



# Crickhowell Area Review

## Options Appraisal

**November 2022**

### Version control

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# Contents

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. The Strategic Context .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys .....	4
<b>3. The Case for Change .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Current provision in the Crickhowell catchment .....	6
3.2 SWOT assessment of current provision .....	10
<b>4. Review of the position in respect of Llanbedr C. in W. School .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>5. Future Options for the Crickhowell catchment .....</b>	<b>14</b>
5.1 Possible Options.....	14
5.2 Assessment against Critical Success Factors.....	15
5.3 SWOT analysis of shortlisted options.....	18
5.4 Financial Evaluation .....	21
<b>6. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Appendix A – Data.....</b>	<b>24</b>

# 1. Introduction

During 2021-22, the Council carried out the Statutory Process as outlined in the School Organisation Code on a proposal to close Llanbedr C. in W. School, a small English-medium primary school which is located in the village of Llanbedr in South Powys, from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Council's Cabinet considered an Objection Report related to this proposal and agreed to proceed with closure of the school.

Following the Council elections held in May 2022, the Council's new Cabinet considered a further paper related to Llanbedr C. in W. School on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, when they agreed to delay implementation of the proposal by 12 months to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, and to commence an area review of the educational provision in the Crickhowell catchment.

The purpose of this paper is to review and explore the educational provision in the catchment, and to identify a preferred way forward for the catchment for the future.

## 2. The Strategic Context

### 2.1 Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys

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 was updated and relaunched by the Council's new administration in July 2022. The Strategy is available on the Council's website at

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9344/Transforming-Education-Strategy>.

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

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

The Guiding Principles are as follows:

- A world class rural education system that has learner entitlement at its core
- Schools that are fully inclusive, with a culture of deep collaboration in order to improve learner outcomes and experience
- A broad choice and high quality of provision for 14 – 19 year old learners, that includes both academic and vocational provision, meeting the needs of all learners, communities and the Powys economy
- Welsh-medium provision that is accessible and provides a full curriculum in Welsh from Meithrin to age 19 and beyond Provision for learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN)/Additional Learning Needs (ALN) that is accessible as near to home as is practicably possible, with the appropriate specialist teaching, support and facilities that enables every learner to meet their potential
- A digitally-rich schools sector that enables all learners and staff to enhance their teaching and learning experience
- Community-focused schools that are the central point for multi-agency services to support children, young people, families and the community
- Early years provision that is designed to meet the needs of all children, mindful of their particular circumstances, language requirements or any special or additional learning needs

- Financially and environmentally sustainable schools
- The highest priority is given to staff wellbeing and professional development

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

This is supported by the following Strategic Objectives:

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

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

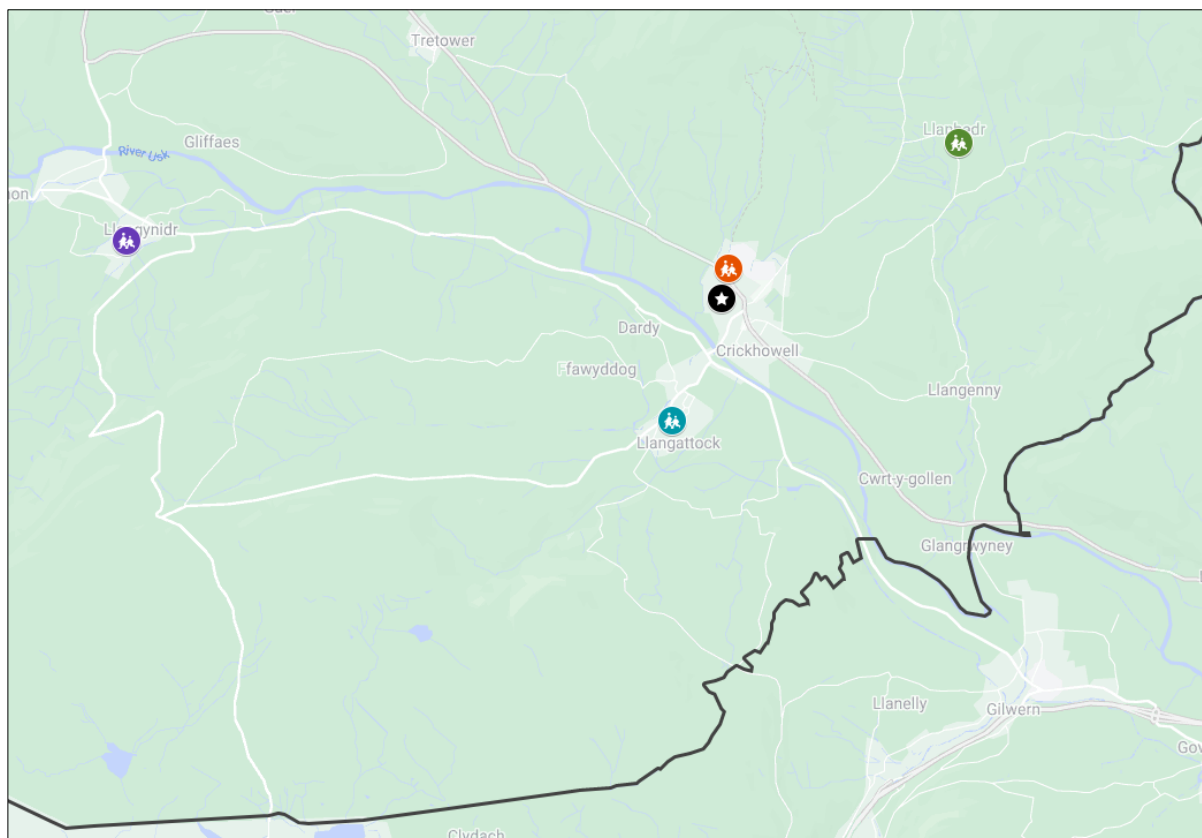
### 3. The Case for Change

#### 3.1 Current provision in the Crickhowell catchment

There are currently 5 schools in the Crickhowell catchment. Secondary provision is delivered at Crickhowell High School, whilst primary provision is delivered at 4 schools, Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School, Llangattock C. in W. School and Llanbedr C. in W. School. During 2021, the Council consulted on a proposal to close Llanbedr C. in W. School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and for pupils to attend alternative schools. On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Council's Cabinet considered an Objection Report related to this proposal and agreed to proceed with closure of the school.

All 5 schools in the catchment are English-medium schools. There is no Welsh-medium provision in the catchment. The nearest provision for pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision is located out of county.

The 5 schools in the Crickhowell catchment are shown on the following map:



*Black – Crickhowell High School, Orange – Crickhowell C.P. School, Green – Llanbedr C. in W. School, Blue – Llangattock C. in W. School, Purple – Llangynidr C.P. School.*

The distances between the schools are as follows:

	<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	<b>Crickhowell High School</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	N/A	3.8 miles	1 mile	1.7 mile	0.2 miles
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	3.8 miles	N/A	3.6 miles	5.3 miles	3.8 miles
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	1 mile	3.7 miles	N/A	2.5 miles	0.8 miles
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	1.7 miles	5.3 miles	2.5 miles	N/A	1.8 miles
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	0.2 miles	3.8 miles	0.8 miles	1.8 miles	N/A

A summary of key data related to the 5 schools in the catchment is provided below. Further data is provided in Appendix A.

### Pupil Numbers

#### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>1</sup>

	<b>N1</b>	<b>N2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total N-Yr6</b>	<b>Total R-Yr6</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	0	0	24	19	24	32	26	40	32	197	197
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	0	0	16	13	19	12	16	18	18	112	112
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	0	7	5	4	5	3	12	5	5	46	39
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	0	0	11	13	14	19	15	16	15	103	103

<sup>1</sup> Teacher Centre, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	149	153	145	158	156	99	87	947

### **Building Capacity and Condition**

#### **i) Capacity**

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

	Capacity <sup>2</sup>	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	230	197 (85.7%)	33 (14.3%)
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	144	112 (77.8%)	32 (22.2%)
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	57	46 (80.7%)	11 (19.3%)
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	121	103 (85.1%)	18 (14.9%)
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	912	966 (105.9%)	-54 (-5.9%)

#### **ii) Building condition<sup>3</sup>**

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school. The assessments were as follows:

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficient	Backlog Maintenance <sup>4</sup>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£1,871,666

<sup>2</sup> Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

<sup>3</sup> Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard - 2022

<sup>4</sup> Backlog maintenance figures uplifted using CPI base rates on year of condition survey or base date of 2016.



<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	B Satisfactory	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£742,850
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	No	£237,753
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	B Satisfactory	A/B Good/Satisfactory	No	£182,114
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£2,394,024

### Financial information

#### i) Cost per pupil<sup>5</sup>

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	£742,832	£3,951.23	£27,415	£9,200
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	£473,373	£4,226.54	£56,511	£9,200
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	£246,374	£5,474.98	£18,168	£3,450
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	£468,936	£4,552.78	£41,663	£6,900
<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,656.50	N/A	N/A
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	£4,270,410	£4,439.10	£117,411	£48,300
<b>Powys average (Secondary)</b>	N/A	£5,436.94	N/A	N/A

<sup>5</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement, 2022/2023

## Locations of pupils

Based on PLASC 2022, travel assessments have been carried out for the pupils attending the schools<sup>6</sup>. These are listed below.

School	No. of children living in catchment area	% of children living in catchment area who attend the school	% of pupils attending the school who live in the catchment area	% of pupils attending the school who live outside the catchment area
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	153	71%	59%	41%
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	142	64%	84%	16%
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	28	61%	40%	60%
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	81	73%	57%	43%
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	641	98%	65%	35%

### 3.2 SWOT assessment of current provision

A SWOT assessment of the current provision in the catchment is provided below. This has been developed with input from staff and governors in the catchment at engagement sessions held on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, and the responses received to the engagement questionnaire which was issued in October 2022:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standards of education are good and recognised by Estyn</li> <li>- Leadership and management is regarded as excellent</li> <li>- Community focussed schools provide services for the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A lack of dedicated Welsh-medium provision in the catchment</li> <li>- School buildings are a mixture of conditions, with the majority being poor</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> The full data, including which schools are closest or chosen can be found on the Transforming Education PowerBI dataset.

<p>community such as the library, leisure centre etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision is provided at value for money</li> <li>- There is a culture of collaboration between all schools in the cluster</li> <li>- Cluster working between schools is good</li> <li>- Transition arrangements are strong</li> <li>- There is a range of opportunities at post-14 and post-16</li> <li>- Largest sixth form in Powys</li> <li>- The catchment attracts pupils from outside Powys</li> <li>- The current school sites are at the heart of each unique community</li> <li>- Pupils can walk and cycle to schools</li> <li>- The schools are located to allow education to be delivered locally</li> <li>- The size of schools is appropriate for level of learning and engagement by staff</li> <li>- School staff have a deep understanding of pupils and their families</li> <li>- Pupil numbers are relatively stable</li> <li>- Choice for parents is expanded through community and Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- Inclusion and well-being standards are good</li> <li>- There are extra-curricular/before and after school opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of funding compared to other schools in Powys</li> <li>- Out of county pupils are leading to a loss of places for Powys pupils</li> <li>- Class sizes at the secondary school are too big</li> <li>- Demographics mean that the cluster receives less in PDG funding</li> <li>- The physical buildings make realisation of the Curriculum for Wales difficult</li> <li>- Concerns within the local community about transformation</li> <li>- Lack of dedicated Church in Wales secondary provision</li> <li>- The benefits of cross-border working are not fully realised</li> <li>- Non-teacher led nursery provision is leading to an impact in skills for foundation phase pupils</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing closer links with neighbouring schools</li> <li>- Sharing resources and expertise</li> <li>- Sharing of responsibilities within the Curriculum for Wales</li> <li>- Expansion of the community hub model across the cluster</li> <li>- Development of modern facilities / specialist facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Change to catchment area may lead to a reduction in pupils</li> <li>- Reduction in size of secondary school would impact on funding and draw of pupils from outside of Powys</li> <li>- Reduction in pupils will lead to a reduction in funding</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Enhanced after and before school provision</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Loss of Welsh speaking pupils to other local authorities</li><li>- Loss of community engagement</li><li>- Impact on travel arrangements and the environment</li></ul>
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## **4. Review of the position in respect of Llanbedr C. in W. School**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Council's Cabinet considered an Objection Report in respect of a proposal to close Llanbedr C. in W. School and approved the closure of the school from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the new Cabinet considered a further report in respect of Llanbedr C. in W. School and agreed to delay implementation of the proposal to close the school for 12 months to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, and to commence an area review of the Crickhowell catchment.

The original options appraisal and all other associated papers prepared in respect of Llanbedr C. in W. School were revisited, and the latest data related to the school was also reviewed. There have been no significant changes since the earlier decisions were made, so the case for closure of the school remains valid.

For the purposes of the remainder of this paper, the assumption will be that Llanbedr C. in W. School will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, in accordance with the Cabinet decision made on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

## 5. Future Options for the Crickhowell catchment

### 5.1 Possible Options

The following section considers future options for the configuration of education provision in the Crickhowell catchment.

The options which have been identified are based on the following assumptions:

- Llanbedr C. in W. School will close from the end of August 2023, as previously agreed by Cabinet – the original options appraisal has made the case for the closure of Llanbedr
- The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes an Objective to create a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations. Identifying options which would lead to establishing an all-age school in the catchment is therefore an important consideration
- Whilst the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a commitment to capital investment across the Powys schools estate, there is currently no capital funding available to support any developments in the Crickhowell catchment. So, the options considered are those that are not dependent on capital funding.
- Faith provision needs to be retained in the catchment.
- The options do not currently consider the category of any new school (i.e. community or C. in W.). Further consideration would need to be given to this aspect should any of the options be taken forward.
- The options do not currently consider the possibility of introducing Welsh-medium provision in the catchment. This will be considered separately.

The options identified are listed below:

Option	Description
1	<b>Status Quo</b>
2	<b>Federation options</b>
2a	Federate Crickhowell C.P. School and Llangynidr C.P. School to establish a primary federation
2b	Federate Crickhowell C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish an all-age federation

2c	Federate Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish an all-age federation
<b>3</b>	<b>Establish a new primary school</b>
3a	Merge Crickhowell C.P. School and Llangynidr C.P. School to establish a new primary school operating on the two existing sites
3b	Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new primary school operating on the three existing sites
<b>4</b>	<b>Establish a new all-age school</b>
4a	Merge Crickhowell C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school operating on the two existing sites
4b	Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school on the three existing sites
4c	Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School, Llangattock C. in W. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school operating on the four existing sites

## 5.2 Assessment against Critical Success Factors

The options listed above have initially been scored against the following Critical Success Factors.

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must align with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032</li> <li>- Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032</li> <li>- Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme</li> </ul>

2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning</li> <li>• The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning</li> </ul>
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level</li> <li>• The option must be achievable within current legislation</li> <li>• The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable</li> </ul>
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives</li> </ul>
5 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted revenue of participating organisations</li> <li>• The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding of participating organisations</li> </ul>

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

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

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

	1	2a	2b	2c	3a	3b	4a	4b	4c
Strategic fit and business needs	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Value for money	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Potential achievability	✓	?	?	?	✓	X	✓	✓	X
Supply-side capacity and capability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Potential affordability	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?
<b>Total ✓</b>	4	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	2
<b>Total x</b>	1	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	1
<b>Outcome</b>	Carry Forward	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Possible	Discount

Based on this initial assessment, the following options are identified as possible options, and so will be carried forward for further consideration, to include a SWOT assessment and financial evaluation:

**Option 4a** – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school operating on the two existing sites

**Option 4b** – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school on the three existing sites

**Option 1** (Status Quo) will also be carried forward for comparison.

The reasons why the other options are discounted are outlined in the following table:

Option	Reasons for discounting
<b>2a</b> – Federate Crickhowell C.P. School and Llangynidr C.P. School to establish a primary federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federating two primary schools does not align with the strategic aims and objectives in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to create a network of all-age schools in Powys.</li> </ul>
<b>2b</b> – Federate Crickhowell C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish an all-age federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federation does not align with the strategic aims and objectives in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to create a network of all-age schools in Powys.</li> </ul>
<b>2c</b> – Federate Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish an all-age federation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federation does not align with the strategic aims and objectives in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to create a network of all-age schools in Powys.</li> </ul>
<b>3a</b> – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School and Llangynidr C.P. School to establish a new primary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of a new primary school does not align with the strategic aims and objectives in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to create a network of all-age schools in Powys.</li> </ul>

operating on the two existing sites	
<b>3b</b> – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Llangattock C. in W. School to establish a new primary school operating on the three existing sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of a new primary school does not align with the strategic aims and objectives in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys to create a network of all-age schools in Powys.</li> <li>• This option is likely to be difficult to achieve as it would potentially result in the loss of Church in Wales provision in the catchment.</li> </ul>
<b>4c</b> – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School, Llangattock C. in W. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school operating on the four existing sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This option is likely to be difficult to achieve. The new school would need to be either a Community school or a Church in Wales school, meaning that all provision in the catchment would be one category. Potential loss of Church in Wales provision in the catchment would be difficult to achieve, and introducing Church in Wales provision across the whole catchment is also likely to be difficult to achieve.</li> </ul>

### 5.3 SWOT analysis of shortlisted options

SWOT assessments have been carried out of the possible options identified above and the status quo option, to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of each, and any opportunities or threats associated with them.

#### Option 1: Status Quo

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Retention of primary and secondary provision in the Crickhowell catchment</li> <li>- No disruption to pupils, parents or staff</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- No requirement for a reorganisation process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would not lead to the creation of an all-age school in the cluster</li> <li>- There is currently no permanent leadership arrangements in place at two schools</li> <li>- Would not lead to any financial efficiencies</li> <li>- Four separate schools, therefore there is no strategic overview of the provision of education in Crickhowell</li> <li>- Unlikely to attract capital investment in the future</li> </ul>

Opportunities	Threats
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- Opportunities for greater collaboration between the schools in the future	
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**Option 4a – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school operating on the two existing sites**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimal disruption for pupils and parents</li> <li>- Would not impact on the other primary schools in the catchment</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending the two schools would continue to attend school at the same location</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across all key stages</li> <li>- Would improve transition between each key stage</li> <li>- Would improve the ability to provide an appropriate curriculum to all pupils</li> <li>- Would enable the school to run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc.</li> <li>- One governing body which would have strategic overview over the provision for pupils/learners in all key stages</li> <li>- One leadership team which would have strategic overview over the provision for pupils/learners in all key stages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents may be unfamiliar with the concept of an all-age school and may have concerns about the model</li> <li>- Other primary feeder schools may have concerns</li> <li>- Impact on staff as management of change process would need to take place to allocate posts in the new school</li> <li>- A statutory process would need to take place which could lead to uncertainty</li> <li>- Both current schools would lose their identity</li> <li>- Additional one off costs to the Council associated with establishing a new school</li> </ul>

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to secure permanent leadership arrangements across the age range</li> <li>- Opportunity to enable all learners to achieve high standards of achievement and attainment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transition process may cause uncertainty for pupils, staff and parents</li> <li>- Parents may choose other schools if they don't want their children to attend an all-age school</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to provide excellent teaching and learning provision reflecting national, regional and local priorities</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop resilient leadership and management arrangements</li> <li>- Opportunity to access capital investment in the future</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop an inclusive education model, meeting the needs of vulnerable learners</li> <li>- Opportunity to streamline policies, procedures and schemes of work'</li> <li>- Opportunity to share best practice between staff from Primary and Secondary sectors</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop a single culture and ethos</li> <li>- Opportunities for greater collaboration between all schools in the catchment in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability</li> <li>- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes</li> </ul>
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**Option 4b – Merge Crickhowell C.P. School, Llangynidr C.P. School and Crickhowell High School to establish a new all-age school on the three existing sites**

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimal disruption for pupils and parents</li> <li>- Pupils currently attending the three schools would continue to attend school at the same location</li> <li>- There would be no additional transport costs</li> <li>- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across all key stages</li> <li>- Would improve transition between each key stage</li> <li>- Would improve the ability to provide an appropriate curriculum to all pupils</li> <li>- Would enable the school to run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents may be unfamiliar with the concept of an all-age school and may have concerns about the model</li> <li>- Other primary feeder schools may have concerns</li> <li>- Impact on staff as management of change process would need to take place to allocate posts in the new school</li> <li>- A statutory process would need to take place which could lead to uncertainty</li> <li>- The three current schools would lose their identity</li> <li>- Additional one off costs to the Council associated with establishing a new school</li> <li>- Pupils, staff and parents in Llangynidr might feel too detached</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One governing body which would have strategic overview over the provision for pupils/learners in all key stages</li> <li>- One leadership team which would have strategic overview over the provision for pupils/learners in all key stages</li> <li>- Would not impact on the other primary school in the catchment</li> </ul>	<p>from the rest of the school located in Crickhowell town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Likely to be a more complex process due to the inclusion of Llangynidr School which is located approximately 5 miles from Llangynidr</li> </ul>
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opportunity to secure permanent leadership arrangements across the age range</li> <li>- Opportunity to enable all learners to achieve high standards of achievement and attainment</li> <li>- Opportunity to provide excellent teaching and learning provision reflecting national, regional and local priorities</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop resilient leadership and management arrangements</li> <li>- Opportunity to access capital investment in the future</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop an inclusive education model, meeting the needs of vulnerable learners</li> <li>- Opportunity to streamline policies, procedures and schemes of work'</li> <li>- Opportunity to share best practice between staff from Primary and Secondary sectors</li> <li>- Opportunity to develop a single culture and ethos</li> <li>- Opportunities for greater collaboration between all schools in the catchment in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transition process may cause uncertainty for pupils, staff and parents</li> <li>- Parents may choose other schools if they don't want their children to attend an all-age school</li> <li>- Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability</li> <li>- Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes</li> </ul>

## 5.4 Financial Evaluation

Current indicative formula funding 2023-24 to 2025-26:

	<b>Indicative Formula Funding 2023-24</b> £	<b>Indicative Formula Funding 2024-25</b> £	<b>Indicative Formula Funding 2025-26</b> £
Crickhowell High School	£4,210,912	£4,221,879	£4,215,245
Crickhowell C.P. School	£743,946	£741,911	£698,258
Llangynidr C.P. School	£456,198	£443,508	£414,047
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,411,056</b>	<b>£5,407,298</b>	<b>£5,327,550</b>

Options 1, 4a and 4b have all been assessed for their impact on the ongoing formula funding and other revenue funding requirements for the schools. As the proposals do not involve a reduction in the number of sites used to deliver education in the Crickhowell catchment, there would be no change to the ongoing revenue funding requirements for any of the options.

Merging the schools would involve the existing schools closing and being re-opened. There will be a range of one-off costs related to this process including ICT implications, providing cover for headteacher time required to establish the new school, new signage / branding, establishing a temporary governing body for the new school and so on. These are expected to amount to approximately £60,000.

In addition, any teaching and learning responsibility (TLR) payments for existing staff are usually protected for 3 years following such a process, costing £40,000 per year over the three years.

If the decision was made to proceed with either options 4a or 4b, which would involve merging the existing schools to create an all-age school, there would also be the cost implication to the Council of writing off the current schools' deficits/surpluses. Currently Crickhowell High school has a significant cumulative deficit that they are reducing over the future years while both Crickhowell CP and Llangynidr CP have significant surpluses but are forecasting that these will reduce over the future years. The table below sets out the cumulative positions as at 31 March 2022 which will be detrimentally impacted by the current challenging public finance environment.

	<b>Cumulative Surplus / (Deficit) as at 31 March 2022 (£)</b>
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	<b>(496,605)</b>
<b>Crickhowell CP School</b>	<b>259,156</b>
<b>Llangynidr CP School</b>	<b>174,914</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(62,534)</b>

## 6. Conclusion

The SWOT assessments of the two shortlisted options carried out in Section 4.3 above identify a number of advantages / opportunities in respect of both of these options, suggesting that either could be an appropriate way forward.

However, the Financial Evaluation indicates that there would be no revenue saving to the Council following the establishment of an all-age school on the existing sites, and also indicates that there are substantial one off costs which the Council would need to pay for should it proceed with establishing an all-age school. These include:

- set up costs for the new school (approx. £60k)
- protection for TLR payments for existing staff (approx. £40k-£50k per year over three years)
- writing off any deficit / surplus budgets (current overall figure is £62,534 deficit based on March 2022 figures)

Due to the additional costs associated with establishing a new school, and the fact that this would not realise a revenue saving for the Council, it is concluded that the Status Quo is the preferred way forward for the Crickhowell catchment.

This would mean that:

- Llanbedr C. in W. School would close in August 2023, as agreed by Cabinet in July 2022
- All other schools will remain as standalone schools, however greater collaboration between them would be encouraged

There is also a need to consider the introduction of Welsh-medium provision in the catchment, this will be considered separately at a later date.

# Appendix A – Data

## Pupil Numbers

### i) Current pupil numbers<sup>7</sup>

	N1	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total N-Yr6	Total R-Yr6
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	0	0	24	19	24	32	26	40	32	197	197
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	0	0	16	13	19	12	16	18	18	112	112
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	0	7	5	4	5	3	12	5	5	46	39
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	0	0	11	13	14	19	15	16	15	103	103

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	149	153	145	158	156	99	87	947

### ii) Historical pupil numbers<sup>8</sup>

	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	233	224	204	203	192	203	186
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	137	136	137	130	116	106	108
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	40	39	43	42	46	52	53
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	118	109	106	105	108	101	117
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	768	832	871	892	933	935	941

<sup>7</sup> Teacher Centre, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

<sup>8</sup> PLASC



<b>Total</b>	<b>1296</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>1372</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>1405</b>

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)<sup>9</sup>**

	<b>Jan. 2023</b>	<b>Jan. 2024</b>	<b>Jan. 2025</b>	<b>Jan. 2026</b>	<b>Jan. 2027</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	186	183	166	160	147
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	105	103	96	92	94
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	47	52	54	46	53
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	105	100	94	89	81
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	960	969	979	978	966
<b>Total</b>	<b>1403</b>	<b>1407</b>	<b>1389</b>	<b>1365</b>	<b>1341</b>

**Building Capacity and Condition**

iii) **Capacity**

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

	<b>Capacity<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>Currently Filled</b>	<b>Surplus Capacity</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	230	197 (85.7%)	33 (14.3%)
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	144	112 (77.8%)	32 (22.2%)
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	57	46 (80.7%)	11 (19.3%)
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	121	103 (85.1%)	18 (14.9%)

<sup>9</sup> Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates (Reception to Year 6)

<sup>10</sup> Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	912	966 (105.9%)	-54 (-5.9%)

iv) **Building condition<sup>11</sup>**

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of the school. The assessments were as follows:

	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Suitability</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>Backlog Maintenance<sup>12</sup></b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£1,871,666
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	B Satisfactory	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£742,850
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	No	£237,753
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	B Satisfactory	A/B Good/Satisfactory	No	£182,114
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	C Poor	B/C Satisfactory/Poor	Yes	£2,394,024

**Standards of Education**

i) **Estyn**

<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>
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<sup>11</sup> Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard - 2022

<sup>12</sup> Backlog maintenance figures uplifted using CPI base rates on year of condition survey or base date of 2016.

<b>Date of inspection</b>	Feb 2022	Sept 2015	Apr 2014	Feb 2015
<b>Standards</b>	Good	Good	Adequate	Good
<b>Wellbeing</b>	Good	Good	Good	Good
<b>Learning experiences</b>	Good	Good	Good	Good
<b>Teaching</b>	Good	Good	Adequate	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Good	Good	Good	Good
<b>Learning environment</b>	N/A	Good	Good	Good
<b>Leadership</b>	Good	Good	Good	Good
<b>Improving quality</b>	N/A	Good	Good	Good
<b>Partnership working</b>	N/A	Good	Good	Good
<b>Resource management</b>	N/A	Good	Adequate	Good
<b>Next steps</b>	School to draw up action plan to address the recommendations from inspection.	N/A	School to draw up action plan to address the recommendations from inspection. Estyn to monitor progress.  Estyn monitoring visit in July 2015 removed school from Estyn monitoring.	School to draw up action plan to address the recommendations from inspection.

Crickhowell High School	
<b>Date of inspection</b>	April 2018
<b>Standards</b>	Good
<b>Wellbeing and attitudes to learning</b>	Excellent
<b>Teaching and learning experiences</b>	Good
<b>Care, support and guidance</b>	Excellent
<b>Leadership and management</b>	Good
<b>Next steps</b>	<p>The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.</p> <p>Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to its work in support of pupil mental health and wellbeing, for dissemination on Estyn's website.</p>

### Financial information

#### ii) Cost per pupil<sup>13</sup>

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	£742,832	£3,951.23	£27,415	£9,200
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	£473,373	£4,226.54	£56,511	£9,200
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	£246,374	£5,474.98	£18,168	£3,450
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	£468,936	£4,552.78	£41,663	£6,900

<sup>13</sup> Section 52 Budget Statement, 2022/2023

<b>Powys average (Primary)</b>	N/A	£4,656.50	N/A	N/A
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	£4,270,410	£4,439.10	£117,411	£48,300
<b>Powys average (Secondary)</b>	N/A	£5,436.94	N/A	N/A

iii) **Current budgetary position (as of 1st May submittal by full governing body)<sup>14</sup>**

	<b>2021/22 Actual Cumulative Outturn</b>	<b>2022/23 Projected Cumulative Outturn</b>	<b>2023/24 Projected Cumulative Outturn</b>	<b>2024/25 Projected Cumulative Outturn</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	£259,156	£196,755	£83,168	£27,021
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	£174,914	£118,562	£72,905	£20,178
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	£43,523	£33,696	Closed	Closed
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	£126,961	£87,045	£49,761	£1,800
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	(£496,605)	(£422,004)	(£338,525)	(£215,113)

**Equalities Information**

i) **Free School Meals<sup>15</sup>**

	<b>Number of pupils who had a free school meal on Census Day</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	5%
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	5%
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	12%

<sup>14</sup> Cabinet Report – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

<sup>15</sup> PLASC 2022

<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	13%
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	8%

ii) **Pupils in care<sup>16</sup>**

	<b>Number of pupils in care</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	0
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	0
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	0
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	0
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	<1%

iii) **SEN/ALN<sup>17</sup>**

	<b>School Action</b>	<b>School Action Plus</b>	<b>Statement</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	11.3%	4.3%	0.0%
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	6.4%	5.5%	3.6%
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	18.8%	16.7%	2.1%
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	14.9%	2.6%	1.8%
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	9.1%	7.4%	0.8%

**Locations of pupils**

Based on PLASC 2022, travel assessments have been carried out for the pupils attending the schools<sup>18</sup>. These are listed below.

<sup>16</sup> PLASC 2022

<sup>17</sup> PLASC 2022

<sup>18</sup> The full data, including which schools are closest or chosen can be found on the Transforming Education PowerBI dataset.

<b>School</b>	<b>No. of children living in catchment area</b>	<b>% of children living in catchment area who attend the school</b>	<b>% of pupils attending the school who live in the catchment area</b>	<b>% of pupils the school attending who live outside the catchment area</b>
<b>Crickhowell C.P. School</b>	153	71%	59%	41%
<b>Llangynidr C.P. School</b>	142	64%	84%	16%
<b>Llanbedr C. in W. School</b>	28	61%	40%	60%
<b>Llangattock C. in W. School</b>	81	73%	57%	43%
<b>Crickhowell High School</b>	641	98%	65%	35%