



FORMAL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Welshpool Town Primary Education

Consultation dates: 5th September until 18th October 2016





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1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this consultation exercise is to seek views on the following proposal:

“To establish a new English-medium Church-in-Wales (Voluntary Controlled) (CiW) Primary School and a new Welsh-medium Community Primary (CP) School in Welshpool.”

- It is proposed that the new English-medium School will be located on land at Welshpool High School. The school will, however, operate from the current sites of Ysgol Maesydre, Gungrog and Oldford Schools on a temporary basis before subsequently transferring to the new building at the earliest opportunity;
- The new build Welsh-medium School will be located on the Ysgol Maesydre site, but will operate from the current site of Ardwyn School on a temporary basis before subsequently transferring to the new building;
- The anticipated timescale is for the new schools to be established from September 2017 before transferring into the two new school buildings upon their opening in 2018/19;
- The current four schools in Welshpool – Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School; Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School; Oldford Nursery & Infant School and Ysgol Maesydre would close from the end of August 2017.

1.2 Who will we consult with?

The Council will consult with those stakeholders listed below in accordance with the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code 2013 (“the Code”). Consultation will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the Code, which can be found on the Council’s website¹.

1.3 How to respond to the Consultation

i) Written responses

A feedback form is attached to this document, and is also available on the Council’s website. You can also respond in writing.

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Schools Transformation Team

Powys County Council

County Hall

Llandrindod Wells

Powys

LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

All correspondence should be received **no later than 5pm on the 18th October 2016**.

ii) Consultation meetings

The following public consultation meeting has been arranged:

¹ <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/>

Tuesday 20th September – 6:30 to 8:30pm Theatr Clera, Welshpool High School.

Separate consultation meetings will be held with governors, staff and pupils.

A Welsh language and Polish language version of this document is available on the Council's website - www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools.

If you require a hard copy of this document, or the document in a different format, then please contact the Schools Transformation Team on 01597 826954 or school.consultation@powys.gov.uk.

If you require a copy of the Consultation Report that will be published following the consultation, then please ring 01597 826954 or email school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

1.4 List of Consultees

Pupils (including School Councils), Parents, Prospective parents, Staff and Governing Bodies of any schools likely to be affected by the Proposals
Any other local Council likely to be affected
Church-in-Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Council for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located
Teaching and staff trade unions
Assembly Members and Members of Parliament representing the area served by any school which is subject of the Proposals
County Councillors
Regional Education Consortium
Regional Transport Consortium
Police and Crime Commissioner for the area
Community and town councils for the area served by any school which is subject to the Proposal
Early years providers in the local area
Welsh Government Schools Management Division
Estyn
Children and Young People's Partnership
RhAG (Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh medium Education)

2. The Policy Context and Reasons for the Proposal

2.1 Schools Transformation Policy 2014/Schools Reorganisation Policy 2015²

Powys County Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people have an equal opportunity to receive the best possible education. The Council aspires to have an educational infrastructure that:

- Provides all learners with opportunities to achieve high standards of achievement and attainment;
- Provides for first class teaching and learning provision reflecting national, regional and local priorities;
- Has high quality resilient leadership and management;
- Provides robust linguistic continuity and progression;
- Improves cost-effectiveness and efficiency;
- Has the right number of schools in the right place for the current and future pupil population of Powys;
- Has school buildings and blocks that are assessed as condition A or B;
- Minimises dependency on temporary accommodation; and
- Reduces overall surplus places in schools.

The Council has a duty to ensure that school buildings, teaching resources and pupils' learning experiences are shaped to develop competencies which allow children and young people to engage confidently with the challenges of their future lives. The challenge faced by the Council is to ensure that schools provide an appropriate, fit-for-purpose learning environment that will facilitate the delivery of a curriculum, as defined in "Successful Futures³" to ensure children and young people develop as;

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world; and
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

The aspiration for primary education in Powys is to have schools with single year group classes, and schools that have headteachers with no classroom responsibilities. However, it must be recognised that in some situations, geographic or linguistic issues make the aspirational targets for size of schools difficult to achieve, and consideration will be given to the specific circumstances of each school under consideration.

In order to establish an infrastructure of schools that meet the Council's aspirations for education, the Council will need to consider new models of delivering educational provision in the county. In a rural county as diverse as Powys there is no one size fits all approach to school organisation. Consideration will be given to the specific circumstances of each school/s and community.

2.2 21st Century Schools Programme

The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme is a unique collaboration between the Welsh Government (WG), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities.

It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st century schools in Wales. The programme focuses resources on the right schools in the right places, for early years through to post-16.

² <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/>

³ Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Requirements in Wales. Professor Ian Donaldson February 2015

Powys County Council Strategic Outline Programme for the first phase of the 21st Schools Programme was approved by the Welsh Government in 2011. It includes proposed capital funding for improving the educational infrastructure of primary education in Welshpool.

2.3 Welsh Government Welsh-medium Education Strategy⁴ and Powys County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2014 - 17

The Welsh-medium Education Strategy sets out the Welsh Government's vision for Welsh-medium education, which is:

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

The Council aims to ensure that all Powys learners have the opportunity to become confident bilingual citizens, and supporting learners to achieve fluency in Welsh and English through Welsh-medium education from the early years onwards is a key focus of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

In order to offer the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens, the Council is committed to providing the highest quality Welsh-medium education to every child and young person in Powys within a reasonable distance from their homes. Robust linguistic progression through every phase of education must also be provided, to enable all children and young people across Powys to experience the cultural and cognitive benefits of bilingualism.

2.4 Discussions with the four schools and decision-making process

In November 2014, the Council's School Organisation Review Panel (SORP) met with the governors, headteachers and local members for Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School; Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School; Oldford Nursery & Infant School and Ysgol Maesydre. The purpose of the meeting was to start a conversation about shaping the future infrastructure of primary education in Welshpool Town, as part of the School Review Process outlined in the Schools Transformation Policy 2014. Leighton CP School was also included in the early discussions but the school is not part of this proposal.

During these discussions, it was noted that the main problems facing primary education in Welshpool were:

- the poor quality of school buildings with a mixture of condition⁵ C/B;
- a challenging educational model with three infant schools feeding into one junior school, leading to an impact on pupil performance and social cohesion;
- lack of growth in the number of pupils accessing Welsh—medium education in Welshpool due to the fact that the current provision is delivered in a dual-stream infant school and a dual-stream junior school—the need to provide faith provision; and
- the need to reduce surplus places. There are currently 434 available places between the four schools, but 92 (21%) of places are unfilled.

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

⁵ <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-a-school-place/use-of-the-welsh-language-in-powys-schools/>

Grade A	Good. Performing as intended and operating efficiently.
Grade B	Satisfactory. Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration.
Grade C	Poor. Exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended.
Grade D	Bad. Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.

During 2015, further dialogue took place with the schools and the Diocesan Representative, and an informal drop-in session with parents was held in Welshpool on the 1st July 2015.

On the 14th December 2015, the SORP agreed their preferred option for primary education in Welshpool and a report was submitted to the Cabinet of the Council, which was considered on the 24th January 2016. The Cabinet agreed to commence formal consultation on the following proposal, and a Strategic Outline Case for capital funding was submitted, and subsequently approved, by the Welsh Government.

“To establish a new English-medium Church-in-Wales (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School and a new Welsh-medium Community Primary School in Welshpool.”

- It is proposed that the new English-medium School will be located on land at Welshpool High School. The school will, however, operate from the current sites of Ysgol Maesydre, Gungrog and Oldford Schools on a temporary basis before subsequently transferring to the new building at the earliest opportunity;
- The new build Welsh-medium School will be located on the Ysgol Maesydre site, but will operate from current site of Ardwyn School on a temporary basis before subsequently transferring to the new building;
- The anticipated timescale is for the new schools to be established from September 2017 before transferring into the two new school buildings upon their opening in 2018/19.
- The current four schools in Welshpool – Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School; Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School; Oldford Nursery & Infant School and Ysgol Maesydre; would close from the end of August 2017.

3. Information about the proposed new schools

English-medium Church-in-Wales (VC) School	
Name	The name of the new school would be proposed by the shadow governing body, and approved by the Portfolio Holder for Education and the Diocesan Authority.
Location	The school will operate as a multi-sited primary school from September 2017, using the existing sites of Gungrog, Oldford and Maesydre schools. On completion of the construction of a new school building in Welshpool, the school will operate from a single site. The land currently identified for the development is situated on land currently used by Welshpool High School.
Proposed Admission number	From September 2017 - 51 From the opening of the new school building in 2018/19 - 51
Age range	4 – 11
Pupil places capacity	From September 2017 – 362 From the opening of the new school building in 2018/19 : 360 (Reception to Year 6)
Nursery Places	51
Category	Church-in-Wales (voluntary controlled) School
Language Category	English Medium

Welsh-medium community primary school	
Name	The name of the new school would be proposed by the shadow governing body, and approved by the Portfolio Holder for Education.
Location	From September 2017, the new school would operate from the existing site of Ardwyn N & I School. On completion of the construction of a new school building in Welshpool, the school will operate from a single site. The land currently identified for the development is situated on land currently used by Ysgol Maesydre.
Proposed Admission number	From September 2017 - 21 From the opening of the new school building in 2018/19 - 21
Nursery Places	21
Age range	4 - 11
Pupil places capacity	From September 2017 – 72 From the opening of the new school building in 2018/19: 150

Category	Community Primary School
Language Category	Welsh-medium

3.1 21st Century Schools – A New Learning Environment

The construction of the two new schools will be being funded via the 21st Century Schools Programme as a joint enterprise between Welsh Government and Powys County Council.

It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st century schools in Wales. The programme will focus resources on the right schools in the right places, for early years through to post-16.

It will deliver:

- learning environments in Wales that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better educational outcomes;
- greater economy and efficiency for learning environments through better use of resources;
- a sustainable education system in Wales that meets national building standards and reduces the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of education buildings.

3.2 Design and Sustainability

The new buildings, which are intended to be opened in 2018/19, will be based on the following design principles:

- safe, well-lit and naturally ventilated teaching spaces throughout;
- naturally lit and attractive circulation spaces;
- flexible main hall, centrally located resource /library space;
- purpose designed foundation phase teaching areas with external covered teaching spaces;
- other external areas used for educational purposes;
- extensive linkage options between teaching spaces to give flexibility in class sizes to suit educational requirements;
- special provision for pupils with disabilities;
- quiet areas for 1 – 1, small group provision for pupils with additional learning needs
- kitchen and dining areas;
- fully integrated, modern ICT equipment for teaching and learning;
- early years facilities; and
- areas for community use.

The new school buildings would be designed to provide the appropriate level of accommodation for a 21st Century Schools Programme project. Space standards will be derived from Building Bulletin 98, and will provide appropriate teaching, social and administration accommodation for 360 pupils. In accordance with Welsh Government requirements the school would be designed to achieve a BREEAM 'Excellent' rating as an indication of project-wide sustainability. BREEAM is the world's leading sustainability assessment method for master-planning projects, infrastructure and buildings. It addresses a number of lifecycle stages such as new Construction, Refurbishment and In-Use.

The buildings would be procured via the SEWSCAP⁶ Contractor Framework and would utilise early contractor involvement. The first stage of this process would be to appoint a contractor to undertake the design of the new buildings and develop the Council's requirements into architectural plans.

The new school buildings would be Condition A buildings. Investment in Information and Communications technology will provide appropriate opportunities for pupils to develop a high level

⁶ South East Wales Schools Capital Collaborative

of digital competency. They would be designed to be fully accessible in terms of the Equalities Act 2010.

3.3 Sites

The Council has identified available land for the new English-medium CiW Campus on Council owned land at Welshpool High School, and the new Welsh-medium CP School on land at Ysgol Maesydre. This would mean that there would be minimal disruption to pupils whilst the new school campuses are built.

The authority will evaluate the options around the disposal of the existing sites following project completion.

3.4 Cost

The total estimated capital cost for building the two new schools is £12.75m. These costs are subject to further evaluation from Powys County Council at Outline Business Case stage of the project. Further information about capital funding can be found on page 25 of this document.

3.5 Target timescale

	Target Date
Formal Consultation	5 th September – 18 th October 2016
Consultation Report to be considered by Cabinet	November 2016
If Cabinet decides to proceed with the Proposal:	
Objection Period (28 days)	November - December 2016
Objection Report considered by Cabinet	January 2016
If Cabinet decides to approve the Proposal:	
Establish shadow governing body	January 2016
Appoint headteacher posts	February 2017
Develop and appoint to new staffing structures	February – May 2017
Schools close	31 st August 2017
New multi-sited English-medium CiW School opens New Welsh-medium community primary school opens on the Ardwyn site	1 st September 2017
Construction period	2017 - 2018
New school buildings open	2018/19

4. What are the benefits and risks of the Proposal?

The establishment of two new primary schools in Welshpool will deliver against the 21st Century School Programme investment priorities and achieve the following:

- Greater economy and efficiency through appropriate sized schools and better use of resources to improve the cost effectiveness of the education system;
- Ensures that Powys has Welsh-medium primary schools of the right type and right size in the right place to meet current and future demand for Welsh-medium education;
- Develops a sustainable education system progressing towards a position where schools meet national building standards and by reducing the recurrent costs and carbon footprint;
- Creates safe learning environments for school and communities that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for school improvement and better educational outcomes and life chances for children and young people that are aligned to the Council’s key strategies;
- Inspirational settings appropriate for new educational developments, new technologies, adaptable to cater for the changing needs of the future;
- Inclusive settings, providing for the individual learning needs for all pupils, providing pleasant and appropriate spaces for all school users, and spaces in which pupils including those with additional learning needs and disabilities feel that their needs are respected.

Benefits
Greater opportunity for pupils from all four schools to learn with other pupils of the same age, leading to improved outcomes for learners
Pupils would not have to change schools from Nursery and Infant schools to the Junior school, minimising disruption to pupils. This will help improve learning outcomes and pupils’ well-being through a seamless transition from the Foundation phase to key stage 2. There will be greater opportunity for collaborative curriculum planning to ensure continuity and progression in learning. A common approach to inclusion and behaviour management will ensure that there is seamless social cohesion through the school
Increased opportunities for pupils to participate in social, cultural and sporting activities by being part of larger year groups or with pupils
Greater parental choice will be established in the town, through the medium of Welsh in a Community Primary school or through the medium of English in a Church-in-Wales Primary School
Reduction in the level of surplus places in the Authority
Improved efficiency in the use of resources and eliminates future maintenance costs on the four ageing schools
A more efficient staff and governance structure - two staffing and governance structures would be established, instead of four. There will be greater opportunities for staff in respect of professional development , including sharing and building on good practice

Improved learning environment fit for the 21 st Century - The proposed new school will be a Condition A school, replacing the current schools which are graded Cs and B.
Creates an attractive infrastructure within Welshpool Town to meet the needs of all learners in the locality
Ensures that the schools are fully integrated with the local community promoting community cohesion
Provides a stimulating and innovative primary Welsh-medium teaching and learning environment that will impact positively on the self-esteem and well-being of all pupils and staff
Improves Welsh-medium learning opportunities for all pupils across the ability range - provides a more robust linguistic continuity as part of a designated Welsh-medium provision
The Welsh-medium school will be able to maximise its links with the community therefore raising awareness of the Welsh language within the locality
More Welsh-medium school places will be available in Welshpool and the wider area, which means that parents and pupils have improved access to Welsh-medium education. This in turn will help promote demand and lead to an increase in the number of Welsh speakers.
Provides access to faith provision within the locality

Risk	Risk management measures
Risk that future pupil numbers increase to a point where the new schools are full	The new build schools will be constructed to be flexible to accommodate varying influxes of primary pupils, for example, with scope to build extra classrooms
Risk that the potential growth in the number of Welsh-medium pupils could reduce the number of pupils in the English-medium school, leading to surplus capacity	The Authority has considered future pupil projections whilst developing the Proposal, taking account also of local development plans, and is confident that the capacities of the two new schools are suitable
Risk that standards at the current schools may decline because of the impact of	Being part of a transformational development which includes building new schools with better facilities

<p>transition on staff – staff morale and wellbeing may be affected due to staffing uncertainty during transition to the new schools.</p>	<p>will assist in mitigating this risk. A communication strategy has been developed and officers will work closely with the schools to ensure that they are fully informed at all steps in the process.</p> <p>Should the Proposal be implemented, the Authority would establish a Management of Change workstream to work closely with the staff and shadow governing body, ensuring that transition arrangements are managed</p>
<p>Risk that standards may decline during the transition period. Increased operational challenge for the headteacher, governors and staff of the new English-medium school during the transition period, as it will be operating from three sites</p>	<p>The Authority would provide officer support from a range of service areas – HR, Challenge Advisor, Central Services, and Finance etc. The Authority would also provide clerking services to the shadow governing bodies and to the new governing bodies of the new schools for the first school year as a minimum.</p>
<p>Risk that the development will de-stabilise neighbouring schools. Potential impact on neighbouring schools outside Welshpool Town if pupils choose to attend one of the new schools which is their closest school, rather than travel to a neighbouring school, as currently happens</p>	<p>The Authority will continue to monitor pupil numbers at all schools on a yearly basis as part of its Schools Reorganisation Policy.</p>
<p>Risk that governors are not able to focus fully on improving standards at their current schools. Heavy workload for governors who are appointed to the shadow governing bodies, during the transition to the new schools</p>	<p>The Shadow Governing Bodies would be formed from those expressing an interest and it is anticipated that those individuals would be best placed to determine whether they have the available time to commit</p> <p>The Council would provide officer support from a range of service areas – HR, Challenge Advisor, Central Services, Finance etc. The Council would also provide clerking services to the shadow governing bodies and to the new governing bodies of the new schools for a minimum period first school year</p> <p>Challenge Advisors will provide monitoring and challenge to the current governing bodies to ensure that there is a continued focus on standards.</p>

<p>Risk that standards may decline at the current schools. It may be operationally challenging for governors, headteachers and staff to focus on establishing and operating the new schools during the transition period, whilst also planning and overseeing the move to the new school buildings.</p>	<p>The Authority would provide officer support from a range of service areas as outlined previously and also provide support for the transition to the new school buildings. Governors, headteachers, staff and pupils would be key stakeholders in the planning and transition stages, and would be supported by Council officers and the appointed developer</p>
<p>Risk that the capital funding required for the development is not available and that the new schools are not built, leaving the schools operating from the current infrastructure</p>	<p>The Authority has already identified its own capital funding element of the project. A Strategic Outline Case has been approved by Welsh Government. An Outline Business Case is in the process of being submitted to the Welsh Government for 50% match-funding. Should Welsh Government decide not to support the project financially, the Authority will seek to find the required funding from within Council funds.</p>
<p>Risk that the identified sites for the new schools are not suitable, or cause a significant delay/additional costs to the project</p>	<p>The Authority has carried out initial site suitability exercises which confirmed that the sites are suitable although they do have some constraints and challenges. Officers are now undertaking ecological and flood assessment surveys to fully understand the challenges – these costs will be included within the Outline Business Case that is submitted to Welsh Government.</p>

5. What are the impact and implications of the Proposal?

The Proposal will have an impact on the following four schools:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Nursery Places Available	Age Range
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	Community Primary	Dual-stream	24	24	4 – 7
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	Voluntary Controlled Church-in-Wales	English-medium	25	25	4 – 7
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	Community Primary	English-medium	21	21	4 – 7
Ysgol Maesydre	Community Primary	Dual-stream	55	0	7 – 11

5.1 Impact on Outcomes

The current split between infant and junior education presents a number of challenges particularly to improving learning outcomes in the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. The Authority's aspiration is therefore to consolidate infant and junior schools in order to reduce the potentially negative impact of an additional transition stage between the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2

i) Estyn Profiles

	Date of Inspection	Estyn Judgement: Current Performance	Estyn Judgement: Prospects for Improvement	Follow up activity
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	2009	The school was inspected on the previous inspection framework and received 6 Grade '2s' and 1 Grade '3' against the key questions	n/a	n/a
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	2011	Adequate	Adequate	Estyn monitoring – removed from this category in 2013
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	2016	Good	Good	None
Ysgol Maesydre	2011	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Special Measures - Removed from Special Measures in 2012

ii) National School Categorisation System

The National School Categorisation system gives a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve.

The system has been developed collectively between regional education consortia and Welsh Government. Its primary function is to identify, across Wales, the schools that need the most support. The colour category of support allocated to a school will trigger a bespoke, tailored support programme.

The system is based on three steps. It is not purely data-driven and takes into account the quality of leadership, teaching and learning in schools.

- **Step one – Standards group:** A range of information is used to make a judgement about the school's standards, resulting in a standards group
- **Step two – Improvement capacity:** An evaluation of the school's capacity to improve further, taking account of the evidence about the standards and the quality of leadership, teaching and learning, resulting in an improvement capacity
- **Step three – Support category:** Bringing the judgement on the standards group and improvement capacity together to decide on the school's support category, colour coded either green, yellow, amber or red

The affected schools were categorised as follows during 2015/16:

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	2	B	Yellow
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	1	B	Yellow
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	1	A	Green
Ysgol Maesydre	4	B	Amber

The establishment of two new primary schools would ensure high quality provision and learning environment, ensuring continuity and progression in learning. This would impact positively on pupil, wellbeing, achievement and attainment. It would also promote greater interaction between pupils of the same age, enabling more opportunities for additional activities.

The Proposal for a new Welsh-medium primary school provides an opportunity to improve provision and outcomes for Welsh-medium learners. The new Welsh-medium CP School would provide an opportunity for pupils to have an immersive education through the medium of Welsh, rather than in the current dual-stream arrangement. This would enable pupils to improve their bilingual skills.

5.2 Impact on Provision

i) Learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance

The new schools will be able to deliver a full, broad and balanced curriculum which aligns to the Curriculum reform in Wales. It is expected that learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance would be at least as good as that which is currently provided by the four schools. Through

establishing all through primary schools, there will be a seamless transition from the Foundation phase to key stage 2

Through creating a greater critical mass of teachers and support staff there will be increased opportunities for continued professional development and the sharing of good practice in respect of curriculum planning and delivery.

i) English-medium Church in Wales Primary School

It is proposed that the English-medium school is established as a Voluntary Controlled Church-in-Wales school, as part of the St Asaph Diocese. The Diocese of St Asaph has long been a provider of schools to the children of North Powys, and has a strong partnership with Powys County Council.

The Church in Wales does not seek to educate within the tenets of a particular faith, but to engage with all. Offering an inclusive broad balanced curriculum, it is also rooted in a firm belief that every person has spiritual needs that should be developed just like other skills and gifts. To achieve this, the Church in Wales balances the concepts of the service of all with opportunities to nurture the spirituality of those who wish to develop this area of their lives.

The Diocese of St Asaph would like to see a model that provides a learning environment where every pupil is respected and encouraged in all they do, and where each contribution is valued.

As a Voluntary Controlled School, the new school would teach the same agreed Religious Education syllabus as the community schools. This includes other religious beliefs and points of view as well as non-denominational Christianity. As in every school, a daily act of collective worship forms an important part of the timetable, offering staff and pupils a reflective space in which to consider the deeper questions of meaning, purpose and faith.

A church school does not measure its success criteria by pupils adhering to Christianity, but seeks rather to equip its pupils with the knowledge and understanding for them to critically evaluate the moral and ethical challenges of life and to find their own response, be that within Christianity or not. The aim of a church school is to give a gift of a deep and broad education, allowing the children to make a personal, informed decision about matters of faith.

Church in Wales schools seek to provide the highest possible standard of education within a distinctively Christian context, underpinned by a clear code of values derived from the Gospels. They do not seek to convert but to serve, and evidence shows that a strong Christian ethos and educational vision help to raise standards and achievement and enable every child to fulfil their potential.

Any parent who chooses to send their child to a church school has the right to opt out of collective worship and Religious Education. The headteacher and staff would have access to the support and services of the Diocesan Education team (in addition to ERW and Powys County Council), who can provide advice and support on a range of topics including curriculum and ethos matters, and who provide regular training for staff and governors. In addition, they would have access to a network of advisers and consultants commissioned by the Diocese, and would also have access to training, resources and activities. Church schools also have a named 'Bishop's Visitor', who would support and challenge the school; offering advice and support to staff and pupils, and embodying the pastoral concern that the Bishop of St Asaph has for the schools in his diocese.

ii) Welsh-medium CP School

Improved access to Welsh medium education is a key driver of the Council's School Transformation Programme and the **Welsh in Education Strategic Plan**⁷ (WESP) for 2014-17. This requires additional and extended provision in the county to ensure that Welsh-medium education is more easily accessible to a greater number of learners.

Meeting parental demand for Welsh-medium education and generating future growth is a key priority for the Council. However, the current infrastructure in Welshpool does not provide an appropriate climate to generate growth. Evidence indicates that pupil numbers in Welsh-medium education in Welshpool has not increased substantially over the last ten years. This is not a pattern that has been replicated in other areas of Powys, where Welsh-medium numbers have grown significantly.

Welshpool is a strategic area for the growth of Welsh-medium education in Powys. The Authority intends to replicate the success of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, a Welsh-medium primary school in neighbouring Newtown, which has seen a significant increase in pupil numbers over the last ten years.

Creating a Welsh-medium school, rather than continuing with a dual-stream model, is expected to be a catalyst for growth in demand for Welsh-medium primary education in north east Powys. This is supported by analysis of pupil movement, which shows that there are currently 29 pupils living closer to the Welshpool schools but who choose to travel to other Welsh-medium or dual-stream schools for their education. This suggests that the demand for Welsh-medium education in Welshpool isn't currently being met within the existing infrastructure.

5.3 Impact on the Learning environment

The following table shows the condition of the school, based on the Welsh Government's review of school condition that was undertaken in 2009⁸.

School	Condition	Sustainability	Suitability
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	C	B/C	B
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	B	C	B
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	B	A	B
Ysgol Maesydre	C	B/C	C

A recent re-survey of the school estate in Welshpool, undertaken by the Council, has reconfirmed these gradings:

⁷ www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-a-school-place/use-of-the-welsh-language-in-powys-schools/

⁸

Grade A	Good. Performing as intended and operating efficiently.
Grade B	Satisfactory. Performing as intended but exhibiting minor deterioration.
Grade C	Poor. Exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended.
Grade D	Bad. Life expired and/or serious risk of imminent failure.

- Ysgol Maesydre, Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School and Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School are all in Condition C buildings, which is defined as 'Poor. Exhibiting major defects and/ or not operating as intended.'
- Oldford Infant & Nursery School has been graded as Condition B, although access to the school is problematic.

Once the new schools are built, the learning environment for pupils will be significantly improved. The new schools will be Condition A schools, designed in accordance with 21st Century School principles, and will replace the current four schools that are in ageing and poor quality buildings.

5.4 Impact on Leadership, management and governance

i) Shadow (temporary) governing bodies

If the Proposal is approved, then the immediate establishment of two shadow governing bodies would be required to oversee the strategic and operational transition to the two new schools. The shadow governing bodies would be responsible for recruitment of the headteacher and other staff of the new schools

The shadow governing bodies would be established from amongst the membership of the four existing governing bodies. Expressions of interest to serve on the shadow governing bodies would be sought – the specific make-up of the shadow governing bodies is set out in *The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005*.

It should be noted that there would be a substantial additional workload for shadow governors and the appointed senior leadership teams during the transition stage to the new schools, as some governors would be serving on both the existing governing bodies and the shadow governing body. The Council would provide additional support to the shadow governing body from a range of services – including school improvement, finance, HR and clerking, to ensure that the workload is manageable.

During the initial period when the new English-medium CiW School is run as a multi-sited school, there may be additional workload for the new governing body and senior leadership team caused by operating a new model that is unfamiliar to them – a multi-sited school- whilst also planning the full transition to the new school campus. The Council would continue to provide additional support to the new governing body and senior leadership team to ensure a smooth transition.

ii) New permanent governing bodies

Upon the opening of the two new schools in 2017, two new permanent governing bodies would be established, following the procedures laid out in Regulations.

The composition of the new governing body of the English-medium CiW School would be as follows:

Category of Governor	Number
Parent governors	4 or 5
LEA governors	3
Teacher governors	1
Staff governors	1
Foundation governors	3 or 4
Community governors	1
Headteacher	1

Foundation governors are members of the governing bodies of voluntary aided, foundation and voluntary controlled schools. They ensure that the school preserves its particular religious character

The composition of the new governing body of the Welsh-medium CP School would be as follows:

Category of Governor	Number
Parent governors	4 or 5
LEA governors	3 or 4
Teacher governors	1 or 2
Staff governors	1
Community governors	3 or 4
Headteacher	1

iii) Impact on Leadership and Staffing

The Proposal provides an opportunity to develop two new leadership teams. There would be opportunities to share best practice from existing schools, and to develop partnerships with the wider catchment primary schools.

Should the Proposal be implemented, the Council would establish a Management of Change workstream to work closely with the staff and shadow governing body, ensuring that transition arrangements are managed well.

Two new staffing structures would be developed in conjunction with the shadow governing bodies and in accordance with the Welsh Government School Staffing regulations. The structures would be developed to deliver the schools' business plans and implemented in accordance with the relevant HR Policies for teaching and support staff. There may be a reduction in the number of staff required at the two new schools, compared to the number current employed at the four schools – this relates to teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as cleaning, caretaking and catering staff. A priority would be to work alongside the shadow governing bodies and headteachers, when appointed, to develop and consult on the proposed staffing structures.

5.5 Impact on Vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs or Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

All schools in Powys are responsible for meeting a child's special educational needs, in accordance with the Council's ALN Strategy and Operational Guidance, referencing the 1996 Education Act. Funding from the Council is delegated to individual schools to support pupils with significant needs. The Council will work in partnership with pupils with additional learning needs, parents and the schools to support an effective transition to the new learning environments.

Any change of school and any disruption not of the learner's or their family's choosing is going to have some impact on feelings of wellbeing. Mitigation of the negative effects of this especially for those with additional needs will need to be well planned and allow for individual plans of support to be in place.

Those with difficulties in managing change; many of whom may be on the autistic spectrum, will be of particular concern. However, with careful planning and professional support, the process of change to what will be a new and better environment may be seen as a potential for learning that will enable those young people to cope better with adult life.

The new schools would be encouraged to conduct person-centred reviews and planning which will be very helpful in providing the circles of support and hearing the voice of the young people during this period.

5.6 Impact on the Schools' ability to deliver the full curriculum

The Proposal would allow both schools to focus on delivering the curriculum in single-language schools, providing an opportunity to improve outcomes, rather than delivering in two language streams, as is the current situation. Larger staff teams at both schools will enable a greater distribution of responsibilities to develop specific curriculum areas.

Upon the opening of the new school buildings, both schools would provide a curriculum appropriate to Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 from two single sites.

5.7 Impact on Early Years Provision

There will be an Early Years setting at both the new schools, with a Cylch Meithrin operating from the Welsh-medium school.

5.8 School Transport Arrangements

Home-to-school transport arrangements for the Proposal would be provided in accordance with the Council's School Transport Policy and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008⁹. The current School Transport Policy can be found at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-school-transport/>. Pupils are eligible for free home-to-school transport if they live more than 2 miles from school – it is not expected that many pupils would require free home-to-school transport in Welshpool as the majority live within 2 miles of the locations of the proposed new schools during both the interim stage of the project (from September 2017) and upon the opening of the new school buildings in 2018/19.

5.9 Available walking routes to school

From September 2017, available walking routes to the new schools will remain the same as the current walking routes. During the design process for the two new school buildings, safe and available walking routes to the sites would be agreed.

Due to the intended relocation of the schools, some primary-aged pupils may be required to walk further than they currently walk to school.

5.10 Admissions

Admissions for all four schools are administered by the Authority.

From September 2017

- pupils currently attending English-medium provision at Gungrog, Oldford and Maesydre schools would automatically be given a place at the site that they are currently attending;

⁹ <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/learner-travel/?lang=en>

- pupils currently attending English-medium provision at Ardwyn would be given a place at the sites of either the current Gungrog or Oldford schools;
- pupils currently attending Welsh-medium provision at Ardwyn and Ysgol Maesydre will be given a place at the new Welsh-medium school on the current Ardwyn site.

In 2018/19, upon the opening of the two new school buildings, pupils will be provided a place at their chosen school.

6. Resourcing of education and other financial implications

6.1 Revenue Costs

The Council believes that the Proposal, if implemented, would ensure a more efficient use of resources.

The financial assessment outlined below is based on 2016/17 Financial Year and Formula:

School	Schools' Budget Share 2015-16	Funding per pupil 2015-16
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	£352k	£5,027
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	£315k	£4,376
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	£287k	£4,491
Ysgol Maesydre	£587k	£3,455

Schools delegated budget upon the establishment of the two new schools (across current sites) from September 2017

Current Delegated Budget: 4 Schools	£1,511,434
Estimated Funding Based on a three-sited English-medium School	£1,126,870
Estimated Funding Based on a single-sited Welsh-medium School	£308,431
Total Delegated Saving (includes assumption of additional 2 x 0.25 FTE for split site)	£76,133
Additional savings re Management Structure	£1,914
Net savings	£78,047

Schools delegated budget upon the opening of the two new school buildings in 2018/19

Current Delegated Budget: 4 Schools	£1,511,434
Estimated Delegated Funding: English medium School	£1,054,527
Estimated Delegated Funding: Welsh medium School	£301,128
Total Delegated Saving	£155,779
Total Additional Saving (Management and canteen savings)	£17,914

Total Saving	£173,693
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If the Proposal is implemented, in accordance with the **Powys Scheme for Financing Schools 2016-17**, where a school is scheduled to be closed, amalgamated or merged during a financial year, the school will receive formula funding for the proportion of the financial year for which it is open i.e. if a school closes on 31st August it will only be resourced for the first 5 months of the financial year (5/12 of the formula allocation). When the school closes, any balance (surplus or deficit) will revert to the Authority. It will not be transferred as a balance to any other school.

The remainder of the annual budget will be retained centrally, to meet any exceptional costs incurred during the closing process together with any cumulative overspend at the school. Thereafter the savings will be reinvested into the Schools Service budget.

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.

6.2 Capital Costs

The construction of the two new schools in Welshpool is part of the Welsh Government and Powys County Council's 21st Century Schools Programme. Further information about the Programme can be found at www.21stcenturyschools.org.

Funding for the 21st Century Schools Programme is based on 50% contribution from local authorities, 50% match-funding from Welsh Government, and the process of obtaining the Welsh Government's funding is reliant on successful approval of three business cases – a Strategic Outline Case, followed by an Outline Business Case, and, finally, a Full Business Case.

In 2015, the Welsh Government approved a Strategic Outline Case for two new schools in Welshpool in 2015. The Council has subsequently developed and submitted an Outline Business Case, which will be submitted to Welsh Government in September 2016. It is anticipated that the Full Business Case will be submitted by September 2017, without prejudice to any decisions made by Cabinet following this formal consultation process.

The total estimated capital cost for the two new schools is £12.75m. These costs are subject to further evaluation from Powys County Council at Outline Business Case stage of the project.

The Council believes that the Proposal will ensure better strategic management of the schools estate through the removal of maintenance backlogs and schools buildings which are inefficient or in poor condition. Any capital receipts and other savings arising from the disposal of the three current school sites will be utilized in accordance with the Council's Capital Programme and will be used to support future capital projects including the 21st Century Schools Programme.

In the event that Welsh Government do not give approval for 50% match-funding for the two new schools, the Council will look at its capacity to fund the development from its own Capital Programme.

6.3 Surplus places

The Welsh Government requires all local authorities to manage the level of surplus places in their schools. According to the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013:

*‘Some spare places are necessary to enable schools to cope with fluctuations in numbers of pupils, but excessive numbers of unused places that could be removed mean that resources are tied up unproductively. Where there are more than 10% surplus places in an area, local authorities **should** review their provision and **should** make proposals for school reorganisation if this will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of provision. This is especially important where individual schools, have “significant” levels of surplus places. A significant level of surplus provision is defined as 25% or more of a school’s capacity (as defined in Circular 21/2011) and at least 30 unfilled places.’*

On average, there are currently 19% of surplus places within the four schools in Welshpool Town. The level of surplus places at Ardwyn and Gungrog Nursery & Infant Schools are significant, and Ysgol Maesydre has a higher number of unfilled places than the Welsh Government threshold.

The following table shows the number and percentage of surplus places currently in each of the schools¹⁰:

	Total number of available places (Reception to Year 6)	Number of surplus places 2015/16	Number of surplus places 2015/16
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	72	17	24%
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	77	19	25%
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	64	7	11%
Ysgol Maesydre	221	39	18%
Total	434	82	19%

It is proposed that, upon opening of the two new build schools, there will be 510 places available in the two schools – 360 places at the new English-medium CiW School, and 150 places at the new Welsh-medium CP School. The Council is keen that any new development includes sufficient capacity for growth. The reasons for this are:

- Although the current short-term projections indicate that numbers at the current four schools will fall slightly, longer-term population projections indicate that the Powys primary school population is expected to increase over the longer term;

Previous Pupil Numbers (Reception to Year 6)	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	71	82	67	59	66	65
Gungrog CiW Nursery &	71	82	78	76	85	87

¹⁰ Powys Annual School Places Return to Welsh Government 2016.

Infant School						
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	56	49	48	55	52	69
Ysgol Maesydre	203	189	186	191	183	176

Pupil Projections (Reception to Year 6)	Jan 2016 (current)	Jan 2017	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	Jan 2021
Ardwyn Nursery & Infant School	55	56	58	55	57	61
Gungrog CiW Nursery & Infant School	58	67	52	41	41	49
Oldford Nursery & Infant School	57	64	61	44	46	54
Ysgol Maesydre	182	189	201	215	205	183
Total	352	376	372	355	349	347

- The natural pupil numbers attending the four schools should be significantly higher, with over a 100 pupils choosing to attend other schools within and outside the catchment. Following an analysis of pupil data, the Authority is aware that a number of pupils in Welshpool Town choose to attend schools that are not their closest school. This is particularly apparent at KS2, where 71 English-medium pupils who live closest to Ysgol Maesydre choose to attend other primary schools within and outside the immediate catchment area¹¹. The pattern is similar within the Nursery & Infant Schools;
- A total of 29 pupils choose to attend Welsh-medium provision at other schools outside the catchment.

¹¹ Analysis of Plasc 2016 pupil data

7. What alternative options were considered?

In order to find a potential solution to the problems outlined previously, a number of possible options were evaluated as part of the development of the Strategic Outline Case, in accordance with Stage 2(v) School Review Process outlined within the School Transformation Policy 2014.

The strengths and weaknesses of the current situation and alternative options were considered against agreed investment objectives and critical success factors. This resulted in a short-list of options which were further evaluated and costed.

Alternatives such as clustering, collaboration or federation were not pursued as it was felt that they did not meet the Council's objectives in finding solutions to the problems in Welshpool. It was not considered practicable to explore the full use of existing school buildings for community or other education use due to issues relating to the condition, size or accessibility. It was not considered practicable to relocate other services to any of the schools.

Status Quo	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Maintains provision in the immediate localities within Welshpool town	Does not create a structure where standards of teaching and learning can improve - three infant schools transferring into one junior school is not an ideal structure, and pupils' standards tend to dip at this key transition stage.
Meets parental choice for Church-in-Wales provision	Pupils will continue to have to change schools at key stage 2 phase – this can cause performance to dip, and potentially affect pupils' wellbeing.
Meets parental choice for community primary provision	Surplus places continue to be over the Authority's accepted threshold
	The school buildings would continue to be condition B/C for Suitability and Condition.
	The schools maintenance backlog costs would continue to rise.
	Does not create an environment where Welsh medium education in Welshpool can flourish and grow.
	Not an efficient model – maintaining four separate schools, buildings, staff and governors within a relatively small town.

The following options were evaluated but discounted:

Type of option	Option	Reasons for Discounting
Organisational	Merge Ardwyn, Oldford and Gungrog into a new consolidated dual stream infant school structure. Retain Maesydre as a standalone junior school	<p>This option was discounted as it did not address the issue of the infant/junior split that currently exists in Welshpool, and does not help improve performance at the end of KS2.</p> <p>It does not provide the most favourable environment for Welsh-medium education to flourish as it continues to be a dual-stream model. Consolidating the provision into a larger dual-stream infant school would lead to the Welsh-medium stream being an even smaller percentage of the school.</p>
Organisational	Merge 3 infant schools, Ardwyn, Oldford and Gungrog with Maesydre Junior as a new dual stream organisational structure	Whilst this option addresses the issue of the infant/junior split and the associated problems, it does not provide the most favourable environment for Welsh-medium education to flourish, as it continues to be a dual-stream model.
Category	Establish two new schools – one English-medium Community Primary School and one Welsh-medium Community Primary School	This option was discounted as it does not provide parental choice for faith provision within Welshpool Town, as currently exists.
Category	Establish two new Church-in-Wales Schools – one English-medium, one Welsh-medium	This option was discounted as it does not provide parental choice for community primary provision within Welshpool Town, as currently exists.
Building/location	Establish one integrated campus – with an English-medium school and a Welsh-medium school sharing same site	This option was discounted. Having carried out an evaluation of possible sites, there were no potential sites that were large enough to accommodate such a campus.

8. Impact assessments

The Authority has carried out draft impact assessments, and the initial findings are summarised below. The full versions of the assessments can be found on the Council's website www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/

Following the consultation period, the impact assessments will be updated and finalised, to incorporate relevant information gathered during the consultation. These will be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

8.1 Impact on Equalities

The Authority is confident that the proposal, in accordance with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, will not significantly affect the pupils; the needs of each individual pupil currently attending all Welshpool Town Primary Schools who belong to a protected characteristic group will continue to be met.

8.2 Community Impact Assessment

All four schools have strong links with the local community, especially in utilizing schools facilities for a wide range of activities and events such as playgroup activities and as meeting venues. However, the Authority is satisfied that the community impact will be minimal should the four schools close in order to establish a new English-medium and a new Welsh-medium school, given that the new schools are to be located within Welshpool town and will provide new community friendly facilities.

In terms of extra-curricular activities, a wide range of activities are offered by all four schools, and the Authority is satisfied that pupils would have the opportunity to partake in a similar range of activities at the new proposed school sites. It is envisaged that due to the new proposed sites for both schools being within Welshpool town itself, the relocation will have minimal impact on extra-curricular activities. By providing two all-through primary schools in the town, and by having a larger group of pupils within the same school, it is anticipated that more opportunities and more varied activities can be offered for the pupils.

It is noticeable that 3 out of the 4 schools have drawn attention to poor car parking facilities, road and school access issues on the current sites. By establishing and building a new English-medium and a new Welsh-medium primary school, the Authority will address these issues in designing the new schools and by implementing plans for better access and drop-off points, and more car parking spaces.

8.3 Welsh Language Impact Assessment

The draft impact assessment concludes that the proposal could provide positive benefits for the Welsh Language and Welsh-medium education in the Welshpool area through improved parental choice, more opportunities for linguistic progression and increased opportunities for pupils to participate in more varied extra-curricular activities through all key stages of education.

It is also envisaged that by establishing the first stand-alone Welsh-medium primary school within the town of Welshpool, it will increase Welsh language awareness within the locality, and within Powys County itself.

Although the figures for both schools with regards to the number of pupils who receive education through the medium of Welsh should be acknowledged as significantly lower than the percentage of pupils receiving English-medium education within the same dual-stream schools, conclusions should be objectively drawn with regards to the demand for Welsh language education in the area.

Currently, due to the absence of a stand-alone Welsh-medium primary school within Welshpool town, some parents who want their children to be educated through the medium of Welsh choose to travel to other Welsh-medium or dual-stream primary schools outside the town, reflecting the slight decrease in pupil numbers who study in Welsh from Infant school at Ardwyn to the Junior School in Maesydre.

It is envisaged that by establishing a new Welsh-medium primary school, parents and pupils in the future will choose not to travel out of town for Welsh education, and will stay within their immediate locality. It is also hoped that the establishment of a new Welsh-medium primary school in Welshpool will generate growth in the number of pupils choosing to study in Welsh in the town.

Valuable extra-curricular activities are offered for Ardwyn and Maesydre pupils who study through the medium of Welsh, and the schools are proactive within the community in advocating Welsh language lessons for parents. The pupils have opportunities to participate in Urdd activities, although the schools acknowledge that they wish to expand on the opportunities on offer in the future.

It is the Authority's view that by opening a new Welsh-medium school, this could provide an opportunity to expand on current partnerships and provide additional opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils (with the Urdd and Menter Maldwyn for example). By proceeding with the proposal, the anticipated impact for the Welsh-language after school activities will be positive and conclusive for pupils.

The educational standards at both schools are consistently good or improving; it is in the Authority's view that no adverse impact on standards will take place if the proposal is approved.

8.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act came into force on the 1st April 2015, and is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It places a duty on public bodies listed in the Act to think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

Powys County Council has carried out a Single Integrated Impact Assessment for this Proposal, which considers how the Proposal impacts upon the seven well-being goals outlined within the Act, along with the Council's own objectives.

9. Likely impact on other affected schools

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013 requires information to be provided about any school that may be affected by the Proposal. The Code defines affected schools as *'all existing schools likely to be affected by the Proposals (for example, in the case of a Proposal to close a school information should be provided about all the surrounding schools to which it might reasonably be considered that pupils may wish to transfer).'*

The School Organisation Code states that information must be provided during a consultation about any schools affected by the proposal – these include any schools to which it might reasonably be considered that pupils may wish to transfer.

Analysis of pupils' home postcodes indicate that there are a number of pupils who live in Welshpool currently attend schools outside the town. The schools who receive the most pupils from Welshpool are:

- Buttington/ Trewern CP School;
- Forden CiW School;
- Guilsfield CP School;
- Leighton CP School.

There are a number of other schools who receive a small number of pupils for whom the Welshpool Town Schools are their closest.

The main Welsh-medium providers that may be affected by this Proposal are

- Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Newtown
- Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion

9.1 Impact on outcomes, provision, leadership and management and the curriculum at the affected schools.

It is not expected that the proposals would lead to an increase in the numbers of pupils that may transfer to any alternative schools, and therefore it is not expected that this would lead to a negative impact on outcomes, provision, leadership/management at any of the schools named above, nor on their ability to deliver the curriculum.

However, in the longer-term, there may be an impact on these schools if pupil numbers reduce, and pupils from Welshpool choose to attend their closest school rather than other schools.

9.2 Key Data for other affected schools

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Nursery Places Available	Age Range
Buttington/ Trewern	Community Primary	English-medium	25	25	4 – 11
Forden	Voluntary Controlled Church-in-Wales	English-medium	12	12	4 – 11
Guilsfield	Community Primary	English-medium	22	22	4 – 11
Leighton	Community Primary	English-medium	12	12	4 – 11
Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion	Community Primary	Dual-stream	23	23	4 – 11
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	Community Primary	Welsh-medium	23	23	4 – 11

Pupil Numbers	Jan-10	Jan-11	Jan-12	Jan-13	Jan-14	Jan-15	Jan-16	Jan-17	Jan-18	Jan-19	Jan-20
Buttington/ Trewern	184	181	174	180	174	178	175	173	180	181	183
Forden	77	76	83	88	88	87	86	86	87	80	80
Guilsfield	157	168	168	164	162	143	146	154	157	151	154
Leighton	90	79	82	91	85	75	76	74	81	84	84
Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion	182	189	188	195	202	209	195	191	195	198	199
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	146	161	165	179	182	176	176	172	177	166	167

	Capacity Information			Building Condition			Estyn Profiles			National Categorisation			
School	Total number of places	Number of surplus places (Jan 20)	Total surplus capacity (Jan 20)	Condition	Suitability	Sustainability	Date of inspection	School's current performance	Prospects for improvement	Follow-up activity	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category
Buttington/ Trewern Community Primary School	162	0	0%	C	B	C	2010 *				1 B		Yellow
Forden Church in Wales School	88	6	7%	C	B/C	D	2013	Good	Good	n/a	3 B		Yellow
Guilsfield Community Primary School	157	27	17%	C	B	C	2015	Adequate	Adequate	EM	2 C		Amber
Leighton Community Primary School	91	21	23%	B	B	C	2015	Adequate	Adequate	EM	4 C		Amber
Llanfair Caereinion Community Primary School	167	0	0%	C	C	C	2010	Good	Good	n/a	2 B		Yellow
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	162	0	0%	C	B	C	2010	Good	Good	n/a	2 B		Yellow

APPENDIX A - RESPONSE FORM

Please provide your comments in the space provided. You can use additional sheets if necessary.

1. Please let us know your views on the proposals for Welshpool Town Schools, including any alternatives to the proposal you think we should consider:

2. Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent, member of staff, governor)

3. Name (optional)

- 4(a). Would you like to be informed of the publication of the consultation report?

Yes No

- 4(b). If you answered 'Yes', please provide an e-mail address or postal address:

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than 5pm on the 18th October 2016**:

Schools Transformation Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk