

Transforming Education in Powys

Options Appraisal

Llanbedr C. in W. School

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys sets out a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of the objectives included in the strategy is to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision'.

The purpose of this paper is to identify a preferred option for the future of Llanbedr C in W. Primary School. Current pupil numbers¹ at the school are as follows:

	N1	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total N-Yr 6	Total R-Yr 6
Llanbedr C in W. Primary School	1	4	5	2	11	7	4	7	4	45	40

(As a Voluntary Aided School, Llanbedr C. in W. School is responsible for its own admissions arrangements and admits nursery aged pupils to the school, however these pupils are not funded by the Council. Information about nursery aged pupil numbers is provided here for information)

¹ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

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.

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 21st 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.

Whilst there has been some reorganisation activity in Powys over recent years, the county's schools' infrastructure largely remains similar to that which was in place 20 years ago.

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:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 40% of the primary provision in the county. 21 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 4% by 2025.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there was 18% 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 school's estate through the 21st 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 £3,726 to £11,912 in the primary sector.

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

Although there have been some developments in terms of the schools' infrastructure over recent years, the Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the last few years has left a legacy in Powys, and there has been a reluctance to embark on large scale reorganisation of education provision since then.

School	Distance from Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School by road (miles)
Crickhowell C.P. School	2.062 miles
Llangattock C. in W. Primary School	2.916 miles
Gilwern Primary School (Out of County)	3.795 miles
Cantref Primary (Out of County)	6.321 miles
Llangynidr C.P. School	6.41 miles
Llanvihangel Crucorney C.P. School (Out of County)	7.412 miles
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni (Out of County)	7.453 miles
St Marys RC Primary School (Out of County)	8.533 miles

The following is a summary of key data relating to Llanbedr C. in W. School:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Rural School? ³
Llanbedr C. in W. School	Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School building owned by the Diocese	English-medium	5	Yes

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁴

	N1	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total N-Yr 6	Total R-Yr 6
Llanbedr C in W. School	1	4	5	2	11	7	4	7	4	45	40

³ 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.

⁴ Finane NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

(As a Voluntary Aided School, Llanbedr C. in W. School is responsible for its own admissions arrangements and admits nursery aged pupils to the school, however these pupils are not funded by the Council. Information about nursery aged pupil numbers is provided here for information)

ii) Historical pupil numbers⁵

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Llanbedr C. in W. School	39	41	40	39	43	42	46

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)⁶

		Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llanbedr C. in W. School	N – Yr 6	42	42	39	38	36
	R – Yr 6	37	37	34	33	31

(As a Voluntary Aided School, Llanbedr C. in W. School is responsible for its own admissions arrangements and admits nursery aged pupils to the school, however these pupils are not funded by the Council. Information about nursery aged pupil numbers is provided here for information)

iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)⁷

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llanbedr C. in W. School	40	39	36	N/A	N/A

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

The following table provides information about the current capacities of school and the capacity:

⁵ PLASC

⁶ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates

⁷ Powys Finance Projections based on data provided by the school

		Current Capacity⁸	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llanbedr C. in W. School	N – Yr 6	57	45 (78.9%)	12 (21.1%)
	R – Yr 6		40 (70.2%)	17 (29.8%)

ii) Building condition⁹

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Llanbedr C. in W. School	B Good	B/C	Yes

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Llanbedr C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	April 2014
Standards	Adequate
Wellbeing	Good
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Adequate
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Good

⁸ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

⁹ Premises Data Return to Welsh Government – 2020

Improving quality	Good
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Adequate
Follow up activity	<p>School will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations. Estyn will monitor progress.</p> <p>The school was removed from Estyn monitoring in July 2015.</p>

ii) School Categorisation¹⁰

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Llanbedr C. in W. School	N/A	A	Green

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Llanbedr C. in W. School	£232,000	£5,948	£14,000	£3,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

Home to school travel

i) Closest school

¹⁰ 2019. Categorisations were not carried out in 2020 due to Covid-19.

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 41 pupils that were attending Llanbedr according to the PLASC 2020 information – please note this data does not include nursery pupils. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School
Llanbedr C. in W. School	48.8%
Crickhowell C.P. School	24.4%
Llangynidr C.P. School	14.6%
Deri View Primary School (Out of County)	7.3%
Llangattock C. in W. Primary School	4.9%

Based on this information, Llanbedr C. in W. School is the closest school for 48.8% of the school's pupils on roll in January 2020.

If there was no school in Llanbedr, the closest school for all of the pupils on roll in January 2020 would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llanbedr
Crickhowell C.P. School	68.3%
Llangynidr C.P. School	14.6%
Llangattock C. in W. Primary School	4.9%
Deri View Primary School (Out of County)	12.2%

ii) Average travel distance

The average travel distance for all pupils on roll in January 2020 at Llanbedr C. in W. School is 3.4 miles.

If there was no school in Llanbedr, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2020 to attend alternative provision would be 2.5 miles.

iii) Furthest travel distance

Of the pupils that attended Llanbedr C. in W. School in January 2020, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Llanbedr C. in W. School is the closest provider is 3.8 miles.

If there was no school in Llanbedr, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision would be 9.2 miles.

Equalities Information

i) Free School Meals¹¹

	Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
Llanbedr C. in W. School	6.5%

ii) Pupils in care¹²

	Number of pupils in care
Llanbedr C. in W. School	0

iii) SEN/ALN¹³

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Llanbedr C. in W. School	6.5%	2.2%	2.2%

Early Years Provision

Non-maintained provision on the school site.

3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN LLANBEDR

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School:

i) Low pupil numbers

¹¹ PLASC 2020

¹² PLASC 2020

¹³ PLASC 2020

Current pupil numbers¹⁴ at Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School are as follows:

	N1	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total N-Yr 6	Total R-Yr 6
Llanbedr C in W. Primary School	1	4	5	2	11	7	4	7	4	45	40

(As a Voluntary Aided School, Llanbedr C. in W. School is responsible for its own admissions arrangements and admits nursery aged pupils to the school, however these pupils are not funded by the Council. Information about nursery aged pupil numbers is provided here for information)

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and the latest projected pupil numbers suggest that pupil numbers are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

ii) High budget share per pupil

Based on the Council's Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school's budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £5,948. This is higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School is ranked the 16th highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.¹⁵

iii) Combined age classes

The small pupil numbers at the school mean that pupils are taught in whole key stage classes, with Key Stage 2 in one class and Foundation Phase in another class. Because pupil numbers in each year group are small, it is more difficult to ensure all pupils are appropriately challenged.

iv) Leadership

Whilst there is permanent leadership in place in Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, the headteacher has a significant teaching commitment, which limits the time available to focus on leadership of the school.

¹⁴ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

¹⁵ Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

PART B – OPTIONS FOR LLANBEDR C. IN W. PRIMARY 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	Federation with Crickhowell C.P. School This is not a viable option as it is not possible to federate a C. in W. school with a C.P. school, therefore this option is DISCOUNTED
3	Federation with Llangattock C. in W. School
4	Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites
5	Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites
6	Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, retain the site as part of Crickhowell C.P. School
7	Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, retain the site as part of Llangattock C. in W. School
8	Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crickhowell site
9	Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbedr site
10	Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on the Llangattock site
11	Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on the Llanbedr site
12	Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

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

Option 1: Status Quo

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would retain provision in Llanbedr- There would be no additional transport costs- No requirement for a reorganisation process- No change for staff- No impact on pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pupil numbers at Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School would continue to be low- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision- Would still need to maintain the Llanbedr building- Would not reduce surplus places- Would not lead to a financial saving- Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Opportunities for further collaboration with other neighbouring schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils	

Option 2: Federation with Crickhowell C.P. School

This is not a viable option as it is not possible to federate a C. in W. school with a C.P. school, therefore this option is **DISCOUNTED**

Option 3: Federation with Llangattock C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Would retain provision in Llanbedr- There would be no additional transport costs- More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff- Llanbedr pupils would continue to attend school in the same location- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pupil numbers at Llanbedr would continue to be low- Llanbedr pupils would still be taught separately- Would not lead to a rationalisation of primary provision- Would still be required to maintain the Llanbedr building- Would not reduce surplus places- Would not lead to a financial saving- Would not address the high budget per pupil
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice 	
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Option 4: Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llanbedr - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Llanbedr - Llanbedr pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llanbedr building - Both schools would lose their identity - Would also impact on staff at Crickhowell C.P. School - Significant difference in the size of the two schools – would have a disproportionate impact on Crickhowell C.P. School - Crickhowell is currently a C.P. School whilst Llanbedr is a C. in W.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible tension between C.P. / C. in W. provision

Option 5: Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llanbedr - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Could provide a financial saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Llanbedr - Llanbedr pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llanbedr building - Both schools would lose their identity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location - Both schools are C. in W. Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would also impact on staff at Llangattock C. in W. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	

Option 6: Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, retain the site as part of Crickhowell C.P. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llanbedr - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location - Minimal impact on staff at Crickhowell C.P. School - Crickhowell C.P. School would retain its identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Llanbedr - Llanbedr pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llanbedr building - Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School would lose its identity - May not be attractive to Crickhowell C.P. School - Significant difference in the size of the two schools - Crickhowell is a C.P. School whilst Llanbedr is a C. in W. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible tension between C.P. / C. in W. provision

Option 7: Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, retain the site as part of Llangattock C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llanbedr - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - More opportunities could be provided to pupils and staff - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location - Minimal impact on staff at Llangattock C. in W. School - Llangattock C. in W. School would retain its identity - Both schools are C. in W. Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Llanbedr - Llanbedr pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the Llanbedr building - Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School would lose its identity
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llanbedr site

Option 8: Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crickhowell site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Pupils would all be taught in one location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School would have to transfer to a new location - Loss of provision from Llanbedr - Impact on the Llanbedr community - Would impact on Crickhowell C.P. School staff as well as Llanbedr staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Both schools would lose their identities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crickhowell is a C.P. School whilst Llanbedr is currently a C. in W. School
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible reduction in staffing requirements at the new school - Possible tension between C.P. / C. in W. provision

Option 9: Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbedr site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Pupils would all be taught in one location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Crickhowell C.P. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Crickhowell C.P. School would have to transfer to a new location - Less convenient for the majority of pupils - Current Crickhowell C.P. School pupils may live closer to other schools - Loss of provision from Crickhowell - Impact on the Crickhowell community - Would impact on Crickhowell staff as well as Llanbedr staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Would not be acceptable to Crickhowell C.P. School - Both schools would lose their identities - Significant investment would be needed in the Llanbedr site to accommodate Crickhowell pupils - Llanbedr school is too small to accommodate the merged school - Crickhowell is a C.P. School whilst Llanbedr is a C. in W School

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to realise a capital receipt from sale of the Crickhowell site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant investment would be needed in the Llanbedr site to accommodate Crickhowell pupils - Unlikely that the Llanbedr site would not be large enough to accommodate a school of the size required – a new site may be required - Possible tension between C.P. / C. in W. provision

Option 10: Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on the Llangattock site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Pupils would all be taught in one location - Both schools are currently C. in W. Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School would have to transfer to a new location - Loss of provision from Llanbedr - Impact on the Llanbedr community - Would impact on Llangattock C. in W. School staff as well as Llanbedr staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Both schools would lose their identities
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible reduction in staffing requirements at the new school - Llangattock C. in W. School has recently been remodelled. It may be difficult to extend again should this be needed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible loss of roles for staff at Llanbedr at the new school
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Option 11: Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on the Llanbedr site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Pupils would all be taught in one location - Both schools are C. in W. Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangattock C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Llangattock C. in W. School would have to transfer to a new location - Less convenient for the majority of pupils - Current Llangattock C. in W. School pupils may live closer to other schools - Loss of provision from Llangattock - Impact on the Llangattock community - Would impact on Llangattock staff as well as Llanbedr staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Both schools would lose their identities - Llanbedr school is too small to accommodate the merged school - Investment would be needed in the Llanbedr site to accommodate Llangattock pupils
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant investment would be needed in the Llanbedr site to accommodate Llangattock pupils - The Llanbedr site may not be large enough to accommodate a school of the size required – a new site may be required.

Option 12: Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanbedr C. in W. Primary 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 - Alternative Church in Wales provision is available in the catchment at Llangattock C. in W. School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School is currently the closest school - Additional travel costs - Pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from Llanbedr - Impact on the current staff of Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School - Impact on the Llanbedr community - Loss of C. in W. provision from Llanbedr
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some pupils may transfer to provision outside Powys County Council

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
Option 1: Status Quo – continue as a standalone school	There would be no impact on quality and standards – pupils would continue to attend the current provision at Llanbedr.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available in Llanbedr.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Llanbedr C. in W. School.
Option 2: Federation with Crickhowell C.P. School	Discounted – N/A	Discounted – N/A	Discounted – N/A
Option 3: Federation with Llangattock C. in W. School	The impact on quality and standards would be minimal. Llanbedr C. in W. School would continue to operate as a standalone school, however the school would be federated with Llangattock C. in W. School, meaning that one joint governing body would be responsible for both schools. There would also be the potential for shared leadership across the two schools.	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llanbedr.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the federated governing body.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Llanbedr C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

	Establishment of a federation could lead to opportunities to share staff / resources across the federation, which would have a positive impact on quality and standards.		
Option 4: Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on two sites	Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Crickhowell C.P. School are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019. Therefore it is anticipated that merging the two schools to establish a new school would result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llanbedr.</p> <p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the new governing body.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Crickhowell site as the much larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llanbedr site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Llanbedr C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
Option 5: Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on two sites	Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Llangattock C. in W. School are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019. Therefore it is anticipated that	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available in Llanbedr.	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Llanbedr C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools</p>

	<p>merging the two schools to establish a new school would result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>However, one new governing body would be responsible for both sites, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school, depending on the make up of the new governing body.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Llangattock site as the much larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llanbedr site.</p>	<p>in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 6: Close Llanbedr C. in W. School, retain the site as part of Crickhowell C.P. School</p>	<p>Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Crickhowell C.P. School are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019, therefore it is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils would attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Llanbedr. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Crickhowell C.P. School, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Crickhowell site as the larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llanbedr site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Llanbedr C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>

<p>Option 7: Close Llanbedr C. in W. School, retain the site as part of Llangattock C. in W. School</p>	<p>Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Llangattock C. in W. school are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019, therefore it is anticipated that implementation of this option would mean that pupils would attend provision where the quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available in Llanbedr. However, the site would be managed by the current governing body of Llangattock C. in W. School, therefore there could be a perceived reduction in community involvement in management of the school.</p> <p>In addition, it is possible that joint school activities would take place on the Llangattock site as the larger site, which could lead to a reduction in activity on the Llanbedr site.</p>	<p>Pupils would continue to attend school on the current site of Llanbedr C. in W. School.</p> <p>However, some additional travel may be required between schools in order to access activities and events.</p>
<p>Option 8: Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on the Crickhowell site</p>	<p>Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Crickhowell C.P. School are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019. Therefore it is anticipated that merging the two schools to establish a new school would result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision. This option would result in all pupils attending school in the same location, which would result in further benefits to pupils currently attending Llanbedr</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llanbedr as there would be no provision in Llanbedr.</p> <p>However, merging with Crickhowell CP School to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Llanbedr community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school, which would aid community involvement in the new school.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. 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>

	School through being part of larger cohorts of pupils.		
Option 9: Merge with Crickhowell C.P. School to establish a new school on the Llanbedr site	<p>Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Crickhowell C.P. School are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019. Therefore in general, it is anticipated that merging the two schools to establish a new school would result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p> <p>However, this option would result in all pupils attending the Llanbedr site. The Llanbedr site would not be suitable to accommodate all pupils currently attending Crickhowell C.P. School and Llanbedr C. in W. School, therefore overall, this option would have a negative impact on quality and standards.</p>	<p>There would be a positive impact on the Llanbedr community as this option would retain provision in Llanbedr and would lead to a significant increase in pupil numbers, safeguarding provision in the village for the future.</p> <p>However, there would be a negative impact on the Crickhowell community as there would no longer be provision in Crickhowell. Whilst merging the two schools to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Crickhowell community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school to aid community involvement in the new school, however as Crickhowell is a town with a significantly larger school, it is likely that the Crickhowell community would consider this option to be disproportionate.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Crickhowell C.P. School. As pupil numbers at Crickhowell C.P. School are significantly larger than those at Llanbedr C. in W. School, this is likely to impact on a significant number of pupils.</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>
Option 10: Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to	Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Llangattock C. in W. School are currently categorised as Green	There would be a significant impact on the community of	Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. School.

<p>establish a new school on the Llangattock site</p>	<p>schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019. Therefore it is anticipated that merging the two schools to establish a new school would result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision. This option would result in all pupils attending school in the same location, which would result in further benefits to pupils currently attending Llanbedr School through being part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>	<p>Llanbedr as there would be no provision in Llanbedr.</p> <p>However, merging with Llangattock C. in W. school to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Llanbedr community to be involved in the process of establishing the new school, which would aid community involvement in the new 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>Option 11: Merge with Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new school on the Llanbedr site</p>	<p>Both Llanbedr C. in W. School and Llangattock C. in W. School are currently categorised as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019. Therefore in general, it is anticipated that merging the two schools to establish a new school would result in a school where quality and standards are at least as good as the current provision.</p> <p>However, this option would result in all pupils attending the Llanbedr site. The Llanbedr site would not be suitable to accommodate all pupils currently attending</p>	<p>There would be a positive impact on the Llanbedr community as this option would retain provision in Llanbedr and could lead to an increase in pupil numbers, safeguarding provision in the village for the future.</p> <p>However, there would be a negative impact on the Llangattock community as there would no longer be provision in Llangattock. Whilst merging the two schools to establish a new school would provide opportunities for the Llangattock community to be involved in the process of</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangattock C. in W. 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>

	Llangattock C. in W. School and Llanbedr C. in W. School, therefore overall, this option would have a negative impact on quality and standards.	establishing the new school to aid community involvement in the new school, however as Llangattock is a larger school, it is likely that the Llangattock community would consider this option to be disproportionate.	
Option 12: Close Llanbedr C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. School, the closest alternative Powys schools would be Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Llangattock C. in W. School. All of these schools are currently classified as Green schools based on the latest categorisations carried out in 2019, therefore it not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on quality and standards.</p> <p>A number of pupils that live in Monmouthshire currently attend Llanbedr C. in W. School. For these pupils, the closest alternative provision would be Deri View</p>	<p>There would be a significant impact on the community of Llanbedr as there would be no provision in Llanbedr.</p> <p>As a Church in Wales School, The Llanbedr School building is owned by the Diocese, therefore the Diocese would need to determine the building's future use, and therefore whether or not facilities would remain in Llanbedr.</p>	<p>Additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. 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>

	Primary School which is located in Monmouthshire. This school was categorised as Amber in the latest categorisations carried out in 2019.		
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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"> 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"> Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The option must be achievable within current legislation The option must be operationally achievable The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council's forecasted revenue The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

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	Option 8	Option 9	Option 10	Option 11	Option 12
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	x	?	x	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?	x	✓	x	✓
4 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Total ✓	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	3	1	4
Total x	3	4	3	3	3	3	2	0	3	0	3	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Discount	Possible	Discount	Preferred

8. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the work carried out, the emerging preferred option for Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School is:

Option 12: Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanbedr C. in W. Primary 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
- Meets all of the Critical Success Factors

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 Llanbedr C. in W. 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, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crickhowell C. P. School, however some pupils may wish to transfer to Llangattock C. in W. School as the nearest alternative Church in Wales school. Some pupils may also live closer to Llangynidr C.P. School. A number of pupils from outside Powys also attend Llanbedr C. in W. School, should the proposal be implemented, these pupils could either transfer to alternative provision in Powys, or could attend provision nearer their homes.

The Council's view is that all three Powys schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llanbedr C. in W. School, therefore 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. Based on PLASC 2020 information, there are no Looked after Children or pupils for whom English is an Additional Language at Llanbedr C. in W. School. There are a number of pupils eligible for Free School Meals and a number of pupils with Additional Learning Needs, however the number of pupils belonging to these groups are small. It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

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 larger schools, 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School to alternative schools. It is possible that pupils could choose to transfer to different schools, which could have a further impact on their wellbeing. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However, alternative primary provision would be available at other schools located within a few miles of Llanbedr C. in W. School. It is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative provision would 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 larger schools with larger cohorts of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

9.3 Teaching and learning experiences

9.3.1 Quality of teaching

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crickhowell C. P. School, however some pupils may wish to transfer to Llangattock C. in W. School as the nearest alternative Church in Wales school. Some pupils may also live closer to Llangynidr C.P. School. A number of pupils from outside Powys also attend Llanbedr C. in W. School, should the proposal be implemented, these pupils could either transfer to alternative provision in Powys, or could attend provision nearer their homes.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at any of the schools located in Powys, 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School.

9.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crickhowell C. P. School, however some pupils may wish to transfer to Llangattock C. in W. School as the nearest alternative Church in Wales school. Some pupils may also live closer to Llangynidr C.P. School. A number

of pupils from outside Powys also attend Llanbedr C. in W. School, should the proposal be implemented, these pupils could either transfer to alternative provision in Powys, or could attend provision nearer their homes.

The Council's view is that all three Powys schools would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Llanbedr C. in W. School. It is likely that pupils would transfer to larger schools, therefore the expectation would be that there would be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils within single year groups or dual year group class.

Llanbedr C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school, which impacts on some aspects of the curriculum. Alternative Church in Wales provision is available at Llangattock C. in W. School, ensuring that denominational provision would continue to be available to those pupils who wished to access it.

9.3.3 The provision of skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crickhowell C. P. School, however some pupils may wish to transfer to Llangattock C. in W. School as the nearest alternative Church in Wales school. Some pupils may also live closer to Llangynidr C.P. School. A number of pupils from outside Powys also attend Llanbedr C. in W. School, should the proposal be implemented, these pupils could either transfer to alternative provision in Powys, or could attend provision nearer their homes.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at the three schools located in Powys, 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 Llanbedr C. in W. 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, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crickhowell C. P. School, however some pupils may wish to transfer to Llangattock C. in W. School as the nearest alternative Church in Wales school. Some pupils may also live closer to Llangynidr C.P. School. A number of pupils from outside Powys also attend Llanbedr C. in W. School, should the

proposal be implemented, these pupils could either transfer to alternative provision in Powys, or could attend provision nearer their homes.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. 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, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be Crickhowell C. P. School, however some pupils may wish to transfer to Llangattock C. in W. School as the nearest alternative Church in Wales school. Some pupils may also live closer to Llangynidr C.P. School. A number of pupils from outside Powys also attend Llanbedr C. in W. School, should the proposal be implemented, these pupils could either transfer to alternative provision in Powys, or could attend provision nearer their homes.

There are permanent leadership arrangements in place at Llanbedr C. in W. School, Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangattock C. in W. School and Llangynidr C.P. School, therefore the Council's view is that leadership and management at the alternative schools would be at least as good as the current arrangements at Llanbedr.

The alternative schools to which pupils might transfer are all larger than Llanbedr C. in W. School, therefore the headteachers of these schools would have more time available to focus on leadership and management.

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 Llanbedr C. in W. School would be subject to a management of change process.

9.5.3 Use of Resources

Llanbedr C. in W. School is projecting to be in a surplus budget position over the coming years. Whilst there are no concerns about the use of resources within the school, there are concerns about the use of resources overall within the Powys schools infrastructure. As indicated on page 5 above, one of the main challenges facing the Powys schools infrastructure is the high proportion of small schools in the county. Llanbedr C. in W. School is among the smallest

schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil at the school is higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

Closure of the school would reduce the number of schools in Powys, and would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

Should the preferred option be implemented pupils would transfer to larger schools, ensuring more effective use of 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School, including any pupils with SEN.

Based on January 2020 PLASC information, 3 pupils at Llanbedr C. in W. School were on School Action, 3 pupils were on School Action Plus, and there was one statemented pupil.

Whilst the emerging preferred option would impact on these pupils, as they would be required to move to alternative schools, there is no reason to believe that the schools to which they might transfer would not be able to meet their needs.

Should the option be implemented, the Council would work with Llanbedr C. in W. School and the receiving schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with 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, Llanbedr C. in W. School would close and pupils would transfer to alternative schools, therefore Llanbedr C. in W. School would no longer need to deliver the curriculum to any key stages.

Should Llanbedr school close, pupils would transfer to alternative schools. This would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at the schools to which the pupils wish to transfer. However current pupil numbers at Llanbedr School are small, and therefore the number of pupils likely to transfer to each year group is low, therefore the impact on alternative schools is not likely to have a

significant impact on their ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and in each key stage of education.

In some schools, it is possible that an increase in pupil numbers would improve their ability to deliver the curriculum, however depending on the class structure and current breakdown of pupils, it's likely that some schools would need to make adjustments to their class structure in the short term to accommodate any additional 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 following table shows the number of spaces available and the building condition of Powys schools providing English-medium education located within 10 miles of Llanbedr C. in W. School:

School	Capacity ¹⁶	Current pupil numbers ¹⁷	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Crickhowell C.P. School	230	184	46	20.0%	C	B/C
Llangattock C. in W. School	144	101	43	29.9%	B	A/B
Llangyndir C.P. School	147	102	45	30.6%	B	B/C

This suggests that there is sufficient places at Crickhowell C.P. School and Llangattock C. in W. School to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llanbedr C. in W. School. There are also places available at Llangyndir C.P. School.

In addition, there are a number of schools within the county of Monmouthshire which are within 10 miles of Llanbedr C. in W. School. The following table provides information about the number of places available in these schools:

¹⁶ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

¹⁷ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

School	Capacity ¹⁸	Current pupil numbers ¹⁹	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Gilwern Primary School	210	220	-10	-4.7%	N/A	N/A
Cantref Primary School	210	240	-30	-14.2%	N/A	N/A
Llanvihangel Crucorney C.P. School	77	69	8	10.3%	N/A	N/A
St Mary's RC Primary School	210	153	57	27.1%	N/A	N/A

This suggests that there are limited places available at the nearby schools located in Monmouthshire.

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 the table in section 11.1 above, there is sufficient English-medium capacity within 10 miles of Llanbedr C. in W. School to accommodate the school's current and projected pupil numbers.

Llanbedr C. in W. School is a Church in Wales school. Alternative C. in W. provision is available at Llangattock C. in W. School, which would enable pupils to access a school of the same religious character, should they wish to continue to attend a Church in Wales school.

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

As indicated in the table in section 11.1 above, there are alternative primary places available at other schools within 10 miles of Llanbedr C. in W. School. Should Llanbedr C. in W. School close, it is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

11 RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

¹⁸ Monmouthshire County Council – Admissions Policy 2021/22

¹⁹ PLASC 2020

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 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

The review of Llanbedr C. in W. School does not form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme.

However, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys identifies a number of issues relating to the overall Powys schools' estate, including a high proportion of small schools, a high number of surplus places and issues with building condition. The Strategy includes a strategic objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', which aims to address these issues, to ensure better strategic management of the Powys school estate. The review of Llanbedr C. in W. School is being carried out in order to meet this objective.

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 increased transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £43,700 per annum as detailed in 11.4. 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.

11.4 Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?

It is estimated there would be additional transport costs of £43,700 per annum, this is based on pupil's current location and assuming the pupils will go to the next nearest school.

11.5 What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?

It is not anticipated that capital funding would be required in order to implement the emerging preferred option. As indicated in the table in section 11.1 above, there are sufficient places at schools located within 10 miles of Llanbedr C. in W. School to accommodate all current and projected pupils.

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 £101,100. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of over £153,500, estimated additional transport costs of £43,700, potential loss of funding for pupils that may move out of county of £17,700 and savings on catering costs of around £9,000.

11.7 Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

Llanbedr C. in W. School is not currently forecasting a deficit budget.

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

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

11.9 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?

Llanbedr C. in W. School is not owned by the Council, therefore the Council would not receive any capital receipts following any sale of the 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School. All pupils currently attending the school, including any from economically deprived backgrounds, would need to transfer to alternative schools. Free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with 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 figures from January 2020, 3 pupils attending Llanbedr C. in W. School were eligible for FSM, therefore it is likely that the proportion of children from economically deprived backgrounds is 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 Llanbedr C. in W. 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.

Llanbedr C. in W. School 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 Llanbedr C. in W. 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the 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

Federation of Llanbedr C. in W. School with Llangattock C. in W. School is one of the options considered in section 4 of 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School are very low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years. Becoming part of a federation with another school 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 Llanbedr C. in W. School.

Pupil numbers at the school are 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 Llanbedr. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Llanbedr community, including the loss of primary provision from the village of Llanbedr, 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 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 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.

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 12: Close Llanbedr C. in W. Primary School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanbedr C. in W. Primary 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
- Meets all of the Critical Success Factors

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on a proposal to close Llanbedr C. in W. School, with pupils to transfer to their nearest alternative schools.