bridge
- If the plans are going to happen, it's important that there is enough space on the site and in the building to meet the pupils' needs
- If the plans do go further, Maesyrrhandir staff will need to be able to feed into the design process so that we can ensure that the design meets our pupils' needs
- What happens if pupil numbers increase in the future and there aren't enough places? You need to have the infrastructure in place so that pupils / families can come and live in Newtown if they want to
- Parents choice will be limited if there are no other schools in town – there is currently quite a lot of movement between schools
- Currently we are catching certain things at Maesyrrhandir with regard to our pupils' home life. The concern is that in a bigger school, the relationships won't be as strong, we won't be catching as much – how much of that will be pushed on other services e.g. GPs, the health service, social services, CAMHS, police.
- We are an important cog in the wheel in Maesyrrhandir. We are well trained, we catch lots of other things in terms of the well-being of our pupils and their families.
- Whatever happens, it's important that the provision continues to meet the needs of our pupils. The pupils here deserve the best, but is this the right answer for them?
- Concern about pupils getting lost in a larger school.
- You say that pupils will be able to benefit from the latest facilities, latest equipment in the planned new build, but this isn't what our children need. They need the small groups, the support they don't get at home.
- There's nothing you can create in a brand new school that can't be provided here
- If you can find money for the new building, why can't that money be spent here?
- Our children won't gain anything from moving to a new building that we can't provide here, but our families could lose a lot
- Concern that our pupils won't cope in a larger school – is there space in special schools for any children that won't cope?
- How would the Little Stars provision for 2 and 3 year olds be affected?
- Currently parents are backwards and forwards to school to drop off children – this would be difficult if further away
- There aren't currently any bus routes – how would parents get into town, particularly in the winter?
- Concern that if buses would available for parents to use to get to school, parents would have to pay for this
- In the winter, we often have to phone parents to see if pupils are coming to school – they won't even walk to Maesyrrhandir School in bad weather, so it's

unlikely they would walk to town in bad weather – there would be much more absence.

- Children will miss school because their parents can't afford a bus, especially in bad weather
- We are dealing with families who are making a choice as to whether to use electric or buy food – they would have no money to pay for a bus.
- The current arrangement works for Maesyrrhandir – families live near to the school.
- Some of our parents are dealing with mental health issues – some of them can't bring themselves out of the house. If the children were to miss more school, EWOs would need to be involved, so it would add to their workload, also mental health services etc.
- The decision makers only see numbers – the decisions will be made based on numbers, not on the people / the impact on the people.
- What qualifications do the people that will be making the decisions have that qualifies them to make a decision on what is best for the pupils in our town? When were they last in a classroom?
- What are the estimated savings? We would like to know about the estimated savings and costs associated with this. I expect we would be able to blow any savings out of the water with the additional costs that would arise if there was no school here e.g. health services, EWOs, police...
- We hold on to a lot of pupils here when they haven't been able to settle in other schools.
- Many pupils stay here throughout primary school, but then transfer to Cedewain instead of a mainstream secondary school.
- Concern that Maesyrrhandir pupils wouldn't cope in a bigger class of around 30 pupils?
- When we had larger class sizes in this school, there was much more staff sickness due to the difficulties associated with managing these classes. We were having to pay staff costs twice, as we were also having to pay supply costs.
- Where do pupils from other schools go at the end of year 6? How many pupils from other schools transfer to Cedewain etc, and how does this compare with Maesyrrhandir?
- Parents who have transferred to other schools go there but their needs aren't met.
- We have quite a lot of late arrivals at school – even if you put crossings etc in place for pupils to help with travel to school, what about pupils that arrive late?
- We already have plans to benefit from the new build that is happening at Cedewain, such as sports facilities, forest school, so our pupils will already be able to access new facilities.
- We have good links with the community. Hope Church do a lot for our community, they use the school as a base. The Oaks care home come to us and we go to them.
- The school is very aware of the financial situation of many of the families that come her. Our breakfasts club is free, because we understand the level of

need, and we have a high PDG. We've had pupils turning up that haven't had breakfast, so we know how important this is.

- A lot of us put our own money into the school because we are so passionate about it. We try and help with school trips etc so that children don't miss out.
- A lot of us have been here many years, we're on our second generation of pupils. We have such a connection with these pupils because we taught their parents.
- Concern that in a larger school it becomes more of a numbers game and pupils would get lost.
- The relationship the school has with the community here has taken years to build up – this would be destroyed overnight by moving to town.
- Childrens Services often speak to school staff to get to the parents, as we have a better relationships with them
- The current arrangement works at Maesyrrhandir. The school is a centre of excellence that should be replicated across Powys.
- The reality is that if this happens, and public transport is available, free transport won't be provided. In Welshpool, the bus from Oldford to the school is 75p a journey per child, that's £1.50 a day. Our families wouldn't be able to afford this.
- What happens in the future if the numbers do increase in the area? Where will they go?
- What is the Council doing to try to encourage younger people to come and live in the area to reverse the decrease in pupil numbers?
- Cllr Pete visited the school, however this was at the end of the school day, and was at short notice. Some staff felt that during the visit, he made judgements about the school that he wasn't qualified to make.
- Hope Church are working with the school. They chose to work with the school because this is the area that has the highest level of need in Newtown. This has been happening for 2 years now. Building up relationships is the hardest thing. They went door to door around the estate – over 200 houses – and are starting to get the trust of the community. Hope Church are holding a fun day on the estate this weekend, the children are so excited about this.
- Pupils at the school are very constrained in terms of what they can do because of finance.
- Money is very tight for lots of our families. We only use Parent Pay for school meals, we don't use it for trips etc because parents can't afford it – think we are the only school still doing this. We still operate mainly using cash.
- If the plans do go ahead, when would the changes happen?

**Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.**

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

<b>Service Area</b>	Schools Service	<b>Head of Service</b>	Lynette Lovell / Emma Palmer	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Clr Pete Roberts
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<b>Proposal</b>	Plans for Newtown Schools
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**Outline Summary / Description of Proposal**

The Council has been reviewing the plans to provide a replacement building for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in Newtown, to consider whether the capacity of the building could be extended to accommodate pupils from other Newtown schools, in particular Treowen and / or Maesyhandir.

A period of engagement has been carried out to gather views on this idea, and an options appraisal has been carried out. Cabinet approval is now requested to commence the statutory process on the following proposal:

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

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

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

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Richard Williams	Transforming Education Programme Officer	August 2023

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2029021	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
£	£	£	£	£	£

3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	If approved by Cabinet, it is anticipated that consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code will commence in November 2023.

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

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### 4. Impact on Other Service Areas

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

Adult Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legal and Democratic Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children's Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Property, Planning and Public Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways, Transportation and Recycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transformation and Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Digital Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Housing and Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workforce and OD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals? Yes  No

Not currently, however should the Council proceed with statutory processes to change the provision in Brecon, this would involve processing the personal details of individuals

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

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

### 4a Geographical Locations

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

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

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

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new build primary school in Newtown. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings.</p> <p>Community benefits to include opportunities for traineeships / apprenticeships are a key requirement of Sustainable Communities for Learning projects, therefore it is anticipated that these opportunities would be available as part of implementing the proposal.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><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).</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new build primary school in Newtown. This would result in more environmentally friendly buildings, which would be more energy efficient than the current buildings.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, however the distance from Treowen C.P. School to the Calon y Dderwen site is less than 1 mile. Whilst it is unlikely that pupils would be eligible for home to school transport, it is possible that the change in location would result in pupils being transported in cars to the new site.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Ensuring that suitable Active Travel routes are in place from Treowen to the Calon y Dderwen site will be an important consideration when developing the new school building. The intention would be to minimise the number of pupils being transported to school by car.</p>	<p>Good</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><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><b>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017:</b>                      Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site. It is anticipated that this would provide additional opportunities for pupils to take part in a wide range of activities to improve their physical and mental well-being, including sports activities.</p> <p>Eventually, the proposal would lead to a new build primary school in Newtown. Moving to a brand new building from the current poor quality buildings would have a positive impact on the well-being and morale of both pupils and staff.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b>                      Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to initially include the current Treowen site, before moving to a new school in the future.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that eventually, this would mean that there would be no primary provision in Treowen, which would impact on the community in Treowen.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Opportunities to use the Treowen school site to provide new community facilities to be considered.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>



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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><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><b>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</b></p> <p><b>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b>                      The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The aim of implementing the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities to learners, enabling them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>If approved by Cabinet, the Council will carry out consultation on the proposal, which would include consultation with all pupils affected by the proposal, ensuring that all affected by the plans have the opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Good</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.  <i>Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards</i></p>				

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language	<p>Both schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language.</p> <p>Welsh-medium education is available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's new building when it opens instead of choosing Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is itself located in a new building provided by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. As Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is closer to Treowen than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it is possible that some pupils would choose to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the future, instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i></p>	<p>Both schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language</p> <p>Welsh-medium education is available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's new building when it opens instead of choosing Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is itself located in a new building provided by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. As Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is closer to Treowen than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it is possible that some pupils would choose to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the future, instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i></p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would lead to the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the current Treowen site.</p> <p>It is anticipated that being part of a larger school would result in additional opportunities for all pupils to take part in sport, art and other extra-curricular activities. Whilst it is expected that some of these benefits would be realised immediately following establishment of the new school, this would be further enhanced following the planned move to a new building.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



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 a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<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>Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).</i>				
Age	The proposal would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Disability	The proposal would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.  Eventually, implementation of the proposal would lead to a new building in Newtown. This would significantly improve the accommodation for these learners, and would ensure full access for disabled pupils in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.	Good		Choose an item.
Gender reassignment	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
Race	The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups due to their race. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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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 a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Religion or belief</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, regardless of their religion or belief.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sex</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, regardless of their sex.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, regardless of their sexual orientation.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><i>Socio-economic duty</i></p>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, including any eligible for Free School Meals.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, there would eventually be no school in Treowen. This would mean that all pupils would transfer to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. This would mean that pupils living in Treowen would have to travel further to get to school. Whilst the distance is less than a mile, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a hill. This may mean that it is more difficult for pupils from homes with lower incomes to access the new school, particularly if they don't have access to a car.</p> <p>It is possible that the change in location would also mean that it would be more difficult for pupils to access extra-curricular / after school activities, and that this impact would be greater in respect of pupils from lower income households. There would also be an impact on the parents of these pupils in terms of accessing school activities.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Ensuring that suitable Active Travel routes are in place from Treowen to the Calon y Dderwen site will be an important consideration when developing the new school building. The intention would be to minimise the number of pupils being transported to school by car.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>

Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

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

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
<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>	The aim of the proposal is to provide a more resilient education infrastructure in Newtown, to ensure that the best possible learning opportunities can be provided to pupils in the future.	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Collaboration:</b> <i>Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.</i>	Should the Cabinet agree to proceed, full consultation would be carried out, which would enable all interested parties to give their views. This would include an opportunity to suggest any alternative solutions for the catchment.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b>  <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including:</i></p> <p><b>Unpaid Carers:</b>  <i>Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</i></p>	<p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be required in accordance with the School Organisation Code in order to achieve this. This would that all interested parties would have an opportunity to give their views. The findings of this exercise would be reported to Cabinet and would be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. This impact assessment will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received.</p> <p>All stakeholders would have the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, this would include any unpaid carers in the area.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Prevention:</b> <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</i></p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b>  <i>Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</i></p>	<p>The key issues relating to the schools affected by the preferred way forward have been identified as part of this work. The Options Appraisal and Engagement Exercise included with the Cabinet papers identifies challenges facing the affected schools and aims to identify a solution which would address these issues and prevent them occurring again.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal and any new build development. The intention is that the proposal would improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>



Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<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.	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Powys County Council Workforce:</b>                      What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would initially impact on all staff at Treowen C.P. School as the school would close. However, in the short term, the Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. A Management of Change process would need to be undertaken to establish the staffing structure on the site.</p> <p>Staffing requirements may also need to be reviewed following the move to the new building. This could potentially lead to a reduction in overall numbers of staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.</p> <p>The new school would be a larger school, which would lead to benefits for staff, including improved development opportunities from being part of a larger team of staff. In addition, implementation of the proposal would eventually result in a new building to replace the current buildings. Working in these new buildings would have a positive impact on staff morale.</p> <p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. This process would be supported by relevant LA teams (e.g. HR). this would include consultation with staff, which would ensure that they had an opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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 a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Payroll:</b> How will this impact salary, any overtime/enhanced payments etc? Does this affect any particular group of employees? E.g. Male/Female dominated workforce. Does this proposal comply with the Councils Single Status Terms and Conditions?	Implementation of the preferred way forward could impact on salary arrangements for current staff at the affected schools.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Welsh Language impact on staff</b>	Both schools affected by the proposal are English-medium schools, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh language impact on staff	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Apprenticeships:</b> Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?	No impact	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				

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

Communities	How does the proposal impact on residents and community?	<b>IMPACT</b> See impact definitions in guidance document	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> See impact definitions in guidance document	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Treowen	<p>The proposal would eventually provide access to new build, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools facilities, which would have a positive impact on residents and communities.</p> <p>Whilst initially Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would operate across two sites, eventually, implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no provision in Treowen, therefore there would be a greater impact on residents living in Treowen due to there being no school in their area. However, it is less than a mile to the new proposed school site.</p> <p>Pupils from Treowen would be attending a brand new building, which would be vastly improved compared with the current Treowen building.</p>	Major	Full consideration of the impact on the Treowen community to be considered as the process moves forward.	Major	

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

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

<p>If there is no funding available to fund this project, either from the Welsh Government or the Council, then the project will not be able to proceed.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>A SOC for a new build 270 place school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has previously been approved by Welsh Government. However, it is recognised that should the decision be implemented, the current estimated costs are higher than the funding envelope approved within the SOC.</p> <p>To address this, the Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme for the new Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme, which will include an updated cost for this project.</p> <p>It is also recognised that there would be an ongoing impact on the Council’s capital budget in the form of borrowing. However, a new build school would address the ongoing backlog maintenance of three ageing buildings and would contribute to the Council’s commitment to deliver Net Zero.</p>	<p>High</p>
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10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

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

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

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?
<p>Full consultation will be required to implement this proposal, and this will enable the impact assessment to be further developed.</p>

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**Impact Assessment (IA)**

*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

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

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

**Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.**

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

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Sarah Astley	Sarah Astley	
Head of Service:	Lynette Lovell / Emma Palmer		
Portfolio Holder:	CLlr Pete Roberts		

14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Date required
Cabinet	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

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**FORM ENDS**

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

## CABINET EXECUTIVE

24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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

**REPORT TITLE:** Irfon Valley C.P. School – Proposal Paper

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. This paper requests Cabinet approval to commence the statutory process on the following proposal:
- To close Irfon Valley C.P. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools
- 1.2. The report is supported by the following appendices:
- Appendix A – Options Appraisal
  - Appendix B – Draft Community Impact Assessment
  - Appendix C – Draft Integrated Impact Assessment

**2. Background**

**Irfon Valley C.P. School**

- 2.1 Irfon Valley C.P. School is a small English-medium primary school located in the village of Garth in the Builth Wells catchment area of Mid-Powys. The school has a formal Collaborative Partnership Agreement with Ysgol Dolafon, Llanwrtyd, based on Collaboration Between Maintained Schools in Wales (2008) Act. This means that there is a formal agreement between the schools to share a headteacher. The agreement comes to an end this academic year.
- 2.2 In July 2023, the governing body of the school wrote to the Council, outlining their concerns about the impact of the decrease in pupil numbers on the educational and financial sustainability of the school. The governors stated that the lack of wraparound provision at the school, such as a breakfast club, was a key factor in some parents' decision to move their children to other schools, along with concern about the small numbers in year groups and the impact of this on their children's education and wellbeing.

2.3 Current pupil numbers at the school are as follows<sup>1</sup>:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	1	6	4	0	1	2	5	19

### **Information about Irfon Valley C.P. School**

2.4 The following is a summary of key data relating to Irfon Valley C.P. School:

#### **Pupil Numbers**

i) **Current pupil numbers<sup>2</sup>**

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	1	6	4	0	1	2	5	19

ii) **Historical pupil numbers<sup>3</sup>**

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	55	52	50	46	45	45	42	43

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>4</sup>**

	Jan. 2023 <sup>5</sup>	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	39	42	41	41	44

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

<sup>2</sup> Teacher Centre, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

<sup>3</sup> PLASC (R – Yr6)

<sup>4</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates

<sup>5</sup> These are the projected figures based on PLASC 2022 information, therefore include a projection for January 2023. PLASC 2023 information and projected pupil numbers based on PLASC 2023 are not yet available.

<sup>6</sup> Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school – updated by Finance August 2023



	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	33	19	17	n/a	n/a

### **Building Capacity and Condition**

#### **i) Capacity**

	Current Capacity <sup>7</sup>	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	60	19	41 (68.3%)

#### **ii) Building condition<sup>8</sup>**

	Condition	Suitability
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory

### **Quality of Education**

#### **i) Estyn**

Irfon Valley C.P. School was inspected by Estyn in June 2022.

The recommendations were as follows:

- R1 Address the health and safety issue identified by the school
- R2 Ensure that the curriculum is broad and balanced, and that it meets pupils' needs
- R3 Provide regular opportunities for all pupils to write creatively, at length, across a broad range of genres
- R4 Strengthen the governance of the school, to ensure that the governing body fulfils the statutory requirements and develops its role as a critical friend

<sup>7</sup> MSCW Capacity Jan. 2022 from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

<sup>8</sup> Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency – The Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard – 2022

## Financial information

### i) Cost per pupil<sup>9</sup> (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/2024)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	£242,000	£7,346	£7,000	£0

## The Case for Change

2.5 Following a conversation with governors at Irfon Valley C.P. School, it was agreed that the Council would carry out an options appraisal exercise, to consider future options for the school.

2.6 The following is a summary of the main challenges at Irfon Valley C.P. School:

### 2.7 Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers<sup>10</sup> at Irfon Valley C.P. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	1	6	4	0	1	2	5	19

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this.

### 2.8 Budget difficulties

The significant reduction in pupil numbers at the school over a relatively short period has caused significant budgetary pressures at the school.

<sup>9</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2023/2024

<sup>10</sup> Teacher Centre, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

## **2.9 High budget share per pupil**

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2023-24, the school's budget share per pupil during 2023-24 was £7,346. This is higher than the Powys primary school average of £4,821. Irfon Valley C.P. Primary School is ranked the 4<sup>th</sup> highest primary school in Powys by budget share per pupil.

## **2.10 Combined age classes**

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

## **Options appraisal**

2.11 An options appraisal exercise has been carried out to identify and consider reasonable options for Irfon Valley C.P. School. This is attached to this report as Appendix A.

2.12 The options appraisal includes the following:

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

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

### **Option 7: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools**

2.14 The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Irfon Valley
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
  - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
  - Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
  - Minimal impact on other schools
  - Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site
- 2.15 The options appraisal document considers the impact of the preferred option on the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code as factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals. This is included in 'Part C' of Appendix A.
- 2.16 The preferred option aligns with the vision and guiding principles as set out in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.
- 2.17 Implementation of the preferred option is subject to the statutory process outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).
- 2.18 As Irfon Valley C.P. is identified in the School Organisation Code as a rural school, a draft Community Impact Assessment has been carried out on the preferred option, which considers the impact on the community. This has been developed with input from the school. The draft Community Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix B.
- 2.19 The draft Community Impact Assessment includes the following conclusion:

'Should there be no school in Garth, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that an increased number of activities would be available to pupils. However, it is acknowledged that pupils would need to travel to the alternative schools, which could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school.

Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no school provision in the village of Garth. The information provided above indicates that there is some community use of the Irfon Valley School building, including as a meeting place for parents. There is, however, a village hall located in Garth, therefore community events and activities could continue to take place in the village.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Garth is currently their closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and

could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.'

### **Statutory Process for School Organisation Proposals**

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

i) Consultation

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

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

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

ii) Statutory Notice

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

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

iii) Implementation

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

### **Presumption against closure of Rural Schools**

2.21 The School Organisation Code (2018) includes special arrangements in regard to schools identified in Appendix F of the Code as rural schools, which require proposers to follow a more detailed set of

procedures and requirements in formulating a rural school closure proposal and in consulting on and reaching a decision as to whether to implement a rural school closure proposal.

2.22 As indicated in the Code:

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

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

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

2.24 As the School Organisation Code identifies Irfon Valley C.P. School as a rural school, the additional requirements for rural schools have been addressed when developing the proposal paper.

### 3. Advice

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

- Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools

3.2 The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School
- Would reduce the Council’s overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Minimal impact on any other schools compared with other options
- Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site

3.3 Should the recommendation to commence the statutory process be approved, it is anticipated that consultation would commence in October / November 2023.

- 3.4 It must also be noted that implementation of this proposal does not preclude that school from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The amount of funding provided to schools is driven by the funding formula. Any change to the formula funding provided will impact on the Council's revenue budget. Based on the current formula, it is estimated that implementation of the proposal would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £75k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £121k and estimated additional transport costs of £46k.
- 4.2 There are currently estimated building costs amounting to £347k needed to bring the building up to current standards. This cost would not be a revenue saving, but should the proposal be implemented these costs would be avoided. There is also a further £10k saving in rates and statutory testing that would be released upon disposal/sale of the building.
- 4.3 The school is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £31k at the end of financial year 2023-24 rising to a cumulative deficit of £122k by 31 March 2026. If the proposal is agreed there would be a surplus on closure in Aug 24 of £1.4k.
- 4.4 The Scheme for Financing Schools also states the following in section 3.7.2:
- 'In order to ensure effective stewardship of the resources available to schools, the Authority may impose additional restrictions on a school scheduled to close, including but not limited to:
- Restriction of expenditure to agreed plans
  - Removal of powers of virement'
- The Council will consider the use of these powers of intervention where appropriate to limit expenditure and prevent the budget slipping into deficit.
- 4.5 Implementation of the proposal would require involvement from various service areas, including staff from the Schools Service, Finance, HR and ICT. These service areas will be kept informed of the development of the proposal throughout the statutory process.
- 4.6 The Deputy Head of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report and supports the recommendation.

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 Legal: The Schools Organisation Code must be followed and as such the recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 5.2 The Head of Legal Services and the Monitoring Officer has commented: "I note the legal Comment and support the recommendation"

## 6. **Climate Change & Nature Implications**

- 6.1 Implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School for whom this is their closest school. This would have a negative environmental impact as more home to school transport would need to be provided to transport pupils to their nearest alternative school.
- 6.2 However, implementation of the proposal would mean that the Council would no longer need to run the Irfon Valley school site. This would result in a reduction in the use of heating and electricity amongst other factors.
- 6.3 Should Cabinet agree to proceed, further consideration will be given to the impact of the proposal in terms of carbon emissions related to the above, and will be reflected in future Cabinet papers related to the proposal.

## 7. **Data Protection**

- 7.1 N/A

## 8. **Comment from local member(s)**

To follow.

## 9. **Impact Assessment**

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

'The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners, however the assessment has identified some negative aspects. These primarily relate to the impact on the local community due to loss of educational provision from the village, and the additional travel that would be required for pupils to attend alternative provision and their parents to access school activities.'



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

**10. Recommendation**

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

- To close Irfon Valley C.P. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools

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# Irfon Valley C.P. School

## Options Appraisal

September 2023



### Version Control:

Version	Date	Brief Summary of Change	Author
0.1	18/09/23	Document created	MS
0.2	27/09/23	Version for Transforming Education Officer Group	SA
0.3	05/10/23	Version to be shared with Programme Board	SA
0.4	05/10/23	Version for consideration by Cabinet EMT	SA
0.5	11/10/23	Version for consideration by Cabinet	SA

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Following a significant decrease in pupil numbers, the governing body of Irfon Valley C.P. School contacted the Council in the Summer of 2023, requesting a discussion on future options for the school.

Following this conversation, it was agreed that the Council would carry out an options appraisal exercise, to consider future options for the school.

The purpose of this paper is to consider options for Irfon Valley C.P. School, and to identify a preferred option.

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

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	1	6	4	0	1	2	5	19

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<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

# PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

## 2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### 2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

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

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

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

In addition, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives, which include an objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision' in order to improve overall learner entitlement and experience in Powys.

To take forward this objective, the Council is reviewing the smallest schools in Powys, with the aim of identifying solutions for these schools which will meet the objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', in order to ensure that education in Powys is delivered through an affordable, resilient infrastructure which provides the best possible opportunities to learners, now and in the future.

### 2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

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

The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council, as outlined in the Strategy:

**i) High proportion of small schools**

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 43% of the primary provision in the county. 15 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

**ii) Decreasing pupil numbers**

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 5% by 2026.

**iii) High number of surplus places**

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

**iv) Building condition**

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

**v) Financial pressures**

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

**vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education**

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the last

few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

**vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer**

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges, and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

**viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision**

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

**ix) Historical lack of political decision making**

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

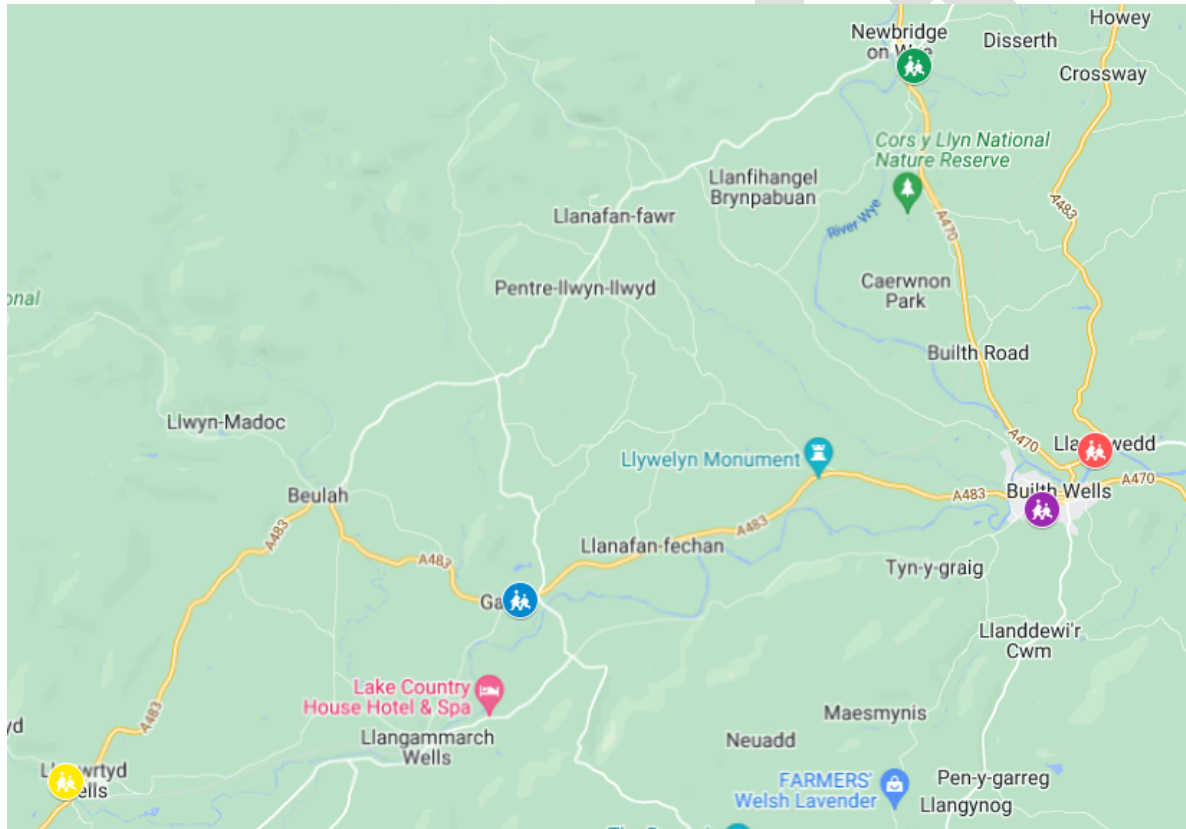


### 3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED AT IRFON VALLEY C.P. SCHOOL

#### 3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

Irfon Valley C.P. School is a small English-medium primary school, located in the Builth Wells catchment in Mid-Powys. Irfon Valley C.P. School is located in the village of Garth, and currently shares a headteacher with Ysgol Dolafon.

The following map shows the location of Irfon Valley C.P. School and other nearby schools:



*Key – Blue: Irfon Valley C.P. School; Red: Llanellwedd C. in W. School; Green: Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School; Yellow: Ysgol Dolafon; Purple: Builth Wells C.P. School.*

The following primary schools are located within 10 miles of Irfon Valley C.P. School<sup>2</sup>:

<sup>2</sup> School Distances by Road - Council's Business Intelligence Team

School	Distance from Irfon Valley C.P. School by road (miles)
Builth Wells C.P. School	6
Llanelwedd C. in W. School	6.8
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	8.8
Ysgol Dolafon	6

The following is a summary of key data relating to Irfon Valley C.P. School:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number <sup>3</sup>	Rural School? <sup>4</sup>
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	Community Primary School building owned by Powys County Council	English-medium	8	Yes

### Pupil Numbers

#### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>5</sup>

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	1	6	4	0	1	2	5	19

#### ii) Historical pupil numbers<sup>6</sup>

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	55	52	50	46	45	45	42	43

<sup>3</sup> Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2024-25

<sup>4</sup> Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>) includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

<sup>5</sup> Teacher Centre, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

<sup>6</sup> PLASC

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)<sup>7</sup>**

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	39	42	41	41	44

i) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)<sup>8</sup>**

	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	33	19	17

**Building Capacity and Condition**

i) **Capacity**

The following table provides information about the current capacities of school and the capacity:

	Capacity <sup>9</sup>	Currently Filled <sup>10</sup>	Surplus Capacity <sup>11</sup>
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	60	19 (31.6%)	41 (68.3%)

ii) **Building condition<sup>12</sup>**

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficient
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes

<sup>7</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates

<sup>8</sup> Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school. Provided by the Finance team in September 2023

<sup>9</sup> MSCW Capacity Jan. 2022 from the Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

<sup>10</sup> Based on current pupil numbers – September 2023

<sup>11</sup> Based on current pupil numbers – September 2023

<sup>12</sup> Condition, Suitability and Sufficiency – The Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard – 2022

## Standards of Education

### i) Estyn

Irfon Valley C.P. School was inspected by Estyn in June 2022.

The recommendations were as follows:

- R1 Address the health and safety issue identified by the school
- R2 Ensure that the curriculum is broad and balanced, and that it meets pupils' needs
- R3 Provide regular opportunities for all pupils to write creatively, at length, across a broad range of genres
- R4 Strengthen the governance of the school, to ensure that the governing body fulfils the statutory requirements and develops its role as a critical friend

## Financial information

### i) Cost per pupil<sup>13</sup>

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	£242,000	£7,346	£7,000	£0

## Home to school travel

### i) Closest school

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 19 pupils that were attending Irfon Valley according to Teacher Centre, September 2023. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

Closest school	Pupils attending Irfon Valley C.P. School
Irfon Valley C.P. School	89.5%

<sup>13</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/24

Builth Wells C.P. School	5.3%
Ysgol Dolafon	5.3%

Based on this information, Irfon Valley C.P. Schools is the closest school for 89.5% of the school's pupils on roll in September 2023.

If there were no school in Garth, the closest school for the pupils on roll in September 2023 would be as follows:

	<b>Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Garth</b>
Ysgol Dolafon	52.6%
Builth Wells C.P. School	36.8%
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	10.5%

**ii) Average travel distance**

The average travel distance for all pupils on roll in September 2023 at Irfon Valley C.P. School is 2.23 miles.

If there were no school in Garth, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in September 2023 to attend alternative provision would be 4.97 miles.

**iii) Furthest travel distance**

Of the pupils that attended Irfon Valley C.P. School in September 2023, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Irfon Valley C.P. School is the closest provider is 5.39 miles.

If there were no school in Garth, the furthest distance to these pupils' nearest alternative provision would be 6.82 miles.

**Equalities Information**

**i) Free School Meals<sup>14</sup>**

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<sup>14</sup> PLASC 2023

	Total % Eligible
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	17.6%

ii) **Pupils in care<sup>15</sup>**

	Number of pupils in care
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	0%

iii) **SEN/ALN<sup>16</sup>**

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	11.6%	4.7%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%

**Early Years Provision**

Funded early years provision is available on the school site at Irfon Valley Rainbow Tots.

**3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED AT IRFON VALLEY C.P. SCHOOL**

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Irfon Valley C.P. School:

i) **Low pupil numbers**

Current pupil numbers<sup>17</sup> at Irfon Valley C.P. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
<b>Irfon Valley C.P. School</b>	1	6	4	0	1	2	5	19

<sup>15</sup> PLASC 2023

<sup>16</sup> PLASC 2023

<sup>17</sup> Teacher Centre, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and have decreased significantly over the last few months.

**ii) Budget difficulties**

The significant reduction in pupil numbers at the school over a relatively short period has caused significant budgetary pressures at the school.

**iii) High budget share per pupil**

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2023-24, the school's budget share per pupil during 2022-23 was £7,346. This is higher than the Powys primary school average of £4,821. Irfon Valley C.P. Primary School is ranked the 4<sup>th</sup> highest primary school in Powys by budget share per pupil.<sup>18</sup>

**iv) Combined age classes**

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

**iv) Lack of wraparound provision**

The school is currently unable to offer provision before or after school. Parents have transferred to alternative schools to be able to access this type of provision.

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<sup>18</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement 2023/2024

## PART B – OPTIONS FOR IRFON VALLEY C.P. SCHOOL

### 4. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The following options have been identified which could potentially provide a solution.

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue as a standalone school
2	Federate Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon
3	Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on two sites
4	Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on the Irfon Valley site
5	Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on the Dolafon site
6	Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Dolafon
7	Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

### 5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

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

#### Option 1: Status quo – continue as a standalone school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Garth</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- No requirement for a reorganisation process</li> <li>- No change for staff</li> <li>- No impact on pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School would continue to be low</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Irfon Valley building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration with Ysgol Dolafon to provide increased opportunities for pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupils numbers at the school could continue to decrease</li> </ul>

**Option 2: Federate Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in both locations</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff</li> <li>- Pupils at both schools would continue to attend school in the same location</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School would continue to be low</li> <li>- Pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the two buildings</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>- Would not address the high budget per pupil at Irfon Valley</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils</li> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> <li>- Opportunity for shared staffing across the federation</li> <li>- Opportunity to realise some financial efficiencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School could continue to decrease</li> </ul>

**Option 3: Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on two sites**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Would retain provision in both locations</li> <li>– More opportunities could be provided to the pupils</li> <li>– There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>– Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>– Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school</li> <li>– More opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>– Opportunity to develop a new identity for the new school, bringing together the two communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School would continue to be low</li> <li>– Pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>– Would still need to maintain two buildings</li> <li>– Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>– Would not lead to a financial saving</li> <li>– Both schools would lose their identity</li> <li>– Would impact on staff at both schools</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites</li> <li>– More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> <li>– Opportunity to realise some financial efficiencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pupil numbers on the Irfon Valley site could continue to decrease</li> </ul>

**Option 4: Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on the Irfon Valley site**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Would result in the establishment of one larger school</li> <li>– Would retain provision in Garth</li> <li>– All pupils would attend school in the same location</li> <li>– A larger school would mean that more opportunities could be provided to pupils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Loss of provision in Llanwrtyd</li> <li>– Impact on the Llanwrtyd community</li> <li>– Possible impact on co-located community facilities in Llanwrtyd</li> <li>– Additional travel for pupils currently attending Ysgol Dolafon</li> <li>– Additional transport costs</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– No additional travel for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley</li> <li>– Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>– Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school</li> <li>– More opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>– Opportunity to develop a new identity for the new school, bringing together the two communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Less convenient for the majority of pupils currently attending the two schools</li> <li>– Pupils currently attending Ysgol Dolafon would have to transfer to a new site</li> <li>– The Irfon Valley building does not currently have capacity to accommodate Dolafon pupils</li> <li>– The new school would still be a ‘small school’ based on the Welsh Government definition</li> <li>– Would not be attractive to Ysgol Dolafon</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Unpopular with the Llanwrtyd community</li> </ul>

**Option 5: Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on the Dolafon site**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Would result in the establishment of one larger school</li> <li>– Would retain provision in Llanwrtyd</li> <li>– All pupils would attend school in the same location</li> <li>– A larger school would mean that more opportunities could be provided to pupils</li> <li>– No additional travel for pupils currently attending Ysgol Dolafon</li> <li>– Could provide a financial saving to the Council</li> <li>– Opportunity for all staff to secure positions in the new school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Loss of provision in Garth</li> <li>– Additional travel for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School</li> <li>– Additional transport costs</li> <li>– Pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School would have to transfer to a new site</li> <li>– Loss of provision from Garth</li> <li>– Impact on the Garth community</li> <li>– May not be attractive to Irfon Valley C.P. School</li> <li>– The new school would still be a ‘small school’ based on the Welsh Government definition</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities for staff from working in a larger school</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop a new identity for the new school, bringing the two communities together</li> <li>- More convenient for the majority of pupils currently attending the two schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inconvenient location for Irfon Valley pupils</li> <li>- Some Irfon Valley pupils would be closer to other schools</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Unpopular with the Garth community</li> <li>- Irfon Valley pupils may choose to transfer to alternative schools instead of travelling to Llanwrtyd</li> </ul>

**Option 6: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Dolafon**

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would retain provision in Irfon Valley</li> <li>- Would build on the collaboration that is already in place thanks to the shared Headteacher</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location</li> <li>- Minimal impact on staff employed at Ysgol Dolafon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small numbers would remain at the Irfon Valley site</li> <li>- Irfon Valley pupils would still be taught separately</li> <li>- Would still need to maintain the Irfon Valley building</li> <li>- Would not reduce surplus places</li> <li>- Staff employed at Irfon Valley School would have to go through a Management of Change process</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils due to age range of pupils in mixed age classes</li> </ul>

**Option 7: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Irfon Valley</li> <li>– Would reduce the Council’s overall surplus capacity in primary schools</li> <li>– Revenue saving to the Council</li> <li>– Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum</li> <li>– Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities</li> <li>– Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages</li> <li>– Minimal impact on any other schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Additional travel for those pupils for whom Irfon Valley is currently the closest school</li> <li>– Additional transport costs</li> <li>– Pupils currently attending Irfon Valley School would have to transfer to alternative provision</li> <li>– Loss of provision from Garth</li> <li>– Impact on the current staff of Irfon Valley School</li> <li>– Impact on the Garth community</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Likely to be unpopular with the Garth community</li> </ul>

## 6. IMPACT OF EACH OPTION

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

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
<b>Option 1: Status quo –</b>	There would be no impact on quality and	There would be no impact on the	There would be no impact on travel

<p><b>continue as a standalone school</b></p>	<p>standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Irfon Valley.</p>	<p>community – provision would continue to be available in Garth.</p>	<p>arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Irfon Valley C.P. School.</p>
<p><b>Option 2: Federate Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon</b></p>	<p>There would be very little impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to access the current provision at Irfon Valley. Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley would continue to be low, however, more opportunities may be provided for collaboration between the schools.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Garth.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school in the same location, thus there would be no additional transport costs.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p><b>Option 3: Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on two sites</b></p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Garth, as both sites would be retained as part of the merger.</p> <p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Merging the two schools to establish a new school is likely to result in a school where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Garth. However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there may be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make-up of the new governing body.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Irfon Valley C.P. School.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

<p><b>Option 4: Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on the Irfon Valley site</b></p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Garth, as both sites would be retained as part of the merger.</p> <p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Merging the two schools to establish a new school is likely to result in a school where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Garth. However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there may be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make-up of the new governing body.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Ysgol Dolafon, particularly those for whom Dolafon is currently the closest school.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events.</p>
<p><b>Option 5: Merge Irfon Valley C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to establish a new school on the Dolafon site</b></p>	<p>This option would remove provision from Garth, with pupils to attend school on the Dolafon site.</p> <p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>Merging the two schools to establish a new school is likely to result in a school where the</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Garth as there would no longer be provision in Garth.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events.</p>

	<p>quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>		
<p><b>Option 6: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, but retain the site as part of Ysgol Dolafon</b></p>	<p>This option would retain provision in Garth, building upon the relationship that is already in existence with Ysgol Dolafon.</p> <p>There would be enhanced opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff, however, ensuring equal opportunities to all pupils in mixed age range age classes would continue to be difficult.</p> <p>It is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal. Provision would continue to be available in Garth. However, the site would be managed by Ysgol Dolafon, so there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in the management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the larger Ysgol Dolafon site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Irfon Valley site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Irfon Valley C.P. School.</p> <p>Some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p><b>Option 6: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</b></p>	<p>The nearest schools to Irfon Valley are Ysgol Dolafon and Builth Wells C.P. School. Some pupils would also live closer to Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School. Should pupils transfer to any of these schools, it would mean that pupils would be attending provision where the quality and standards are at least</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Garth, as provision would no longer be run within the village.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.</p> <p>Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would</p>



	as good as the current provision at Irfon Valley.		also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events.
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## 7. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> <li>- Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> <li>- Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme</li> </ul>
2 – 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>
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The option must be achievable within current legislation</li> <li>● The option must be operationally achievable</li> <li>● The option must be physically achievable</li> </ul>
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue</li> <li>● The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council</li> </ul>

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

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

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5	Option 6	Option 7
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	?	?	x	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
4 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓
<b>Total ✓</b>	1	1	1	2	3	1	4
<b>Total x</b>	3	3	3	1	0	3	0
<b>Outcome</b>	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	<b>Possible</b>	Discount	<b>Preferred</b>

## 8. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the work carried out, the emerging preferred option for Irfon Valley C.P. School is:

**Option 7: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site

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

## **PART C – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PREFERRED OPTION**

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code outlines factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals. Consideration is given below to the impact of the preferred option, closure of Irfon Valley C.P. School, with pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools, on the factors outlined in the Code.

### **9. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. Should the school close, the nearest schools for most pupils would be Ysgol Dolafon or Builth Wells C.P. School, however some pupils would also be closer to Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School, and pupils may also choose to transfer to Llanelwedd C. in W. School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Irfon Valley C.P. School, so it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. There are small numbers of pupils with Additional Learning Needs, who are in receipt of free school meals, or who have English as an additional language at Irfon Valley. It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils. There are currently no Looked after Children or pupils at Irfon Valley C.P. School.

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

#### **9.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning**

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupils' wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Irfon Valley C.P. School to alternative schools in the area. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period in order to minimise any negative impact on them.

Closure of Irfon Valley C.P. School could result in additional travel for some pupils, particularly those for whom Irfon Valley is currently the closest school. Irfon Valley is currently the closest school for the majority of pupils attending the school, however, the additional travel time to alternative provision would likely not be excessive.

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

### **9.3 Teaching and learning experiences**

#### **9.3.1 Quality of teaching**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

Should the school close, the nearest schools for most pupils would be Ysgol Dolafon or Builth Wells C.P. School, however some pupils would also be closer to Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School, and pupils may also choose to transfer to Llanelwedd C. in W. School. The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at the nearest alternative schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.

#### **9.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

Should the school close, the nearest schools for most pupils would be Ysgol Dolafon or Builth Wells C.P. School, however some pupils would also be closer to Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School, and pupils may also choose to transfer to Llanelwedd C. in W. School. The Council's view is that the nearest alternative schools would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Irfon Valley C.P. School. Pupils would be transferring to larger school, therefore the expectation would be that there would be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils. Pupils would also be able to work in groups of similar ability pupils. However, it is acknowledged that some of the schools pupil may transfer to also meet the Welsh Government definition of a small school.

### **9.3.3 The provision of skills**

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

Should the school close, the nearest schools for most pupils would be Ysgol Dolafon or Builth Wells C.P. School, however some pupils would also be closer to Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School, and pupils may also choose to transfer to Llanelwedd C. in W. School. The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at these alternative schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.

## **9.4 Care, support and guidance**

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring, the provision of learning support, personal development, or safeguarding for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.

## **9.5 Leadership and Management**

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools.

The headteacher of Irfon Valley C.P. School is also headteacher of Ysgol Dolafon, therefore there would be continuity in leadership for pupils who choose to transfer to Ysgol Dolafon. The Council's view is that leadership and management at Ysgol Dolafon, as well as the other alternative schools, would be at least as good as the current arrangements at Irfon Valley C.P. School.

### **9.5.2 Professional learning**

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on professional learning opportunities.

Staff currently employed at Irfon Valley C.P. School would be subject to a management of change process.

### **9.5.3 Use of Resources**

The school is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £31k at the end of financial year 2023-24 decreasing to a cumulative deficit of £122k by 31 March 2026. Finance and school improvement officers are working with the school to identify ways to reduce the deficit, but this is increasingly challenging due to the combination of low pupil numbers and high inflation on running costs the school is experiencing. When small schools encounter any unexpected pressures such as long-term sickness or building maintenance issues, then the risk of falling into a deficit is higher as they have more limited scope to reduce costs in other areas to compensate.

One of the main challenges facing the Powys schools infrastructure is the proportion of small schools in the county coupled with significant surplus places, resulting in higher premises related costs per pupil. Irfon Valley C.P. School is one of the smallest schools in the county in terms of numbers on roll, and the budget share per pupil at the school is therefore significantly higher than the Powys primary school average.

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

## **9.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

Implementation of the emerging preferred option would impact on any vulnerable pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School, including any pupils with ALN/SEN.

Based on PLASC 2023 data, 20.8% of pupils at Irfon Valley C.P. School had additional learning needs.

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

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Irfon Valley C.P. School and any schools receiving transferring pupils to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with ALN/SEN and their families.

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

Should the emerging preferred option be implemented, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools, therefore Irfon Valley C.P. School would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

This could result in an increase in pupil numbers at nearby schools, which could improve their ability to deliver the curriculum in all key stages. However, depending on the class structure and current breakdown of pupils at these schools, it is possible that some adjustments would be needed to accommodate additional pupils.

It is possible that some pupils could choose to transfer to alternative schools rather than Irfon Valley C.P. School. However, the number of pupils transferring to any school is likely to be very small, so it is not anticipated that this would impact on the ability of these schools to deliver the full curriculum to pupils.

## **10 NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS**

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

The preferred option is for pupils to transfer from Irfon Valley C.P. School to their nearest alternative schools.

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and building condition of the nearest alternative schools:

<b>School</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Current pupil numbers<sup>19</sup></b>	<b>Available spaces</b>	<b>Available capacity</b>	<b>Building Condition</b>	<b>Building Suitability</b>
Builth Wells C.P. School	249	205	44	17.7%	B	A/B
Ysgol Dolafon	69	57	12	17.39%	B	B/C

<sup>19</sup> Teacher Centre September 2023



Llanelwedd C. in W. School	103	102	1	1%	C	B/C
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	107	116	-9	-8.4%	A	A

This shows that, whilst there is pressure on places at Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School and Llanelwedd C. in W. School, there are sufficient places available at Builth Wells C.P. School and Ysgol Dolafon to accommodate pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.

However, it is acknowledged that Builth Wells C.P. School is a dual stream school, so the available places would be split across the two streams.

Irfon Valley C.P. School's building is categorised as Condition C. The quality of accommodation at the alternative schools is categorised as Condition C or better.

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

As indicated in section 10.1, there are sufficient places of the same language category available in the local area to accommodate Irfon Valley C.P. School's current and projected pupil numbers.

Irfon Valley is a community primary school. Alternative community primary provision is available at Ysgol Dolafon and Builth Wells C.P. School.

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

Alternative provision is available within approximately 6 miles of Irfon Valley C.P. School, so it is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for ALN/SEN pupils.

One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

**11 RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

The review of Irfon Valley C.P. School does not form part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools) Investment Programme.

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

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the potential increased transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £46k per annum based on current prices. This has been included in the revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

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

It is estimated there would be additional transport costs of £46k per annum, based on current prices and pupils' current location, assuming the pupils transfer to their closest alternative schools.

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

It is not anticipated that capital funding would be required in order to implement the emerging preferred option.

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

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £75k. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of £121k, there are no projected savings from catering functions and estimated additional transport costs of £46k. There would be a further saving of £10k in Rates and Statutory Testing should the building be disposed of. The estimated back log maintenance costs of £347k to bring the building up to current standards would also be avoided if the proposal was implemented.

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

The school is currently projecting a carry forward surplus of £31k at the end of financial year 2023-24 rising to a cumulative deficit of £122k by 31 March 2026.

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

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

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

Irfon Valley C.P. School is owned by the council, meaning that there is the opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site.

## **12 OTHER GENERAL FACTORS**

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

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. However, transferring pupils, including those from economically deprived backgrounds, would be well supported to in order to mitigate any adverse impacts that may arise from transferring to a new school.

Free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy, however it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Based on PLASC 2023 figures, 17.6% of pupils attending Irfon Valley C.P. School were eligible for FSM, so it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on some pupils from economically deprived backgrounds that may be affected is very small.

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

Initial consideration of equalities information recorded through PLASC suggests that there are no significant equality issues in respect of pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School. Should the Council proceed with the statutory process in respect of the preferred option, equality impact assessments will be

carried out and regularly reviewed throughout the process to ensure that any issues are identified and fully considered.

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

Irfon Valley C.P. School is / is not subject to any trust which may be affected in relation to the use or disposal of land.

## **13. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES**

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

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

Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School are very low, and are not projected to increase significantly in coming years. Establishing a multi-site school would not address this issue.

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

Federating Irfon Valley with Ysgol Dolafon is one of the options that has been considered earlier in this document. An assessment of this option has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with this option.

Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School are very low, and are not projected to increase significantly in the coming years; clustering, collaboration or federation would not address this issue.

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

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing building as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Irfon Valley C.P. School.

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

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

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

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

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

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventual implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils; however, this could include effective transition arrangements with the receiving school to ensure pupils transition is positive.

The preferred option is for pupils to transfer nearest alternative schools, which will be supported in order to provide continuity to pupils and their families, ease transition arrangements, and support parents' engagement with their children's new school.

## **14. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

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

### **Option 6: Close Irfon Valley C.P. School, pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Irfon Valley

- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would be taught in classes with peers of similar ages
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site

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

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on a proposal to close Irfon valley C.P. School, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.



## **Proposal to close Irfon Valley C.P. School**

### **Draft Community Impact Assessment**

**September 2023**



## Draft Community Impact Assessment – Irfon Valley C.P. School

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

The closest provider for pupils attending Irfon Valley C.P. School in September 2023 was as follows:

School	% of Pupils
Irfon Valley C.P. School	89.5%
Builth Wells C.P. School	5.3%
Ysgol Dolafon	5.3%

This suggests that 89.5% of pupils attending the school were attending their closest primary school, whilst 10.6% of pupils attending the school live closer to other primary schools.

If there were no school in Garth, the closest school for the pupils on roll in September 2023 would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Garth
Ysgol Dolafon	52.6%
Builth Wells C.P. School	36.8%
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	10.5%

The average travel distance for all pupils on roll in September 2023 at Irfon Valley C.P. School is 2.23 miles.

If there were no school in Garth, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in September 2023 to attend alternative provision would be 4.97 miles.

Of the pupils that attended Irfon Valley C.P. School in September 2023, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Irfon Valley C.P. School is the closest provider is 5.39 miles.

If there were no school in Garth, the furthest distance to these pupils' nearest alternative provision would be 6.82 miles.

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



The school provides the following after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities including the following:

- Hockey club
- Breakfast club
- Limited pupil numbers/staff have made clubs like after-school club unfeasible

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

The school accommodates or provides the following other facilities or services:

- The school is the site for the 3+ setting, Rainbow Tots

**iv) Other use by the community of the school building**

The school building is used by the community to provide the following activities:

- School attends community events at Garth Village Hall
- Joint events run with Ysgol Dolafon

**v) Other links between the school and the community**

- Community events such as MacMillan Coffee Morning and school concerts

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

Should the proposal be implemented, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative school, and there would no longer be any provision in Garth.

It is acknowledged that there would be a significant impact on the community of Garth, as there would no longer continue to be provision in the village. This could result in the potential loss of community facilities associated with the school.

There is a village hall in Garth, therefore should the school no longer be available, community events and activities could be re-located.

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

Should the proposal be implemented, Irfon Valley C.P. School would close, and pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative Powys schools would be Ysgol Dolafon, and Builth Wells C.P. School.

An analysis of pupils attending Irfon Valley C.P. School in September 2023 suggests that the furthest distance to the new school for pupils for whom Irfon Valley C.P. School is currently the closest school would be 6.8 miles.

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

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

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their closest alternative schools.

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

- At present, very few pupils walk to school, and none use public transport.
- If the school were to close, pupils would need transport to attend their alternative schools. The average travel distance for pupils to their nearest school, should Irfon Valley close, would be 4.97 miles. This would therefore not promote walking/cycling to school as the distance is likely to be too far for most pupils.

**x) Additional considerations for rural schools**

The School Organisation Code includes a number of additional considerations that are likely to be relevant when carrying out a community impact assessment for a rural school closure. As Irfon Valley C.P. School is identified as a rural school, these factors are considered below:

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

Information from the school suggests that it is unlikely that the closure of Irfon Valley C.P. School would encourage families to leave the community as travel distances to new schools would not be significantly longer.

While it is certainly possible that the closure of the school may discourage some young families from moving to Garth, the school has also acknowledged that they are currently unable to offer significant wrap-around care through, for example, after school clubs. This may have put off some young families from moving to the area even if the school were to remain open.

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

Should Irfon Valley C.P. School close, community events and activities could continue to take place at Garth Village Hall.

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

The school is currently not used for any additional purpose other than the pre-school.

- **Whether or not the loss of the school, and potentially families, will have a detrimental effect on the wider economy of the community**

Information received from the school indicates that effects on the wider economy of the community are expected to be minimal.

- **How parents' and pupils' engagement with the alternative school and any facilities it may offer could be supported (e.g. how pupils, (particularly any less advantaged pupils) will be helped to participate in after school activities)**

As indicated in section (viii) above, should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their closest alternative schools.

It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on pupils' ability to participate in after school activities as there would be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities/events, however, few events/activities are currently on offer at Irfon Valley in any case.

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

Should Irfon Valley C.P. School close, Garth would lose a number of community events such as school concerts. The school has also noted that Irfon Valley plays an important role in Garth as a meeting place for parents within the locality.

However, there is a village hall located in Garth where community events and activities could continue to take place.

**xi) Conclusion**

Should there be no school in Garth, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. These would be larger schools, and the expectation is that an increased number of activities would be available to pupils. However, it is acknowledged that pupils would need to travel to the alternative schools, which could impact on their ability to access activities, particularly where these take place after school.

Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no school provision in the village of Garth. The information provided above indicates that there is some community use of the Irfon Valley School building, including as a meeting place for parents. There is, however, a village hall located in Garth, therefore community events and activities could continue to take place in the village.

It is also acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would result in additional travel to school for pupils for whom Garth is currently their closest school. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on some pupils' ability to access after school activities, and could impact on the ability of parents to take part in school events, meetings etc.

# Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

## Impact Assessment (IA)

The integrated approach to support effective decision making



**Please read the accompanying guidance before completing the form.**

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

<b>Service Area</b>	Schools Service	<b>Head of Service</b>	Lynette Lovell / Emma Palmer / Georgie Bevan	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Clr Pete Roberts
<b>Proposal</b>	Irfon Valley C.P. School Proposal				
<b>Outline Summary / Description of Proposal</b>					
A review of Irfon Valley C.P. School has been carried out, and Cabinet approval is now requested to commence the statutory process on the following proposal in respect of the school:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To close Irfon Valley C.P. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.</li> </ul>					

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

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Morgan Smith	Transforming Education Programme Officer	September 2023

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
£	£	£	£	£	£

3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	If approved by Cabinet, it is anticipated that consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code will commence in October/November 2023.

# 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? (Have you considered the implications on Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting?)  
PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY**

Adult Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Legal and Democratic Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children's Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Property, Planning and Public Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highways, Transportation and Recycling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transformation and Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Digital Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Housing and Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workforce and OD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals? Yes  No

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

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

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

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### 4a Geographical Locations

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

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

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

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><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.</p>	<p>As part of the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, this proposal represents an effort to ‘reconfigure and rationalise primary provision.’ Implementation of this proposal would positively contribute to a Powys that uses resources efficiently, and which produces a skilled and well-educated population.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><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).</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would require additional travel for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School for whom this is their closest school. This would have a negative environmental impact as more home to school transport would need to be provided to transport pupils to their nearest alternative school.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal would mean that the Council would no longer need to run the Irfon Valley school site. This would result in a reduction in the use of heating and electricity amongst other factors.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><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><b>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017:</b>                      Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would result in closure of Irfon Valley C.P. School, with pupils transferring to their nearest alternative schools. It is acknowledged that this could have a negative impact on the mental well-being of pupils, staff, and other stakeholders associated with the school during the transition period, however the long-term aim is to provide improved learning opportunities for all learners.</p>	<p>Poor</p>	<p>Support would be provided to pupils during the transition period to enable them to transfer effectively to their new schools.</p> <p>The process is to be concluded as quickly as possible to minimise the period of uncertainty for pupils, staff and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b>                      Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Garth, as there would no longer be provision in the village, and therefore there could be a potential loss of community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p> <p>A separate draft community impact assessment will be carried out which includes input from the school. This will be updated as required throughout the process.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>	<p>The Irfon Valley School building is owned by the Council. Therefore, there is the opportunity for the Council to realise a capital receipt from sale of the school site.</p>	<p>Very Poor</p>



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 a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<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><b>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance)</b></p> <p><b>UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:</b>                      The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The aim of implementing the proposal is to provide the best possible opportunities to learners, enabling them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>If approved by Cabinet, the Council will carry out consultation on the proposal, including consultation with all pupils affected by the proposal, ensuring that all those affected by the plans would have the opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Neutral</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. <i>Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards</i></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>Irfon Valley C.P. School is an English-medium school, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, or on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could choose to transfer to Builth Wells C.P. School, which is a dual stream school. This would provide an opportunity for pupils to choose Welsh-medium education and become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i></p>	<p>Irfon Valley C.P. School and is an English-medium school, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the proposal would impact on opportunities to promote the Welsh language.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could choose to transfer to Builth Wells C.P. School, which is a dual stream school. This would provide an opportunity for pupils to choose Welsh-medium education and become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i></p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would lead to the closure of Irfon Valley C.P. School, with pupils transferring to their nearest alternative schools. The alternative schools would be larger schools, which should be able to offer a greater range of sport, art and recreation activities for pupils.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal would also result in increasing pupil numbers at neighbouring schools, which should enable them to provide additional opportunities for pupils to take part in sport, art, and other extra-curricular activities.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><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).                      Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).</p>				

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*The integrated approach to support effective decision making*



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 a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Age</i>	The proposal would impact on primary aged pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Disability</i>	The proposal would impact on any pupils with disabilities currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all affected pupils, including any pupils with disabilities.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Gender reassignment</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Marriage or civil partnership</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Race</i>	The proposal would impact on all primary aged pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for pupils, including those belonging to protected characteristic groups.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Religion or belief</i>	Irfon Valley is not a church school. The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School, regardless of their religion or belief.	Neutral		Choose an item.

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Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<i>Sex</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Sexual Orientation</i>	The proposal aims to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School, regardless of their sexual orientation.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i>	No impact.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<i>Socio-economic duty</i>	The aim of the proposal is to provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School, including those eligible for Free School Meals. PLASC 2023 data indicated that 17.6% of pupils at the school were eligible for Free School Meals.  Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no school in Garth. This would mean that pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School would need to travel to their nearest alternative schools. Whilst home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils, it is possible that this would impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular / after school activities, and that this impact would be greater in respect of pupils from lower income households. There would also be an impact on the parents of these pupils in terms of accessing school activities.	Neutral		Choose an item.

**Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements**

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 a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
PLASC				

6. 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 a more positive impact or to 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> Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	Pupil numbers at Irfon Valley C.P. School are very low and are not expected to increase over the coming years. The aim of the proposal to close the school is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.	Good		Choose an item.
<b>Collaboration:</b> Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.	Should the Cabinet agree to proceed, full consultation would be carried out, which would enable all interested parties to give their views. This would include an opportunity to suggest any alternative options for the school.	Neutral		Choose an item.

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b>  <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including:</i></p> <p><b>Unpaid Carers:</b>  <i>Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account</i></p>	<p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be required in accordance with the School Organisation Code in order to achieve this. This would ensure that all interested parties would have an opportunity to give their views. The findings of this exercise would be reported to Cabinet and would be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. This impact assessment will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received.</p> <p>All stakeholders would have the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, this would include any unpaid carers in the area.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Prevention:</b> <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including:</i></p> <p><b>Safeguarding:</b>  <i>Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.</i></p>	<p>The aim of the proposal to close Irfon Valley C.P. School is to ensure the best possible opportunities for learners in the area now and in the future, and to ensure better strategic management of the Powys schools estate.</p> <p>Ensuring appropriate safeguarding arrangements is a key aspect of any school organisation proposal. The intention is that the proposal would maintain or improve the safeguarding arrangements for all pupils.</p>	<p>Good</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Integration:</b> <i>Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.</i></p>	<p>No impact.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

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Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Powys County Council Workforce:</b> What Impact will this change have on the Workforce?</p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would impact on all current staff at Irfon Valley C.P. School as there would no longer be a school in Garth, therefore staff would be subject to a Management of Change process.</p> <p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed, full consultation would be carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. This process would be supported by relevant LA teams (e.g. HR). This would include consultation with staff, which would ensure that they had an opportunity to give their views.</p>	<p>Poor</p>		<p>Poor</p>
<p><b>Payroll:</b> How will this impact salary, any overtime/enhanced payments etc? Does this affect any particular group of employees? E.g. Male/Female dominated workforce. Does this proposal comply with the Councils Single Status Terms and Conditions?</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward could impact on salary arrangements for current staff at Irfon Valley C.P. School.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Welsh Language impact on staff</b></p>	<p>Irfon Valley C.P. School is an English-medium school, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a Welsh language impact on staff</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>Apprenticeships:</b> Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?</p>	<p>No impact</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>

**Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements**

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below

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

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Communities	How does the proposal impact on residents and community?	<u>IMPACT</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement



Garth	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Garth, as there would no longer be provision in the village, and there could be a potential loss of community facilities associated with the school.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Irfon Valley C.P. School. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p> <p>A separate draft community impact assessment has been carried out which includes input from the school. This will be updated as required throughout the process.</p>	Major		Major	
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9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

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

10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

<b>Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)</b>	<b>Cabinet Report Reference:</b>
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The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational provision for learners, however the assessment has identified some negative aspects. These primarily relate to the impact on the local community due to loss of educational provision from the village, and the additional travel that would be required for pupils to attend alternative provision and their parents to access school activities.

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

**What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

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

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

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

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

**Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.**

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

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Sarah Astley	Sarah Astley	
Head of Service:	Lynette Lovell		
Portfolio Holder:	CLlr Pete Roberts		

14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Date required
Cabinet	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2023

**FORM ENDS**

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# 6

Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee  
Forward Work Programme Sept 2023 to March 2024

11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Pre-meet committee members	
Sept 13/09 2pm -5pm	<p><del>Performance and Risk Q1 (between 12/09 &amp; prior to cabinet 19/09) (max1/2hr)</del></p> <p>Update on Early Years Provision (max1/2hr)</p> <p>Curriculum for Wales</p> <p>Secondary Schools Improvement Strategy</p> <p><del>Admissions Code / Capacity (max 1/2hr)</del></p>	<p>James Langridge – Thomas</p> <p>Eurig Towns</p> <p>Cressy Murphy</p> <p>Sarah Quibell</p>
Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> 10am	PRE-MEET – committee members	
20-09-23 14.00 – 16.30	<p>Committee - Public</p> <p>Curriculum for Wales (max 1/2hr)</p> <p>Secondary Schools Improvement Strategy</p> <p>Progression and Learning (max 1hr) – (Continued from prev. mtg)</p> <p>Schools Transformation (2hrs)</p>	<p>Lynette Lovell / Georgie Bevan</p> <p>Cressy Murphy</p> <p>Marianne Evans</p>
Oct	PRE-MEET	
17/10/2023	Schools Transformation (2hrs) Calon Y Dderwen & Irfon Valley	Marianne Evans / Eurig Towns
tba	PRE-MEET	
Moved date from 01-11-23 to 17/11 14.00 – 16.30	<p>Committee - Public</p> <p>Curriculum for Wales (max 1/2hr)</p> <p>Secondary Schools Improvement Strategy</p> <p>Covering Report - Public</p> <p>Confidential Item - School Budgets</p>	<p>Chris Davies</p> <p>Cressy Murphy</p> <p>Mari Thomas / Jane Thomas/ Nancy Owen</p>
Dec	PRE-MEET	
13-12-23 14.00 – 16.30	<p>Committee - Public</p> <p>WESP Update</p> <p>Estyn Updates</p> <p>Q2 Strategic Risk Register</p>	<p>Bethan Price</p> <p>Lynette Lovell / Georgie Bevan</p> <p>Bets Ingram</p>

**2024**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Type and Detail</b>	
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> 2pm	Pre-Meeting Schools Funding Formula Review	
Jan 17 <sup>th</sup> 2pm (1)	Committee - Public Finance All Heads of Service  Progression and Learning (Incl. LA level verified exam data) (max 1hr) – (Continued from prev. mtg)	
Jan	Pre-Meeting	
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> 10am	Committee - Public Budget Scrutiny	
Feb	Pre-Meeting (if required)	
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> 2pm (2)	Committee - Public Alternative Budget (if required)	
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup> 2pm	Self-Assessment Performance and Risk Q3 (between 13/02 & prior to cabinet 27/02 TBC)	James Langridge - Thomas
Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> 2pm	Pre-Meeting	
Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> 2pm (3)	Committee - Public	