



Changing the language category of Ysgol  
Bro Caereinion  
Consultation Report



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# Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, Llanfair Caereinion

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# Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion

## 1. OVERVIEW OF THE CONSULTATION

Powys County Council consulted on a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion. The proposal was as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025

The consultation took place from the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

### 1.1 Consultation methods

The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period, and was distributed to stakeholders, as required by the School Organisation Code (2018). A separate version for pupils was also available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period.

Consultees were invited to respond to the consultation by either completing an online consultation form, filling in a paper copy of the form and returning it to the Transforming Education Team at County Hall, or by e-mailing / writing to the Transforming Education Team.

Meetings were held with the following:

- Pupils of Ysgol Bro Caereinion – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023
- Staff of Ysgol Bro Caereinion – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023
- Governors of Ysgol Bro Caereinion – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023
- Pupils of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan – 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023
- Staff of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- Governors of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

### 1.2 Responses received

A total of 493 respondents completed the consultation response form which was included in the consultation document. This included paper copies as well as responses submitted using the online response form.

In addition, 30 written responses by e-mail or post were received from respondents, including Estyn. The response received from Estyn is provided on page 18, in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

336 written responses were also received from pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

205 postcards were also received containing the following statement:

*Hoffwn ddatgan fy nghefnogaeth i'r cynnig i newid categori iaith Ysgol Bro Caereinion / I wish to declare my support for the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion*

The written responses included the findings of an online questionnaire, which asked respondents to state whether or not they agreed with the statement on the postcards, which had 301 responses. The responses were as follows:

Anghytuno – ffrwd ddeuol yn aros / Disagree – dual stream to remain	273 (90.7%)
Cytuno – continwwm cyfrwng Cymraeg arfaethedig / Agree – proposed Welsh Medium continuum	28 (9.3%)

### **1.3 Summary of issues raised**

The issues raised in the consultation responses are listed in detail in section 6 on page 36. This includes the Council's response to each issue. The following is a summary of the issues raised:

#### **Comments in support of the proposal**

- The proposal is overdue
- The proposal will lead to improved provision at the school
- The proposal will lead to a stronger Welsh ethos at the school
- Positive impact on pupils
  - Pupils would have better opportunities to become fully bilingual
  - Improved Welsh language skills would have a positive impact on the opportunities available to pupils in the future
- The proposal will safeguard secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion
- Llanfair Caereinion is the right location for designated Welsh-medium secondary provision
- Support for the proposal to implement in Reception and Year 7 at the same time
- The proposal would provide continuity for Welsh-medium pupils
- The proposal would provide equity for Welsh-medium pupils

- The proposal reflects the increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area
- The proposal will have a positive impact on the Welsh language in the area
- Comments about Welsh-medium delivery models
  - Concerns about the dual stream model
  - Positive comments about Welsh-medium schools
- Comments about staffing
  - Positive impact on current staff
  - It would be easier to attract staff
  - Other comments
- Comments about impact on the community
- The proposal supports the implementation of various strategies
- Other comments

### **Comments not in support of the proposal**

- Comments about the impact on pupils
  - Impact on pupil well-being
  - Impact on pupil achievement
  - Concern about the impact on English-medium pupils during the transition
  - Pupils wouldn't be able to move from one stream to another
  - English-medium pupils would have less exposure to the Welsh language
  - Pupils need English language skills not Welsh language skills
  - Concern about the impact on pupils ability to access further / higher education
  - Other comments
- Comments relating to implementation arrangements
  - Concern about the proposed timeline
  - Concern about the proposed to change in provision in year 7
  - Comments about transport arrangements
  - Concern about Trochi provision
- Comments about the impact on parents / families
  - Parents / families wouldn't be able to support their children
  - Parents / families could have children in more than one school
- Comments about staffing
  - Concern about the impact on staff
  - Concern about the ability to recruit Welsh speaking staff
  - Concern about the quality of staff in the future
- Concern about impact on the community
  - The proposal will cause division in the area
  - Concern that people wouldn't want to live in the area
  - A Welsh-medium school would not reflect the bilingual community in Llanfair Caereinion

- Concern about the impact on sports teams and other events in the area
  - Other comments about impact on the community
- Concern about the impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Comments about the need for choice
- Comments about discrimination / segregation
- Concern about impact on the Welsh language
- Llanfair Caereinion is not the right location for a Welsh-medium school
- Other comments

### **Other comments**

- Comments about Ysgol Bro Caereinion
  - Comments about the current provision at the school
  - Comments about building and facilities at the school
  - Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils are treated differently
  - English-medium pupils at the school benefit from more exposure to the Welsh-language
  - Comments about the governors at Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Comments / queries about other schools
  - Ysgol Rhiw Bechan
  - Other primary providers
  - Other secondary providers
- Comments about impact on staff
- Comments about additional support that would be needed to support the change
  - Trochi provision
  - Additional support for pupils
  - ALN Provision
  - Support for staff
  - Support for parents
  - Transport arrangements
  - Promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion for Welsh-medium pupils in the area
  - Additional funding
  - Capital investment
  - Raising awareness
  - Other comments / queries
- Financial queries
  - Comments about the financial impact of the proposal
  - Comments about Ysgol Bro Caereinion's financial position
  - Comments about the Council's funding arrangements
  - Other comments
- Comments about Welsh Government
- Alternative Options
  - Retain a dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion

- Phase in from Reception only
- Change the timeline
- Implement the change in the primary but not the secondary
- Increase the Welsh-medium provision for English-medium learners at Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Open a Welsh-medium school elsewhere
- Introduce a Welsh-medium provision elsewhere
- Review other schools
- Close the school
- Investment in the school
- Develop the provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Other suggestions
- Criticism of the Council
- Comments about the consultation process
  - Comments about meetings / engagement with the community
  - Comments about consultation with pupils
  - Comments about informal engagement
  - Comments about the timing of the proposal
  - The consultation is not lawful
  - The consultation is biased
  - More information should have been shared to support the consultation
  - Comments about communication
  - Concern about people from outside the area influencing the decision
  - Other comments
- Comments about the consultation documentation
  - General comments about the documentation
  - Comments / queries about specific parts of the documentation
  - Comments / queries about data
  - Comments about the consultation response form
  - Requests for additional information
  - Other comments / queries
- Requests for additional information
- Other comments / queries

## 2. CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

376 respondents completed the English language consultation response form which was available online, and 101 respondents completed the Welsh language consultation response form which was available online.

In addition, 16 paper copies of the response form were received by email or post.

The quantitative findings of the questionnaire are summarised below.

Written comments were also provided in the consultation response forms. The issues raised in these comments are included in Section 6 of this report.

### Part 1 – About you

1. Please indicate how you are associated with the schools affected by this consultation:

Response	No.	%
Parent, carer or guardian	230	39.72
Governor	17	2.94
Member of the community	164	28.32
No association	16	2.76
Prospective parent, carer or guardian	58	10.02
Member of staff	39	6.74
Other / Organisation	55	9.50
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>100%</b>

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

Response	No.	%
Ysgol Bro Caereinion	334	63.98
Feeder school / another school	113	21.65
No association	67	12.84
Other	8	1.53
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>100%</b>

3. Please provide your postcode:

Response	No.	%
Machynlleth	8	1.64
Abergele	1	0.20
Talybont	1	0.20
Welshpool	322	65.85
Bangor	1	0.20
Oswestry	4	0.82



Lampeter	2	0.41
Newtown	79	16.16
Cardiff	6	1.23
Llandrindod	1	0.20
Penrhyndeudraeth	1	0.20
Llanidloes	4	0.82
Builth Wells	1	0.20
Llanelli	3	0.61
Carmarthen	3	0.61
London	1	0.20
Stafford	1	0.20
Montgomery	9	1.84
Llandinam	4	0.82
Llanbrynmair	2	0.41
Llanfyllin	30	6.13
Shrewsbury	1	0.20
Not answered	4	0.82
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>99.97%</b>

## Part 2 – About you

9. How old are you?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Under 16	9	1.84
16-24	20	4.10
25-34	64	13.11
35-44	148	30.33
45-54	127	26.02
55-64	66	13.52
65-74	31	6.35
75-84	6	1.23
85+	3	0.61
Prefer not to say	14	2.87
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>99.98%</b>

10. What is your gender?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	135	28.24
Female	317	66.32
Gender Fluid	1	0.21
Non-Binary	1	0.21
Gender neutral	1	0.21
Other	2	0.42
Prefer not to say	21	4.39
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>100%</b>

11. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	305	63.67
No	117	24.43
Prefer not to say	57	11.90
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	51	11.70
No	305	69.95
Prefer not to say	42	9.63
Irrelevant	38	8.72
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>100%</b>

13. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	46	10.60
No	300	69.12
Prefer not to say	43	9.91
Irrelevant	45	10.37
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100%</b>

14. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	12	2.59
No	414	89.22
Prefer not to say	38	8.19
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>100%</b>

15. What is your ethnic group?

<b>Response</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	436	91.40
Asian	1	0.21
Black, African or Caribbean	1	0.21
Mixed	2	0.42
Gypsy/Traveller	1	0.21
Other	3	0.63
Prefer not to say	33	6.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **3. CONSULTATION WITH PUPILS**

Comments received from pupils are outlined below. This includes the notes of meetings held with pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and pupils at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, as well as a summary of the written responses received from pupils.

#### **3.1 Consultation meetings with pupils**

##### **i) Consultation meetings with pupils of Ysgol Bro Caereinion – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

As part of the council's proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, meetings were held with 4 groups of pupils, to give them the opportunity to give the Council their views on the proposal.

Each meeting began by explaining the council's proposal, and explaining the purpose of the consultation period, which was to gather views on the proposal.

##### **Meeting 1 – Welsh medium secondary pupils – 12.00 – 12.50**

25 pupils attended from years 7 to 13.

After explaining the proposal and the process, pupils were asked to comment on the proposal:

**Do some of you think the proposal is a good thing? If so, why do you think so?**

- Parents in the area are already opting for Welsh language rather than English language education
- There are a lot of Welsh people in the area but not many English people
- There is an increased demand for Welsh language education
- Welsh language education is increasing in a lot in schools such as Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd
- There is a need for a Welsh language school in the county. If the school isn't in Llanfair, it will happen somewhere else, and that will close Ysgol Llanfair.

**What about the not-so-good elements of the proposal? Why do you think it's not a good thing?**

- The school is small anyway – where are the children going to come from?

- Where are the Welsh teachers going to come from? No one is currently available to teach maths in Welsh – already the school is struggling to recruit teachers who can teach in Welsh
- There is already a Welsh and English stream in the school, why is it necessary to remove the English stream? It would create a rift / conflict in the community
- What if people can't cope in Welsh language education? What would happen to them?
- The choice of Welsh language education is already here – I don't think it's necessary to remove the English stream
- Taking children out would be taking money out of school – who is going to come there to replace the children who leave?
- Parents are worried that they won't be able to help with homework etc.
- Concern about the impact on children with special needs. Due to the two-stream model, pupils with some needs can move into the English stream if necessary, but if the change were to happen, they would need to move to another school.

### **What other questions do you have about the proposal?**

- Would all staff have to be able to speak Welsh, or was it just teaching staff? What about kitchen staff etc?
- Would this happen if money was not in short supply?
- What additional opportunities would pupils have in a Welsh language school to compare it to a two-stream school?
- Would children be expected to speak Welsh during break time etc?
- If this change doesn't happen, what is the future of the school?
- Where would the English children go because most of the other schools in the area are full.
- How much would it cost to pay for buses to other schools for English medium children? Who would pay for this?
- Is this more to secure the future of the school or to tick a box with the Government?
- If this happens and extra money comes, what will you spend it on?

### **Other comments**

- I've learned a lot from this conversation today, I don't think people in the community understand
- At the moment a lot of kids think they're going to be thrown out of school – maybe there are wrong messages going around the place.
- Some of the people who have put their children into Welsh language education have done so because they think the medium of language will change.

- We should put more emphasis on pupils in the English stream speaking better Welsh– many friends say they can speak Spanish better than Welsh!
- In recent years, there hasn't been enough support for children with special needs – there's been no money to support them. If there was enough funding, some of those children wouldn't have to move into the English medium.

Pupils were reminded that the consultation runs until 7th December and that they can forward any other comments they have to the team so they can be considered in the consultation.

### **Meeting 2 – English-medium Primary Pupils – 1.25 – 1.55**

35 pupils were present who currently attend English-medium classes in the school's primary phase.

After explaining the proposal and the process, pupils were asked to give their views:

#### **Why do you think the proposal isn't a good idea?**

- It's not fair, it feels like Welsh is taking over
- English learners have already learnt English, don't know that much Welsh -might be difficult for them to learn enough Welsh
- The school might have to close if not many people come here
- Some children might move schools, which might mean that they would lose friends
- People have been here a long time and would miss the teachers
- Why change it now? It's been like this for a long time
- It would affect a lot of people
- It would affect other learners from other schools that come to the school's secondary phase
- It will affect people's education it will interfere with pupils education if they have started in English
- It will make learning harder for non Welsh speakers
- English people will be sad because they have to learn Welsh
- It will make every learning session harder, and new starters will find it harder to learn
- Concern that it would be hard to do exams in year 11 because they would be in Welsh
- Some of the English teachers might lose their jobs
- Pupils might be scared if they have to move schools
- Concern about homework – pupils might not have Welsh speaking people at home to help with homework
- Not a good idea because there aren't Welsh speaking maths teachers

**Is there anyone who thinks there would be anything good about this idea?**

- English people could learn more languages
- It would encourage more people to use Welsh

**Officers explained that if the proposal moved forward, 'Trochi' provision would be available to enable pupils taught in English at the moment to learn Welsh and move into the Welsh stream. The following questions / comments were made about this provision:**

- If we did the Trochi provision, would we learn enough Welsh to go to high school here?
- Is there 'trochi' for pupils to move to the English stream?
- Can the Trochi be done online?
- Would the Trochi be in school hours
- How long does it take to learn Welsh on Trochi?
- Where will the Trochi be?

**Other questions about the proposal**

- Would the current year 6 be the last year that could have English-medium secondary provision?
- Why not go full English?
- Would pupils in year 8 in the secondary be able to still have English education?
- Why does it have to be in Llanfair?
- Would there be a new uniform?
- Will we have to have Welsh speaking dinner ladies?
- Is it a vote?
- How are you going to keep the pupils in the English so that they don't move schools?
- When would we know whether it will happen?

**Other comments**

- Pupils are worried about this possible change
- Some pupils might have to move to go to English-medium schools
- Some teachers might leave because they don't speak Welsh
- It's good to have options to do Welsh or English

Explained that the consultation will continue until the 7<sup>th</sup> December, pupils were encouraged to write down any comments they have if they think of anything else and hand these to their teachers who will ensure that they are sent on.

### **Meeting 3 – Welsh-medium primary pupils – 2.05 – 2.35**

There were 34 pupils in attendance who attend Welsh medium classes in the primary stage of the school.

After explaining the proposal and process, pupils were asked to give their views:

#### **Why do you think the proposal would be a good idea?**

- Everyone would have a Welsh language education and be able to speak Welsh
- People who only speak English will be able to learn Welsh
- If we don't do this, the Welsh language will die
- There would be an opportunity to get more Welsh children to come here
- If you have friends in the English stream, you can't speak Welsh with them at the moment, but everyone would be able to speak Welsh so it's a good thing

#### **Why do you think the proposal isn't a good idea?**

- It wouldn't be fair to the children in English class because they would have to go to another school
- We'd lose friends if they moved school
- The school might lose a lot of pupils and the school would have to close
- It wouldn't be fair to mums and dads if siblings were educated in different languages / different schools
- Children would have to travel further to get an education in English
- There may not be enough children to do a sports team if the English children leave
- The English children would be forced to do something they don't want to do
- Many English teachers may leave the school

#### **Other questions / comments**

- What will happen to English stream classes?
- Where will the English teachers go?
- Is it only Ysgol Bro Caereinion which is becoming a Welsh school?
- Will it affect children who are already in high school?
- What if all the children leave school and there aren't enough children left?
- Why do you put money before the children's education?

- Will this affect children who are already in high school?
- Will people who live here have to go to Welshpool?

It has been explained that the consultation will continue until 7th December. Pupils have been encouraged to write down any other comments they may think of, and to give these to their teachers, who will ensure they are forwarded.

#### **Meeting 4 – English-medium Secondary Pupils – 2.35 – 3.25**

Around 22 pupils were present from all year groups.

After explaining the proposal and the process, pupils were asked for their views:

#### **Why don't you think this is a good idea?**

- This is a bilingual area, this would split the area
- The proposal would take away choice
- Children are already finding it hard to cope in English
- It's unfair to the English-medium pupils and staff
- Concern that teachers that don't speak Welsh would be out of a job
- It will affect younger learners who have older siblings – they may have to go to different schools
- Siblings and friends would be separated
- A lot of pupils don't have anyone that speaks Welsh at home so it would be more difficult for them to do homework etc
- It would result in a big divide in the community
- It might be hard for pupils to make friends if they have to move to a different school
- Where would the staff come from? Already struggling to get a Welsh speaking maths teacher
- A lot of parents choose the Welsh stream because the safety net is there to move to the English stream if needed, however this safety net would no longer be there
- Some pupils move to the English stream later on in high school to do GCSEs ready for university etc – they wouldn't be able to do this.
- Some parents in the area have put their children in Welsh-medium in the primary knowing that they could move to English-medium in the secondary
- Pupils would have to get up earlier to get to school
- The current model means that Welsh and English medium pupils help each other to develop skills in both languages
- Concern that all the teachers will leave, then no pupils could come here, then there would eventually be no school



- It would be more difficult for pupils to transfer to university if they have been through Welsh-medium education
- It would be more difficult for pupils with additional needs e.g. pupils with dyslexia who already struggle learning in English
- Concern that pupils with additional learning needs would have to go to other schools like Welshpool and Newtown
- Concern that pupils with additional learning needs would have to go to different schools than their siblings / friends

### **Is there anything you think would be good about the plans?**

No comments were made.

### **Other questions**

- Pupils have their lessons in Welsh already, so what's the problem?
- Why our school not other schools like Llanfyllin?
- Would the primary turn Welsh too?
- Why not make a new Welsh school somewhere else?
- Is the only reason this has come about because of funding?
- Will the Council change the catchment areas? Parents can't afford to drive their children to school twice a day.
- Where would the pupils go?
- Has the Trochi provision that's being proposed proven effective?

### **Other comments**

- A lot of parents have only put their children in the Welsh stream because they thought the language would change in the future
- Some Welsh-medium children might have to be moved from the school if their siblings move
- Pupils want to do GCSEs in English
- Pupils are being pushed / forced into the Welsh-medium
- Teachers are already leaving the school because of this, which is causing disruption to current pupils in exam years
- Llanfair is strong for Welsh second language
- The Welsh-medium pupils at Llanfair get treated better – more trips, get to go on the bus for free, they had a new block built for them.

Explained that the consultation will continue until the 7<sup>th</sup> December, pupils were encouraged to write down any comments they have if they think of anything else and hand these to their teachers who will ensure that they are sent on.

### **ii) Consultation meeting with pupils of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

16 pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 were in attendance from both streams.

Officers met with pupils to discuss the consultation to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion from dual stream to Welsh-medium on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

Officers explained that this is only an idea at the moment, and the Council is asking people to let them know what they think about this idea.

Pupils were asked to indicate whether they thought this was a good idea, a bad idea or whether they weren't sure. Almost all pupils indicated that they thought it was a bad idea.

Pupils were then asked to give their views / comments on why it was a bad idea or a good idea. The following is a summary of the comments made:

### **Why do you think it's a bad idea?**

- It would split families up – some children would have to go to a different school to their brothers and sisters
- It would split friendships – friends would have to go to different schools
- Some English stream pupils might not go to Bro Caereinion, they might choose other schools
- More buses would be needed, which would cost more, and would impact on global warming and climate change. Who would pay for more busses if more busses were needed?
- The children in Ysgol Bro Caereinion at the moment would leave.
- Some of the teachers would lose their jobs if they don't speak Welsh
- Would be harder to get Welsh teachers
- If people are struggling in the Welsh stream, they wouldn't be able to move to the English stream.

### **Does anyone have any suggestions about why it's a good idea?**

There were no suggestions.

### **Where do pupils from Ysgol Rhiw Bechan go to high school now?**

- Most pupils go to Ysgol Bro Caereinion to high school, almost all pupils in fact. Only the odd pupil goes to other schools, such as Newtown High School, this is mainly if the pupils live outside Ysgol Rhiw Bechan's catchment.

### **Pupils were asked whether they had any other comments or questions:**

- Can't you extend the date so that those that are in reception now could carry on in the English-medium?
- Isn't high school meant to support different languages?
- Would it be hard to move to the Welsh stream?
- Will there be enough people to teach us?
- What are the chances of Ysgol Bro Caereinion being closed down in the future?
- Don't you think it's mean for the English stream?
- More busses would impact on the climate
- If we have to have more buses, who would pay for them?
- What will happen to other dual stream schools?

Pupils were reminded that the consultation will continue until the 7<sup>th</sup> December, and were encouraged to write down any comments they have if they think of anything else and hand these to their teachers who will ensure that they are sent on.

### **3.2 Other comments by pupils**

#### **i) Secondary**

336 written responses were received from secondary pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

Here is a summary of the issues raised in these responses:

#### **Comments in support of the proposal**

- Everyone would speak Welsh so everyone would be able to understand each other
- More Welsh will be spoken because everyone will speak Welsh
- More people would be able to speak Welsh fluently
- More children would speak Welsh and would be bilingual
- It would help achieve the aim of a million Welsh speakers
- More subjects would be taught in Welsh
- It would encourage more parents to put their children in Welsh medium.
- More Welsh people would come to the school
- More children would come to the school because children in primary are going into Welsh-medium education already.
- It would enable the school to attract more pupils
- It would be first Welsh secondary school in Powys
- There would be access to a Welsh-medium secondary school – North Powys is the only area of Wales that can't access one
- There is Penweddig and Bro Hyddgen in Mid Wales, but no Welsh medium secondary school in this area.
- It's better to have a Welsh secondary school here than no school at all

- It would mean that the school would stay open
- All funds would go to Welsh-medium pupils to improve the Welsh-medium education available, there are other English-medium schools available.
- There are other English medium schools in the area which people would go to for English medium education
- Pupils would be able to get better jobs if they all spoke Welsh
- Advantages further in life from being fluent in both languages.
- Pupils currently in the English stream will be able to access Trochi provision so will still be able to attend the school.
- It might encourage people in the community to learn Welsh.
- Less work for teachers as they would only need to prepare work in one language.
- The school would have more money and would be able to give a better education.
- The school would get more money from the government.
- Possibility that there would be money available to modernise the school, or maybe there would be a new school.

### **Comments not in support of the proposal**

- This is only being proposed for financial reasons
- It's only being done for money, not with pupils in mind
- Concern that there would be less GCSE options available if the English-medium subjects were lost
- Concern about pupils' ability to continue to higher education as not many degrees are in Welsh.
- Concern that attending a fully Welsh school would limit pupils' career opportunities in the future
- It's discrimination
- It's unfair to English-medium pupils
- It would be difficult for English-medium pupils moving into year 7 and could cause a lot of worry.
- Concern that a term is not long enough to learn a language.
- Grades might go down if pupils struggle with Welsh
- Concern that some English-medium pupils in year 5 wouldn't be able to come to year 7
- Concern that pupils wouldn't be able to go to the same school as their brother or sister
- Concern that pupils would be split up from their friends
- There aren't enough Welsh children in the area to keep the school open
- The school would need to close as there wouldn't be enough pupils
- Pupil numbers at the school would halve
- Less money for the school if there are less pupils
- The school will go downhill

- Pupils might choose to go to different schools to have English-medium education.
- Pupils would choose to go to other English schools in the area which would put pressure on these schools.
- The change isn't needed – the school is already functioning as a bilingual school.
- Concern about negative impact on sports teams
- More people speak English around school
- Concern about the impact on pupils with additional needs / disabilities.
- It would be particularly difficult for people that have moved to the area from other countries to learn English.
- Children moving to the area would be shut out of the school
- People wouldn't be able to attend their local school
- It's censorship of the language
- It would turn English speaking people against the Welsh language
- English speaking people would lose out on the opportunity to learn Welsh
- Currently if pupils in the Welsh stream are having difficulty, they can move to the English stream. If there was no English stream, they would have to move to a different school.
- Concern about the impact on the English language skills of pupils
- It's good that Welsh and English pupils mix
- People should have a choice of whether their children go in the Welsh or English stream
- Concern that the 'Trochi' provision won't be suitable for all pupils.
- Concern that some parents don't understand Welsh so won't be able to help / support their children.
- The school has strong 2<sup>nd</sup> language Welsh provision and is successful competing in the Urdd, so should stay the same.
- Concern that it would split Welsh speakers and English speakers in the community
- Concern that people would move away from the area
- Concern that people won't move to Llanfair
- Does not reflect the bilingual community in Llanfair
- Concern about the impact on staff that don't speak Welsh
- It would be difficult to find Welsh speaking staff
- Concern about additional travel that would be required to other schools for English-medium pupils.
- Concern that pupils wanting to go to English-medium schools would have to pay for transport.
- Llanfair is not the right place for this, what about somewhere like Newtown?

### **Other comments**

- Pupils commented that any changes won't affect them as they will have left school.
- It could work if it happened gradually only starting with reception, not starting with year 7 too.
- Will the surrounding schools become Welsh-medium too?

## ii) Primary

A consultation response was received which included comments from primary pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. Here is a summary of the issues raised:

### Comments in support of the proposal

- I do think it's a good idea to encourage people to speak Welsh but I'm not sure how other pupils will feel.
- If we do not do this the language will die
- This is a good thing to do and it will mean the Welsh language will continue
- Need for people to speak Welsh and English
- I like learning / speaking Welsh

### Comments that do not support the proposal

- Loads of learners find it hard to learn Welsh
- Not a good idea because reception have no option but start in Welsh class
- If it turns Welsh there'll be less people.
- If people don't understand Welsh and people speak to them in Welsh they won't understand
- If teachers teach English they might lose their jobs
- Not a good idea, I like it like this
- It might affect lots of pupils. Only 2 maths teachers in Wales. Not enough Welsh teachers.
- Some people might miss their friends
- Will affect loads of people who are English and can't speak Welsh
- I joined the school in the Welsh stream in the middle of Year 1. I could not speak Welsh and it was very difficult at the start. It will be worse for older children as there's so much to learn.
- What will happen to my friends from the English classes. Its not fair that they have to change school
- Its fine for the Welsh children but not for the English children who will have to move and they do not want to go
- If this happens the numbers will decrease and the school will close
- What about the families with children in two streams. Its not fair that some can stay in the school and others have to go to another school and the parents will have to sort things

- Why can't the reception only change to Welsh and not Year 7. That would be better for everyone
- I'm scared to go to another school because I will miss my friends
- I will miss my teachers and friends
- I don't think its fair because its not equal that they need more Welsh than English
- I don't think it is fair on the younger children because year 6's can carry on to the high school and they will not have the opportunity to carry on
- There are not enough children that speak Welsh or want to go through the medium of Welsh
- There is lots of transport to Llanfair but not a lot of transport from Llanfair to another school i.e Welshpool. It isn't fair
- I don't think it is fair on the English families that have just moved here and might have to move again
- If I have to move schools, my mum wouldn't be able to take me to another school and there is no transport
- If I go to Welshpool High School, I would have to go on the bus, but I don't know where my sister will go
- I don't like the idea because it will make learning harder for Non-Welsh speakers
- I don't think it is fair on the children that have moved from another school
- It has been like this for many years, why does it need to change

**Other comments:**

- What would happened if it turned Welsh and not many children – would it close?
- I'm in the middle – it is a good thing and a bad thing.
- Why is it happening
- What school will I go to if I can't go to high school here. Will I still be able to go on a bus because I don't have a car
- Really worried about the school turning Welsh as I've just moved here
- The people we spoke to were trying to convince us that the school should go Welsh. It made you feel bullied
- I don't think its fair on the dinner ladies as they must learn Welsh as well
- How come the Welsh get free transport from Newtown
- I feel like the Welsh get more privileges than we do because they get to go to Cardiff to do Tekkers and they go to Glan Llyn which we do not have the opportunity to do
- I think it is a Welsh country, they get more attention as they speak the language

## **4. CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH STAFF AND GOVERNORS**

Consultation meetings were held with the staff and governors of Ysgol Bro Caereinion and Ysgol Rhiw Bechan. A summary of the issues raised at these meetings is provided below:

### **4.1 Ysgol Bro Caereinion**

#### **i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Bro Caereinion – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

- Why was the consultation period extended?
- Why was a different model selected here to the one used for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, would it not have been fairer to use the same model?
- Concern about immersion, numbers, how it will be staffed and funded
- Why is this being pushed along so quickly?
- Concern about getting everything in place for 2025.
- As the school has already been through a transition was there not a clause to protect the school in these situations?
- Students are very worried, teachers worried about their mental well-being.
- Concern about younger siblings being split and going to different schools or some of the parents having to move
- Concern about staff who have left other jobs to come to the school who potentially could be without jobs in near future
- Concern about the mental well-being of staff
- Uncertainty for all members of staff not just English medium teachers
- Queries about how Ysgol Bro Caereinion would be funded going forward
- How will staff redundancies be prevented if pupil numbers drop and funding is lost?
- There could be a loss of staff in the short term if numbers dip, but then a need to recruit more staff later, however good staff will already have been lost during the transition
- Would there be any additional funding for the school during the transition period?
- Is there any data available to support the comments in the consultation document that a lack of Welsh medium secondary provision has impacted on the number of pupils transferring to the school?
- Is the Council going to do something to encourage pupils from schools such as Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd to come to Ysgol Bro Caereinion rather than Llanidloes?
- Concern that there is no capacity at Llanidloes High School for pupils wishing to access English-medium provision there
- Would transport be available to English-medium secondary provision?
- It's discriminatory to provide transport to Welsh-medium provision but not English-medium provision.



- Support is needed during the transition period, such as transport provision.
- What support is there for staff well-being?
- Staff need to know that their jobs are secure – that’s the support they need.
- Would the staffing structures, responsibilities, contracts be changed?
- Queries about recruitment of Welsh medium staff as there is a shortage of Welsh medium teachers.
- Potential impact of English medium and Welsh medium teachers leaving the school
- If this provision does not happen at Ysgol Bro Caereinion what would be the future of the school?
- If the proposal does not go forward will the WESP need to be re-written?
- The majority of schools in the catchment provide education in Welsh, this option is already available here.
- Concern for the standard of Welsh and English especially for children with special needs who cannot cope with two languages
- Pupil numbers at the school used to be much higher, however we lost English-medium pupils due to changes in the transport policy.
- Need to increase the numbers of pupils coming from schools such as Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd to Ysgol Bro Caereinion
- Will there be a change to pre-school education at the school? Currently in Powys schools don’t accept pre-school children.
- Are there plans to extend the transport entitlement to include Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon in Trefeglwys which is Welsh medium? Would they become part of the Ysgol Bro Caereinion cluster?
- If the school changes language category and there is no other Welsh medium school close by, does this mean the school won’t be able to close?
- Will Trochi provision be available for staff members?
- Will there be access to “gloywi iaith” provision for staff? This provision isn’t currently available, but this is the type of provision that some staff need.
- Would staff have the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills during work time?

**ii) Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Bro Caereinion – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

- Establishing Ysgol Bro Caereinion has been a pressure for governors, staff and pupils, the current process has put even more pressure on the governing body.
- We need assurance that there will be financial support to get us through the transition period.
- We need to bring those that are on the fence with us.

- The school has had a difficult 18 months, which has impacted on everyone including the pupils – that’s something you need to consider.
- Concern about the impact on the school’s finances, particularly if there is a dip in numbers
- How will the school provide sixth form subjects and recruit Welsh speaking staff?
- Parents are asking why is dual stream OK in Llanfyllin and Llanidloes but not Llanfair Caereinion. Parents that want dual stream provision are saying that they will take their children to a different school which has this.
- There is a perception that dual stream schools offer a safety net for those pupils that cannot cope in Welsh, with the option for them to transfer to the English stream
- Lot of information needed for parents to convince them this is the right option, especially to dispel the myths, perceptions that are in the community
- We should have had an engagement PR campaign over a long period of time to support this move and transition.
- Parents are asking for information on immersion and transition, when is this going to happen?
- Some parents think a bilingual school is one where there is an English and Welsh stream but don’t realise that the only bilingual children are those in the Welsh stream.
- If the school is the place for Welsh medium education this is where free transport should be provided to.
- If you move forward with changing year 7 in 2025, it will still take 7 years, that’s a very long time.
- People are concerned and parents may make snap decisions and move children from the school
- As a governing body, we have to be thinking about all of the learners currently in this school – some of these learners would be affected by these changes, some of the learners in the English stream are in tears because they don’t know what’s going to happen
- We need a commitment from the authority to protect what you’re trying to set up here, that there will be additional money to see us through this.
- Essentially this will be a new provision here, so the school should be given latitude in terms of its budget otherwise the school could be in a position of only being able to offer core subjects as it will not be able to afford the staff.
- If the school cannot provide a range of subjects pupils would not come here.
- Support is needed over a period of time, not just for one or two years.
- Being a Welsh medium school could attract more Welsh medium teachers.
- Also need staff who don’t currently speak Welsh to come on the journey with us.

- What is the scope to amend the capital programme to bring forward investment at this school?
- Need for creative ways to get people into Powys such as growing our own, bursaries for students in the sixth form to get them through university with a clause that they train and come back
- There were promises when we went through the process to establish the all-through school that there would be funding and other support, but it then proved quite difficult to actually get support.
- Can Welsh speaking staff be considered as a countywide resource to make the maximum use of people's skills? If you have a Welsh speaking maths teacher elsewhere that is only teaching in Welsh 60% of the time, would the Council have the authority to move them here for the rest of their timetable?
- Need to be a more strategic approach across the County to education provision and not looking at the transformation of this school to Welsh medium in isolation to what is happening at an adjoining school
- If Caereinion did not become a Welsh school would the county be looking at another secondary school in the area becoming a Welsh school?
- If another school became a Welsh school all the Welsh medium pupils would go from this school
- There is a need for a marketing, branding campaign to improve understanding about the support that would be available for any pupils that were struggling, or pupils with additional needs.
- Opportunity to make the school a flagship for the County
- Whole education system in Powys needs to be reviewed as economically it's not sustainable. You have to question whether dual stream schools are sustainable.
- It's likely that other schools will have to go through processes in the next few years, this will mean that we are ahead again. Parents don't understand that this is the beginning of a long journey for Powys. The community needs to know this – at the moment they think other schools will be there in their current forms forever, but they may not be.
- Will information that has been shared tonight be shared more widely before the end of the consultation?
- Will people be able to see the responses to the questions and comments raised during the consultation at the end of the consultation period?
- Case studies should be provided going forward as people can relate to examples.
- Maybe it would be advantageous if the school could offer the International Bacc in Welsh.
- The school should aspire to provide Welsh medium courses as Newtown College / NPTC hardly offer anything through the medium of Welsh
- Drop out rates are 2.5 times higher for children who go from Welsh medium to non-Welsh medium vocational courses. These are the young people that actually remain in our communities.

- Concern that it wouldn't be as easy for pupils to do their GCSEs in a language other than the one they have spent their whole life speaking if they have changed languages going into year 7, so more intervention would be needed.
- Trochi provision – how long does it last and could the school have staff members shadowing the Council's team so they can then continue supporting the children?
- There's a 20% difference in most subjects between Welsh Medium and English medium, and Welsh medium do better in English as a subject. This just shows what bilingualism does to the brain.
- People are saying that we're not investing enough into the English-medium.
- Sport and funding for sport and the provision of facilities such as a new pitch, leisure centre would increase pupil numbers.
- Concern about retention of staff during the transition period as we will still need to offer English-medium provision during the transition period – concern that staff that don't speak Welsh will be looking for an opportunity to leave.
- Concern that those wanting to continue in English-medium would have to pay for transport.

## 4.2 Ysgol Rhiw Bechan

### i) Consultation meeting with Staff of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan – 28th November 2023

- Why was September 2025 chosen? Bro Hyddgen are also on a transition but have been given a much longer period. Why is this?
- Might have been better to give people the opportunity to have that discussion first and discuss a timeline because as a school its been difficult and parents are worrying
- How much funding is there for Trochi and who's going to be delivering it?
- The timing for Trochi is going to cut into the school's curriculum and that could be destructive. Also other things and projects going on in the summer before children go to high school.
- We're a dual stream school so parents have already made the decision to choose Welsh-medium or English-medium for their children, it would be very difficult to persuade them to make that big step from English-medium to Welsh-medium.
- There are children that won't be able to access Trochi because they have additional needs, they've moved, they've tried Welsh or had to move due to literacy difficulties.
- The strength of Caereinion is that it's a rural school and children are sheltered which is why parents send children there, and why they come to live in Tregynon.
- This has come from Welsh Government ultimately, but they don't understand the infrastructure of the area and things like staffing

- There's much that needs to be put in place and there is not the time to do this before September 2025.
- What happens if 50 or 60 children need Trochi and the staff are not available to provide this?
- Opportunities to establish this type of provision have been missed previously – Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd could have been all through.
- The numbers show that parents are coming round to wanting their children to be bilingual, but sometimes if you push them into a corner they will fight back.
- Is Bro Caereinion in favour of this? The impression given at the meeting with parents was that this is Powys' decision.
- Is it possible to slide this back to 2027 or is it financial pressures that are driving this?
- What about the bigger infrastructure such as educational psychologists, speech and language, school nurses, health visitors?
- Some Welsh speaking staff would prefer to be in a Welsh medium school than a dual stream school and they are looking for that provision for their families
- Security of Bro Caereinion has not been great which is why it has not drawn staff in.
- If there was a Welsh medium secondary school in Newtown it would have huge implications for Ysgol Bro Caereinion.
- Will the catchment be extended to include schools such as Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon?
- What is the thinking for post 16?
- What about pupils who want to go somewhere like Cambridge or Oxford who think they would be better doing some subjects in English to help with their transfer to university?
- Would Welsh Government provide a significant investment in the building?
- What is the difference in numbers between the English and Welsh medium streams at Bro Caereinion?
- Concern from parents if Bro Caereinion becomes Welsh medium that they will not be able to assist their children with their homework
- Concern about what will happen to Ysgol Rhiw Bechan if everyone chooses Welsh-medium provision. What will happen to the structure of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan if Bro Caereinion becomes a Welsh medium school, and what will happen to jobs
- Concern that the English cohort would feel as if they are not wanted any more.

**ii) Consultation meeting with Governors of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan – 28th November 2023**

- Disappointment as a governing body with the timelines and that this seems to have been on the cards for a while.
- Concern that it's taken so long to arrange a meeting with us.
- Will everything that's been submitted be considered?

- What is the rationale for not meeting directly with parents? A lot of parents would have appreciated this as they are really worried.
- For many parents, responding in writing is quite daunting.
- The wording of the consultation response form means that it's quite difficult to answer.
- Can't the questions that are being asked now be answered now? Do parents have to wait until March next year for answers?
- Concern about how the information was released – the governing body should have been informed
- Messaging from Bro Caereinion governing body is that they are not supportive of the proposal, is that correct?
- Why were feeder schools not notified involved if this has been discussed back as far as 2020?
- Immediate cohort of parents feel trapped as they could have children at high school and in primary school and they are in a difficult position as to what to do.
- Some parents do not speak Welsh and cannot support their children so would choose to put their children through the English stream in Bro Caereinion as the children would cope better
- Dual stream is about having a choice and in a worse case scenario children can change streams
- Parents feel that choice is being taken away from them
- The financial perspective is the main problem with Powys being so rural
- The area does not have a large population and is on the English border
- Looking at the size of Powys by comparison to other counties, having a Welsh school is not practical
- Many pupils go to English universities and do not return to Wales
- The only source of employment for Welsh speakers is Welsh Government and the Local Authority
- Pupils in the English stream also have the opportunity to learn Welsh and become bilingual – this would remove that.
- Concern about the ability to recruit Welsh speaking teachers
- Lack of infrastructure to support increasing numbers of pupils with additional learning needs
- Queries about transport arrangements – the transport policy doesn't cater for pupils needs if they are unable to move into Welsh-medium.
- Some children are already moving to other schools and some people are going to move home
- Timescale is too short and frightening parents into making decisions they should not have to make now
- Concern that trying to get a child going through Trochi up to the standard of somebody who has been in a Welsh medium primary school is incomprehensible
- Concern about children who are dyslexic and have got ALN issues going through Trochi

- Concern for children who are already catching up as a result of the pandemic going through Trochi, especially if there was another pandemic. How far would they fall behind?
- Where does the authority see Ysgol Bro Caereinion in ten years time?
- What data is there on pupil numbers going forward?
- Are projections based on all the Welsh-medium children in the catchment going to Bro Caereinion?
- Will the Council make it that if you go to Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd you would have to go to Bro Caereinion?
- The Caereinion building looks quite run down.
- This process has caused a lot of upset in the community. Wouldn't want to have to go through this again in a few years time if there was a proposal to close the school.
- What is the roadmap for Ysgol Rhiw Bechan if Bro Caereinion becomes Welsh medium, what will happen to this school?
- What happens if pupils at Dafydd Llwyd and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng don't come to Bro Caereinion? What will happen to Bro Caereinion then?
- Will Bro Caereinion be financially supported during the transition?
- If this does not go through is there another location lined up?
- What assurances can be given to the parents of children in the English stream that their children can finish their education at Bro Caereinion in English, particularly if a lot of children leave?
- Why could this not be phased in the same way as Bro Hyddgen?
- Unfair that some children may have to change school.

## 5. ESTYN

Estyn's response to the consultation is provided below:

### **Estyn's response to the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion**

This report has been prepared by His Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore, as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals. Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

The proposal is to make a regulated alteration to change the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium. This would be introduced on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.

#### **Summary/Conclusion**

Estyn considers that the proposal is likely to maintain the standard of education provision for many pupils in the area. However, the local authority has not considered fully the impact on pupils wishing to study through the medium of English.

#### **Description and benefits**

The local authority has set out a clear rationale for its proposal. It outlines the advantages of making a regulated alteration to change the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to Welsh-medium. The rationale refers clearly to the aims of the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the relevance of the proposal to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for the local authority.

The local authority provides a suitably detailed description of the proposal. This includes a background to the proposal and an estimated timetable for statutory procedures. The proposal outlines that the change would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025.



Eventually, all pupils at the school would attend Welsh-medium provision, helping to ensure that all pupils would be proficient in Welsh and English.

The proposer identifies clearly and fairly the expected advantages and disadvantages when compared with the status quo. However, it does not provide clear enough information about how it will mitigate all the identified disadvantages. For instance, the proposal refers to the risk that some parents at the school do not want their children to attend a Welsh medium school, therefore are likely to move their children to alternative schools. This action would impact on the school's budget and increase surplus places.

The local authority has considered three alternative options, including maintaining the status quo. It lists the advantages and disadvantages of each option in detail, and these appear to be fair and reasonable.

The proposal considers and details appropriately the impact of the changes on pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion. For pupils currently accessing Welsh- medium primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, there would be no real change.

The greatest impact would be on pupils currently attending English-medium primary provision at the school from Year 5 onwards, as implementation of the proposal would mean that there would be no English-medium secondary provision available at the school in Year 7 from September 2025.

The local authority considers suitably the impact on pupils attending other primary schools in the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils taught through the medium of Welsh would continue to be able to access secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. However, pupils such as those in the English stream at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan face the same issues as those in Bro Caereinion. The proposer has also considered the impact of the changes on pupils attending primary and secondary school that are not in the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment.

The proposer has considered in part the impact on staff at the school. Although there are a significant number of staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion who are bilingual and currently teach and work through the medium of Welsh and English, there are teaching and support staff across both the primary and secondary sites currently working solely in the English stream or working predominantly through the medium of English. The proposer identifies that the local authority human resource team would be involved in supporting the consultation with every member of staff and support the transition to work through the medium of Welsh.

The proposer has considered in part the impact of the changes on learner travel arrangements. There would be no impact on journeys to school or journey times for pupils that would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion following any change to the school's language category. However, should pupils choose to attend English- medium provision in other locations, there would be an increase in journey and journey times for these pupils, including pupils with additional learning needs (ALN). The local authority has identified that they would not support travel for these pupils to another school if Ysgol Bro Caereinion is their catchment school. This could affect negatively parental choice and impact families from disadvantaged backgrounds disproportionately as they may have difficulty funding daily travel to an English- medium school.

The local authority has demonstrated usefully the impact of the proposal on surplus places. It is possible that there could be some impact on pupil numbers in the longer term should pupils choose to attend alternative English- medium provision instead of choosing to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

The proposal takes detailed account of the impact of the proposal on Welsh medium provision within the local authority and the extent to which the proposal supports the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion aligns with the Council's WESP for 2022-32 and would make a significant contribution to implementation of the targets outlined in the WESP. The local authority has provided a Welsh Language Impact Assessment as part of the proposal.

The local authority has considered appropriately the financial implications of the proposal. It is estimated that changing the school's language category would eventually result in annual revenue savings to the Council of £383k per annum once the school is fully single stream.

### **Educational aspects of the proposal**

The proposal has considered the impact of the proposal on the quality and standards in education. It refers to potential positive outcomes regarding impact on standards and progress, such as a positive impact on the Welsh language skills of pupils.

The proposal details the expectation that supporting the school to move along the language continuum could lead to improvements in the quality of teaching at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, due to the improved Welsh medium professional development and collaboration opportunities that could be offered to staff.

While the sections on outcomes and provision appear to be fair and reasonable, the section on leadership and management does not focus well

enough on the implications of the proposal on leaders at the school, or on plans to overcome challenges, such as recruiting and appointing Welsh medium leaders in the future.

The proposal considers in part the impact of the proposal on vulnerable groups, including children with ALN. The local authority identifies that Ysgol Bro Caereinion is already an all-age school, which provides enhanced opportunities to support pupils belonging to vulnerable groups. This would continue to be the case should the school move along the language continuum. The school is fully accessible and compliant with the Equality's Act 2010. However, it is not clear what additional support pupils with ALN will have to access education through the medium of Welsh, for instance if they struggle to learn the language. It is also unclear whether any additional support that these pupils' access would be impacted by the changes.

The proposal takes a detailed account of the impact of the proposal on the community. It has also provided a Community Impact Assessment as part of the proposal.

## 6. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

The following tables list the issues raised during the consultation period and provide the local authority's response to these issues.

### SECTION 1 – COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL

#### 1.1 The proposal is overdue

1.1.1	There are Welsh-medium schools in all other counties, it's about time Powys caught up with the rest of Wales.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that currently there is a lack of equity for Welsh-medium pupils in Powys compared with English-medium pupils, and Welsh-medium pupils elsewhere in Wales. The current proposal aims to address this.
1.1.2	This proposal is long overdue. Powys is lacking in the 11-18 year old provision for pupils in Mid Wales.	As above.
1.1.3	Powys it at least a quarter of a century behind, our children deserve a Welsh-medium school.	As above.
1.1.4	This is much needed. It's about time we had Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area.	As above.
1.1.5	We have been awaiting this development for many years. Unfortunately many children in area have now missed out on the opportunity to access this type of provision.	As above.
1.1.6	Whilst it is positive that the Council has shown a commitment to establishing Welsh-medium primary schools in the area, the current lack of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision does not enable pupils to continue to develop their confidence communicating in Welsh.	As above.
1.1.7	Powys County Council is falling behind every other county with the current lack of Welsh-medium high schools. This proposal would correct a historical deficiency that saw generations of children in the Llanfair Caereinion area unable	As above.

	to communicate in Welsh and missing out on various opportunities.	
1.1.8	People in the area have been campaigning for full Welsh-medium secondary provision since the 1980s, when Cyfronydd School was looked at. Over the years, many opportunities to develop this type of provision have been missed, and many children and young people have missed out on being able to access this type of provision.	As above.
1.1.9	It's about time we had this kind of provision in Powys. People have been campaigning for this for years and Powys is the only Council in Wales that hasn't acted.	As above.
1.1.10	There have been many consultations / discussions in the past, however we are still in the same situation – we need a Welsh-medium secondary school in Powys.	As above.
1.1.11	It's about time this happened – hundreds of pupils and staff have missed out.	As above.
1.1.12	The school should have become Welsh-medium years ago. Too many children have missed out on the opportunity to receive Welsh-medium education. The changes must happen quickly for the benefit of those pupils who want to receive Welsh-medium education.	As above.
1.1.13	It's essential that this happens to offer equal opportunities to our pupils in the future. I applaud the Council for taking this forward and urge you to be brave in your decision to enable children and young people in the area to become fully bilingual adults. This can only happen by providing full Welsh-medium provision rather than dual stream provision.	As above.
1.1.14	Powys County Council have dragged their heels on Welsh-medium education for years.	As above.

	For years, Welsh-medium pupils haven't had the option to access full Welsh-medium secondary provision – Welsh ethos, all subjects in Welsh, Welsh language productions etc	As above.
1.1.15	Keeping the dual stream model following two consultations over the last fifteen years was a terrible mistake and has had a negative impact on the language, as increasing numbers of families that have moved to the area have chosen for their children to access English-medium education instead of Welsh-medium education in the secondary phase.	As above.

## 1.2 The proposal will lead to improved provision at the school

1.2.1	In the long term, it would lead to improved teaching and learning in the school.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that in the long term, implementation of the proposal should result in improved provision at the school, as it would enable the school to focus on Welsh-medium provision.
1.2.2	It will improve pupils' results as more effort will be put into the education.	As above.
1.2.3	The proposal would provide an opportunity to focus on raising standards in Welsh-medium secondary provision.	As above.
1.2.4	It will provide a better offering of Welsh-medium secondary education.	As above.
1.2.5	Would enable children to study more subjects in Welsh at secondary level	The Council agrees that in the long term, implementation of the proposal should enable children to study more subjects in Welsh at secondary level.
1.2.6	Would provide more Welsh options and more choice of subjects in Welsh, providing there are Welsh teachers available.	As above.
1.2.7	Implementing the proposal would enable the Council to plan for and provide the widest possible range of subjects in Welsh, in accordance with the requirements of the Learning and Skills Measure (Wales) 2009.	As above.

1.2.8	In the long term, there would be more opportunities for pupils, such as more courses and subjects being offered in Welsh.	As above.
1.2.9	It would provide a wide and comprehensive range of Welsh-medium subjects – particularly for post-16 pupils.	As above.
1.2.10	The proposal provides an opportunity to develop Welsh-medium post-16 and ALN provision in North Powys.	The Council agrees that in the long term, implementation of the proposal should enable children to study more subjects in Welsh at secondary level, including at post-16, and would also provide an opportunity to offer enhanced Welsh-medium ALN provision.
1.2.11	If it aided the current Welsh stream students by ensuring additional funding, this would be positive and would ensure they have a better education.	Comment noted.

### 1.3 The proposal will lead to a stronger Welsh ethos at the school

1.3.1	An opportunity for Welsh to be the main language for pupils – not only in the classroom.	Implementation of the proposal would mean that Ysgol Bro Caereinion would become a Welsh-medium school, meaning that all pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English. The Council fully agrees that this would lead to an increase in the use of Welsh in the school, and a stronger Welsh ethos.
1.3.2	The proposal would enable the school to do more to promote Welsh language cultural activities.	As above.
1.3.3	There would be more opportunities for Welsh-medium pupils to socialise in Welsh and experience fully Welsh school life, which is so important in terms of seeing the value of the language.	As above.
1.3.4	It will provide valuable opportunities for pupils to use both languages socially, in school and in extra-curricular activities.	As above.

1.3.5	There would be more opportunities for pupils to socialise in Welsh without having to change to English when in the corridors/yard/canteen.	As above.
1.3.6	Having a school where the education and the social / sports activities, culture etc are in Welsh would raise the standard of Welsh used and would ensure pupils become more confident using Welsh.	As above.
1.3.7	It's important that young people have the opportunity to see that the Welsh language is cool. Primary schools already do this – provide an opportunity for pupils to enjoy Welsh bands, programmes, sports.	As above.
1.3.8	It will be more natural for pupils to speak Welsh.	As above.
1.3.9	Once pupils leave school, they rarely use Welsh outside of the family. Having all the children using Welsh all day may go some way to addressing this.	As above.

## 1.4 Positive impact on pupils

### 1.4.1 Pupils would have better opportunities to become fully bilingual

1.4.1	It would provide a better opportunity for those that don't speak Welsh as their first language to learn the language to a fluent level which will enrich their lives.	Comment noted. Implementation of the proposal would mean that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion would become bilingual, fluent in both Welsh and English, and would benefit from a higher level of immersion in the Welsh language, which would help them to become more confident using Welsh.
1.4.1.2	Everyone would be able to communicate in Welsh which would strengthen the Welsh language skills of pupils and staff.	As above.
1.4.1.3	Welsh-medium schools are the preferred model to ensure that all pupils have fluency in both languages.	As above.



1.4.1.4	The proposal would ensure that all children in the area would become fully bilingual.	As above.
1.4.1.5	A Welsh-medium school would provide an opportunity for all children in the area to experience bilingualism and all the advantages of a bilingual life.	As above.
1.4.1.6	All children attending the school would become confident Welsh speakers (this is not currently the case).	As above.
1.4.1.7	All children would have the opportunity to be fluently bilingual.	As above.
1.4.1.8	It will create fully bilingual citizens. Those that study Welsh second language are not bilingual.	As above.
1.4.1.9	It will encourage more families to put their children into the Welsh stream, enabling them to become bilingual.	As above.
1.4.1.10	Pupils will be able to communicate, read and write in both languages equally.	As above.
1.4.1.11	It will enable pupils' language skills to be better developed.	As above.
1.4.1.12	The proposal would provide the immersion needed by many children from Welsh-medium primary schools who come from non-Welsh speaking homes, to ensure they can become confidently multilingual.	As above.
1.4.1.13	There are many benefits of being bilingual, including academic and social benefits, as well as benefits as international citizens.	As above.
1.4.1.14	Being bilingual helps develop problem solving skills, the ability to work as part of a team, empathy and understanding of other cultures and backgrounds, and opens the door to another unique culture in Welsh.	The Council fully acknowledges that there are many proven benefits to being bilingual. Implementation of the proposal would mean that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion would become bilingual, and would realise these benefits.
1.4.1.15	The educational, cultural, social and economic benefits of being able to speak more than one language have been highlighted in numerous studies.	As above.

1.4.1.16	It's a fact that bilingual and multilingual children perform better in exams and develop problem solving skills more quickly than children that only speak one language.	As above.
1.4.1.17	Being bilingual can slow down the onset of dementia.	As above.
1.4.1.18	There are educational and cognitive benefits to being bilingual	As above.
1.4.1.19	Being bilingual helps develop cognitive skills such as problem solving and having a critical mind.	As above.
1.4.1.20	Research by Cenoz (2003) showed that it is easier for multilingual pupils to learn additional languages.	As above.
1.4.1.21	Tomas and Collier (2001) found that pupils following bilingual programmes have higher levels of achievement than their monolingual peers (around 10% higher)	As above.

#### **1.4.2 Improved Welsh language skills would have a positive impact on the opportunities available to pupils in the future**

1.4.2.1	Many jobs locally and nationally state that the ability to communicate in Welsh is either desirable or essential.	The Council agrees that implementation of the proposal would provide additional opportunities to pupils in the future, as all pupils at the school would be fluent in Welsh and English, and they would be able to use both these languages in their future careers.
1.4.2.2	More and more jobs are being advertised as Welsh essential – this language skill is an asset to pupils.	As above.
1.4.2.3	All pupils would become totally bilingual. It will open many more opportunities for them in employment in Wales.	As above.
1.4.2.4	More confidence in two languages which will improve their future career opportunities.	As above.
1.4.2.5	Welsh language ability is a valuable additional skill when looking for employment.	As above.
1.4.2.6	Learning through the medium of Welsh will provide a wealth of career opportunities for pupils after they leave school.	As above.

1.4.2.7	Allowing the next generation the opportunity to be taught through the medium of Welsh will provide them with the best employment opportunities if they choose to remain living and working in Wales.	As above.
1.4.2.8	Welsh language skills are valued when working for the NHS over the border in Shropshire as well as in Wales, as it means that an improved experience can be provided to Welsh speaking patients.	As above.
1.4.2.9	Welsh-medium education creates opportunities to learn new skills and prepares pupils better for the future.	As above.
1.4.2.10	Allowing the next generation the opportunity to be taught through the medium of Welsh will provide them with the best employment opportunities if they choose to remain living and working in Wales.	As above.
1.4.2.11	Fluency in both languages offers better opportunities when looking for work. It develops creativity, empathy and problem solving skills. Receiving Welsh-medium education will mean that pupils will have double the opportunities.	As above.
1.4.2.12	Pupils will benefit, not only during their education but after their school days too as they will be able to access so many more opportunities.	As above.

## 1.5 The proposal will safeguard secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion

1.5.1	The school will shut if the school doesn't become a Welsh-medium school.	<p>These comments are noted, however currently, the Council has no plans to close the school should the current proposal to change the language category not be implemented.</p> <p>There has been increasing demand from stakeholders to establish designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve pupils in the Caereinion catchment</p>
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		<p>for many years. Should the Council not proceed with the current proposal in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, the ambition to establish designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve pupils in the area in a different location. This could have a significant impact on secondary pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion should pupils choose to attend any new provision instead of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, which could mean that the Council would need to review the school in future.</p> <p>Should the Council wish to consider closing the school, this would be subject to the statutory process as outlined in the School Organisation Code.</p>
1.5.2	Support the proposal. If it isn't made a Welsh-medium school, it will be closed.	As above.
1.5.3	If this doesn't happen, the school will close in no time – look at the statistics.	As above.
1.5.4	I'm broadly supportive of the proposals as I am concerned about the school's future given the financial situation it finds itself in.	As above.
1.5.5	Broadly supportive on the grounds that the current provision via a dual stream school seems unaffordable, and not sustainable in the longer term.	As above.
1.5.6	We need a school in the town, changing it to Welsh is the only way forward	As above.
1.5.7	This is the best option to safeguard the provision of education in this area.	As above.
1.5.8	This is the only option to safeguard the school's future	As above.
1.5.9	The only alternative would be closure, which would mean a very long journey to alternative Welsh language secondary schools.	As above.

1.5.10	If a designated Welsh-medium secondary school was to open somewhere else in the County, it is inevitable that many would leave the provision at Llanfair Caereinion, which would threaten the secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion.	As above.
1.5.11	North Powys needs an all Welsh school, and if it isn't located in Llanfair it will be located somewhere else and Llanfair will shut.	As above.
1.5.12	Should a Welsh-medium secondary school not be established in the Banwy area, it is likely that one would be established elsewhere, which would risk the long term future of secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion. Retaining secondary provision is important as it contributes to many aspects of community, economic and cultural development in the area.	As above.
1.5.13	The proposal would secure the school's future, which would ensure the retention of jobs in the area.	As above.
1.5.14	The proposal would be a way to secure 6 <sup>th</sup> provision in the school, ensuring strong linguistic progression.	As above.
1.5.15	The school is in deficit and clearly cannot sustain dual stream education. This change needs to happen to keep the school viable.	Comment noted.
1.5.16	The school is in deficit as a dual stream, the only viable option is to switch to one stream, Welsh language only.	Comment noted.
1.5.17	If it's either become an all-Welsh school or close, I would support becoming an all-Welsh school.	Comment noted.
1.5.18	I can see that numbers in the secondary site at Caereinion are struggling compared to the closest secondary schools, so something needs to change.	Comment noted.
1.5.19	If it becomes a Welsh-medium school, funding will be received from Welsh Government which will secure the school's future	Revenue funding is provided to schools based on the Council's funding formula. It is unlikely that additional revenue funding would be received from Welsh Government should the school become a Welsh-medium school, however it is true that additional

		funding may be available to support initiatives such as Trochi, staff development, and it would be more likely to meet the criteria for capital investment.
1.5.20	Additional funding is provided to Welsh only schools, which would help keep the school open and at the heart of the community.	As above.

## 1.6 Llanfair Caereinion is the right location for designated Welsh-medium secondary provision

1.6.1	Ysgol Bro Caereinion is the perfect home for Welsh-medium education in North Powys.	Comment noted.
1.6.2	Llanfair Caereinion is the most natural fit for a Welsh-medium secondary school in North Powys.	Comment noted.
1.6.3	Llanfair is the obvious choice for an all Welsh school.	Comment noted.
1.6.4	Ysgol Bro Caereinion is in a central and ideal location within the County	Comment noted.
1.6.5	Caereinion is the perfect area for this type of school.	Comment noted.
1.6.6	It seems to make sense for this to happen in Llanfair Caereinion due to the fact that almost all schools that feed Ysgol Bro Caereinion are Welsh-medium, and numbers in the remaining English-medium streams are dwindling.	Comment noted.
1.6.7	If there are no longer plans to provide a new Welsh-medium secondary school in the area, this is the best option, and will also secure Ysgol Bro Caereinion's future.	Comment noted.
1.6.8	Apart from establishing a new Welsh-medium school in Newtown, this is the best option. However, given the Council's financial position, it is understandable why this is the option being taken forward.	Comment noted.
1.6.9	The ideal location for a Welsh-medium secondary school would be in the Severn Valley as this is where the greatest growing demand for Welsh-medium education is. However,	Comment noted.

	this is probably unaffordable, at least in the short term, therefore Llanfair Caereinion is the right location to establish this provision at this time.	
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### 1.7 Support for the proposal to implement in Reception and Year 7 at the same time

1.7.1	Support the proposal to implement the change gradually starting with the youngest pupils in each phase.	Comment noted.
1.7.2	It's essential that the change is introduced in the primary and secondary phase at the same time.	Comment noted.
1.7.3	Support the proposal to implement year by year from reception and year 7 so that the change can be introduced gradually, with an opportunity for the support that is needed to be embedded. The support will need to be flexible to respond to the need each year.	Comment noted.
1.7.4	Support the proposal to change the language category in the primary and secondary at the same time, as this would ensure access to Welsh-medium education for more pupils more quickly.	Comment noted.
1.7.5	Understand that starting at Reception and taking 14 years to complete the transition isn't feasible, although it's going to be difficult for those already in the English stream.	Comment noted.
1.7.6	Understand the need to implement on a phased basis with Derbyn and Blwyddyn 7, however it would be better if it could be rolled out quicker.	Comment noted.

### 1.8 The proposal would provide continuity for Welsh-medium pupils

1.8.1	There is currently a lack of continuity for Welsh-medium pupils in the area – it's very frustrating for local primary schools to see pupils attending Welsh-medium streams.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that currently there is a lack of equity for Welsh-medium pupils in Powys compared with English-medium pupils, and
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		Welsh-medium pupils elsewhere in Wales, with pupils unable to access full Welsh-medium secondary provision. The current proposal aims to address this.
1.8.2	There are currently 566 pupils receiving Welsh-medium education in the primary schools that feed Caereinion. Continuity must be provided for these pupils.	As above.
1.8.3	It is the correct thing to do. Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd pupils need to be able to access a progressive full Welsh school, to continue to promote and educate the Welsh in children.	As above.
1.8.4	Most of the primary schools that feed Ysgol Bro Caereinion are Welsh-medium schools. It's disgraceful that these pupils are unable to continue with their education in a Welsh-medium school.	As above.
1.8.5	For years, parents have started their children off in Welsh-medium education, but have faced problems later on in the education system.	As above.
1.8.6	There needs to be a designated Welsh-medium high school in North Powys to accommodate the increasing numbers of children attending Welsh-medium primary schools in the area. A designated Welsh-medium high school means that more pupils would be able to continue receiving Welsh-medium education, resulting in increased fluency in Welsh.	As above.
1.8.7	It would provide a clearer pathway through Welsh-medium education from Cylch Meithrin through to secondary.	As above.
1.8.8	This is a positive step as it would mean that children would have Welsh-medium education from their first step into the Cylch meithrin through to the day they leave.	As above.

## 1.9 The proposal would provide equity for Welsh-medium pupils

1.9.1	The proposal would provide equality for Welsh-medium pupils.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that currently there is a lack of equity for Welsh-medium pupils in
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		Powys compared with English-medium pupils, and Welsh-medium pupils elsewhere in Wales. The current proposal aims to address this.
1.9.2	Pupils that have chosen primary Welsh-medium education for their children deserve to be able to continue with their education and the social side in Welsh.	As above.
1.9.3	Currently, parents do not have the choice to send their children to a Welsh language school in Powys.	As above.
1.9.4	Children and parents in Powys should have the choice to attend a school with a Welsh ethos and full Welsh-medium provision.	As above.
1.9.5	Welsh families in the area should have the choice to send their children to a Welsh-medium school instead of accepting that a dual stream school is the only option.	As above.
1.9.6	Pupils in the area will be able to choose to have their education fully through the medium of Welsh for the first time	As above.
1.9.7	It will give parents the opportunity to send their children to be educated in a Welsh-medium school in our local area. This choice isn't currently available, however parents of English-medium pupils can choose for their children to go to a dual stream school or an English-medium school. The proposal would provide equity.	As above.
1.9.8	There are plenty of other options in the local area for those wishing to access English-medium provision if this proposal goes ahead. There are currently no options for pupils wishing to access full Welsh-medium provision.	As above.
1.9.9	There are already many other options for those wanting to access English-medium education.	As above.
1.9.10	This would ensure that children in the area would have the same opportunities as young people in other parts of Wales.	As above.

#### **1.10 The proposal reflects the increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area**

1.10.1	The fact that the numbers starting in the English-medium stream have decreased to almost nothing shows that this is the forward. It's so good to see this happening in an organic way, in an area where many families don't speak Welsh.	Comment noted.
1.10.2	Fully support the changes given the natural progression of the Welsh language in the area.	Comment noted.
1.10.3	The proposal reflects the choices made by parents, the current language provision in the cluster and county and national policies.	Comment noted.
1.10.4	The fact that demand for Welsh-medium education in the area is so high says it all.	Comment noted.
1.10.5	Looking at the numbers, I accept there is an inevitability to the decision as the numbers don't stack up.	Comment noted.

### **1.11 The proposal will have a positive impact on the Welsh language in the area**

1.11.1	This would help ensure the future of the Welsh language in the area.	Implementation of the proposal would mean that Ysgol Bro Caereinion would become a Welsh-medium school, meaning that all pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English. The Council fully agrees that this would lead to an increase in the use of Welsh in the local area.
1.11.2	The proposal would strengthen Welsh as a living language in the community.	As above.
1.11.3	The proposal would preserve the Welsh language in the area.	As above.
1.11.4	It's a golden opportunity to develop and safeguard the language in the area.	As above.
1.11.5	The proposal would support the Welsh language to strengthen and be re-normalised in the area by creating more bilingual speakers.	As above.

1.11.6	There is a desperate need for a Welsh-medium secondary school in the area to help the Welsh language to develop and thrive.	As above.
1.11.7	The proposal will ensure that the language will strengthen and grown, not only in the school but also in the wider area.	As above.
1.11.8	It would give more status to the Welsh language.	As above.
1.11.9	A Welsh-medium secondary school would give the language a platform in the area.	As above.
1.11.10	It would create a central hub for the Welsh language which would be a focus for it to thrive.	As above.
1.11.11	Will have a positive impact on the use of Welsh in the community and throughout Powys.	As above.
1.11.12	The development would support the rich cultural activity that takes place in the Dyffryn Banw area.	As above.
1.11.13	In time hopefully it would mean children would naturally use Welsh to converse with each other at break time and lunchtime, not just in class. This would give them the confidence to speak Welsh out in the community.	As above.
1.11.14	There would be more opportunities for everyone in the community to speak Welsh and live their lives in Welsh.	As above.

## 1.12 Comments about Welsh-medium delivery models

### 1.12.1 Concerns about the dual stream model

1.12.1.1	The dual stream model doesn't work – no Welsh in the corridors, priority given to the English language.	Comment noted. The Council fully acknowledges that there are challenges associated with the dual stream model, and that is a difference in the Welsh-medium provision offered in a Welsh-medium school compared with a dual stream school, particularly with regard to
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		<p>the school's ethos and the language used outside the classroom.</p> <p>Some of the challenges associated with the dual stream model are outlined in the Council's 'Vision for Developing Fully Bilingual Learners in Powys', which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020 and which is quoted in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2022-32.</p> <p>The Council fully agrees that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in the use of Welsh in the school, and a stronger Welsh ethos.</p>
1.12.1.2	It's difficult to promote use of Welsh outside the classroom in a dual stream school because not everyone is bilingual	As above.
1.12.1.3	Dual stream schools do not have a Welsh ethos	As above.
1.12.1.4	Pupils from non Welsh speaking homes who have attended Welsh-medium primary schools lose out when they transfer to a dual stream secondary as they lose the fully Welsh ethos they had in the primary school, as English always dominates in a dual stream school.	As above.
1.12.1.5	In dual stream schools, the English-medium pupils' lack of Welsh language skills mean pupils are unable to socialise in Welsh with their peers, which limits how much Welsh is spoken outside the classroom, meaning that pupils that do not speak Welsh at home lose their confidence.	As above.
1.12.1.6	Pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools have had to transfer to dual stream secondary schools which have difficulty maintaining a Welsh ethos in terms of day to day activities at the school. It's a battle not to fall into the trap of using English in school assemblies etc, even when the majority of pupils at the school are in the Welsh stream.	As above.

1.12.1.7	In dual stream schools, pupils switch from speaking Welsh to English because they think it is more cool, or to keep the English stream happy – I felt pressure to speak English instead of Welsh.	As above.
1.12.1.8	The go to language in dual stream schools is always English.	As above.
1.12.1.9	Whilst there are benefits to bilingual schooling, these are mainly to English-medium students. This is always to the detriment of Welsh-medium students, because the default language across the school automatically becomes English.	As above.
1.12.1.10	In dual stream schools, it is not possible to provide the Welsh language immersion that pupils need, particularly those from non-Welsh speaking homes, both in and out of the classroom.	As above.
1.12.1.11	Although children have been able to receive Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, their confidence speaking Welsh outside the classroom has been impacted.	As above.
1.12.1.12	Dual stream schools do not have a Welsh ethos	As above.
1.12.1.13	In a dual stream school there is often bad feeling between the English and Welsh streams for many reasons, and the Welsh language isn't respected as it should be.	As above.  It is acknowledged that there are often tensions between the two streams in dual stream schools – this is supported by comments received as part of this consultation about tensions between the Welsh-medium and English-medium streams at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, which are outlined in section 3.1.3
1.12.1.14	The Welsh-medium provision is not equal to the English-medium provision, particularly post-14 and post-16. In a dual stream school, the ability to offer a wide range of subjects is negatively affected compared with a single stream school – single stream schools do not have to double up on subjects.	Comment noted. The Council fully acknowledges that there are challenges associated with the dual stream model, and that the model results in challenges ensuring that a comprehensive curriculum is provided in both languages. Some of these challenges are outlined in the Council's 'Vision for Developing Fully

		<p>Bilingual Learners in Powys', which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020 and which is quoted in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2022-32.</p> <p>The Council agrees that in the long term, implementation of the proposal should enable children to study more subjects in Welsh at secondary level, including at post-14 and post-16.</p>
1.12.1.15	Dual streams do not work. Children have had to sit exams through English despite choosing Welsh-medium education.	Comment noted.
1.12.1.16	The current provision is less favourable for Welsh-medium pupils.	Comment noted.
1.12.1.17	Dual stream provision is expensive.	Comment noted.
1.12.1.18	The dual stream model is expensive and unsustainable.	Comment noted.
1.12.1.19	Sustaining the current model of dual stream delivery is not financially viable going forward. With the current pupil numbers at the school, currently there are 4 classes per year group due to the need to split the pupils, however if single language stream, there would be 3 classes.	Comment noted.

### 1.12.2 Positive comments about Welsh-medium schools

1.12.2.1	In Welsh-medium schools, children are immersed in the Welsh language in all aspects of their educational experience, which is a good thing.	Comment noted. The Council fully acknowledges that there are benefits associated with the Welsh-medium model compared with the dual stream model, and that there is a difference in the Welsh-medium provision offered in a Welsh-medium school compared with a dual stream school, particularly with regard to the school's ethos and the language used outside the classroom.
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		Implementation of the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category would eventually mean that pupils would be able to access fully Welsh-medium provision in both the primary and secondary phases. This would lead to an increase in the use of Welsh in the school, and a stronger Welsh ethos, and would eventually enable pupils to study more subjects in Welsh.
1.12.2.2	There is not the same feeling of Welshness in a dual stream school – the school must be fully Welsh-medium to support a fully Welsh ethos.	As above.
1.12.2.3	Being a Welsh-medium school will have a positive impact on the school's education and ethos.	As above.
1.12.2.4	Only in Welsh-medium schools can pupils be fully immersed in the Welsh language, ensuring the best possible results for pupils.	As above.
1.12.2.5	Welsh would become the language of instruction for all pupils and learners would be immersed in the language, rather than have the experience diluted as at present through the dominance of English.	As above.
1.12.2.6	A Welsh-medium school is the only way to ensure our pupils leave school as confident, fluent Welsh speakers.	As above.
1.12.2.7	Welsh-medium schools help avoid pupils moving from the Welsh stream to the English stream.	It is acknowledged that it is more difficult for pupils to move from Welsh-medium education to English-medium education in a Welsh-medium school.
1.12.2.8	A bilingual school is one where children are fluent in two languages. This isn't the case in a dual stream school because English is the default language.	Comment noted.

### 1.13 Comments about staffing

### 1.13.1 Positive impact on current staff

1.13.1	Teacher workload would reduce following a move to Welsh-medium provision only, as they wouldn't need to translate materials to teach English-medium classes.	Comment noted.
1.13.2	Workload for staff would reduce – currently all emails and resources are doubled as they are created in bothy Welsh and English.	Comment noted.
1.13.3	It would mean that staff wouldn't have to teacher bilingual classes – this is challenging, and doubles the work for teachers.	Comment noted.

### 1.13.2 It would be easier to attract staff

1.13.4	It would create a situation that would enable the school to attract more qualified, enthusiastic and talented staff to the area across the full range of subjects.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that whilst recruitment of teachers able to teacher through the medium of Welsh is a challenge across Wales, changing the school's language category to Welsh-medium should have a positive impact on the school's ability to attract teachers in the longer term.
1.13.5	Changing the language category will give the school a real identity and will support recruitment of staff.	As above.
1.13.6	A Welsh-medium school would attract more teachers from outside Powys to the school	As above.
1.13.7	It will be easier to attract good Welsh speaking teachers	As above.
1.13.8	Locating Welsh-medium education in one school would help ease the challenge of appointing teachers for specific subjects.	As above.
1.13.9	It should help to attract Welsh speaking staff, which should allow a broader curriculum for children taught in Welsh.	As above.



### 1.13.3 Other comments

1.13.10	There are many able teachers at the school already who can ensure its success as a Welsh-medium school.	The Council agrees. Ysgol Bro Caereinion already has a number of staff who are able to work through the medium of Welsh, who would provide a good foundation for changing the school's language category.
1.13.11	The current model at Bro Caereinion is dependent on individuals. A change in Headteacher or Governing Body can have a negative impact on leadership of the school and on its ethos. Changing the language category to Welsh-medium would safeguard the school's linguistic status.	Comment noted.
1.13.12	A Welsh-medium school creates staff that are committed not only to their work as teachers, but also to the Welsh language and Welsh culture. It gives certainty to governing bodies and leadership teams about the medium of education from the start, avoiding any risks from not being able to appoint Welsh speaking staff to positions, and therefore 'having' to appoint non-Welsh speaking staff, which means that the provision changes overnight.	Comment noted.

### 1.14 Comments about impact on the community

1.14.1	This would have a positive effect on the community as it would bring everyone together rather than having separate Welsh and English streams.	Comment noted. Whilst acknowledging that there may be some tensions in the local area initially, in the longer term the Council would expect these to ease, and implementation of the proposal would mean that everyone in the community would be taught together and would have the same language skills, which would improve community cohesion.
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1.14.2	The community will benefit in the long run, children will benefit from the advantages of multilingualism and will be able to stay and work in the area.	As above.
1.14.3	It would have a positive impact on the community.	As above.

### 1.15 The proposal supports the implementation of various strategies

1.15.1	The proposal reflects commitments made in the Council's Transforming Education Strategy and its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan to strengthen Welsh-medium secondary provision in the county.	Comment noted.
1.15.2	The proposals are a real opportunity to address the Welsh Government's ambitions for a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	Comment noted.
1.15.3	One of the aims of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 is a Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language. This proposal would meet this aim as it would enable all pupils in the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment to develop their language skills and become fluent speakers of Welsh and English, ensuring that they become fully bilingual citizens and enabling them to use both languages confidently in their personal and professional lives in the future.	Comment noted.

### 1.16 Other comments

1.16.1	Support this long awaited development.	Comment noted.
1.16.2	This is a brilliant opportunity for the area – a positive change to ensure access to Welsh-medium provision.	Comment noted.
1.16.3	This is a very exciting proposal for the area	Comment noted.

1.16.4	The change may be difficult initially, but things will iron themselves out.	Comment noted.
1.16.5	You can't please everyone, however if a decision is made to proceed, people will adapt.	Comment noted.
1.16.6	It will have a positive impact on improving and increasing the rate of pupils studying Welsh as a first language at GCSE and A level.	Comment noted.

## **SECTION 2 – COMMENTS NOT IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL**

### **2.1 Comments about the impact on pupils**

#### **2.1.1 Impact on pupil well-being**

2.1.1	Concern about the impact on the mental health of children in the area.	<p>The Council acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will have an impact on pupils affected by the change being proposed. The Council is proposing to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7, which aims to minimise the impact on pupils as it would ensure that pupils could continue to access provision their current language throughout the primary and secondary phases.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change.</p>
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		<p>The Council will need to consider the feedback received during the consultation period when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>Should the Council decide to proceed, there would be a need to work with Ysgol Bro Caereinion and other schools in the catchment to ensure that pupils were supported with transition arrangements. This would include Trochi provision for those wishing to access it, as well as support with transition arrangements to alternative schools for any pupils wishing to transfer to English-medium secondary provision in other schools.</p>
2.1.2	Concern about the impact of moving school on pupil's mental health and well-being.	Should this proposal be implemented, the Council's aspiration is that all pupils remain at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. Trochi provision would be available to help primary pupils to improve their Welsh language skills so that they are able to join the Welsh-stream at Year 7, with additional support available once they are in Year 7. However, it is recognised that some families/pupils would not want to access the Trochi provision or join the Welsh-stream and they may choose to move to other English-medium secondary schools.
2.1.3	The thought of moving to another school is having a negative impact on pupils currently in the English stream.	As above.
2.1.4	The proposal would have a detrimental effect on friendship groups and support groups, which will impact on pupils mental health.	As above.
2.1.5	Concern that friendship groups would be broken up if pupils were to move to different schools, which would have a negative impact on pupil well-being.	As above.

2.1.6	Concern about the impact on the well-being of pupils whose education has primarily been in English who move to the Welsh-medium stream.	As above.
2.1.7	It would have an adverse effect on current pupils as the language in which they are studying would change part way through their studies.	As above.
2.1.8	Concern about the impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children who will be under pressure to learn Welsh to go to their local high school.	As above.
2.1.9	Pupils have already faced disruption as the school has changed to an all-age school. Following the upheaval caused in recent years by Covid, changing things again so children would have to go to different schools would only cause more upheaval and distress to these pupils.	<p>Comment noted. It is acknowledged that pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion have already experienced a change, following the merger of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School to establish Ysgol Bro Caereinion, as well as the impact of Covid.</p> <p>The Council is proposing to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7, which aims to minimise the impact on pupils as it would ensure that pupils could continue to access provision their current language throughout the primary and secondary phases.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change.</p>
2.1.10	The children who will see the biggest impact are those in years 1 to 5. These are children who have already seen years of disruption to their education as a result of Covid-19. In	As above.

	<p>addition to this, the pupils of YBC last year were greatly affected by the accident that took place. Whilst these two things are of course no one's fault, the affect on our children's mental health and well being, as well as their education, cannot be understated.</p>	
2.1.11	<p>Some pupils have already been through previous reorganisation processes e.g. Banw / Llanerfyl, Castle Caereinion. Concern about the impact on their well-being of having to go through another change.</p>	<p>The Council notes this concern about the impact on pupils that have moved to the school because their previous schools closed.</p> <p>The Council is proposing to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7, which aims to minimise the impact on pupils as it would ensure that pupils could continue to access provision their current language throughout the primary and secondary phases.</p>
2.1.12	<p>Concern about the impact on children that moved to Llanfair because their village school closed, and now they have to move again because there will only be a Welsh stream.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
2.1.13	<p>Pupils have been upset, and have been making comments like 'we're not welcome at this school anymore'. This decision will really impact on pupils in the local area.</p>	<p>The Council is proposing to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7, which aims to minimise the impact on pupils as it would ensure that pupils could continue to access provision their current language throughout the primary and secondary phases.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change.</p>

2.1.14	Leading educational experts recognise that omitting a child's first language is more damaging than can ever be justified to the development of the child's self-esteem, confidence and character, meaning that opportunities can be very limited for them when they cannot communicate in a way everyone else understands. This causes feelings of distress, fear, loneliness, humiliation and powerlessness.	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, all pupils at the school would become bilingual, fluent in both Welsh and English. English would not be 'omitted'.
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## 2.1.2 Impact on pupil achievement

2.1.2.1	It would be detrimental to pupils' ongoing progression and likely to lead to regression in learning and lower grade outcomes if they had to move to the Welsh stream.	<p>The Council notes this concern. The progress of any pupils transferring into Welsh-medium provision would be monitored by their teachers, who would identify and address any issues with their progression and learning outcomes.</p> <p>A scoping review of research into late immersion programmes by Welsh Government<sup>1</sup> concluded that there was no detriment to the educational outcomes of pupils taking part in late immersion interventions.</p> <p>The Council will consider the impact on pupils that would be particularly affected by the proposals as they are currently accessing English-medium provision in the catchment when deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposals.</p>
2.1.2.2	Concern about the impact on pupil achievement.	As above.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/late-immersion-and-intensive-language-provision-quick-scoping-review>

2.1.2.3	Concern about the impact on pupils learning of other subjects if they had to begin their journey in high school having accelerated learning of Welsh and already feeling behind.	As above.
2.1.2.4	The proposals leave those children most greatly impacted by the change (years 1 to 5) at risk of falling behind in other core subjects.	As above.
2.1.2.5	It's imperative that children learn to the best of their abilities, regardless of which language they learn in. The Welsh language is not for everyone – some have started in the Welsh stream but struggled, so moved over to the English stream.	<p>Comment noted. However, the Council's aim is that as far as possible, pupils that start in Welsh-medium education continue to do so throughout their education. This is the best way to ensure that pupils continue to develop their bilingual skills, so that they are bilingual in both Welsh and English when they leave school.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, the school would benefit from an enhanced Welsh ethos, which should have a positive impact on pupils' Welsh language skills, meaning that they are better equipped to continue to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school. The aim of the proposal is to ensure the best opportunities for all learners, and should the Council proceed with the proposal, staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion would continue to support pupils to ensure that they have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools in the primary and secondary sector. In these schools, there is no English stream for pupils to move into. However, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, pupils / parents would</p>



		be able to apply to transfer to an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
2.1.2.6	Forcing children to do their GCSEs in Welsh is unfair and will reduce their chances of reaching their academic goals.	Pupils will not be 'forced' to do their GCSEs in Welsh – should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils could either access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, or they could access English-medium provision at an alternative school. Pupils currently studying in English in the school's secondary phase would be able to continue to do so, so would take their GCSEs in English.
2.1.2.7	Changing the language of current pupils studies during their time in school will have an adverse effect or make it more difficult for them in the run up to GCSEs.	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils could either access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, or they could access English-medium provision at an alternative school. Pupils currently studying in English in the school's secondary phase would be able to continue to do so, so would take their GCSEs in English.
2.1.2.8	Concern that if pupils start to struggle in Welsh-medium education, there would be no option for them to change to English-medium, as they can do currently, which would impact on their achievement.	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, the school would benefit from an enhanced Welsh ethos, which should have a positive impact on pupils' Welsh language skills, meaning that they are better equipped to continue to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.  Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools in the primary and secondary sector. In these schools, there is no English stream for pupils to move into. However, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro

		Caereinion's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply to transfer to an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
2.1.2.9	Concern for children who are already catching up as a result of the pandemic going through Trochi, especially if there was another pandemic. They would fall even further behind.	Comment noted.

### 2.1.3 Concern about the impact on English-medium pupils during the transition period

2.1.3.1	Concern about the impact on English-medium pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion during the transition period – they won't be a priority in terms of funding and standard of teaching.	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, Ysgol Bro Caereinion would need to ensure that appropriate provision is provided to English-medium pupils during the transition period. The Council's School Improvement Team would continue to support and challenge provision across the whole school during the transition period.
2.1.3.2	Concern that children remaining in the school's English-medium stream during the transition period will face disruption as teachers that don't speak Welsh leave the school to get more permanent teaching opportunities. How do you intend to address this and mitigate these risks?	As above.  The school would need to recruit additional teachers to replace any teachers that leave during the transition period. Whilst it is likely that the school would aim to recruit teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh, these teachers would also be fluent in English, and able to teach through the medium of English during the transition period, should that be required.

### 2.1.4 Pupils wouldn't be able to move from one stream to another

2.1.4.1	Currently if children are struggling to learn in Welsh as they move through their education, they can switch to the other	The Council notes these comments regarding movement of pupils from the Welsh stream to the
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	<p>stream. The proposal would take away this choice and safety blanket.</p>	<p>English stream during their time at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.</p> <p>The Council's aim is that as far as possible, pupils that start in Welsh-medium education continue to do so throughout their education. This is the best way to ensure that pupils continue to develop their bilingual skills, so that they are bilingual in both Welsh and English when they leave school.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, the school would benefit from an enhanced Welsh ethos, which should have a positive impact on pupils' Welsh language skills, meaning that they are better equipped to continue to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school. The aim of the proposal is to ensure the best opportunities for all learners, and should the Council proceed with the proposal, staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion would continue to support pupils to ensure that they have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.</p> <p>Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools in the primary and secondary sector. In these schools, there is no English stream for pupils to move into. However, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply to transfer to an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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2.1.4.2	The proposal will mean that pupils won't start in Welsh-medium education as they won't have the option to change to English-medium education at Ysgol Bro Caereinion should they wish to for their GCSE exams.	As above.
2.1.4.3	The current dual stream model means that pupils can switch from the Welsh stream to the English stream if they are struggling as they get close to their GCSEs – this wouldn't be possible in a Welsh-medium school.	As above.
2.1.4.4	Some pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium education would like to move to the English stream in high school, however this would mean that this wouldn't be possible – this is unfair.	As above.
2.1.4.5	Moving away from the dual stream model will mean that the 'safety net' of the English-medium stream would no longer be available, which could lead to a reduction in pupils choosing Welsh-medium education.	As above.  The Council acknowledges that implementation of the proposal could lead to a reduction in pupils numbers at the school should pupils choose to access English-medium provision at alternative schools instead of accessing the provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however it is also possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at the school in the longer term.
2.1.4.6	According to the Stats Wales website, 40% of pupils in Welsh medium primary education switch to English medium secondary education between year 6 and 7.	The Council is unable to find any data on the Stats Wales website which supports this statement.

### 2.1.5 English-medium pupils would have less exposure to the Welsh language

2.1.5.1	Those in the English stream would lose out on opportunities to be exposed to the Welsh language, so this will have a negative effect all round.	Whilst noting these concerns that English-medium pupils would have less exposure to the Welsh language, all schools in Wales are required to teach Welsh as a second language and to offer opportunities
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		<p>to use Welsh outside the classroom. Should pupils choose to attend English-medium provision at different schools instead of attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion, they would continue to have opportunities to learn Welsh a second language.</p> <p>Whilst it may be the case that English-medium pupils attending a dual stream school hear more Welsh than pupils at English-medium schools, the vast majority of pupils accessing English-medium provision do not become fluent in Welsh – typically, it is only pupils that access Welsh-medium education that become fluent in Welsh. Implementation of the proposal would mean that in the future, all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion would become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
2.1.5.2	Learners who move to English-medium schools would lose out on the natural use of Welsh in lessons, on the corridor and in break and lunch activities.	As above.
2.1.5.3	English-medium pupils won't get the benefit of hearing the Welsh language daily in school.	As above.
2.1.5.4	English-medium pupils would have less opportunities to use Welsh.	As above.
2.1.5.5	Dual stream schools allow English medium children to naturally hear the Welsh language on a daily basis to the point that the language is used almost naturally amongst Welsh second language pupils. This will be lost.	As above.
2.1.5.6	Those in the English stream have more exposure to the language in a bilingual school than they would in an English medium school – this strengthens the language in the community.	As above.

2.1.5.7	Changing the language category would mean less pupils using Welsh as currently many English stream pupils at YBC have a very good understanding of Welsh, however this would cease.	As above.
2.1.5.8	English-medium pupils would have to go to English-medium schools, so would have less chance to learn Welsh through integrating with Welsh stream children.	As above.
2.1.5.9	Within the dual stream system, English stream children attend assemblies and events that are held in Welsh and English, they will lose this immersive and cultural experience of the Welsh language.	As above.
2.1.5.10	The English stream pupils in a dual stream school are very much immersed in the language through listening to conversations, school signage and communications etc. It's part of their daily life so English pupils in a dual stream school are more likely to speak and understand the Welsh language than those in an English medium school.	As above.
2.1.5.11	Welsh second language at Bro Caereinion is currently excellent. If the change were to happen, English-medium pupils would be denied the opportunity to access this provision. This would impact on their prospects of developing an interest in the language.	Comment noted, however pupils choosing to access English-medium provision at alternative schools would still be taught Welsh second language. Alternatively they could access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion which would enable them to become fluent in both Welsh and English. In general, pupils that study Welsh as a Second Language don't become fluent in Welsh.
2.1.5.12	At Ysgol Bro Caereinion and previously Caereinion High School, pupils studying Welsh second language, in 2021 / 2022, 85% of pupils gained A* - C grades and in 2022/2023, 82% of pupils gained A* - C grades. Comparing this to neighbouring schools where in 2021 / 2022 pass rates as low as 58%, and in 2022/2023, 47% of pupils gaining A* - C grades. Does this data not demonstrate the positive impact	As above.

	Ysgol Bro Caereinion is having on Welsh second language speakers? If pupils decide to move to neighbouring schools instead of changing to Welsh medium education, the quality of second language speakers locally is likely to fall based on this data.	
2.1.5.13	English-medium pupils will lose the chance to compete in the Urdd.	All schools are able to completed in the Urdd, regardless of their language medium.
2.1.5.14	Access to Urdd activities would decrease for English-medium pupils.	As above.

### 2.1.6 Pupils need English language skills not Welsh language skills

2.1.6.1	English is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> most spoken language in the world so it's needed for every day life outside Wales and in other countries.	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be able to communicate effectively in English.</p> <p>The aim of Welsh-medium education is to ensure that pupils become bilingual, and are able to communicate effectively in both Welsh and English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, all pupils would continue to study English to GCSE level, would be able to talk, read and write in English as well as Welsh, and would be able to use both languages in the future.</p>
2.1.6.2	English is the language of business and commerce, this language must be given parity with Welsh to ensure that pupils have unfettered career opportunities.	As above.
2.1.6.3	Pupils need English medium provision if they are to go off into the big wide world and work.	As above.
2.1.6.4	STEM subjects need to be taught in English if children are to go out into the world and work – they will not get work in the USA, Middle East, Far East, Europe etc if they are only qualified in Welsh medium.	As above.

2.1.6.5	There are more opportunities to use English than Welsh in the real world	As above.
2.1.6.6	English is one of the most widely used languages in the world.	As above.
2.1.6.7	English is a universal language, Welsh is not.	As above.
2.1.6.7	The Welsh tongue alone will permanently handicap pupils in life.	As above.
2.1.6.8	Learning in Welsh only won't give our children the best options to get a job in the future – what about their English?	As above.
2.1.6.9	Most employers don't value this level of Welsh, they only require basic Welsh if any.	As above.
2.1.6.10	Very few jobs require fluent Welsh language skills outside the public sector.	As above.
2.1.6.11	Pupils would be disadvantaged – not many jobs have Welsh language skills as the main criteria.	As above.
2.1.6.12	Welsh can never be treated as equal to English. It should be encouraged and taught in schools, but not to the detriment of learning English correctly and grammatically.	As above.
2.1.6.13	How will teaching every subject in Welsh mean that pupils are fully bilingual in English and Welsh? Surely their English would suffer as a consequence of everything being taught in Welsh only?	As above.
2.1.6.14	Children forced to learn other subjects in Welsh will be strongly disadvantaged when they leave school and have to function in an overwhelmingly English speaking environment.	As above.
2.1.6.15	Children forced to do their exams in Welsh at GCSE level and higher would be less able to assimilate into non-Welsh speaking opportunities in the future.	As above.

### **2.1.7 Concern about the impact on pupils ability to access further / higher education**



2.1.7.1	Where would children go after high school? There are no Welsh speaking colleges locally and no fully Welsh universities. They would be restricted with where they could go for further education.	The Council does not agree that changing the school's language category to Welsh-medium would restrict the future opportunities of pupils. Many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools across Wales have successfully attended further / higher education in England and further afield, as well as universities in Wales.
2.1.7.2	Unless children are going to apply to Aberystwyth or Bangor universities, it will reduce their chances of getting into the top English universities.	As above.
2.1.7.3	Being educated purely in Welsh means that students only have the choice of just over 500 courses in 9 universities, rather than 1000s of courses in 166 universities across the UK in English.	As above.
2.1.7.4	It will disadvantage students wanting to go to English universities to study Medicine, Health Sciences and other courses in English.	As above.
2.1.7.5	A completely Welsh education will reduce the opportunities for further education in English, and will put those wishing to go further afield for university at a disadvantage.	As above.
2.1.7.6	University courses are mostly in English, so they would have to transfer language.	As above.
2.1.7.7	Pupils would have to relearn everything in English when they go to university.	As above.
2.1.7.8	English is the universal language, students moving on to university would be at a disadvantage by not knowing subject specific terminology.	As above.
2.1.7.9	Pupils should be able to learn in a language that won't put them at a disadvantage should they choose to go to an English speaking university.	As above.
2.1.7.10	Many pupils opt for colleges, 6 <sup>th</sup> form education, university education through the medium of English. Welsh-medium	As above.

	students find these courses challenging due to differences in terminology.	
2.1.7.11	Pupils going on to further education in English would be disadvantaged if they don't have an extensive English vocabulary.	As above.
2.1.7.12	People who were educated in Welsh have struggled at university when having to change to studying in English.	As above.
2.1.7.13	Some that went through the Welsh stream struggled in university as they could not write their essays in English – they had to write them in Welsh and translate them.	As above.
2.1.7.14	People whose children have been educated in Welsh have either had to retake A levels or their first year of university as they did not understand the English.	As above.

### 2.1.8 Other comments

2.1.8.1	This proposal isn't in the best interests of pupils that are currently in the English-medium stream at Ysgol Bro Caereinion	<p>The Council acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal will have an impact on pupils affected by the change being proposed. The Council is proposing to change the school's language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7, which aims to minimise the impact on pupils as it would ensure that pupils could continue to access provision their current language throughout the primary and secondary phases, however it is acknowledged that this proposal would impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in particular.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused</p>
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		<p>concern for pupils that may be affected by this change, in particular those currently accessing English-medium primary provision at the school.</p> <p>The Council will need to consider the feedback received during the consultation period when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>
2.1.8.2	The Council hasn't thought about the impact on children in the English stream that will be really affected by this.	As above.
2.1.8.3	I'm saddened that the impact on children affected by the decision, who have already seen a lot of disruption, is being dismissed as minor or limited.	As above.
2.1.8.4	Being able to speak Welsh does not offer any greater opportunities in adult life. It's more important that children have a good experience during their time in education.	<p>The Council agrees that it's important that children have a good experience during their time in education, however there is no reason to believe that implementing the proposal to change the school's language category would mean that pupils wouldn't have a good experience during their time in education.</p> <p>The Council does not agree that 'being able to speak Welsh does not offer any greater opportunities in adult life'. Many organisations in Wales are seeking more staff who are bilingual in order to provide services in both languages.</p>
2.1.8.5	There would be less GCSE options available at the school if English-medium subjects were lost.	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the school would no longer need to duplicate subjects. It is possible that more subjects could be offered. However, the definition of a 'Welsh-medium school' does allow for some subjects to be taught in English, so it is possible that some subjects could continue to be offered in English to maximise the offer

		for pupils, should it not be possible for these to be offered in Welsh.
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## 2.2 Comments relating to implementation arrangements

### 2.2.1 Concern about the proposed timeline

2.2.1	Not enough notice is being given for people to decide – 2025 is far too soon.	<p>The proposal is to implement the change on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025. Pupils currently attending secondary provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposed implementation date would impact on pupils currently attending English-medium provision in year 5, as English-medium secondary provision would not be available in year 7 at Ysgol Bro Caereinion when they transfer to secondary provision.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
2.2.2	It's unfair that this change is being proposed with only 2 years notice.	As above.
2.2.3	The time frame is completely unrealistic and does not give parents the time to think about alternatives for their child's education.	As above.

2.2.4	The timescale seems very rushed and doesn't allow pupils in the upper primary school stage the time to become sufficiently confident with the Welsh language.	As above.
2.2.5	The proposed timescales are horrendously unfair, particularly for parents of pupils in year 6.	As above.  Pupils currently in year 6 would not be affected by the change – the proposal to introduce the change from year 7 in September 2025, so English-medium provision would continue to be available in Ysgol Bro Caereinion when pupils currently in Year 6 transfer to secondary provision in September 2024.
2.2.6	A decision is expected to be made early in 2024, however primary school applications close 5.1.24 and secondary applications close way before on 10.11.23.	As above.
2.2.7	Parents with children in the English stream should have been notified sooner.	Comment noted.
2.2.8	The timescale put forward is too fast especially when compared with what has happened at Bro Hyddgen.	It is acknowledged that the proposal in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion is different to the proposal taken forward in respect of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. This is because the Council is under pressure to provide access to Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area served by Ysgol Bro Caereinion. Had the Council proposed to phase the change in language category in from Reception only, this would have taken many years to implement across the whole school.
2.2.9	The governors has proposed a phased approach to changing the school's language category over a longer timeframe as the school community has endured many changes in recent years.	As above. It is correct that the governing body of Ysgol Bro Caereinion had a vision for a phased approach with a longer lead-in time for the Year 7 transition.
2.2.10	It's happening too quickly which is panicking parents. If more time was given for pupils to finish their education in the language they started, it may be less worrying for parents.	As above.

## 2.2.2 Concern about the proposed to change in provision in year 7

2.2.2.1	It's unfair to begin this in year 7, this will make it very difficult for children already in the English stream in primary	<p>The proposal is to implement the change on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025. Pupils currently attending secondary provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposed implementation date would impact on pupils currently attending English-medium provision in year 5, as English-medium secondary provision would not be available in year 7 at Ysgol Bro Caereinion when they transfer to secondary provision.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
2.2.2.2	It's a big and challenging step to consider changing from year 7, as it's difficult to learn a language as you get older.	As above.
2.2.2.3	Concern that the proposed change to provision in year 7 would mean that pupils currently in the primary phase at the school would be forced to leave their school and their Welsh speaking friends.	As above.
2.2.2.4	Starting the change in year 7 has caused many concerns for pupils, with siblings being forced to attend different schools.	As above.
2.2.2.5	It's going to be difficult for those already in English streams to convert to Welsh or move schools.	As above.

2.2.2.6	It's unfair to English-medium students currently attending the primary school who would have to start a different secondary school.	As above.
2.2.2.7	All parents and pupils should know when they begin education at Reception age where provision for the language medium of their education will be, and this should not be changed at short notice.	The current proposal to change the school's language category is in accordance with the School Organisation Code, which allows for changes to provision at a school to be made during a pupil's time at that school.
2.2.2.8	Current pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion made the decision to attend the school years ago on the basis that it would be a dual stream school, and are now having the proposed change forced upon them.	As above.
2.2.2.9	When children that currently attend the school enrolled, there was no mention of these proposals. It's unfair that pupils won't be able the education they were promised in English throughout their time in the school.	As above.
2.2.2.10	A promise was made to pupils upon entering the school, as detailed in the acceptance letters, that children who elected to be taught in the English stream would continue to be until they leave the school.	As above.
2.2.2.11	Ysgol Bro Caereinion only became an all age school in 2022. It seems unfair now to not allow those pupils currently attending the school to fulfil their education there.	As above.

### 2.2.3 Comments about transport arrangements

2.2.3.1	Concern that under the current transport policy, English-medium pupils wouldn't have transport provided to their nearest English-medium school.	As stated in the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal:  <i>'The Council's Home to School Transport Policy states that if pupils are eligible for free home to school transport, the Council will provide this to their closest or catchment school. If pupils live closer to Ysgol Bro</i>
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		<p><i>Caereinion but choose alternative schools instead, then they won't be able to access free school transport and would need to make their own transport arrangements.'</i></p> <p>Based on this policy, transport wouldn't be available for pupils wishing to access alternative English-medium provision instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposed transport arrangements in relation to this proposal, and the lack of transport to alternative English-medium provision, have caused concern in the local community. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
2.2.3.2	Concern that parents wanting English-medium provision wouldn't be entitled to funded transport to the nearest suitable school.	As above.
2.2.3.3	Parents that work full time won't be able to take their children to alternative schools, however no transport will be provided.	As above.
2.2.3.4	Pupils / parents will have to travel a greater distance to access English-medium provision, which will impact on their work and will cause difficulties getting children to school.	As above.
2.2.3.5	How will English-medium pupils from families that don't drive be able to access English-medium provision?	As above.
2.2.3.6	No information has been provided regarding the transport policy.	As above.
2.2.3.7	Will free busses be provided to take pupils to Llanfyllin or Welshpool High Schools?	As above.
2.2.3.8	Would transport be provided for pupils to go to other schools as they are no longer wanted at Ysgol Bro Caereinion? It's	As above.



	not their choice to attend a different school, so they shouldn't be expected to pay for transport.	
2.2.3.9	Provision for free transport should be available from September 2024.	As above.
2.2.3.10	Pupils already in school should be provided with transport to their nearest English-medium secondary school as they leave year 6.	As above.
2.2.3.11	Moving forward with the proposal without providing transport to an English-medium setting for those who want it feels like trapping people into educating their children in Welsh.	As above.
2.2.3.12	There is much confusion around transport arrangements. Would children who you state are "unaffected" have the option to have transport to an English-medium school?	As above.
2.2.3.13	English-medium pupils aren't eligible for transport to their nearest English-medium school, yet Welsh-medium pupils have been bussed across the county to access Welsh-medium education for years. This is inequality!	As above.  The Council's transport policy is in accordance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure, and aims to promote access to Welsh-medium provision.
2.2.3.14	By not providing transport for children from the English stream to a high school other than Caereinion, PCC will be discriminating against children who have chosen to be educated in the English language.	As above.
2.2.3.15	Please outline why no transport will be provided to children who won't have the capability to transition to the Welsh stream, as again this is a form of discrimination and is a breach of the equality act.	As above.
2.2.3.16	Not paying for transport for Welsh second language students to be taught through English is racist.	As above.
2.2.3.17	It's biased that children have paid transport if they want to learn in Welsh but not if they want to learn in English.	As above.
2.2.3.18	If a pupil is forced to pay for transport to the school and English language of their belief and choice for speaking	As above.

	English, while a pupil choosing Welsh is provided with free school transport this would give rise to a legitimate harassment claim as a clear form of inequity as identified and already established in case law as Linguistic racism.	
2.2.3.19	The transport policy to provide free transport to the nearest school or catchment school will make no sense if Ysgol Bro Caereinion becomes all Welsh. Ysgol Bro Caereinion wouldn't be a suitable school for English-medium pupils. Your policy will be seen as a way of forcing the Welsh language on people, which will cause resentment towards the language.	As above.
2.2.3.20	Transporting English-medium students elsewhere would be disruptive and expensive.	<p>The Council's current Home to School Transport policy does not provide transport to pupils wishing to access English-medium provision if their closest provision is Welsh-medium.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that some pupils may choose to transfer to alternative English-medium provision instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, and there would be a cost, time and environmental impact to this.</p> <p>It is also acknowledged that the proposed transport arrangements in relation to this proposal, and the lack of transport to alternative English-medium provision, have caused concern in the local community. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
2.2.3.21	Non Welsh speaking students will be disadvantaged having to travel excessive distances for the basic right of education.	As above.
2.2.3.22	The majority of the town are English speaking, so a lot of transport would be needed to transport pupils to Welshpool or Newtown.	As above.

2.2.3.23	Concern about the environmental impact of additional travel for English-medium pupils.	As above.
2.2.3.24	Concern that the additional travel would mean that there would be more vehicles on small roads	As above.
2.2.3.25	Children living in some parts of the catchment (such as Foel) will have to travel a fair distance to access an English-medium school.	As above.
2.2.3.26	Concern that pupils would have to leave the house earlier and would get home later.	As above.
2.2.3.27	If English-medium pupils are travelling from Llanfair Caereinion to other schools, and Welsh-medium pupils are travelling from other towns to Llanfair Caereinion, there would be an overlap of transport, doubling the amount of transport required and the environmental impact.	Comment noted.

#### 2.2.4 Concern about Trochi provision

2.2.4.1	The idea of immersive Welsh lessons for non Welsh speakers won't work – it will put unrealistic pressure on non Welsh speakers.	<p>Whilst this may be a fairly new concept in Powys, late entry points to Welsh-medium education have been in existence in other areas of Wales for a number of years, and there are a number of late immersion centres across Wales that offer an intensive language acquisition programme for latecomers to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Early immersion is usually considered the most favourable method for learning a second language, however many pupils have successfully undertaken a late immersion course, enabling them to join a Welsh-medium class.</p>
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		There are many benefits to being bilingual and a scoping review of research into late immersion programmes concluded that there was no detriment to the educational outcomes of pupils taking part in late immersion interventions.
2.2.4.2	The idea that a child would learn a whole language in 12 weeks is crazy and not going to happen.	As above.
2.2.4.3	Unrealistic to think that after 6 years of English stream education children can change streams and this will not have a detrimental impact on their learning.	As above.
2.2.4.4	The transition offer through the Trochi programme is just an empty offer – a short course is not going to make it very easy, it's unrealistic.	As above.
2.2.4.5	The thought of accessing Trochi provision and moving into the Welsh stream is too overwhelming for non Welsh speaking parents to comprehend.	As above.
2.2.4.6	Concern that pupils would have to learn Welsh in a very short time and would have to neglect other subjects and other learning whilst doing this.	<p>Pupils would access 'Trochi' provision for a short period of 10-12 weeks. Whilst the focus is on improving pupils' Welsh language skills to enable them to transfer into Welsh-medium education, however the timetable does incorporate various aspects of the curriculum.</p> <p>There are many benefits to being bilingual and a scoping review of research into late immersion programmes concluded that there was no detriment to the educational outcomes of pupils taking part in late immersion interventions.</p>
2.2.4.7	Where will learners that attend the trochi provision for 10-12 have the opportunity to gain back that 10-12 weeks of the curriculum?	As above.
2.2.4.8	Concern that if all 50 English-medium learners from Ysgol Bro Caereinion opted for Trochi provision there would be difficulty	As above.

	employing staff to implement it. This number doesn't include learners from Ysgol Rhiw Bechan.	
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## 2.3 Comments about the impact on parents / families

### 2.3.1 Parents / families wouldn't be able to support their children

2.3.1.1	Families would struggle to support their children with homework etc if no-one speaks Welsh at home	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the ability of parents who don't speak Welsh to support their children and to help with homework.</p> <p>Across Wales, Welsh-medium schools have introduced many strategies to help parents support their children with homework, ensuring that pupils who do not have Welsh speaking parents are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>In addition, it has been shown to be beneficial to children to be able to discuss their homework in English with their parents because bilingualism aids conceptual development.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would work with the school to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place to support pupils and their families.</p>
2.3.1.2	Parents not able to speak Welsh would not be able to support their child's education as they won't understand it.	As above.
2.3.1.3	Older siblings who completed their education in English wouldn't be able to help their younger siblings if they have to finish their education in Welsh.	As above.

2.3.1.4	Concern that Council representatives are giving message out that parents would not need to do anything to support their children, and that Welsh immersion would be carried out solely in school. No child achieves their potential without the support of parents, no matter what the language.	Council representatives are not ‘giving the message out that parents would not need to do anything to support their children...’
2.3.1.5	School events would make even more use of Welsh, meaning that parents that don’t speak Welsh won’t feel fully included in their child’s education.	The majority of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education come from homes where no Welsh is spoken. Whilst more activities for pupils would take place in Welsh, school events would continue to take place bilingually to ensure that all parents would feel included, regardless of whether or not they can speak Welsh.
2.3.1.6	Parents like the dual stream model as they can move them to the English stream in secondary so that they can support them at home with homework/coursework/exams	Comment noted.

### 2.3.2 Parents / families could have children in more than one school

2.3.2.1	It would force many families to have children in different schools	<p>The proposal is to implement the change on a phased basis, starting with Reception and Year 7 in September 2025, with intensive ‘Trochi’ support provided to enable pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision in the area to transfer to Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that some pupils may choose to transfer to alternative schools that provide education through the medium of English instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, and that this could impact on families, should this mean that they have children attending different schools.</p>
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2.3.2.2	Siblings would have to attend different schools.	As above.
2.3.2.3	Pupils could be forced to attend a different school to siblings or friends	As above.
2.3.2.4	Parents will have children in different secondary schools – this will be extremely difficult and upsetting for families, and the practicalities will have a huge impact.	As above.
2.3.2.5	The current dual stream model means that where one sibling is in the Welsh stream and another is in the English stream, they can still attend the same school.	Comment noted.
2.3.2.6	Siblings may be taken out of Welsh-medium education so that they attend the same English-medium school as their siblings to make it easier for their parents.	Comment noted.

### 2.3.3 Other comments

2.3.3.1	Concern about the cost of uniforms if pupils had to transfer to alternative schools.	The Council notes this concern about the impact of purchasing new school uniforms should pupils choose to transfer to alternative schools.
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## 2.4 Comments about staffing

### 2.4.1 Concern about the impact on staff

2.4.1.1	What will happen to the staff that don't speak Welsh?	As stated in the Consultation Document:  <i>'There are a significant number of staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion who are bilingual and currently teach and work through the medium of Welsh and English. There are, however, a number of teaching and support staff across both the primary and secondary sites who</i>
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		<p><i>currently work solely in the English stream or work predominantly through the medium of English.</i></p> <p><i>Should the proposal be implemented, audit work would be undertaken with all staff to understand their current Welsh Language levels and to prioritise staff to be supported to develop their Welsh Language skills.</i></p> <p><i>The proposal to introduce the change on a phased basis does give time for staff to attend appropriate courses to support their development in this area. Human Resources would be involved in supporting consultation with every member of staff and to support the transition to work through the medium of Welsh. Where this is not possible or where members of staff are unwilling or unable to commit to developing their Welsh Language skills the management of change process would support staff in seeking other employment opportunities or redeployment.'</i></p>
2.4.1.2	How many staff members are projected to lose their jobs as a result of this proposal?	The proposal is to implement the change on a phased basis over a number of years, so staffing levels would need to be monitored and managed by the school as staffing requirements change during the transition period. Powys County Council remains committed to taking all reasonable steps to avoid making any compulsory redundancies.
2.4.1.3	Non Welsh speaking staff at the school feel discriminated against.	Comment noted. It is not the intention to discriminate against any member of staff – the reasons for the proposed changes have been outlined in the consultation document.
2.4.1.4	Staff that don't speak Welsh are being made to feel like they are not good enough.	Comment noted. See above at 2.4.1.3. Should the proposal be implemented, staff who wish to



		improve their Welsh Language skills will be supported to do so.
2.4.1.5	English speaking staff will be negatively affected.	Comment noted. See above comments.
2.4.1.6	No consideration or opportunities have been presented to staff who wish to improve their level of Welsh, even though a desire and commitment is there. English-medium staff are being ignored in their requests to embrace the Welsh language.	<p>Opportunities to take part in the Welsh sabbatical scheme are always available to staff, and some staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion have already expressed an interest in accessing this provision. However, it is acknowledged that the current sabbatical scheme has been less accessible for staff teaching in the secondary phase in particular. Welsh courses are also available via Welsh for Adults.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal it would work with the school to develop a plan to ensure appropriate opportunities are available to enable staff to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>
2.4.1.7	Non Welsh speaking staff will not stay at the school if it becomes Welsh-medium as there would be no prospects for career development.	It is acknowledged that any school reorganisation process causes a period of uncertainty for those affected, including staff, and that in this case, there is a possibility that non-Welsh speaking staff would seek alternative employment should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category. Support will be offered to affected staff through the Management of Change process.
2.4.1.8	Good English language teachers that are at the school now will leave, so children will have below par teaching.	As above.
2.4.1.9	Some staff will view the proposed changes as a trigger to look elsewhere at alternatives, so staff retention during the transition period may prove a challenge.	As above.
2.4.1.10	English speaking staff are already leaving before they are pushed – the proposals are already having a knock on effect on current students.	As above.

2.4.1.11	The school is already losing staff because of this proposal.	As above.
2.4.1.12	Concern about the impact on staff who will be expected to learn Welsh.	As above.
2.4.1.13	Concern about the impact on older English medium staff who will find it difficult to learn Welsh in the time available or find alternative jobs – how will the Council protect these staff?	As above.
2.4.1.14	Staff have already been through many recent changes with the establishment of the new school in September 2022 – has the mental well being of staff been considered?	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that the school has already undergone changes recently following the merger of Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School and Caereinion High School and other incidents that have affected the school.</p> <p>The Council's employee support programme 'Vivup' is available to support staff. The wellbeing of all staff continues to be considered a priority during this process, which the Council acknowledges is a difficult one for all affected.</p>
2.4.1.15	No consideration has been given to the well-being of staff at Ysgol Bro Caereinion (Welsh or English medium).	As above.
2.4.1.16	The proposal has created uncertainty again for staff, following on from a period of change associated with creating the all age school, and the other incidents and issues faced recently. This has taken a toll on staff and pupils.	As above.
2.4.1.17	Staff at the school already need a lot of support after the recent transformation, the bus accident and so many tragic losses within the staff team.	As above.
2.4.1.18	Concern that no contact has been made with individual members of staff who would be affected by the proposal to ask if they are OK. Staff have had to go looking for answers and information, request meetings with HR. What has been done to support the health and wellbeing of the staff in this process?	<p>It is acknowledged that any school reorganisation process causes a period of uncertainty for those affected, including staff.</p> <p>The only decision made so far has been a decision to carry out consultation on a proposal to change the</p>

		<p>school's language category on a phased basis. Staff were able to let the Council know their views on the proposal as part of this process. In addition, a consultation meeting was held with staff, which provided a further opportunity for staff to let the Council know their views.</p> <p>HR have met with members of staff, and support is also available via the Council's Employee Support Programme, 'Vivup'.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the process, there would be opportunities for individual discussions with members of staff about any impact on them as part of any Management of Change processes, should these processes be required.</p>
2.4.1.19	What support has been offered to staff to combat the impact on their well-being?	As above.
2.4.1.19	Concern that current staff will see an impact on their well being as a result of the stress of the consultation and possible job changes.	Comment noted and responded to above.
2.4.1.20	Morale amongst staff is already at an all-time low.	Comment noted and responded to above.

#### **2.4.2 Concern about the ability to recruit Welsh speaking staff**

2.4.2.1	There aren't enough Welsh speakers now – the school is already struggling to recruit a Welsh speaking maths teacher	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that there are challenges with recruiting Welsh speaking teachers. Whilst this is a challenge in Powys, it is a national issue, and the Welsh Government is working to address this. In addition, the Council has established a working group to develop its own strategy to train Welsh speaking teachers.</p>
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		It is also possible that changing the school's language category to Welsh-medium would have a positive impact on the school's ability to recruit Welsh speaking teachers, as the Welsh-medium model may be more appealing to them than the dual stream model.
2.4.2.2	Concern about the ability to recruit a full complement of Welsh speaking staff, especially in subjects like maths and physics where there is a shortage anyway.	As above.
2.4.2.3	Concern that A level options will be lost as the secondary phase is already struggling to recruit Welsh speaking A level teachers.	As above.
2.4.2.4	The school is already understaffed with Welsh teachers – they have advertised for Welsh speaking staff, but are still teaching subjects to the Welsh stream in English.	As above.
2.4.2.5	Some subjects are already taught in English to Welsh-medium pupils as it has not been possible to recruit Welsh speaking staff.	As above.
2.4.2.6	Already experiencing a lack of Welsh language teachers at the school. Estyn's recent remit report on teacher training does not reflect that this will improve in the short to medium term.	As above.
2.4.2.7	Are there enough Welsh speaking teachers in the area? What will encourage them to come to the school? How will they be retained? Will they need to teach multiple subjects?	As above.
2.4.2.8	There is currently a lack of Welsh speaking high school teachers. How do you intent supplying the staff for the school?	As above.
2.4.2.9	The difficulty of obtaining high quality Welsh speaking teachers is well reported ( <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-65639738">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-65639738</a> , <a href="https://senedd.wales/senedd-">https://senedd.wales/senedd-</a>	As above.

	<a href="#">now/news/one-million-Welsh-speakers-target-at-risk-due-to-lack-of-teachers</a> ), and may make delivering the curriculum difficult	
2.4.2.10	There is a shortage of Welsh speaking teachers across Wales. How will this be addressed?	As above.
2.4.2.11	What is the actual availability of Welsh speaking teachers in different subjects?	As above.
2.4.2.12	Have you done an audit of current trainee teachers completing their education in Welsh?	An audit of current trainee teachers completing their education in Welsh has not been carried out. The Council continues to work with Welsh Government and other partners to identify opportunities to develop and encourage people into Welsh Medium education.
2.4.2.13	Recruitment of Welsh speaking TA's has been a challenge.	Comment noted.
2.4.2.14	What other support can be offered through the medium of Welsh? There is only 1 Welsh speaking Educational Psychologist, no Welsh SALT, no Welsh occupational or physiotherapists and virtually no Welsh speakers in the ALN department at Powys, so how can pupils be supported effectively?	<p>The Council acknowledges that there are challenges associated with providing access to these services through the medium of Welsh, however this is not unique to Powys – there are issues with accessing these services through the medium of Welsh across Wales.</p> <p>The Council has established a working group to develop its own strategy to train Welsh speaking staff, which will include roles such as these to support Welsh-medium schools and pupils.</p>

### 2.4.3 Concern about the quality of staff in the future

2.4.3.1	Would teachers be employed purely because they spoke fluent Welsh regardless of their teaching quality or experience?	Teachers would not be employed 'purely because they spoke fluent Welsh regardless of their teaching quality or experience'.
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2.4.3.2	Concern that many quality teachers would be excluded from applying for positions at the school because they cannot speak Welsh.	Recruitment processes would still need to be carried out, and candidates would need to demonstrate that they meet the job specification and criteria.
2.4.3.3	Will the best candidates be eligible to be considered in future, as weight will have to be given to their Welsh language ability.	The Council would expect that consideration is already being given to candidates' Welsh language skills to work in a dual stream school.
2.4.3.4	The school will have difficulty recruiting teachers in specialist subject areas who have sufficient Welsh language capability, so children will experience a lower standard of education.	The Council fully acknowledges that there are challenges with recruiting Welsh speaking teachers. However the Council does not agree that this will mean that 'children will experience a lower standard of education'. Recruitment processes would still need to be carried out, and candidates would need to demonstrate that they meet the job specification and criteria.
2.4.3.5	Quality of teachers may be an issue as some vacancies may be hard to recruit for in Welsh, meaning the quality of staff may be poorer.	As above.
2.4.3.6	Concern that children will be receiving inadequate education in important subjects such as maths and science because there are no Welsh speaking teachers to recruit. This would be detrimental to the children, and also to the reputation of Welsh medium education.	As above.
2.4.3.7	Parents would prefer a fantastic English speaking teacher teaching their children than a sub standard Welsh speaking teacher, chosen because they were the only applicant.	Comment noted.
2.4.3.8	Would prefer children to be taught in English to a good standard than in Welsh with a mish mash of supply / unqualified teachers as it hasn't been possible to recruit Welsh speakers.	Comment noted.
2.4.3.9	By the nature of the plan, all teaching staff would be from Wales. Would this bring a wide variety of experience and	Welsh speaking staff come from a range of backgrounds, so there is no reason to believe that the

	knowledge to the school compared with a more diverse workforce?	staff would have less variety of experience and knowledge compared with current staff at the school.
2.4.3.10	What will the quality of teaching be in the future if staff have had to learn Welsh and then teach in Welsh?	The school will need to be confident that any staff that don't currently speak Welsh who learn Welsh are sufficiently fluent to be able to provide the required quality of teaching.

## 2.5 Concern about impact on the community

### 2.5.1 The proposal will cause division in the area

2.5.1.1	It will divide not strengthen the community.	<p>Whilst the Council acknowledges that the proposal could cause some tensions within the local community in the short term, in the long term the Council would hope that the proposal would improve community cohesion, as all pupils would attend the same provision.</p> <p>As indicated in the Integrated Impact Assessment published as part of the consultation documentation:</p> <p><i>'In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is expected that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.'</i></p>
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2.5.1.2	It will divide the Welsh and English communities, so will not encourage a cohesive community.	As above.
2.5.1.3	It will create a divide between the English and Welsh children in the area.	As above.
2.5.1.4	It will cause a massive divide in communities – this is already being seen in the consultation period. In rural areas like ours it's vital that communities stick together.	As above.
2.5.1.5	This will divide the community. The 2 language communities have always blended well together, but this proposal will tear it apart.	As above.
2.5.1.6	It will cause more division between English and Welsh instead of bringing everyone together.	As above.
2.5.1.7	Changing from the dual stream model would split the community.	As above.
2.5.1.8	It will alienate English speakers and cause a social divide.	As above.
2.5.1.9	It will cause a toxic divide in the community.	As above.
2.5.1.10	Concern about the impact on the community during the transition period.	As above.

## 2.5.2 Concern that people wouldn't want to live in the area

2.5.2.1	Families will be put off moving to the area.	<p>The Council disagrees that the proposal will deter people from moving into the area. There is no evidence of this in other areas of Wales where education is predominantly through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Pupils will continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, regardless of their background, and latecomers to Welsh-medium education at the school will be provided with Welsh language development support to enable them to transition into Welsh-medium</p>
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		education, for example through immersion programmes.
2.5.2.2	Young families won't want to move to the area, which will impact the community greatly.	As above.
2.5.2.3	Only providing Welsh schooling won't attract young families to the area from other parts of the UK.	As above.
2.5.2.4	People won't move to the area if they want an English education.	As above.
2.5.2.5	Many families move into the area and attend the English-medium stream. If the stream is no longer available, the area is at risk of new families not moving to the area, resulting in a more elderly population.	As above.
2.5.2.6	New people will be discouraged from moving to the area, which will lower house prices.	As above.
2.5.2.7	The proposal will lead to a decline in house prices in the area.	As above.
	Removal of the English stream will stop people moving into the area and will have a significant impact on the community / businesses.	As above.
2.5.2.8	The proposal could make some families move from the area	As above.

### **2.5.3 A Welsh-medium school would not reflect the bilingual community in Llanfair Caereinion**

2.5.3.1	A school is there to serve its community. The community is bilingual, therefore a Welsh-medium school is not suitable for this community.	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that not everyone in the Llanfair Caereinion area speaks Welsh. Whilst both Welsh-medium and English-medium education is currently available at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, in reality it is typically only those pupils that access Welsh-medium who become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure that eventually, all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion would be fully</p>
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		bilingual in both Welsh and English, and would be able to use both languages, both in the community and beyond. The intention is that in the longer term, this would improve community cohesion.
2.5.3.2	We are a community that has things available in both languages	As above.
2.5.3.3	The proposal doesn't support the community which is very much English speaking as well as Welsh.	As above.
2.5.3.4	Llanfair Caereinion is a bilingual community. The current school numbers (292 Welsh medium, 257 English medium) reflect this. The current model means that all children can walk to their local community school together, regardless of language choice. Currently, the school accurately reflects the bilingual rural community.	As above.
2.5.3.5	We live in a bilingual community and our children should have access to a bilingual secondary school.	As above.
2.5.3.6	Only providing Welsh language teaching doesn't suit the demographics of the area.	As above.
2.5.3.7	Other facilities in the community are bilingual and serve those that speak Welsh and those that don't e.g. community café, pubs, shops, As above.sports clubs etc.	As above.
2.5.3.8	Most children are bilingual, so we should have access to a bilingual school.	As above.
2.5.3.9	It should be a bilingual school for a bilingual world	As above.
2.5.3.10	The fact that the school is dual stream at the moment is in keeping with modern times, it shows that the school is versatile and caters for speakers of both languages.	As above.
2.5.3.11	The proposal will stop Ysgol Bro Caereinion being a community high school serving all pupils living in the area, and will cause division and bad feeling in the community.	Whilst it is acknowledged that in the short term, some pupils may choose to transfer to alternative schools instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, in the longer term, the expectation is that all pupils in Llanfair Caereinion would access

		Welsh-medium provision at the school, so the school would continue to serve all pupils living in the area.
2.5.3.12	Concern that the proposal would change the nature of the school – rather than being a community school, it would be a school primarily for children from further afield, being bussed in and out.	As above.  Ysgol Bro Caereinion already serves a large catchment area, and has been the main provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils from Newtown and Welshpool for a number of years.

#### **2.5.4 Concern about the impact on sports teams and other events in the area**

2.5.4.1	Pupils choosing to access English-medium provision in other schools might join sports teams etc in these areas instead of joining the local teams.	Comment noted.
2.5.4.2	Sports clubs in the area will suffer as it will separate the community.	Comment noted.
2.5.4.3	Any children choosing English-medium education elsewhere may be less engaged within the community.	Comment noted.

#### **2.5.5 Other comments about impact on the community**

2.5.5.1	Concern about the impact on local businesses if there are less people coming to the area.	The Council does not agree that implementation of the proposal would impact on local businesses. The proposal is to change the school's language category on a phased basis, however primary and secondary provision would continue to be available in Llanfair Caereinion.
2.5.5.2	It will most likely lead to closure of the school, which will have a significant impact on local businesses.	The Council does not agree that implementation of the proposal would impact on local businesses. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, the school would become

		<p>the main provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area. Whilst there may be an impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the short term, it is also possible that more pupils would choose to access Welsh-medium provision at the school in the future.</p> <p>Should pupil numbers at the school decrease to a level where the Council needed to review the school's future, any proposal to close the school would be subject to the statutory process as outlined in the School Organisation Code, and the impact on the community, to include the impact on local businesses, would be considered at this time.</p>
2.5.5.3	The impact on the community has been underestimated. The strength of feeling on the matter has been so strong it has had a significant and wide reaching effect.	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that the consultation process has been challenging for the local community.</p> <p>A draft community impact assessment was prepared and published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and an updated version will be considered by Cabinet when they consider whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p>
2.5.5.4	It would rip the heart out of the community	<p>The Council does not agree that implementation of the proposal would 'rip the heart out of the community'. There would still be an all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion.</p>

## 2.6 Concern about the impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion

2.6.1	Concern that the school would lose a lot of pupils.	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the possible impact of changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion on pupil numbers at the school in the future. The proposal is to implement the change on a phased basis, which would ensure that pupils could continue to access provision in their current language throughout the primary or secondary phase. Whilst the Council's intention would be for the majority of pupils to continue to attend Ysgol Bro Careinion, it is acknowledged that some may choose to access English-medium provision at alternative schools, which would impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.</p> <p>However, it is also possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term. As stated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>'It is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, particularly in the secondary sector, as the school would be the only provider in the area offering full Welsh-medium secondary provision, offering pupils a clear defined progression route from Welsh-medium primary into Welsh-medium secondary. The school would also be the area's first designated Welsh-medium secondary school which may attract more pupils from a larger geographical area.'</p>
2.6.2	Parents will choose to put their children in the English stream in other schools, which will lead to a drop in numbers and funding.	As above.

2.6.3	Parents would choose other schools as the 'safety net' of the English stream would no longer be there.	As above.
2.6.4	Concern that there is not enough demand for Welsh-medium education in Caereinion to make the school viable.	As above.
2.6.5	Pupil numbers will drop, which will impact on subject choice at GCSE level.	As above.
2.6.6	Sports activities / team sports will stop due to low numbers.	As above.
2.6.7	The pupil number projections show that by 2028 it is estimated that the primary phase will substantially reduce their pupil numbers to around 80 pupils / 41% capacity. Until last year, the dual stream model at Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion had pupil numbers above 160, so the proposal put forward by the Council will result in a reduction in 2-3 classes, and it will fall into the small schools category. As well as income related implications, this would also have a huge impact on the extra curricular cultural, sporting and well-being activities that the primary phase offers.	As above. The estimated pupil projections included in the Consultation Document show that there were 156 primary pupils at the school in January 2022 with a decrease to 114 expected by January 2027, based on the current dual-stream model. Updated forecasts based on PLASC 2023 data estimate that there could be 113 pupils by January 2028.  Welsh Government's definition of a small primary school is a school with 91 pupils or below.
2.6.8	Pupil numbers will surely drop. Is this just a long winded way of closing the school?	As above.  The Council is not intending to close the school. However, should pupil numbers at the school decrease to a level where the Council needed to review the school's future, any proposal to close the school would be subject to the statutory process as outlined in the School Organisation Code.
2.6.9	Concern that the long term aim is to close the school.	As above.
2.6.10	This could lead to a reduction in the number of pupils at the school which would eventually lead to closure	As above.
2.6.11	There aren't enough Welsh-medium pupils, so the school will end up closing.	As above.

2.6.12	English-medium pupils will be forced elsewhere, and the lack of numbers will break the school.	As above.
2.6.13	Concern that the decrease in pupil numbers would result in the school closing, which would have an even bigger impact on staff, the community and pupils in the area.	As above.
2.6.14	Concern that the school will be even less sustainable if the proposal goes ahead.	As above.
2.6.15	The school wouldn't cope if the number of pupils halved – the school wouldn't be financially viable.	As above.
2.6.16	The proposal will reduce the projected pupil numbers which would make the school unviable and would mean that no educational provision would be available to children in Llanfair Caereinion.	As above.
2.6.17	In the past pupil numbers at the high school were around 900, they have now diminished to around 500-600. Turning the school to all Welsh will have an even bigger effect on these numbers.	As above.
2.6.18	By 2030 the school is projected to have just 409 pupils between 4 and 18 and will be at just 41% capacity. Will the proposal be viable for these low numbers, and will a quality curriculum be delivered for all key stages? The proposal put forward would lead to a surplus of 59% of school capacity.	As above.
2.6.19	Numbers at the school will drop as the location of Llanfair is an issue – children from Newtown don't want to go to Llanfair because of the journey, the roads and the dated nature of the site, not because it isn't Welsh enough.	<p>Whilst some pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng currently transfer to Ysgol Bro Caereinion for their secondary provision, many choose to transfer to alternative schools. There are many reasons for this.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, there will be a need for the school to work with feeder schools to develop links to promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion. In addition, there will</p>

		be a need to ensure that other arrangements are in place to promote Ysgol Bro Caereinion, such as transport arrangements and capital investment.
2.6.20	There is no guarantee that children in Welsh language feeder schools would come to Ysgol Bro Caereinion for their secondary education – currently they are choosing to go elsewhere.	As above.
2.6.21	Not all Welsh-speaking children in the catchment area would want to come to Ysgol Bro Caereinion – you are assuming this, but it isn't going to happen.	As above.
2.6.22	Very unsure how many children will come from Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng and Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd to Ysgol Bro Caereinion in the future as large numbers are currently not making that choice.	As above.
2.6.23	In September 2023, only 79% of the potential pupils from the feeder primary schools joined YBC secondary phase, 1 in 5 pupils went elsewhere. It's unachievable to expect 100% of pupils to transfer here.	As above.
2.6.24	English stream Year 6 children at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan have chosen Newtown High School over Bro Caereinion for the September 2024 intake, this hasn't happened before.	Comment noted.

## 2.7 Comments about the need for choice

2.7.1	Local children won't have the choice	The Council notes these comments about the need for choice of Welsh-medium provision or English-medium provision. The majority of people in the Caereinion catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision, this is particularly true in respect of primary aged pupils. The proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category to Welsh-medium reflects this choice.
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		Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
2.7.2	The proposal is taking choice away from parents and pupils in the town and the catchment.	As above.
2.7.3	The proposal removes choice for parents and children as to which medium they continue their education in.	As above.
2.7.4	At the moment we have the best of both worlds as pupils have the choice of whether to be taught in Welsh or English.	As above.
2.7.5	People should be able to have the choice of which language they would like to learn in.	As above.
2.7.6	Children must have the option to be taught in Welsh or English.	As above.
2.7.7	The proposal remove choice in education from the parents – they will either be forced to switch language streams or apply for less desirable schools.	As above.
2.7.8	The removal of choice is forcing parents to make decisions to move their children to other schools.	As above.
2.7.9	The right of parents to have freedom of choice to decide what is best for their children is being taken away.	As above.
2.7.10	The Welsh language is being forced on these children and the choice is being taken away from them.	As above.
2.7.11	Local families will not have the option for their children to attend their local school.	As above.
2.7.12	English speaking families will be excluded from having a local education	As above.
2.7.13	Dual stream education offers choice to parents. This will have a significant impact on the choices of those parents who don't	As above.

	have the financial means to transport their children to a school able to meet their needs.	
2.7.14	To encourage English speakers to use the language, there is a need for choice.	As above.
2.7.15	The dual stream model means that learners have the choice.	As above.
2.7.16	Unless there is a choice, the impact of the forced change will be negative.	As above.
2.7.17	It's unfair to take away choices parents have already made for their children (who are now aged 10 or above).	As above.
2.7.18	We should have the right to choose the education medium for our children. Local authorities must ensure that there are sufficient schools providing primary and secondary education for their area. This proposal has highlighted that this is not the case for English medium education, as the alternative primary schools do not have sufficient capacity to meet existing and projected demand.	As above.
2.7.19	There is a need for freedom of choice, and for pupils to have an education in the language of their choice and to ensure that their views are considered, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	As above.
2.7.20	Concern that pupils currently of pre-school age won't have the choice to choose in the future, which may affect their future options.	As above.

## 2.8 Comments about discrimination / segregation

2.8.1	The proposal discriminates against pupils wishing to learn through English-medium.	The Council does not agree that it is discriminating against English speakers / those wishing to learn through the medium of English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change would be introduced on a phased basis, from Reception and Year 7 up. This would mean that pupils
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		<p>currently accessing English-medium primary provision at the school would be able to continue to do so until the end of the primary phase, however it is acknowledged that they would need to transfer to alternative schools to continue to access English-medium provision in the secondary phase.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
2.8.2	This is discrimination against English speakers. Is this legal?	As above.
2.8.3	It's discrimination to say that you're not accepting non-Welsh speakers to a school in this day and age.	As above.
2.8.4	Under the equality act the law protects from discrimination. Please outline how these decisions are not discriminating against English students.	As above.
2.8.5	This is racist against English speakers.	As above.
2.8.6	This change is coming across as racist – if you are English and do not want to go through the Welsh medium then you are not welcome. You wouldn't be able to make these changes against Black, African or Caribbean ethnic groups nor Asian groups, so why is this acceptable against the English stream?	As above.
2.8.7	The treatment of the English medium children in the Caereinion catchment is akin to an apartheid in South Africa.	As above.
2.8.8	Becoming all Welsh is less inclusive.	As above.
2.8.9	This change is very xenophobic.	As above.

2.8.10	Keep the school bilingual and stop segregation of pupils. This is not South Africa pre-Nelson Mandela.	As above.
2.8.11	Segregation of Welsh and non Welsh speaking pupils is not a good idea in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.	As above.
2.8.12	Surely only providing Welsh language provision and not providing other options goes against the equality act.	As above.
2.8.13	The Equality Act 2010 says that people must not be unfairly discriminated against because of Nationality. However, Welsh speaking pupils are treated differently – they receive more government funding and attend more school trips than English stream pupils. Funding provision should be equal. This is discrimination.	As above.
2.8.14	Language is not a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010 however using it as an instrument of segregation and discrimination clearly and unequivocally breaches the Equality Act 2010.	As above.
2.8.15	This is completely opposite to the government's drive for inclusion.	As above.
2.8.16	The dual stream model is more inclusive.	As above.
2.8.17	The approach to the transport policy is discriminatory. Whilst language itself is not a listed protected characteristic, there have been successful claims of indirect discrimination under the category of race for language discrimination. This places those who opt to continue in an English language education (given that their children are already some way into their primary phase education) at an unfair disadvantage. Due to their language they are left with the option of potentially lower performance educationally and emotional stress simply because they are without the means to get their children transport elsewhere.	The Council notes these comments about the Council's transport policy. The policy is in line with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure, and aims to promote access to Welsh-medium education. However, it is acknowledged that the proposed transport arrangements in relation to this proposal, and the lack of transport to alternative English-medium provision, have caused concern in the local community. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.
2.8.18	Cutting free school transport is discrimination against English speakers.	As above.

2.8.19	Concern about discrimination for low income families as no transport is provided.	As above.
2.8.20	Ysgol Bro Caereinion's Equal Opportunity Policy states in its aims and objectives: 'Ysgol Bro Caereinion does not lawfully discriminate against anyone, whether, learner parent, staff or visitor, on the grounds of or related to any of the protected characteristics detailed above.' Yet the school and PCC are planning on removing the learning provision of English-medium pupils, how does that not discriminate those that wish to have their education in English? The change is against the English race. The policy also says that 'The school will strive to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination', however the same school is supporting a proposal to eliminate English learning – it goes against everything in the school's policy.	The process to change the school's language category is being carried out by the Council, not the school. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken.

## 2.9 Concern about the impact on protected characteristic groups

2.9.1	Concern about the impact on pupils with additional learning needs	<p>Across Wales there are children with SEN/ALN who are educated successfully in Welsh-medium schools, whether they are from Welsh-speaking homes, English-speaking homes or homes where other languages are spoken. Ysgol Bro Caereinion, along with other schools, can benefit from learning from best practice which already exists at other schools.</p> <p>The Powys SEN/ALN strategy, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, is committed to improving the provision for all pupils with SEN/ALN, whatever their first language. This includes pupils who can be educated in mainstream classes as well as pupils who</p>
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		<p>require specialist provision. As part of the strategy, the local authority is developing and improving its range of specialist provision, including specialist centres and satellites of special schools, in order to make sure that the needs of all pupils in Powys can be met effectively. The Council is currently reviewing the strategy to strengthen those areas of greatest need.</p> <p>The school will not change from Welsh medium to English medium overnight. There will be a transition period for those pupils already in the school. During this transition period, pupils with SEN/ALN who are currently attending English-medium primary provision in the Bro Caereinion will be able to access this provision throughout the primary phase. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, they would be able to access Trochi provision with the aim of transferring to Welsh-medium provision, or they would be able to access English-medium provision at an alternative school.</p> <p>Whilst the Council's aim is that the vast majority of pupils continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it is acknowledged that some pupils currently accessing English-medium provision may not wish to transfer into Welsh-medium provision, and that this may particularly be the case for pupils with additional learning needs.</p> <p>If the proposal goes ahead, pupils with SEN/ALN in Llanfair Caereinion would be taught through the</p>
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		<p>medium of Welsh from the start of their time in school. A key part of the strategy is that pupils with SEN/ALN have the right to be educated in mainstream schools alongside their peers.</p> <p>Under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, pupils with ALN will have individual development plans (IDPs) which will set out their needs and the support that they will receive. This could include support from school staff as well as specialist support from the local authority. Where appropriate, interventions may take place through the medium of English. This will be determined in line with the needs of the individual pupil. Similarly, if a pupil arrives at the school with no English, a level of support may be provided in their own language.</p>
2.9.2	Pupils with additional needs have moved from the Welsh stream to the English stream as they have struggled. If the school was not dual stream, this would not be possible.	As above.
2.9.3	Pupils with ALN would find it easier to study in English when their home language is not Welsh.	As above.
2.9.4	Concern that this would have a negative impact on the learning of pupils with ALN and will cause anxiety.	As above.
2.9.5	Concern that children with additional needs wouldn't cope with Trochi or receiving their education in Welsh	As above.
2.9.6	Concern that pupils with additional needs may be forced to travel miles to their nearest English school.	As above.
2.9.7	Concern that there would be less choice for learners with additional needs.	As above.

2.9.8	Pupils with additional needs would be forced to change schools or would struggle to keep up with Welsh speaking pupils.	As above.
2.9.9	Reluctant learners, those with conditions such as Aspergers, ADHD, Dyslexia, low self esteem etc will be at risk of failing.	As above.
2.9.10	Children with additional needs would be segregated from those they have attended school with so far, from their siblings already in the school and would be required to travel further for their educational needs to be met.	As above.
2.9.11	Concern about ALN pupils currently in the English streams at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and Ysgol Rhiw Bechan. The aim that they will be able to access education in a second language when they are 9 years old is very ambitious, and will be impossible for some, as they already struggle to speak, read and write in their first language (English).	Comment noted. It is acknowledged that the Trochi provision may not be suitable for some pupils. Pupils not wanting to access this provision and move into the Welsh-medium stream would be able to access English-medium secondary provision in an alternative school, should that be their preference.
2.9.12	A 10 week language course would not be sufficient for ALN children – they usually struggle with 1 language.	As above.
2.9.13	Pupils with ALN have not been considered in this proposal.	Pupils with ALN have been considered as part of the proposal, including in the draft equality impact assessment prepared as part of the consultation documentation. This will updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed.
2.9.14	Children who struggle with learning learn best in their own language. For the majority in Llanfair, this is English, so forcing children to learn in Welsh or travel further will affect children with protected characteristics more than those without disabilities.	The impact of the proposal on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups has been considered in the draft equality impact assessment prepared as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed.



2.9.15	What additional help will be available to support pupils with additional needs? Will additional teaching assistants be employed to support pupils?	The school would need to consider the needs of its pupils and ensure that appropriate staffing is provided, within its budget allocation. The Council has recently revised its funding formula for schools in order to ensure that more funding is delegated directly to schools to support pupils with additional learning needs.
2.9.16	The majority of pupils in the English stream in the primary phase have additional learning needs, so this would be a significant risk to implementation of the proposal. How will this be addressed and resourced?	<p>The school would need to consider the needs of its pupils and ensure that appropriate staffing is provided, within its budget allocation. The Council has recently revised its funding formula for schools in order to ensure that more funding is delegated directly to schools to support pupils with additional learning needs.</p> <p>The Council will consider the impact on pupils that would be particularly affected by the proposals as they are currently accessing English-medium provision in the catchment when deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposals.</p>
2.9.17	The proposal would impact people from many different cultures within our community, including Ukrainian, Polish, Bulgarian.	<p>The Council notes this concern. The intention is that Trochi provision is available to any pupil regardless of whether they can speak more than one language already. There are many examples across Wales of children who don't have English as a first language becoming fully bilingual.</p> <p>A draft equalities impact assessment was published as part of the consultation documentation, this will be updated to reflect comments received during the consultation, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>

2.9.18	People of different race and EAL pupils have mainly been in the English-medium stream – the proposal would impact them.	As above.
2.9.19	Concern about the impact on EAL pupils / pupils from homes where other languages are spoken.	As above.
2.9.20	Concern about the impact on asylum seekers in the area who would need to learn 2 new languages	As above.
2.9.21	Concern about refugees that have been re-housed in the area.	As above.
2.9.22	There are far fewer Welsh speakers among non white, non British, non Christian backgrounds. Removing the English stream will be detrimental to these groups locally, and in the long term will prevent those groups from joining the Welsh speaking population. The plan is not inclusive and doesn't go far enough in terms of integration towards these groups.	As above.
2.9.23	Concern about the impact on low income families who would have to pay for transport to other schools.	As above.

## 2.10 Concern about impact on the Welsh language

2.10.1	It will discourage people from learning Welsh	<p>The Council does not agree with these comments. Implementation of the proposal would mean that in future, all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion, would become fluent in both Welsh and English. The Council's expectation is that this would lead to increased use of the language within the school and in the wider community.</p> <p>Should pupils choose to attend other schools instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, they would continue to study Welsh as a Second Language up to GCSE level. A</p>
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		All schools are expected to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills, regardless of whether or not Welsh-medium education is provided.
2.10.2	Compulsion is not the way to increase the use of Welsh	As above.
2.10.3	The proposal is making people feel like the Welsh language is being forced on their children. This causes resentment in the community towards the Welsh language, causing a negative impact.	As above.
2.10.4	English speaking families will go elsewhere for their education, and the opportunity to introduce the Welsh language to these families will be lost.	As above.
2.10.5	Less English speaking children will learn Welsh as they will be forced to go to other schools, probably all English schools.	As above.
2.10.6	English speakers will not go to Ysgol Bro Caereinion, so they will not have the opportunity to hear and learn the language through being in the bilingual community.	As above.
2.10.7	Concern about the impact on the Welsh language in Llanfyllin and the surrounding area.	The Council is not proposing any changes to Welsh-medium provision in the Llanfyllin area.

## **2.11 Llanfair Caereinion is not the right location for a Welsh-medium secondary school**

2.11.1	The Welsh-medium offering should be established in Newtown where the population is. Llanfair Caereinion is too far for some pupils that currently attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd.	It is acknowledged that secondary provision in Newtown would be more convenient for pupils that currently attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. However, whilst consideration was previously given to establishing designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, this is not currently being considered, primarily due to affordability due to the capital costs associated with building a new school, and also the revenue costs
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		associated with adding an additional secondary provider.
2.11.2	It's unfair that the high number of pupils at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd are forced to travel to other towns when Newtown is the largest town in Powys.	As above.
2.11.3	If there is no Welsh-medium secondary education in Newtown, children attending Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd are highly likely not to continue with their education in Welsh in secondary school.	As above.
2.11.4	Pupils living in Newtown will still have to travel around 25 miles a day.	As above.
2.11.5	This isn't a solution to the need for accessible Welsh-medium secondary education for children in the Severn Valley or North East Montgomeryshire.	As above.
2.11.6	The location of the school does not serve the wider Welsh-medium pupils of the area.	It is acknowledged that secondary provision in a different location would be more convenient for pupils that currently attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng and some other Welsh-medium primary providers in the area. However, whilst consideration was previously given to establishing designated Welsh-medium secondary provision, this is not currently being considered, primarily due to affordability due to the capital costs associated with building a new school, and also the revenue costs associated with adding an additional secondary provider.
2.11.7	It will be difficult to convince those in some of the feeder schools that this is right location.	Comment noted. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, there will be a need for the school to work with feeder schools to develop links to promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion.

2.11.8	Don't object to Welsh-medium schools in Welsh speaking areas of Wales, however this isn't the right area as it is too close to England.	The Council does not agree that Llanfair Caereinion is too close to England to become a Welsh-medium school. The Llanfair Caereinion area is one of the areas with the highest levels of Welsh speakers in Powys.
2.11.9	We are too close to the English border for a Welsh-medium school.	As above.

## 2.12 Other comments

2.12.1	The PISA assessments have just been announced. They show that Wales has fallen to its lowest level ever in maths, reading and science. This is appalling. Turning Ysgol Bro Caereinion into an all Welsh school will only add to the lowering of standards in these subjects.	The Council does not agree that 'turning Ysgol Bro Caereinion into an all Welsh school will only add to the lowering of standards in these subjects'.
2.12.2	Lots of English speaking parents support the school currently, however this will be lost	Comment noted. Should the proposal be implemented, the Council would hope that pupils living in the area would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken.
2.12.3	The difference in English/Welsh learners is only 35. This does not show that there is no need for an English stream locally.	As indicated in the pupil number information included in the consultation document, it is correct that in September 2023, there were 292 pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and 257 pupils accessing English-medium provision at the school, which is a difference of 35.  However, pupil numbers in the school's primary phase were as follows:  Welsh medium: 74 English medium: 50

		In addition, the information about pupil numbers in the remainder of the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment provided on page 13 of the consultation document shows that there is a significant difference between Welsh-medium and English-medium pupil numbers in the primary phase; there are 566 pupils accessing Welsh-medium primary provision in the Bro Caereinion catchment, and 105 pupils accessing English-medium primary provision.
2.12.4	English-medium pupil numbers outnumber the Welsh	This is incorrect. See above.
2.12.5	The number of children in Welsh-medium reception classes is not a true reflection of demand as a number plan to move their children across to the English stream in secondary. Some will have additional learning needs and not be able to progress in the Welsh stream, and a number felt pressurised to put their children in Welsh-medium classes to that they were with their peers.	Comment noted. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
2.12.6	The proposal completely contradicts the purpose of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.	The proposal's impact on the Well-being Goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is considered in the impact assessment document which was published as part of the consultation documentation.
2.12.7	The majority of schools in the catchment provide education in Welsh, this option is already available here so this change is not needed.	Whilst there is currently access to Welsh-medium primary provision at many schools in the catchment, and access to Welsh-medium secondary provision at many dual stream schools in the area, there is no access to designated Welsh-medium secondary provision where pupils can access full Welsh-medium provision.

### **SECTION 3 – OTHER COMMENTS**

### 3.1 Comments about Ysgol Bro Caereinion

#### 3.1.1 Comments about the current provision at the school

3.1.1.1	Our experience at Bro Caereinion has been much more positive than other local schools, it is a wonderful high school with great staff, it would be such a shame to change things.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.2	This school is the only local one I wish to send my child to as it is the only one that is safe.	Comment noted, however the Council does not agree that other schools in the area are 'unsafe'.
3.1.1.3	The strength of Caereinion is that it's a rural school and children are sheltered which is why parents send their children there, and why they come to live in Tregynon.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.4	The Welsh second language provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion is better than other schools in the area.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.5	Educational standards and pupil numbers have been steadily declining in Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.6	I have concerns about the quality of teaching my child will receive now if I choose Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.7	Concern about the current standard of teaching at the school, particularly as the school is already struggling to fill posts.	Comment noted.
3.1.1.8	There are often support teachers standing in for maths lessons, who offer minimal support and don't speak Welsh.	Comment noted. The Council is aware there have been challenges with recruiting a Welsh-speaking maths teacher at the school.
3.1.1.9	The quality of teaching at the school is questionable – many staff only get jobs because they can speak Welsh.	The Council does not agree with the statement that 'many staff only get jobs because they can speak Welsh'.
3.1.1.10	Sixth form options are poor for pupils learning in English	Comment noted. The Council agrees that the need to duplicate provision at the school means that it is more difficult to provide a wide range of provision for pupils studying in either language.

3.1.1.11	The sixth form offer is quite poor, so a number of pupils go to Shrewsbury where Welsh language is not an option.	As above.
3.1.1.12	The school has suffered in the past 5 years from lack of provision and E-Ysgol and Trisgol which don't provide a good enough standard of education, meaning that pupils have suffered lack of options and poor delivery of education in certain subjects.	As above.
3.1.1.13	Currently the school has poor option provisions for Welsh medium pupils post 14 and post 16.	As above.
3.1.1.14	In the last 3 years, how many GCSE options have been offered to Caereinion pupils? In comparison, how many options have been offered in Ysgol Llanfyllin, Welshpool and Newtown High Schools?	<p>The information held by the Council shows that the options subjects currently being studied by Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils in years 10 and 11 at Ysgol Bro Caereinion include the following:</p> <p>Agriculture, Art and Design, Business, Design &amp; Technology, French, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Music, Physical Education, Spanish, Welsh Literature, Hospitality and Catering</p> <p>This is a total of 13 subjects.</p> <p>The information held by the authority shows that the number of options subjects currently being studied by pupils in years 10 and 11 at Ysgol Llanfyllin, Welshpool High School and Newtown High School are as follows:</p> <p>Ysgol Llanfyllin: 19 subjects  Welshpool High School: 17 subjects  Newtown High School: 15 subjects</p>
3.1.1.15	There are gaps in the Welsh language courses offered at present (e.g. no Welsh speaking maths teacher).	The Council is aware that currently some subjects are taught in English to Welsh-medium pupils.



3.1.1.16	Welsh-medium pupils are currently taught in English for some subjects	As above.
3.1.1.17	Some children are having their triple award science in both languages at the same time – we will be keeping a close eye on how this impacts their grades.	As above.
3.1.1.18	When is the next inspection planned for Ysgol Bro Caereinion?	It is expected that Ysgol Bro Caereinion will be inspected before the end of the current inspection cycle.
3.1.1.19	What extra subjects would be offered through the medium of Welsh compared to the current offering?	The subjects offered will be determined by the school.

### 3.1.2 Comments about buildings and facilities at the school

3.1.2.1	The school building is not fit for purpose and is letting the staff, pupils and community down.	The Council notes these concerns about the condition of the Ysgol Bro Caereinion buildings and the lack of investment in the building over recent years.
3.1.2.2	The school building is in disrepair and cold, and lacks many modern facilities.	As above.
3.1.2.3	The current buildings are in a poor and ageing state.	As above.
3.1.2.4	Bro Caereinion's building has not been maintained properly for years. It's disgraceful.	As above.
3.1.2.5	There is a huge need for investment on both sites to improve the building and resources available to our children. They deserve this investment.	As above.
3.1.2.6	The windows on the front of the school have not been changed since the school was built in 1953.	As above.
3.1.2.7	The state of the building and sports facilities at the school are a disgrace.	As above.
3.1.2.8	There is much need for investment in the fabric of the school and its supporting infrastructure, such as sporting facilities.	As above.

3.1.2.9	Significant investment is needed in the facilities of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's secondary campus to be able to implement the new curriculum and to provide an exciting and comfortable space for children to learn and teachers to teach.	As above.
3.1.2.10	Investment is needed to attract more parents and pupils to the school.	As above.
3.2.2.11	Students and staff feel disappointed with the building they are greeted with when they enter the secondary education system at Ysgol Bro Caereinion – particularly for pupils from Newtown and Welshpool who had the opportunity to attend primary school in brand new buildings.	As above.
3.2.2.12	At a recent open evening, many parents commented on the state of the building and its suitability for pupils. This is impacting on whether or not parents decide to send pupils to Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	As above.
3.2.2.13	Ysgol Bro Caereinion is very much behind the rest of the schools in the county in terms of buildings. Even the pupils can see this when they attend other schools for sports etc.	As above.
3.2.2.14	It's heartbreaking to see how far behind our school is in terms of investment.	As above.
3.2.2.15	Other schools in the area such as Llanfyllin have had investment for a new sixth form, we should have the same in Llanfair.	As above.

### 3.1.3 Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils are treated differently

3.1.3.1	The school is biased towards Welsh-medium pupils.	These comments about perceived different treatment for pupils in the Welsh-medium and English-medium streams at Ysgol Bro Caereinion are noted. One of the difficulties associated with dual stream schools is that often there are tensions between the two streams.
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3.1.3.2	The English stream is frowned upon and have less opportunities than children attending the Welsh stream.	As above.
3.1.3.3	There has been constant tension between the Welsh and English streams at the school.	As above.
3.1.3.4	Teachers are nicer to Welsh-medium pupils – teachers that ask the Welsh stream pupils how they are doing and offer lots of help don't make an effort with English stream pupils.	As above.
3.1.3.5	The Welsh stream have more opportunities compared to the English stream, such as more trips and learning experiences.	As above.
3.1.3.6	The English stream aren't offered the same trips or fun activities as the Welsh stream.	As above.
3.1.3.7	The Welsh stream have more opportunities to go on trips.	As above.
3.1.3.8	The Welsh stream go on more school trips than the English stream. This causes resentment amongst pupils and parents towards the Welsh language. Why not include English stream pupils on trips that broaden their knowledge and interest in Wales, the Welsh language, its history, culture and heritage?	As above.
3.1.3.9	The Welsh stream have better classrooms.	As above.
3.1.3.10	The new Welsh block constructed at the school in the 90s was out of bounds for English speaking pupils. Welsh-medium pupils were taught in the new classrooms, whilst the English stream were taught in crumbling rooms and portacabins.	As above.
3.1.3.11	Segregation has already started in the school's primary phase as Welsh and English speaking groups are kept apart during break times.	The Council is unaware of this situation. Arrangements for break times would be a matter for the school.

### 3.1.4 English-medium pupils at the school benefit from more exposure to the Welsh language

3.1.4.1	It is a positive for pupils in the English stream at the school to be around fluent Welsh speaking peers who can help and support them with their Welsh.	<p>Implementation of the proposal would mean that in future, all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion, would become fluent in both Welsh and English. This is not currently the case – typically, it is only pupils that access Welsh-medium education that become fluent in Welsh.</p> <p>Should pupils choose to attend other schools instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, they would continue to study Welsh as a Second Language up to GCSE level.</p> <p>All schools are expected to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills, regardless of whether or not Welsh-medium education is provided.</p>
3.1.4.2	Pupils in the English stream benefit from being immersed in the Welsh language and culture and from hearing and using the Welsh language widely with friends and teachers.	As above.
3.1.4.3	Pupils learn a lot of Welsh during break and lunch from their friends in the Welsh stream.	As above.
3.1.4.4	The Welsh speaking staff provide support to Welsh second language pupils in all areas of the curriculum.	As above.
3.1.4.5	Welsh second language pupils are valued at Caereinion and have many opportunities to take part in Welsh language activities.	As above.
3.1.4.6	Those in the English stream are regularly exposed to the Welsh language and engage in Welsh cultural activities such as the Urdd.	The Council notes these comments about pupils in the English stream at Ysgol Bro Caereinion being able to access Welsh cultural activities such as the Urdd. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would hope that any alternative English-medium provision pupils might choose to attend would

		also provide access to Welsh cultural activities such as the Urdd.
3.1.4.7	Ysgol Bro Caereinion and previously Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Ysgol Gynradd Caereinion have had great success in the Urdd with Welsh learners.	As above.
3.1.4.8	In 2022/23, 50 English stream pupils from Ysgol Bro Caereinion joined the Urdd and competed with their Welsh-medium friends in Welsh cultural and social activities.	As above.
3.1.4.9	Historically Caereinion has excelled in Eisteddfod competitions with second language pupils.	As above.
3.1.4.10	Ysgol Bro Caereinion has historically encouraged all pupils to complete in Urdd cultural and sporting competitions, but this is not widely offered in the alternative English-medium secondary provisions.	As above.

### 3.1.5 Comments about the governors at Ysgol Bro Caereinion

3.1.5.1	The school governors are obviously keen to push this through without backing from parents. They are there to support parents, but clearly they aren't doing this.	The current process to change the school's language category is being led by the Council, not by the school governors.
3.1.5.2	The governors have shown no empathy for the children at the school, including the Welsh-medium children who may well have siblings in the English stream and not will likely have to be educated in different schools.	The Council does not agree that 'the governors have shown no empathy for the children at the school...' The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council, not the school's governors.
3.1.5.3	The governors of the school are biased towards the Welsh-medium stream and are not representing the views and interests of the English-medium pupils as they should be.	A meeting with the school's governing body was held as part of the process, during which the governors expressed many concerns about the proposal, which included concern about its impact on English-medium pupils currently attending the school.

3.1.5.4	Are there representatives from English-medium pupils and parents on the governing body? If not this isn't proportionate and those families are not being represented.	Parent governors are elected to the governing body following a voting process. Any English-medium parents wishing to be a member of the governing body could have submitted a nomination to become a parent governor.
3.1.5.5	There are a number of non-Welsh speaking governors at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, will they be removed from the governing body from 2025?	Non-Welsh speaking governors would not be removed from the governing body should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal. Across Powys and Wales, there are many governors of Welsh-medium schools who do not speak Welsh themselves.

### 3.1.6 Other comments

3.1.6.1	If the proposal goes ahead, will the school be committed to supporting all pupils in the English stream and continue to offer GCSE/A level options in English until the provision is fully phased out?	Yes, the school will need to continue to ensure that appropriate provision is available for English-medium students during the transition period.
3.1.6.2	In the last 5 years, how many Caereinion High School year 11 leavers have continued their post 16 education outside Wales?	The Council does not hold destination data for year 11 pupils so it is not possible to provide this information. However the Council is fully aware that a significant number of pupils from Powys schools transfer to colleges in England to access post 16 education.
3.1.6.3	What are the Welsh language skills of current teachers and staff at the school?	<p>Based on the latest School Workforce Annual Census from November 2023, the Welsh language skills of teachers and staff at the school were as follows:</p> <p><b><u>Teachers</u></b>  No Welsh language skills: 10  Entry Level: 1  Foundation Level: 3  Intermediate Level: 0  Advanced Level: 1</p>

		<p>Proficient Level: 31  <b>Total: 46</b></p> <p><b>All staff</b>  No Welsh language skills: 12  Entry Level: 8  Foundation Level: 6  Intermediate Level: 2  Advanced Level: 2  Proficient Level: 38  <b>Total: 68</b></p>
3.1.6.4	There is outline planning permission for 40+ houses in the Caereinion area which would increase pupil numbers in future.	There is sufficient space at Ysgol Bro Caereinion to accommodate any increase in pupil numbers in the area in the future.
3.1.6.5	Bridging classes were successful in the school years ago before they came to an end, most likely because no funding was available.	Comment noted.
3.1.6.6	Pupil numbers at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion used to be much higher, however English-medium pupils were lost due to changes in the transport policy.	Comment noted.

### 3.2 Comments / queries about other schools

#### 3.2.1 Ysgol Rhiw Bechan

3.2.1.1	What is the long term plan for Ysgol Rhiw Bechan? Is the intention to change that to solely Welsh-medium education as well?	There is no current plan to change the language category of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, however the Council has a duty to monitor its school provision and make changes where required.
3.2.1.2	Based on the information in the Consultation Document, only 55 of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan's 144 pupils are in the English	As above.

	stream, so the language category of that school should also be changed to Welsh-medium.	
3.2.1.3	Will this have a knock on effect on other schools? Ysgol Rhiw Bechan is bilingual but English speaking pupils will no longer have the choice of Ysgol Bro Caereinion as their secondary school so these future pupils may go to other primary schools as they will have to attend other high schools. In the future will this affect Ysgol Rhiw Bechan to also change the language category?	As above.  Whilst it is possible that any change to Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category would further increase the number of pupils at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan choosing to access Welsh-medium provision, it is also possible that the proposed change to primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion would mean that pupils will attend English-medium provision at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan.
3.2.1.4	By moving Ysgol Bro Caereinion to be a Welsh-medium school, it would be reasonable to expect Ysgol Rhiw Bechan to also move along the continuum to become a Welsh-medium school. It would be more difficult for Welsh-medium pupils from Ysgol Rhiw Bechan to transfer to a Welsh-medium secondary school from a dual stream primary school.	The current has no current plans to change the language category of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, however the Council has a duty to monitor its school provision and make changes required. Whilst acknowledging that Ysgol Rhiw Bechan would be the only dual stream provider in the catchment, there is no reason why they would be unable to attend designated Welsh-medium secondary provision. This is currently the case at Sennybridge C.P. School, a dual stream primary school located in south Powys, where a number of Welsh-medium pupils transfer to Ysgol Ystalyfera Bro Dur, a Welsh-medium school, to access secondary provision.
3.2.1.5	What support will there be for English speaking staff at Rhiw Bechan if pupil numbers drop and there is no longer a viable English stream at the school?	Dual stream schools are required to ensure appropriate staffing arrangements to reflect the profile of pupils within the two streams. In many cases, dual stream schools consider Welsh language skills when appointing to all positions, to ensure they have the flexibility to react to changes in pupil numbers within the streams.



		<p>Staff at all schools are encouraged to develop their Welsh language skills, and the Council would expect that staff at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan that don't speak Welsh already have opportunities to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Should pupil numbers in the English-medium stream reduce to a point where there was a need to review the school's language category, a statutory process would need to be carried out, and consideration would be given to support for staff at that time.</p>
3.2.1.6	Powys' transition plans states that schools can only hold one transition plan. If that is the case, the school cannot have two different secondary schools where its pupils go, therefore by Powys' own plans there is a need for the school category to change of a very large Trochi unit to be included in Rhiw Bechan to move pupils to Welsh medium well before year 6.	Whilst the preference would be that primary schools feed one secondary school, there are situations in Powys where schools feed more than one secondary school.
3.2.1.7	Ysgol Rhiw Bechan parents have already chosen either Welsh-medium or English-medium. It would be very difficult to persuade parents to make the step from English-medium to Welsh-medium, as they have already chosen English-medium.	Comment noted. Pupils / parents not wishing to move from English-medium provision to Welsh-medium provision could access English-medium provision at alternative schools.

### 3.2.2 Other primary providers

3.2.2.1	Of the three alternative primary provisions named in the consultation document, Ysgol Rhiw Bechan is full and strongly discouraging any English medium pupils to cross their threshold, Berriew is almost full and had to turn 5 YBC families away in first week of consultation launch and so that leaves just Meifod.	As the proposal is to introduce the proposed change on a phased basis, English-medium primary provision would continue to be available at Ysgol Bro Caereinion for pupils currently attending this provision, so there would be no need for pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school to transfer to alternative schools.
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		In the future, the Council would hope that new pupils in Llanfair Caereinion would access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however any pupils wishing to access English-medium provision at other schools in the area would be able to apply for places at alternative schools, and these would be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy.
3.2.2.2	You say there are places available in other schools, however this is not the case – Berriew have said they are unable to accept more children as they are limited to 15 children per cohort. Whilst there may be some spaces available, it will be down to luck if your children can be accepted.	As above.
3.2.2.3	Two of the three alternative primary schools suggested for English-medium children do not have sufficient places. What will the PCC policy be for offering English-medium places to children in the Caereinion catchment?	As above.
3.2.2.4	Will the feeder schools like Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd be forced to come to Bro Caereinion to boost the numbers?	Feeder schools will not be 'forced' to come to Bro Caereinion. Parents are entitled to apply for a place at any school they choose. However, should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, there will be a need for the school to work with feeder schools to develop links to promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion. In addition, there will be a need to ensure that other arrangements are in place to promote Ysgol Bro Caereinion, such as transport arrangements and capital investment.
3.2.2.5	Will pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd still have the option to choose to continue their Welsh-medium education in Llanidloes High School if they choose to instead of Ysgol Bro Caereinion?	Parents are entitled to apply for a place at any school they choose, and would still be able to apply for a place at Llanidloes High School should that be their preference.

3.2.2.6	Children living in Newtown who attended Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd have had the option to pay for transport to Llanidloes High School, which is over subscribed, even though Bro Caereinion is their nearest Welsh stream school. This has impacted on the numbers attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.
3.2.2.7	In the last 5 years, what was the leavers data for Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng and how many of those went to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion / Bro Caereinion for their secondary education?	<p>Information about the proportion of pupils educated in Welsh in Year 6 during 2020-21 and continuing to be educated in Welsh in Year 7 during 2021-22 is included in the Council's WESP for 2022-32. This shows that between the 2020/21 academic year and the 2021/22 academic year, 20 of the 23 pupils in Year 6 at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd transferred to Welsh-medium secondary provision, which is 87%, whilst only 2 of the 9 pupils in Year 6 at Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng transferred to Welsh-medium secondary provision, which is 22%. However, this would include pupils transferring to Welsh-medium provision at Llanidloes High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin and any other Welsh-medium providers as well as Ysgol Bro Caereinion.</p> <p>In September 2023, 12 out of the 17 pupils in Year 6 in Dafydd Llwyd transferred to Welsh-medium secondary provision, which is 70.5%. Seven of these transferred to Ysgol Bro Caereinion, with 5 transferring to Llanidloes High School. Seven of the 11 pupils in Year 6 at Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng transferred to Welsh-medium secondary provision, which is 63.3%. All seven transferred to Ysgol Bro Caereinion.</p>

### 3.2.3 Other secondary providers

3.2.3.1	Do Welshpool and Llanfyllin High Schools have the capacity and resources for so many additional pupils?	Both Welshpool High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin have capacity to accommodate any additional pupils wanting to access these schools. However, pupils currently accessing English-medium secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at the school, and the number of pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision in the catchment is relatively low, so the number of additional pupils should be low.
3.2.3.2	How are you ensuring that the other high schools will cope with all the extra applicants due to this change?	As above.
3.2.3.3	Our nearest English school would be Newtown High school. This is not somewhere I want to send my children. I want my children to be and feel safe.	Comment noted. Parents can apply for a place for their children in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, pupils could access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, or they could apply for a place in an alternative school that offers English-medium provision, either Newtown High School or a different school.
3.2.3.4	The alternative provisions for English medium education in the local area are not highly rated by Estyn. The Council want to send English medium pupils to a worse rated school with no transport provided.	<p>This statement is incorrect.</p> <p>Having only been opened since September 2022, Ysgol Bro Caereinion have not been inspected by Estyn. However, prior to the new school opening, when Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion was last inspected by Estyn in 2017, it was placed in need of Significant Improvement.</p> <p>Newtown High School was inspected by Estyn in 2023 and is not in any formal follow up category.</p>

		<p>Llanidloes High School was inspected in February 2024 and although the formal report has not yet been released, there are no concerns over the standard of education at the school.</p> <p>Welshpool High School was last inspected by Estyn in 2017. The school was judged as good for standards and did not need any form of follow up inspection activity.</p> <p>Ysgol Llanfyllin have not been inspected since they became an all-through school.</p> <p>Therefore, based on the last inspections at the local high schools, pupils would be transferring to better provision and standards than the last inspection at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion.</p>
3.2.3.5	If dual stream schools are failing in Caereinion, why are they not being phased out in Llanfyllin and Llanidloes?	The Council has not stated that 'dual stream schools are failing'. However it is a fact that in contrast to other areas of Wales, Powys pupils are currently unable to access a designated Welsh-medium secondary school. The current proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion aims to address this situation.
3.2.3.6	Are the same proposals being considered for other dual stream schools such as Llanfyllin? All the reasons for changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion outlined in the report (costs, efficiency, language, curriculum etc) surely apply to Llanfyllin and Llanidloes too?	There are no current plans to change the Welsh-medium provision at Llanfyllin.
3.2.3.7	Will the Welsh offer available at Llanfyllin and Llanidloes be reduced to encourage attendance at Bro Caereinion?	There are no current plans to change the Welsh-medium provision at Llanfyllin and Llanidloes, however should the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion be implemented, the Council

		would need to ensure that arrangements were in place to ensure that pupils wishing to access designated Welsh-medium provision instead of dual stream provision were able to do so.
3.2.3.8	Will other English schools in Powys be moved along the language continuum? If dual streams aren't effective how can this happen?	Whilst the Council's aspiration is for all schools to move along the language continuum, this means something different for each school depending on their current situation, and can be achieved in a number of ways. The Council has no current plans to introduce new Welsh-medium streams, particularly in the secondary sector, however it is acknowledged that this can be an option to introduce Welsh-medium primary provision in areas where it is not currently available.
3.2.3.9	There is no capacity at Llanidloes High School for pupils wishing to access English-medium provision there.	It is correct that there is currently pressure on places at Llanidloes High School. However, Llanidloes High School is unlikely to be the closest alternative English-medium secondary provider for pupils currently accessing English-medium primary provision in the Bro Caereinion catchment – this is likely to be either Welshpool High School or Newtown High School.
3.2.3.10	It's likely that other schools will have to go through similar processes in the next few years. Parents don't understand this – they think other schools will be there in their current forms for ever, but they may not be.	Comment noted.

### 3.3 Comments about impact on staff

3.3.1	There are more than 5 years to make the changes in the secondary sector, so the Authority should be able to manage the situation in terms of staff redundancies.	The Council agrees that the proposal to change the school's language category on a phased basis provides an opportunity to manage any changes in terms of staffing requirements over this time.
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3.3.2	How will the Council and the Governing Body evidence their fulfilment of their employer's duty to avoid compulsory redundancies?	As the proposal is to change the school's language category on a phased basis, there will be an opportunity to manage any changes in terms of staffing requirements over the transition period. The Council will take all reasonable measures to avoid compulsory redundancies.
3.3.3	Request for a commitment from PCC and YBC that there will be no compulsory redundancies as part of this process, and pay protection for any member impacted through any structural change in line with STPC(W)D provisions.	The Council will take all reasonable measures to avoid compulsory redundancies in line with the relevant policies and procedures. All staff will be supported through the process and will receive appropriate protections according to the relevant terms and conditions.
3.3.4	Please provide evidence that the school / governing body are aware of / acting on their duty of care as outlined in HSE Management Standards in terms of avoiding unnecessary stress in the work place, which include considerations specifically about how change is managed and how much say / control employees have in decisions affecting them.	All staff have been encouraged to participate in the consultation process and have been offered support via the Council's Employee Assistance Programme (ViVup). Staff have been offered individual meetings with the Schools' HR Team and should a formal employment consultation be required will be offered further support as part of this.
3.3.5	What is the school/governing body doing to proactively manage this period of change / potential change for staff?	The Council offers support to all staff via the employee Assistance Programme (ViVup), through which all staff can access a variety of specific interventions including counselling. Information with signposting to other organisations that can offer support has been provided to the school and will be offered again to all staff should a formal staff consultation process be required.
3.3.6	Concern that changing the school's language category is not providing staff with fair or equal opportunities to retain their jobs. If they don't speak Welsh or are not willing to immerse themselves in learning the language, they risk losing their jobs.	As stated above, staff will be offered the opportunity and support to increase their Welsh Language skills. The Council is committed to taking all reasonable measures to avoid compulsory redundancies and the Schools' HR Team will continue to work with affected staff to provide support and advice about all options,

		including redeployment if that is an option staff wish to pursue.
3.3.7	Concern about the impact on staff who may lose their jobs during a cost of living crisis when the economy is at its worst.	See above.
3.3.8	We share the concern of staff, including those who can teach through the medium of Welsh, that the changes could impact on pupil numbers at the school (in the short term in particular), which could impact on staffing requirements. We ask the Council to ensure that sufficient funding is available to safeguard jobs during the transition period.	Comment noted.
3.3.9	Would staff have the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills during work time?	Yes staff would have the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills during work time.
3.3.10	Would all staff have to be able to speak Welsh? What about kitchen staff, dinner ladies etc?	Whilst the aspiration would be that all staff in a Welsh-medium school would be able to communicate in Welsh, it is acknowledged that in practice, this may not be possible for all positions, and in reality there are situations in Welsh-medium schools where staff such as kitchen staff do not speak Welsh.

### 3.4 Comments about additional support that would be needed to support the change

#### 3.4.1 Trochi provision

3.4.1.1	Intensive trochi lessons will be needed to ensure that children in year 6 and below are ready to access Welsh-medium provision in year 7.	<p>The Council agrees that Trochi provision will need to be provided to support any change to the school's language category.</p> <p>A Language Centre will be running in Ysgol Bro Caereinion this summer, offering an opportunity for pupils across Montgomeryshire to join Welsh-medium education at a later stage.</p>
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		If the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category goes ahead, the intention is that the Language Centre would remain at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, to ensure that all pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision at a later stage would have the opportunity to do so.
3.4.1.2	Trochi provision should be available as a matter of course for anyone transferring from mainly English-medium education to Welsh-medium education. It will be important that the provision is flexible enough to allow more support for those that need it.	As above.
3.4.1.3	It's essential that the immersion work starts soon, and includes other organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin and the Urdd.	As above.
3.4.1.4	Where will the funding to be able to provide 'Trochi' for English-medium learners come from?	Trochi provision is currently funded by the Welsh Government through a grant.
3.4.1.5	A lot of money would need to be invested in Trochi provision to support implementation of the proposal.	As above.
3.4.1.6	Could the immersion period be extended for a longer period to address the concerns of parents that 10/12 weeks is not long enough to learn a language?	10-12 weeks of intensive language learning is the period that research indicates is most effective. This is the length of intensive support in a Language Centre, but support for learners continues beyond this initial period when pupils return to their schools. If the proposal goes ahead, teachers in Ysgol Bro Caereinion would also receive additional training to support them in meeting the needs of pupils who have joined Welsh-medium education at a later stage.
3.4.1.7	Trochi provision needs to be a long term provision to support pupils/parents, not just for a term.	As above.
3.4.1.8	There is a need to provide support to English-medium pupils accessing the 'trochi' provision for a long time for this change to be positive for everyone.	As above.

3.4.1.9	What ongoing support will there be following the initial 10 week course?	<p>Support for learners continues beyond the initial 10-12 week Trochi provision. Currently, up to 12 months support is provided for pupils after they have attended the Trochi provision, which consists of a Trochi support assistant visiting pupils at their schools for half a day a week. Online lessons are also provided for pupils.</p> <p>Going forward the nature of the ongoing support provided to pupils after they have attended the initial 10-12 course at the Centre will be planned by the Swyddogion y Gymraeg team in discussion with the school, according to the needs of the pupils.</p>
3.4.1.10	Immersion provision will also need to be available for non-Welsh speaking children that move to the area.	Comment noted.
3.4.1.11	How many children have undertaken the Trochi course in Powys, and of those, how many have completed their education in Welsh?	28 children have undertaken the Trochi course in Powys so far and 25 of these are still in Welsh medium education. The provision has only been running for 3 years, so none of the pupils have completed their education yet.
3.4.1.12	More information needs to be available about the Trochi provision that will be put in place. Successful outcomes from this provision need to be highlighted.	Comment noted. Information about Trochi provision will be shared as part of the Council's 'Destination Bilingual' programme in due course.
3.4.1.13	The Council should ask English-speaking parents who have put their children in the Welsh stream to talk about their experiences to support implementation of the Trochi provision.	As above.
3.4.1.14	The Estyn report on Trochi acknowledges a less favourable outcome for children over the age of 7. How would this be addressed for older children taking part?	It is recognised that immersion education is ideally started at an earlier stage, however a scoping review of research on immersion education conducted for Welsh Government in 2021 found that:

		<p>‘some research on middle and late immersion notes that students who take part in late immersion provision can sometimes perform as well as students who participated in early immersion.’<sup>2</sup></p> <p>The scoping review notes that there are many factors which have an effect on the efficacy of late immersion, including a communicative approach to language learning, authentic opportunities to use the target language and a continuation in immersion education after the initial intensive period of language learning. The Canolfan Iaith in Powys is organised with this research at the centre of the provision.</p>
3.4.1.15	Mudiad Meithrin’s <i>Croesi’r Bont</i> programme provides support with immersion and supports transition from the Cylch Meithrin to school. This could be further developed with financial support.	Comment noted.

### 3.4.2 Additional support for pupils

3.4.2.1	Children from English speaking households would need additional support in school as this would not be available to them at home.	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the transition process to identify any additional support needed and to ensure that arrangements are made to offer appropriate provision for pupils and their parents / families. This could include Welsh lessons for parents,</p>
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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/late-immersion-and-intensive-language-provision-quick-scoping-review>, Page 24

		<p>support with homework, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.</p> <p>There would also be opportunities to work with and learn from other Welsh-medium schools across Wales in terms of the support they provide for parents / carers.</p>
3.4.2.2	Children will need full support throughout school to enable them to continue in Welsh-medium provision for their whole school life.	As above.
3.4.2.3	I have yet to feel assurance that those children identified as most impacted by any change would be accommodated and supported through any change.	Comment noted.
3.4.2.4	There needs to be a commitment for additional resources to support children's transition.	Comment noted.
3.4.2.5	It's vital that the school's ALN department is supported in investing in relevant interventions and sharing good practice for those with weaker language skills in Welsh.	Comment noted.

### 3.4.3 ALN Provision

3.4.3.1	Additional provision would need to be ensured for those children with significant additional learning needs who would need support to develop their skills in two languages so that they could remain in their communities rather than have to travel.	Comment noted.
3.4.3.2	There is a need for a Welsh-medium secondary school with a specialist ALN centre to offer this provision. The new ALN Code states that equal access to Welsh-medium education for pupils with ALN is essential.	Comment noted.

### 3.4.4 Support for staff

3.4.4.1	Funding and support needs to be provided for those wanting to improve their language skills so that they can teach in Welsh.	It is acknowledged that should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, opportunities would need to be provided for staff to improve their Welsh language skills, and this would need to be funded. The Council would work with other organisations including Welsh Government and Welsh for Adults to identify appropriate opportunities and how these could be funded.
3.4.4.2	A trochi system will be needed to support staff unable to speak Welsh.	As above.
3.4.4.3	Opportunities to be provided for teachers to access 'gloywi iaith' provision to ensure quality.	As above.
3.4.4.4	A variety of training and development opportunities must be available for staff, with flexibility in the provision.	As above.
3.4.4.5	Ensuring that there is a plan and investment in the workforce will be essential.	As above.
3.4.4.6	It's essential that the current sabbatical method has it's volume increased and a plan it put together to release a certain amount of staff at a time, to ensure they can also receive intensive Welsh lessons.	Comment noted. The Welsh Government is currently reviewing the Sabbatical scheme, and the expectation is that information about the outcome of this review will be received soon.
3.4.4.7	Although there are already staff at the school, there will be a need to increase the number of staff that can speak Welsh over time.	Comment noted. The Council agrees that there will be a need to increase the number of staff that can speak Welsh over time. Implementation of the proposal on a phased basis would allow time for this to happen, and for any staff wishing to develop their own language skills to do so.
3.4.4.8	Some subjects (eg Maths) may need to be taught in English temporarily whilst working is taking place to develop staff language skills. This isn't a long term solution however, and sensible aims would need to be set to develop the workforce.	Comment noted.

### 3.4.5 Support for parents

3.4.5.1	Support will be needed for parents/carers where their first language isn't Welsh	<p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the transition process to identify any additional support needed and to ensure that arrangements are made to offer appropriate provision for pupils and their parents / families. This could include Welsh lessons for parents, support with homework, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.</p> <p>There would also be opportunities to work with and learn from other Welsh-medium schools across Wales in terms of the support they provide for parents / carers.</p>
3.4.5.2	What support will there be for parents to enable their children to confidently make this change?	As above
3.4.5.3	English speaking parents need the reassurance that their children will be able to cope with school work with very little support at home.	As above
3.4.5.4	Currently there isn't enough education/support for parents in English households putting their children through Welsh medium education.	As above
3.4.5.5	Ensure that support is available in English for parents that don't speak Welsh.	As above
3.4.5.6	What resources will be available for English speaking parents to support their children in their Welsh medium education? Homework is a big concern.	As above
3.4.5.7	The following should be considered to help with support for homework: A dedicated language support contact; support provided in Welsh and English for parents who cannot speak	As above.

	Welsh e.g. instructions/explanations; matching English-speaking parents with a parent who is willing to be available to translate; providing opportunities for parents to improve their own language skills.	
3.4.5.8	Support and guidance should be provided to parents so that they know where to look and support should be provided so that they can help and feel that they are supporting their children.	As above.
3.4.5.9	English speaking parents whose children have been through Welsh-medium education could be asked to speak about their experiences.	As above.
3.4.5.9	Provide Welsh lessons for parents.	As above.
3.4.5.10	Free online Welsh lessons should be provided for parents to support pupils.	As above.
3.4.5.11	Provide money to enable parents to learn Welsh, parents are trying but are limited as there is no support there.	As above.
3.4.5.12	Ysgol Bro Caereinion to provide / host Welsh courses for parents.	As above.
3.4.5.13	Free Welsh lessons such as Clwb Cwtsh	As above.
3.4.5.14	Meetings / workshops for parents to explain the benefits of Welsh-medium education and share experiences.	As above.
3.4.5.15	Ensure that information is available for parents to ensure they understand the immersion method and it's effectiveness.	As above.
3.4.5.16	Provide sessions for parents on the history and culture of Wales – more understanding about the language and the country can help to change people's opinions.	As above.

### 3.4.6 Transport arrangements

3.4.6.1	Reviewing the transport policy may help the proposal to be more positively received.	It is acknowledged that the proposed transport arrangements in relation to this proposal, and the lack of transport to alternative English-medium provision, have caused concern in the local community. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.
3.4.6.2	An interim transport policy would alleviate worries from parents who currently have children in Year 5, giving them the option to attend another local school in this transition period, with the idea that ultimately the transport would be fixed to the original policy in time.	As above.
3.4.6.3	The Council should consider reviewing its Transport Policy, even if this is just making a short term exception (e.g. 5 years) in the case of Llanfair Caereinion.	As above.
3.4.6.4	The Council must commit to providing free transport for parents who choose to select English-medium education as a basic equity of right and choice and as equal to nothing less than that offered to a child from Newtown wishing to attend Welsh-medium at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, not just for children affected in the short term but for perpetuity.	As above.
3.4.6.5	Transport could be provided to the nearest English-medium schools to Llanfair Caereinion for learners in the English-medium stream from Reception to Year 5. Not everyone will want to or be able to change to Welsh-medium education. A temporary change to the policy might help to ease their concerns.	As above.
3.4.6.6	The transport policy needs to be addressed as I feel that the county is making it increasingly difficult for parents to have the right to make the right choices for their children's education. Parents are being driven into making choices they would not have made.	As above.



3.4.6.7	There is a need to redress current transport policies to ensure all learners wishing to access Welsh-medium education can have transport to Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.
3.4.6.8	The transport policy should promote access to designated Welsh-medium provision.	Comment noted.
3.4.6.9	I'm concerned that due to public pressure transport will be provided to English language schools. This would defeat the object of the proposal.	Comment noted.

### 3.4.7 Promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion for Welsh-medium pupils in the area

3.4.7.1	To support implementation of this change, the Council needs to consider the learning pathway for those at other schools such as Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Pontrobert etc to ensure that all learners see Ysgol Bro Caereinion as the school of choice to continue their learning. This is essential if the Welsh medium secondary phase at Ysgol Bro Caereinion is to be viable and sustainable in the longer term to help grow numbers.	The Council agrees that should the current proposal be implemented, there will be a need for the school to work with feeder schools to develop links to promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion.
3.4.7.2	Children from Dafydd Llwyd and Trallwng must be encouraged to come to YBC.	As above.
3.4.7.3	More effort is needed to encourage those that have received their primary phase education in Welsh to continue their learning through Welsh-medium.	As above.
3.4.7.4	What will the Council do to make more of an effort to get pupils from Trallwng, Rhiw Bechan and Dafydd Llwyd to come to Bro Caereinion rather than Welshpool, Newtown or Llanidloes?	As above.
3.4.7.5	The Council needs to revisit secondary school catchment areas to ensure progression to full Welsh language education at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.

### 3.4.8 Additional funding

3.4.8.1	There will be a need to ensure that all strategies, plans and funding within the County come together to ensure there is investment in Ysgol Bro Caereinion should the language category change.	Comment noted.
3.4.8.2	More money should be given to the school for the first three years	<p>The Council is aware that there are additional costs associated with transitioning from a dual stream school to a Welsh-medium school. These include costs associated with Trochi provision, staff development, and maintaining appropriate provision for pupils in both streams during the transition period.</p> <p>The Council will continue to discuss additional revenue funding to support the establishment of Welsh-medium provision with Welsh Government and will ensure that any grants available are used to support strategic developments, such as this proposal. The funding formula is reviewed on an ongoing basis, and any changes brought forward are subject to consultation with all Schools. Alongside this, funding may be made available through the Council's annual corporate transformation fund.</p>
3.4.8.3	The Council need to support the transition and invest in the school to ensure it becomes prosperous and to ensure the school's success.	As above.
3.4.8.4	This proposal is ambitious and transformational and represents significant change, so assurance is needed that appropriate funding will be made available to the school to allow a smooth transition. This would include funding over and above what is provided by the funding formula to ensure	As above.

	that the school can continue to provide a breadth of subject choices to attract pupils, whilst giving the opportunity for pupil numbers to grow.	
3.4.8.5	The funding needed for any transitional period (up to 10 years at least) will need to be well above the current funding formula applied across all schools.	As above.
3.4.8.6	If the proposal is to succeed, considerable financial investment would be needed to ensure the school provides a breadth of subjects which are attractive to learners to encourage them to the school and funding for trochi, staff training and other specialist support, as well as investment in the fabric of the buildings.	As above.
3.4.8.7	The school would need adequate financing over the transition period to ensure success, but also funding for development of facilities within the school but also externally such as sporting facilities – leisure centre, 3 or 4G pitch required etc.	As above.
3.4.8.8	It's important that the school is fiscally supported following any change – there will be a time when numbers (and therefore budget) are lower whilst the transformation occurs, it's unfair on staff, pupils and the community for education to be impacted by a lower budget whilst the change is happening.	As above.
3.4.8.9	Assurance is needed that if/when pupil numbers at the school drop, investment will continue and will not be linked to pupil numbers.	The Council's funding formula for schools is based on pupil numbers and other factors. It includes unique factors such as small school teaching and learning top ups, these monies would all be delegated to the school in line with the current funding formula in place. In the short term, it may also be possible to support the school through the Council's annual transformation fund.
3.4.8.10	Will the Council support subjects running in Welsh at the school despite lower numbers?	Whilst it is acknowledged that there could be an impact on secondary pupil numbers at the school in the short

		<p>term, in the longer term the expectation is that pupil numbers would grow.</p> <p>The school will need to determine how many courses can be provided within its budget allocation which is delivered via the funding formula.</p>
3.4.8.11	The additional costs associated with trochi and other specialist support need to be accounted for as well as additional costs associated with staff training.	Trochi provision is currently funded through a Welsh Government grant, and there is also access to Welsh language training which is funded by the Welsh Government.

### 3.4.9 Capital Investment

3.4.9.1	Investment in the school buildings and facilities is essential to support this change.	Comment noted.
3.4.9.2	There needs to be major capital investment into the school to attract pupils and sustain good teaching staff.	Comment noted.
3.4.9.3	Major capital investment is needed in the school otherwise pupils won't come.	Comment noted.
3.4.9.4	There needs to be more investment in the school building and sports facilities.	Comment noted.
3.4.9.5	Funding for a new building needs to be provided as a priority.	Comment noted.
3.4.9.6	A firm commitment to a new school building would solidify the school as the flagship Welsh-medium school in Powys.	Comment noted.
3.4.9.7	The suitability and condition of the building, especially the secondary part of the school, has been identified as poor. How will this be addressed?	<p>The concerns about the condition of the school building is noted. As stated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p><i>'The current plans in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category are not part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment Programme. However, the need for investment in Ysgol Bro Caereinion's buildings is recognised, particularly to</i></p>

		<p><i>support the school's strategic role as a provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision. This will be reflected in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which is due to be developed in 2023/24.'</i></p> <p>The Council is currently working on its revised SOP. This is due to be considered by Cabinet and submitted to Welsh Government before the end of March 2024.</p>
3.4.9.8	Will there be any investment in the building to implement the Curriculum for Wales in an inspiring way?	As above.

### 3.4.10 Raising awareness

3.4.10.1	If the proposals move forward, a robust information and public relations plan is needed to accompany this, as well as ongoing engagement with all key stakeholders, including learners and their parents / guardians.	The Council has developed promotional materials relating to Welsh-medium education and the benefits of bilingualism, including a webpage, information leaflets for parents and information shared on social media, however it is acknowledged that should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, a more focussed campaign would be needed to share information with parents / other stakeholders in the Llanfair Caereinion area.
3.4.10.2	Promotional activity will need to take place to support any change.	As above.
3.4.10.3	The Council needs to adopt a more proactive approach to promoting the benefits of bilingualism as is happening in other counties and learn from their experiences and best practice.	As above.
3.4.10.4	The Council needs to emphasise the benefits of bilingualism. This hasn't been clear enough.	As above.

3.4.10.5	Need to explain the positive effects of being bilingual and use examples from other schools that have been successful.	As above.
3.4.10.6	More work to emphasise the success of similar establishments in Wales.	As above.
3.4.10.7	More information needs to be provided about why this is happening. Because there isn't full information, there is fierce opposition from many.	As above.
3.4.10.8	The school will be bilingual – it's essential that this is emphasised, as you have done in the proposal – however this needs to be explained more publicly, on social media maybe.	As above.
3.4.10.9	The positive aspects of being bilingual need to be emphasized.	As above.
3.4.10.10	Market the change positively so that people can understand the advantages of being bilingual.	As above.
3.4.10.11	Work together across sectors to promote the benefits of Welsh-medium education.	As above.
3.4.10.12	There is a need to share the message that Welsh-medium education isn't just a choice for Welsh speaking parents, and that Welsh-medium education doesn't mean that children would 'lose' their English.	As above.
3.4.10.13	There are many programmes which aren't being fully implemented for financial reasons such as 'Kids Soak it Up' and 'Cymraeg o'r Crud' which could be provided with the necessary financial support. These programmes could provide a way of discussing the benefits of Welsh-medium education, bilingualism more generally and Welsh-medium education more specifically with families that would be part of the journey to change the school's language category.	As above.
3.4.10.14	Provide sufficient open sessions for parents to ask questions.	As above.

### 3.4.11 Other comments / queries

3.4.11.1	Plenty of opportunities will need to be provided for children to use their Welsh in school and outside school.	Comment noted.
3.4.11.2	Support would be needed to enable the school to invest in resources that, such as textbooks, display materials etc.	Comment noted.
3.4.11.3	What support will be available to English medium pupils at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan if they don't want to leave Rhiw Bechan and join the Trochi provision at Bro Caereinion?	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, pupils currently attending English-medium provision at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan could either access Trochi provision which would enable them to transfer into Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, or they could choose to attend English-medium secondary provision at an alternative school.

### 3.5 Financial queries

#### 3.5.1 Comments about the financial impact of the proposal

3.5.1.1	How will the estimated £383k per annum savings be achieved?	<p>The £383k per annum were the estimated savings achieved through the delegated budget delivered via the funding formula provided by the Local Authority. The estimated saving achieved is the difference between the dual stream top ups the school currently receives, and the revised small school top up they would receive after transition to Welsh medium.</p> <p>The funding formula has changed with effect the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and the savings will be updated based on the new funding formula in place.</p>
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3.5.1.2	<p>You say in the consultation document that the proposal will realise a £383,000 saving, yet you have confirmed to me that the projected budget position is not known – so the £383,000 cannot be evidenced and has no financial analysis to back it up.</p>	<p>The £383k per annum was the estimated savings achieved through the delegated budget delivered via the funding formula provided by the Local Authority.</p> <p>The funding formula has changed with effect the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and the savings will be updated based on the new funding formula in place.</p> <p>All schools are allocated funding via the funding formula in place and then must work within this funding envelope to set a balanced budget as per the scheme for financing schools.</p>
3.5.1.3	<p>The document mentioned potential financial savings of £383k per annum. Can we see detailed estimations for how this is expected to be achieved? What assumptions have been made to reach these figures?</p>	<p>The £383k per annum was the estimated savings achieved through the delegated budget delivered via the funding formula provided by the Local Authority. The saving achieved is the difference between the dual stream top ups the school currently receives, and the revised small school top up they would receive after transition to Welsh medium.</p> <p>The funding formula has changed with effect the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and the savings will be updated based on the new funding formula in place.</p> <p>It has been assumed that intake levels will remain the same at the school and that all pupils will transfer to the Welsh medium provision. There are no inflationary factors taken into account in the costings and no additional transport costs.</p>
3.5.1.4	<p>What cost savings are anticipated from implementation of this proposal?</p>	<p>The £383k per annum were the estimated savings achieved through the delegated funding formula provided by the Local Authority.</p>



		<p>The funding formula has changed with effect the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and the savings will be updated based on the new funding formula in place.</p> <p>All schools are allocated funding via the funding formula in place and then must work within this funding envelope to set a balanced budget as per the scheme for financing schools.</p>
3.5.1.5	Will Ysgol Bro Caereinion receive much needed additional funding if Welsh only?	The school will be funded via the funding formula in place for all schools.
3.5.1.6	What are the projected redundancy costs as a result of this proposal?	<p>There are no current estimates for redundancy costs because it is not yet known whether there will be any redundancies as a result of this process. The Governing Body will need to review the structure of the school in line with the funding envelope provided to determine what amendments may need to be made to the overall expenditure of the school.</p> <p>All schools are required to plan their curriculum and staffing requirements and set indicative 3 year budgets, and to take forward any necessary processes to manage any changes in the staffing required.</p>
3.5.1.7	In an FOI response you have confirmed that no redundancy costs have been projected, yet we know that there are a substantial cohort of non-Welsh speaking teaching and support staff that will inevitably be made redundant as a result of this proposal.	As above.
3.5.1.8	What are the projected costs for the Trochi provision?	The expectation is that the Trochi provision would be provided by staff already employed within the Swyddogion y Gymraeg team.

		Any additional costs identified when it becomes clearer how many pupils would wish to access this provision would be identified at this time, and would either need to met by the Welsh Government's Trochi grant or directly by the Council.
3.5.1.9	PCC confirmed in response to an FOI that the Council received a grant from Welsh Government for Trochi provision which is £100k a year and this funding will support provision of the centre at YBC but with all grants, there is no guarantee that they will continue, so by 2025 the funding may have ended and there maybe a number of English medium children that have been promised support that cannot be delivered.	The Council's current expectation is that Welsh Government funding will continue to be able to support Trochi provision. Should this not be the case, the Council would need to fund this directly.
3.5.1.10	There will be additional costs associated with implementing the proposal, such as supporting staff with language development.	Comment noted.
3.5.1.11	It seems likely that current transport costs will rise – pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd will still need transporting if they choose to attend Caereinion, and many English speaking pupils will have to be transported to the nearest English medium school.	Transport is already provided for pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd to Ysgol Bro Caereinion. The impact of transporting additional pupils on the same routes would be minimal.  The estimated cost for the English medium pupils if they transferred
3.5.1.12	How many school transport routes are feeding into Ysgol Bro Caereinion currently and what is their total annual cost? As a result of this proposal, how many school transport routes are projected from 2025, and what are the projected costs of these?	Currently there are 11 vehicles providing school transport directly to Ysgol Bro Caereinion. 9 of these vehicles are dedicated school transport vehicles, the other 2 are service buses. The combined annual cost of the 9 dedicated school transport vehicles is £505,366.30.

		The current proposal does not propose any changes to the current school transport arrangements, however access to school transport is a concern that has been raised during the consultation period. This will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.
3.5.1.13	What are the proposed changes going to cost?	The estimated costs were included in the consultation document, which stated that ‘There are no additional costs associated with changing the school’s language category.’
3.5.1.14	The costs of running a smaller school have not been estimated and shared to enable an informed decision to be made.	<p>The estimated costs are based on an assumption that all current pupils would remain at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however it is acknowledged that some pupils may choose to transfer to alternative English-medium provision. It is also possible that there would be an increase in pupils from feeder schools transferring to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at the school, however this has not been included in the estimated costings either. It is not possible to provide in full estimated costs until there is more certainty about future pupil numbers and choices.</p> <p>Within the funding formula there is a small school management top up and small school teaching and learning top up which is included in the costings.</p>
3.5.1.15	Please detail the evidence of the school operating more efficiently as a result of this proposal.	Reduction of duplication of educational provision and possible resources going forward with being Welsh only.

### 3.5.2 Comments about Ysgol Bro Caereinion’s financial position

3.5.2.1	How has the funding formula for the school changed since the school opened as an all-age school to take into account that an all-age school is different to just primary and secondary schools?	All age schools are run on the primary and secondary formulas. This was looked at during the formula review when the first all age school was developed in Powys to ensure the formula provides all age schools with a fair and equitable funding provision.
3.5.2.2	Concern that parents will decide to move their children from Ysgol Bro Caereinion before a final decision is made, which will potentially reduce the number of learners and leave the school in a worse financial position.	Schools are funded via the funding formula, which is driven by pupil numbers. Updated funding is modelled for schools when pupil number changes arise, and schools will need to consider the structure they have in place to ensure they can meet the requirements of the scheme for financing schools in respect of a balanced budget.
3.5.2.3	In June 2023 the published budget figures presented detailed the reality that by March 2026 the school will be facing a £750,000 deficit, but the proposed change will only realise a saving of £383,000, so potentially YBC will still carry a projected deficit of £367,000 from 2032. In response to an FOI request, PCC stated that the projected budget position of the school is not currently known as the budget is based on projected pupil numbers and other factors. The projected pupil numbers should have been prepared before this proposal was put to cabinet and a full cost benefit analysis should have been carried out to demonstrate if the proposal put forward is potentially viable. PCC clearly stated in your response that the school would need to produce a balanced budget based on the updated funding formula if it were to become a Welsh medium school.	<p>Schools are allocated funding via the funding formula and it is the governing bodies responsibility to ensure compliance with the scheme for financing schools and to produce a balanced budget.</p> <p>The latest projection reported by the school in Quarter 3 was showing an in year surplus of £76,210 projected for the 2026-27 financial year and with the projected deficit estimated to reduce to £107k by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.</p> <p>All financial positions for schools will be updated following the confirmation of the Councils budget on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 and the updated funding allocations for 2024-25 and estimates for 2025-26 ongoing.</p> <p>The £383k per annum were the estimated savings achieved through the delegated funding formula provided by the Local Authority.</p>

		The funding formula has changed with effect the 1 <sup>st</sup> April and the savings will be updated based on the new funding formula in place.
3.5.2.4	The key issue at Ysgol Bro Caereinion is the decreasing number of pupils in both language streams that has resulted in less income and higher cost per pupil. In the 2020 consultation to merge Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, we were told in the consultation document that this would realise a saving of £11,000 per annum. This has not been realised. In 2021/22 FY the costs per pupil were £3,974 (P) and £5,527 (S) with an average of £4,751 for both phases, but by 2023/24 the cost per pupil for YBC has increased to £6,601, an increase of 39% in just two years! The 2020 consultation to turn Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion and Ysgol Gynradd Llanfair Caereinion into an all through school was merely a sticking plaster attempt by PCC and this has failed badly.	<p>Demographic trends across Powys indicate clearly that there has been a reduction in the number of children and young people living in the county and it is expected that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future. It is correct that decreasing pupil numbers has an impact on the funding that a school receives because the funding formula is based on pupil numbers. It is also evident that Ysgol Bro Caereinion and its predecessor schools have seen a decreasing pupil population.</p> <p>It is also correct that the cost per pupil at Ysgol Bro Caereinion has increased since the school was established in September 2021. The cost per pupil figure that is published annually is based on the funding formula that is in place each year along with the budget allocated to schools as part of the budget process and any other changes, such as pupil numbers or statistical information, that drives the funding allocation.</p> <p>However, the estimated saving to the Council from the establishment of Ysgol Bro Caereinion has been achieved, as the formula funding requirement for the new school was lower than the previous requirement.</p>

### 3.5.3 Comments about the Council's funding arrangements

3.5.3.1	The problem is the funding model. If it is more expensive to fund a dual stream school, the funding should be increased to meet this requirement.	All age schools are run on the primary and secondary formulas. This was looked at during the formula review when the first all age school was developed in Powys to
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		ensure the formula provides all age schools with a fair and equitable funding provision.
3.5.3.2	Dual stream schools should be funded effectively, there should be different funding arrangements for dual stream schools.	All age schools are run on the primary and secondary formulas. This was looked at during the formula review when the first all age school was developed in Powys to ensure the formula provides all age schools with a fair and equitable funding provision.
3.5.3.3	Why are schools in Powys tremendously underfunded and as a result, destined to always be in a deficit?	All schools are funded via the funding formula in place, schools are required to ensure spend is within the available budget available to them. Funding is based on learner numbers and schools are expected to structure in proportion to their learner numbers.
3.5.3.4	It seems the Council has money to throw at a Welsh-medium school, but not to budget efficiently for a dual stream one.	All age schools are run on the primary and secondary formulas. This was looked at during the formula review when the first all age school was developed in Powys to ensure the formula provides all age schools with a fair and equitable funding provision.
3.5.3.5	Why is more budget allocated to Welsh stream pupils? This is discriminatory.	The only difference between the funding of Welsh medium/dual stream schools and English medium schools is that there is a small allowance under the unique factor section of the formula for translation.

### 3.5.4 Other comments

3.5.4.1	Why not allow for private investment in schools – get money from businesses?	Schools are able to seek sponsorship / investment from businesses to support their budget or for specific projects. Any changes to the building or grounds needs liaison with the LA property department as the landlord.
3.5.4.2	Please can you share a copy of the cost benefit analysis for this proposal.	No 'cost benefit analysis' has been carried out for this proposal. The documentation has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the School

		Organisation Code, which does not require a 'cost benefit analysis' to be prepared.
3.5.4.3	Have heard that money will be thrown at the school if it changes to Welsh-medium from councillors. This is most disturbing – money should be 'thrown' at all children of all abilities, regardless if it's in Welsh or English.	The school will be funded in accordance with the funding formula in place.

### 3.6 Comments about the Welsh Government

3.6.1	This is being forced through to satisfy Welsh Government's plans and not to secure the school's future.	The reasons for the proposal are listed in the Consultation Document. Satisfying the Welsh Government is not one of the reasons.
3.6.2	The Welsh Government need to realise that local people want their children to be taught in English or Welsh.	Comment noted. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, parents would still be able to apply for a place for their child at an alternative school that provides English-medium education, should that be their preference.
3.6.3	Dawn Bowden, Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism said in August 2023: <i>'We want culture in Wales to be for everyone and about everyone. We know culture shapes our identity and influences our behaviour. Wales is a diverse country; our history is rich with the stories and cultures of settled communities and individuals from every corner of the globe who have made Wales their home.</i> Is this decision to change the language of the school celebrating the diversity of Wales and making the local Caereinion area for everyone and about everyone?	Should the proposal be implemented, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.
3.6.4	The proposals have little to do with the quality of education provided, and more to do with reaching the Welsh Government target for the number of Welsh speakers by 2050.	Comment noted.

3.6.5	The target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050 is a fantasy taking the recent census figures into account. With 27 years left, an extra 15,000 speakers are needed every year to attain the fantasy target.	Comment noted.
3.6.6	The Welsh Government needs to recognise that a little Welsh spoken by more people should be celebrated and would be more achievable than 1 million fluent Welsh speakers by 2050.	Comment noted.
3.6.7	The 2050 target for 1 million Welsh speakers is attempting to force the population of Wales to be educated through Welsh instead of nurturing the language and providing it with the support framework to thrive.	Comment noted.
3.6.8	The number of Welsh speakers in Montgomeryshire are decreasing annually. This proposal must happen to support the Welsh Government's target to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	Comment noted.
3.6.9	The proposal would contribute to the Welsh Government's ambition to have a million Welsh speakers.	Comment noted.
3.6.10	This would be a positive step forward towards achieving the national aim to have a million Welsh speakers by 2050.	Comment noted.

### 3.7 Alternative Options

#### 3.7.1 Retain a dual stream school in Llanfair Caereinion

3.7.1	Scrap the proposal	'Status Quo' was one of the options considered when developing this proposal, however this option was discounted as it would not address the challenges identified.
3.7.2	It works well as it is, so there is no need to change.	As above.
3.7.3	Leave it as it is – if it's not broke, don't fix it.	As above.



3.7.4	Keep it as it is and focus on providing good education for all pupils in the communities that access the school.	As above.
3.7.5	Keep it dual stream and focus on getting more pupils to attend.	As above.
3.7.6	Remain dual stream and focus on recruiting to all current Welsh speaking teacher vacancies.	As above.

### 3.7.2 Phase in from Reception only

3.7.2.1	If it does need to change to Welsh medium only, this should start with Reception children only.	<p>Implementing the change in language provision on a phased basis, year by year, starting with Reception only was one of the implementation options considered when developing the current proposal, however this was not the preferred option because it would not address the issues with Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area for a number of years.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
3.7.2.2	Start the change with Reception only and more people would support the change.	As above.
3.7.2.3	Phase in from Reception age only – don't include Year 7. This would give parents a change to think about their child's future.	As above.
3.7.2.4	Phase in from Reception age so that parents can make the decision on which language their children will learn in based	As above.

	on knowing that the future plans are that the school becomes all Welsh.	
3.7.2.5	Start the transition from September 2025 just from Reception age	As above.
3.7.2.6	Start it in reception only from 2025. This will give people time to decide, and the opportunity to make their choices.	As above.
3.7.2.7	Do it gradually through the year groups from Reception, like at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.	As above.
3.7.2.8	It would be fairer to implement at Ysgol Bro Caereinion just starting with reception, as at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.	As above.
3.7.2.9	Changing gradually from the Foundation Phase up would be a natural change that would bring the community with you.	As above.
3.7.2.10	Implement over 14 years as opposed to 7 years.	As above.

### 3.7.3 Change the timeline

3.7.3.1	If it must happen, then it must be slowed down – give people time to make proper informed choices while they are choosing their child’s school places at age 3.	It is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception from September 2025 has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused concern for pupils that may be affected by this change. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.
3.7.3.2	A longer transition period is needed.	As above.
3.7.3.3	2025 may be a bit too soon – extending the timeline might be fairer for those children who are already on their educational journey.	As above.
3.7.3.4	Delay the date to give parents more warning	As above.
3.7.3.5	Leave it another year – it feels a bit rushed.	As above.

3.7.3.6	Let us have a year's grace – start the year 7 intake as Welsh-medium only in 2026.	As above.
3.7.3.7	Secondary site phased in from 2028.	As above.
3.7.3.8	It is possible to move the date back to 2027?	As above.
3.7.3.9	Let children in the English-medium stream up to year 4 currently finish their education at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.	As above.

### 3.7.4 Implement the change in the primary but not the secondary

3.7.4.1	Implement the change to Welsh-medium in the primary but not in the high school.	Change the school's primary provision to Welsh-medium only was one of the options considered when developing this proposal, however it was discounted as it would not address the issues with access to comprehensive Welsh-medium provision in the area.
3.7.4.2	Primary phase could be fully Welsh but secondary should not be.	As above.
3.7.4.3	The focus should be on primaries being Welsh speaking and everyone learning together, but the majority of lessons should be available in English in the high school.	As above.
3.7.4.4	Consider the option where the primary phase is Welsh only and then offer dual stream for high school.	As above.
3.7.4.5	Have the primary campus as Welsh-medium, but retain the dual stream provision on the secondary campus to give choice at secondary level.	As above.
3.7.4.6	A compromise would be the provision of Welsh-medium only education in the primary phase (Reception to Year 6) but retain the choice of an English stream at the secondary campus (Years 7 to 11)	As above.

### 3.7.5 Increase the Welsh-medium provision for English-medium learners at Ysgol Bro Caereinion

3.7.5.1	Make a better curriculum for Welsh second language pupils so that they learn Welsh fluently by the end of primary school.	Studying Welsh as a second language does not enable learners to become fully bilingual.
3.7.5.2	Improve the Welsh provision to enable pupils in the English stream to improve their Welsh.	As above
3.7.5.3	Encourage a minimum of 25% Welsh language to be used in the English stream in the secondary phase	As above
3.7.5.4	Minimise lessons in foreign languages and increase learning of second language Welsh so that second language students can become fluent.	As above
3.7.5.5	Look at integrating the Welsh and English streams for one or two classes per week so that they can focus on Welsh language through learning and activities together.	As above.  Whilst this option may have a positive impact on the Welsh language skills of English-medium pupils, it would have a negative impact on the immersion provided to Welsh-medium pupils.

### 3.7.6 Open a Welsh-medium school elsewhere

3.7.6.1	Build a new school that is designated Welsh only rather than changing one that has worked perfectly well for years.	Whilst consideration was previously given to establishing designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in a different location, this is not currently being considered, primarily due to affordability due to the capital costs associated with building a new school, and also the revenue costs associated with adding an additional secondary provider.
3.7.6.2	Build a brand new Welsh speaking school, but not in Llanfair.	As above.
3.7.6.3	Build a brand new school not in Llanfair Caereinion and leave Caereinion alone.	As above.
3.7.6.4	Choose a different area for a designated Welsh-medium school.	As above.

3.7.6.5	Look into opening a new Welsh school somewhere else where it won't split the community e.g. Welshpool or Newtown where there are already larger all Welsh primary schools.	As above.
3.7.6.6	The Welsh medium school should be in a town that can support an English equivalent.	As above.
3.7.6.8	Newtown should be considered instead.	As above.
3.7.6.9	A brand new Welsh-medium secondary school in the Severn Valley.	As above.
3.7.6.10	A new purpose built Welsh medium school in the Severn Valley. In the long term the saving in transport costs would probably pay for a newly built school.	As above.
3.7.6.11	Given the decrease that has been seen in pupil numbers at Caereinion High School and the increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the Severn Valley, the best option would have been to close Caereinion High School and open a designated Welsh-medium secondary school in the Severn Valley which meets the Welsh Government's aspirations for 21 <sup>st</sup> century facilities – an exciting, inspiring school to support growth in the most populated part of the county.	As above.
3.7.6.12	The proposal is a soft option – the Council is missing the opportunity to create a new Welsh medium school in north Powys.	As above.
3.7.6.13	If the Council doesn't change the language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it will have to look at opening a Welsh-medium school in another part of the county, e.g. Welshpool.	As above.
3.7.6.14	If an all Welsh school is a necessity, look at other schools where the percentage of Welsh speakers is higher than Llanfair. The schools with a higher % of Welsh speaking students would also be better equipped as they would have more Welsh speaking teachers already in roles.	As above.

3.7.6.15	If an all Welsh school is a necessity it should be in an area where the majority of the community speak Welsh, such as Machynlleth.	The Council has already carried out the statutory process to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in Machynlleth from dual stream to Welsh-medium on a phased basis. The school is currently a few years into this transition.
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### 3.7.7 Introduce Welsh-medium provision in other areas

3.7.7.1	Increase dual stream provision in areas where there is currently no provision at all.	<p>The Council's WESP for 2022-23 includes an aspiration to introduce Welsh-medium provision in areas of Powys where there is currently no provision, however this mainly relates to primary provision. In these cases, introducing new dual stream provision may enable the introduction of provision in areas where it is not currently available.</p> <p>However, increasing dual stream provision is not the Council's preferred approach, particularly in respect of secondary provision.</p>
3.7.7.2	There should be more schools that offer dual stream education.	As above.
3.7.7.3	It is stated in the consultation document on page 7 that there is no Welsh-medium provision in the Presteigne, Crickhowell or Gwernyfed areas. Would it not make more sense to introduce Welsh provision in these areas where there is none? This is more likely to increase the number of Welsh-medium learners in Powys.	The Council's WESP for 2022-23 includes an aspiration to introduce Welsh-medium provision in areas of Powys where there is currently no provision, including the Presteigne, Crickhowell and Gwernyfed areas, however this mainly relates to primary provision. Introducing new Welsh-medium provision in these areas would not address the lack of access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision in North East Powys.
3.7.7.4	Offer dual stream in Newtown too to improve access and encourage more children to continue to access Welsh-medium education.	The Council has no plans to introduce any additional Welsh-medium streams in the secondary sector.

### 3.7.8 Review other schools

3.7.8.1	Close other small primary schools in the surrounding area instead of this proposal for the high school.	The current has no current plans to make changes to any of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's feeder schools, however the Council has a duty to regularly review its schools infrastructure. If any changes were proposed, the Council would need to undertake the statutory process in order to implement them, which would provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to let the Council know their views.
3.7.8.2	Close some of the smaller primary schools and transport pupils to Ysgol Bro Caereinion	As above.
3.7.8.3	Smaller schools in the area should close and Bro Caereinion should become a super Welsh school.	As above.
3.7.8.4	A catchment wide review, closing all small primary schools to make Ysgol Bro Caereinion more sustainable.	As above.
3.7.8.5	I would question the necessity of Ysgol Cwm Banwy and Ysgol Pontrobert if Caereinion is to become a Welsh-medium all through school. Could these schools be closed to bolster the number of Welsh-speaking students at Ysgol Bro Caereinion?	As above.
3.7.8.6	Ysgol Cwm Banwy, Pontrobert and other small local schools should close and merge with Bro Caereinion so that Bro Caereinion can be equipped with up to date facilities, resources etc as Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng have got.	As above.
3.7.8.7	Merging the primary phase of YBC, Cwm Banwy and Pontrobert would create a primary school of approximately 200 pupils.	As above.
3.7.8.8	Change the language category of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan too	There is no current plan to change the language category of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan, however the Council

		has a duty to monitor its school provision and make changes where required.
3.7.8.9	Only 55 of the 144 pupils at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan are in the English stream, so it is reasonable and possible to change the language category of Ysgol Rhiw Bechan.	As above.

### 3.7.9 Close the school

3.7.9.1	It would be better if the school closed, then at least everyone in Llanfair Caereinion would be in the same situation	Comment noted.
3.7.9.2	Close the secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion and transport all secondary pupils to their closest secondary school of language choice.	Comment noted.
3.7.9.3	If there aren't enough pupils for the school to maintain high quality education at this location, this is what should be looked at.	Comment noted.

### 3.7.10 Investment in the school

3.7.10.1	A new building for the Welsh-medium all age school	<p>As stated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p><i>'The current plans in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category are not part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment Programme. However, the need for investment in Ysgol Bro Caereinion's buildings is recognised, particularly to support the school's strategic role as a provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision. This will be reflected in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable</i></p>
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		<p><i>Communities for Learning Programme, which is due to be developed in 2023/24.</i></p> <p>The Council is currently working on its revised SOP. This is due to be considered by Cabinet and submitted to Welsh Government before the end of March 2024.</p>
3.7.10.2	A new build at Ysgol Bro Caereinion would send a clear message to learners and parents/guardians of the ambitions of the Council to provide modern facilities and help deliver a fulfilling education experience for everyone. It would also help facilitate the ambitions and ethos of an all age school for our learners and teaching staff, as well as for future generations.	As above.
3.7.10.3	If the school is to be the flagship provider of Welsh-medium education in North Powys, then it needs to look the part to draw parents in and make them want to send their children to the school.	As above.
3.7.10.4	The school campus must be developed – this will then attract more pupils to the school and will increase the number of Welsh speakers in the area.	As above.
3.7.10.5	There has been a lack of investment in YBC in recent years compared to other schools e.g. 3g pitch in Llanfyllin.	As above.
3.7.10.6	Improve sports facilities at Llanfair Caereinion – they are currently very poor compared to other Powys high schools.	There has recently been £150,000 investment in the red gra pitch at the school as part of a Community Focussed Schools Capital Grant.
3.7.10.7	Improve sports facilities at the school	As above.
3.7.10.8	A commitment to investment in sports facilities could help some in the community come on the journey and support the proposal.	As above.

### 3.7.11 Develop the provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion

3.7.11.1	Make the school a centre of excellent for a certain subject (not Welsh) to encourage pupils to come here.	This would not address the challenges identified in the Consultation Document, and would not provide access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision.
3.7.11.2	Improve provision for ALN pupils by establishing a unit at the school, similar to that at Ysgol Glantaf.	The Council agrees that proceeding with the proposal to change the school's language category would provide an opportunity to also develop the ALN provision for Welsh-medium pupils.
3.7.11.3	Ysgol Bro Caereinion could become the centre for Welsh-medium provision for pupils with ALN.	As above.
3.7.11.4	Ysgol Bro Caereinion to become a centre for quality Welsh learning and the focus for Welsh-medium sixth form learning across north Powys, for traditional courses and also vocational learning, perhaps in partnership with further and higher education colleges.	The Council agrees that proceeding with the proposal to change the school's language category would provide an opportunity to also develop post-16 provision for Welsh-medium pupils.
3.7.11.5	The school should aspire to provide Welsh-medium vocational courses as Newtown College / NPTC hardly offer anything in Welsh.	Comment noted.
3.7.11.6	Shared staffing within a 30 mile radius of Llanfair Caereinion and greater use of online services.	The Council agrees that shared staffing and use of online teaching would provide an opportunity to increase subject provision and address issues with recruiting teachers able to teach in Welsh. This would apply regardless of whether the Council proceeds with the current proposal to change the school's language category.
3.7.11.7	Specialist Welsh teachers who can travel between the dual stream schools. E-Ysgol at KS4. Modular teaching at KS4 and KS5.	As above.
3.7.11.8	Can Welsh speaking staff be considered as a countywide resource to make the maximum use of people's skills? If you have a Welsh speaking maths teacher elsewhere that is only teaching in Welsh 60% of the time, would the Council have	As above.

	the authority to move them here for the rest of their timetable?	
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### 3.7.12 Other suggestions

3.7.12.1	Some subjects to be taught in English also in order to strengthen both languages.	The new Welsh language categories recently issued by the Welsh Government do allow for some English-medium subjects in Welsh-medium schools, so it would be possible for some subjects to be taught in English should the Council proceed with implementing the proposal to change the school's language category.
3.7.12.2	Offer the core subjects such as Maths and Sciences in English.	As above.
3.7.12.3	Option 5D from the consultation document, which would see the secondary changing one year at a time but trochi happening immediately in the primary. This would allow as much time as possible for students to become confident in Welsh before their GCSEs.	Option 5D was discounted because of the additional disruption that would be caused for pupils currently attending English-medium primary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion not wanting to transfer to Welsh-medium provision, however the comments about the need to ensure sufficient time for pupils to become confident in Welsh are noted.
3.7.12.4	The whole education system in Powys needs to be reviewed as economically it's not sustainable.	Comment noted.

### 3.8 Criticism of the Council

3.8.1	This has been poorly thought out. The school has just been through a major change, and now there are proposals for another change.	Comment noted, however it was made clear in the documentation relating to the establishment of Ysgol Bro Caereinion that there may be a need to review the school's language category in the future, and if so, a further statutory process would be needed.
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3.8.2	The Council has gone back on its promise of an all age school providing dual stream education – this is shameful.	As above.
3.8.3	The decision has been sprung on the school and its feeder schools without any thought to how it will impact on those lives.	The only decision made to date is a decision to carry out consultation on a proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion’s language category. All affected stakeholders, including those associated with feeder schools, have had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation.
3.8.4	It is shocking that the Council is making this proposal before consulting the feeder schools and the communities they serve.	As above.
3.8.5	Concern that parents, pupils and the community are not at the centre of the decision – the community has been excluded in what seems to be a way of trying to please people higher up.	Parents, pupils and the community have all had an opportunity to contribute to this consultation exercise.
3.8.6	Disgraceful that the Council is trying to tell us what language our children should be taught in – parents should decide this.	Parents can apply for a place for their child at any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with this proposal, parents would be able to apply for a place at an alternative school should they not wish them to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.
3.8.7	There has been a distinct lack of support from the local authority through the difficult recent events that have caused distress to staff, pupils and the community.	Comment noted. The current process to change the school’s language category has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
3.8.8	The way the Council has done this is awful, complete lack of information and no support for the governors.	The process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
3.8.9	The Council have changed catchment areas and closed schools to make this happen.	The Council has not ‘changed catchment areas and closed schools to make this happen’. Ysgol Meifod requested to move to the Llanfyllin catchment. The proposal to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School was taken forward to address issues relating to pupil numbers at that school.

3.8.10	The reduction in English-medium pupil numbers in the catchment due to the closure of Castle Caereinion School and Meifod moving catchment area could have been engineered by PCC to feed the narrative of less demand for English-medium education.	The reduction in English-medium pupil numbers in the catchment has not 'been engineered by PCC to feed the narrative of less demand for English-medium education.'
3.8.11	Pupils from Castle Caereinion were told they were expected to attend Berriew when the school closed, despite being in the Bro Caereinion cluster. Transport was provided to Berriew to support this, although there was already transport going through the village to Bro Caereinion. These pupils would have boosted English-medium pupil numbers at the school.	Transport arrangements following the decision to close Castle Caereinion C. in W. School were in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy and commitments made as part of the school closure process.
3.8.12	Local councillors are being fed inaccurate data from the County Councillor, who has a different agenda to the majority of the community.	The Council is not aware of any matters relating to the local County Councillor.
3.8.13	Why has the Council not done more over the years to help the school attract more pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd?	<p>Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd has traditionally been a feeder primary school for Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion. However in recent years other schools have actively promoted their provision to parents in the Newtown area, and as a result, many parents have chosen for their children to attend alternative schools. Parents are entitled to apply for a place at any school, and these have been dealt with in accordance with the Admissions Policy.</p> <p>The Council has recently launched a promotional campaign to outline the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium provision, however it is unable one dual stream school over another dual stream school. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category, the situation would be different.</p>

3.8.14	The Council has misled consultees by providing interested parties with a biased postcard that has been distributed for recipients to send a single question response.	The postcard was not issued by the Council.
3.8.15	Emails from parents asking questions about the consultation have been sent to the Council but no responses has been received.	All written responses submitted as part of the consultation have been noted and will be taken into account in the Consultation report prepared for consideration by the Cabinet.
3.8.16	The proposal is little more than sacrificing our children's future for a political agenda	The Council does not agree with this comment.
3.8.17	Powys resources would be better spent elsewhere, such as providing more ALN help for learners with difficulties. Funds do not need to be spent re-branding/reorganising the school.	Comment noted.
3.8.18	I'm sure the Council has breached the Welsh language standards by bringing the Welsh language in the Llanfair Caereinion area under serious scrutiny and abuse.	The Council has not 'breached the Welsh language standards by bringing the Welsh language in the Llanfair Caereinion area under serious scrutiny and abuse.'

### 3.9 Comments about the consultation process

#### 3.9.1 Comments about meetings / engagement with the community

3.9.1	There has been no consultation with parents whose children is affected.	<p>The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which does not require public meetings to take place.</p> <p>As indicated on page 26 of the School Organisation Code, <i>'There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings although there will be circumstances where proposers will consider that meeting with certain groups of consultees will assist greatly in the dissemination of information and provide a</i></p>
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		<p><i>suitable platform for the consultees to make their views known.'</i></p> <p>During the consultation period, meetings were held with staff, governors and pupils at Ysgol Bro Caereinion and Ysgol Rhiw Bechan. The governing bodies of these schools include community representatives and parent representatives.</p>
3.9.2	There has been no consultation with the local community whose families have been in the area for decades.	As above.
3.9.3	The Council should have consulted with pupils and parents before making such a big decision.	As above.
3.9.4	There has been a complete lack of engagement with the community, governors, parents and pupils.	As above.
3.9.5	A consultation that has such big implications for pupils, parents, staff and the community should include some face to face engagement. An online consultation doesn't seem open and transparent enough.	As above.
3.9.6	There should have been opportunities for face to face meetings and more open discussion about these proposals. Without this, the community feels as though it is merely a 'tick box' exercise and the decision has already been made.	As above.
3.9.7	A public face to face consultation would be a challenge, but it would be a braver decision.	As above.
3.9.8	A public meeting should be called urgently.	As above.
3.9.9	Zero information has been provided to the community, no face to face interaction from anyone within PCC.	As above.
3.9.10	The consultation has been handled terribly. No public meetings have been offered, just a letter sent via the school.	As above.
3.9.11	The Council are letting communities down by not engaging in public meetings.	As above.

3.9.12	A public meeting should be held to allow people to have any questions answered and made fully aware of the facts so that they could understand the decision.	As above.
3.9.13	Concern that it took so long to arrange to meet with governors at Ysgol Rhiw Bechan.	It was not possible for the meeting to take place due to issues with officer availability. However, the consultation period was extended by a week to ensure that there was an opportunity for the governors to feed back to the school community after the meeting took place.

### 3.9.2 Comments about consultation with pupils

3.9.2.1	Very limited pupil engagement opportunities.	The Council does not agree. 4 meetings were held with pupils at the school when officers met with nearly 120 pupils. In addition, a large number of written responses were received from pupils at the school. These are reflected in this consultation report.
3.9.2.2	Pupils have not had a proper opportunity to have their say.	As above.
3.9.2.3	The people that came to speak to pupils were trying to convince pupils that the school should go Welsh, it made you feel bullied.	Officers that attend the school to meet with pupils were not 'trying to convince pupils that the school should go Welsh'. The officers were responding to concerns and questions raised by the pupils.

### 3.9.3 Comments about informal engagement

3.9.3.1	Perhaps a period of informal engagement should have taken place first.	The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. There is no requirement for a period of 'informal engagement'.
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		The possibility of changing the school's language category has been discussed many times over the years, and has created tensions in the local area, as has been seen during the recent consultation period. A period of informal engagement would have extended the period of uncertainty for all affected.
3.9.3.2	Many in the local area are angrier about the way the process has been carried out than the actual proposal – informal engagement first might have helped with this.	As above.

### 3.9.4 Comments about the timing of the proposal

3.9.4.1	The school has only just been established – I question the legality of the current proposal, given that the school has only just been established.	Comment noted, however it was made clear in the documentation relating to the establishment of Ysgol Bro Caereinion that there may be a need to review the school's language category in the future, and if so, a further statutory process would be needed.
3.9.4.2	I don't think such a huge change should have been imposed on the staff and pupils of Ysgol Bro Caereinion so soon after the school was established.	As above.
3.9.4.3	The timing of the process has been appalling as it is just before parents had to make decisions about where to send year 6 children next year.	The proposal is to change the language category on a phased basis, starting with pupils in Reception and Year 7 from September 2025. Pupils currently in year 6 would not be affected, as English-medium provision will continue to be available for them in Year 7 at Ysgol Bro Caereinion in September 2024.

### 3.9.5 The consultation is not lawful

3.9.5.1	The Council will face a potential legal challenge if it proceeds with implementation of the proposal.	The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
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3.9.5.2	This consultation is qualitative and not quantitative and is therefore invalid.	As above.
3.9.5.3	The Council has embarked on the consultation with a closed mind, so the consultation is not lawful.	As above.  The Council has not embarked on the consultation 'with a closed mind'.

### 3.9.6 The consultation is biased

3.9.6.1	The proposal is completely biased.	The documentation published as part of the consultation was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
3.9.6.2	The process should have been carried out by an unbiased, independent group of people, not those employed by the Council.	As above.

### 3.9.7 More information should have been shared to support the consultation

3.9.7.1	The consultation should have been preceded by and accompanied by a robust information, public relations and engagement plan, which would have helped in terms of providing information and detail to stakeholders.	Comment noted.
3.9.7.2	The benefits of Welsh-medium education should have been communicated in a more focused way a long time before the proposal – many people's goodwill to consider the proposal has been lost.	Comment noted.
3.9.7.3	A period of sharing information and educating about the benefits of Welsh-medium / bilingual education would have given more chance of gaining support from the community.	Comment noted.
3.9.7.4	Disappointed that a wider and fuller communications and engagement plan was not run ahead and alongside the	Comment noted.

	consultation. This may have helped lay the foundations for the consultation proposals to be received by the school community.	
3.9.7.5	The Council and the school need to be more proactive in taking the community with them in this process.	Comment noted.

### 3.9.8 Comments about communication

3.9.8.1	The way the decisions have been communicated has been disgusting.	Communication throughout the process has been in accordance with the School Organisation Code.
3.9.8.2	Information has been poorly communicated on the proposal.	As above.
3.9.8.3	Local feeder schools were not informed directly of the proposal.	As required by the School Organisation Code, information about the consultation was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, staff and governors at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, parents of pupils attending feeder schools, early years providers and community councils.
3.9.8.4	PCC has not supplied adequate information, and this vacuum has promoted fear and resentment.	The consultation documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. This includes consideration of a number of different options, which include different language options.

### 3.9.9 Concern about people from outside the area influencing the decision

3.9.9.1	Only Councillors serving the communities feeding Ysgol Caereinion should be involved in deciding its future.	The consultation is an open consultation exercise, and any interested parties are able to let the Council know their views.
3.9.9.2	This is a community school and should not be changed because of the views of people outside our community.	As above.

3.9.9.3	Decisions have been made by people who have very little idea.	The Council does not agree with this statement.
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### 3.9.10 Other comments

3.9.10.1	It's a done deal – children have already been told by teachers that the proposal is going ahead no matter what.	<p>No decisions have been made to proceed with implementation of the proposal. The Council has carried out consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The feedback received during this process will be considered by Cabinet who will decide whether or not to proceed with the process.</p> <p>Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the process, there would be a further opportunity for stakeholders to Object to the proposal by submitting written objections. These will be considered by Cabinet, who will then make a final decision on whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
3.9.10.2	Disagree with how the process has been carried out.	The process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
3.9.10.3	The way the consultation has been managed by PCC is truly awful.	As above.
3.9.10.4	A clear rationale for the proposal has not been provided, nor has full financial information about the viability of different language options in the school.	The consultation documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. This includes consideration of a number of different options, which include different language options.
3.9.10.5	Not enough information has been shared with stakeholders – You are asking stakeholders to give views on an idea without sharing how that idea will come about. We will only	As above.

	find out exactly what will happen after the decision has been made.	
3.9.10.6	Children with special educational needs have not been considered in great detail in the consultation process.	<p>Pupils with additional learning needs have been considered as part of the consultation documentation, and the impact assessments carried out.</p> <p>The impact assessments will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and will be considered by Cabinet when deciding whether or not to proceed.</p>
3.9.10.7	Changing the language of the school to Welsh-medium whilst there are other Welsh-medium schools close by which aren't fully subscribed evidences the Council favouring Welsh education over English education. This demonstrates a promotion of a policy to exclude English speakers.	<p>The proposal to change the school's language category reflects the choices currently being made by parents in the area – no pupils started in Reception in the school's English-medium stream in September 2023.</p> <p>One of the aims of the proposal is to provide access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in the area. This is currently not available, however full English-medium secondary provision is already available at a number of alternative schools in the area.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, including those from homes where no Welsh is spoken.</p>
3.9.10.8	When and if the proposal goes ahead, I don't think it's the teachers job to break the news to children as this will upset a lot of children.	Comment noted.

3.9.10.9	Request that the process is completed as soon as possible as there will be a need to ensure that appropriate support systems are in place before the change happens.	Comment noted.
3.9.10.10	Request that a decision is made as soon as possible so that a clear timeline can be provided to provide assurance to parents that already have their children in the education system as well as to prospective parents that will be making significant decisions about their children's education over the next few months.	Comment noted.
3.9.10.11	Why was the consultation period extended?	The consultation period was extended by a week to enable consultation meetings with staff and governors to take place.
3.9.10.12	The school has already been through a transition. Isn't there a clause to protect the school in these situations?	There is no clause to prevent further changes being made to schools that have recently undergone a school reorganisation process.
3.9.10.13	Is it a vote?	No, the consultation process is not a vote.

### 3.10 Comments about the consultation documentation

#### 3.10.1 General comments about the documentation

3.10.1.1	The documentation is biased towards the Welsh-medium only.	The documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
3.10.1.2	The whole document seems to be anti-English and the welfare and education of the children in the English stream is not cared about.	As above. Impact on pupils is considered in the document.
3.10.1.3	The consultation document poses more questions than it has answered – these should all be addressed and further exploration should be carried out of the issues raised.	Comments noted. The documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. Many comments about the documentation have been raised during the

		consultation, these are listed and responded to in this report.
3.10.1.4	Having read the consultation and its associated documents, they do not contain sufficient information and facts. The impact assessment is completely one sided and does not demonstrate the impacts on the English medium pupils, staff or the wider community.	The documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and does consider the impact on pupils, staff and the wider community. Comments about the impact on pupils, staff and the community have been raised during the consultation, these are listed and responded to in this report.
3.10.1.5	The document has not been able to reassure parents, prospective parents, and non-Welsh speaking families with pupils in the Welsh stream that the benefits of the proposal will be realised.	The documentation has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.
3.10.1.6	There is a lack of transparency in the document and a lack of referencing/evidence or use of case studies to demonstrate the benefits and what to expect following transition.	As above.
3.10.1.7	There is no reference to or use of examples in the consultation document. I believe Bro Myrddin has gone through a similar process, however there is no mention of this to demonstrate an understanding of the process required to ensure success, and the benefits that can be expected.	As above.
3.10.1.8	The document does not highlight the support/trochi programme enough, with examples of how successful it can be.	Comment noted. Some information about the proposed trochi provision is provided in the document, however it is acknowledged that this could be further developed.
3.10.1.9	Has the Council undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? If not, why not and when will this take place?	A draft equalities impact assessment was prepared and published as part of the consultation documentation. This will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period, and an updated version will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.

3.10.1.10	The proposal does not take sufficient account of the impact on the community of Tregynon.	The proposal would not change the provision in Tregynon. Stakeholders in Tregynon have had the opportunity to respond to the consultation.
3.10.1.11	The local authority has not considered fully the impact on pupils wishing to study through the medium of English.	<p>The impact on pupils wishing to study through the medium of English is considered in the Consultation Document, which states that ‘Pupils currently accessing English-medium provision...in year 5 or below would either need to transfer to alternative schools to access English-medium secondary provision, or would need to transfer to Welsh-medium provision before they reach the secondary phase’.</p> <p>The Council’s aspiration is that pupils accessing English-medium primary provision in the catchment would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however it is acknowledged that some may choose to access English-medium provision at alternative schools. Whilst this may require additional travel for pupils for whom Ysgol Bro Caereinion is currently the closest provider, the additional travel that would be required is in-line with the distance travelled by pupils to access Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>The Council is satisfied that the education at the alternative English-medium providers in the area is at least equivalent to the English-medium provision currently provided at Ysgol Bro Caereinion; as stated in the consultation document, ‘The Council’s view is that pupils transferring to these schools to access English-medium provision would continue to receive education of equivalent quality to that provided at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.’</p>



		<p>Many comments expressing concern about the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion were received during the consultation, these are listed and responded to in section 2.1 of this report.</p>
3.10.1.12	<p>The proposer does not provide clear enough information about how it will mitigate all the identified disadvantages.</p>	<p>The Council has included a section on risks of the proposal in the Consultation Document and provided mitigation actions.</p>
3.10.1.13	<p>The section on leadership and management does not focus well enough on the implications of the proposal on leaders at the school, or on plans to overcome challenges, such as recruiting and appointing Welsh medium leaders in the future.</p>	<p>The Consultation Document states that the proposal would have a positive impact on leadership and management at Ysgol Bro Caereinion, and that in the longer term ‘operating as a single stream school would enable the school to operate more efficiently, and leaders and managers would have more time to focus on developing effective provision across the school.’</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the recent consultation process has been challenging for the school’s leaders, and that implementation of the proposal could be challenging for the school’s leaders during the transition period.</p> <p>Many concerns about the recruitment of Welsh speaking staff were raised during the consultation period, however these did not relate specifically to the ability to appoint Welsh-medium leaders. The comments received are responded to elsewhere in this report, for example in section 2.4.2.</p>

3.10.1.14	It is not clear enough what additional support pupils with ALN will have to access education through the medium of Welsh, for instance if they struggle to learn the language, and whether any additional support these pupils access would be impacted by the changes.	<p>As stated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>‘there could be a negative impact on pupils with ALN who are from families where very little or no Welsh is spoken. This would require the school to provide an enhanced level of support to these pupils in order to meet their needs. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would not change to Welsh-medium overnight. There would be a period of transition for pupils with SEN/ALN that are already in the school.’</p> <p>The support provided would depend on the needs and the situation of individual pupils.</p> <p>Many concerns about the impact on pupils, particularly those with ALN, were received during the consultation period. The Council will consider the impact on pupils that would be particularly affected by the proposals as they are currently accessing English-medium provision in the catchment when deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposals.</p>
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### 3.10.2 Comments / queries about specific parts of the documentation

3.10.2.1	I know of two families who are actively looking to move out of the area due to these changes. This needs to be added to the ‘risks’ section.	The ‘risks’ section already includes a risk that ‘Parents don’t want their children to attend a Welsh-medium school, so choose for them to move to alternative schools’, which would include the situation described here.
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3.10.2.2	Section 12 – the risks are underestimated and the mitigation described is not robust enough.	Comment noted. The risks included in the document are those identified by the Council before starting the current process. All risks are regularly reviewed.
3.10.2.3	Concerns about the weaknesses identified in the SWOT in relation to option 1.	The SWOT assessments have been carried out based on the Council’s view of the proposal, and reflect the views of a cross section of professionals from across the Council, e.g. School Improvement, Finance, Transforming Education.
3.10.2.4	The consultation document states:- “When Ysgol Bro Caereinion was established, a commitment was made to move the school along the language continuum in the future..” I was not aware of this. If I had been, my child would not have started at Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.
3.10.2.5	The consultation document states “The school has recognised this, and has recently contacted the Council to request that consideration is given to the school’s future language category”. Is this correct? Sources at the school have disputed this.	This is correct. However the detail around the proposal and the proposed implementation dates were proposed by the Council having carried out an options appraisal exercise.
3.10.2.6	The consultation document states that children currently in the secondary phase at Ysgol Bro Caereinion will be ‘unaffected’ by the change, however this isn’t true – pupils in year 11 are already looking to transfer to Shrewsbury Colleges rather than remaining at Bro Caereinion.	Comment noted.
3.10.2.7	Page 14 states ‘The lack of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area has had a notable impact on pupil numbers transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision in recent years.’ Please could the data on the reasons why parents are not sending them to current Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion be provided to support this comment?	<p>There are many reasons why parents make choices in relation to secondary provision for their children and the Council does not ask parents why they have made the choices they have.</p> <p>In the past, almost all pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd transferred to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion to access Welsh-medium secondary provision. However, this has changed significantly in recent years. This matter</p>

		<p>has been discussed with Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd on numerous occasions over the years, this has included discussions with the school's governing body and headteacher. Whilst the reasons that were cited in these discussions were varied, the lack of a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education was a consistent concern.</p> <p>Similar concerns about the lack of a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education have also been raised in conversations with the governing body and headteacher of Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng.</p>
3.10.2.8	<p>Point 3.4 in the consultation document states 'The lack of designated Welsh medium secondary provision in the area has had a notable impact on pupil numbers transferring to Welsh medium secondary provision in recent years'. There has never been designated Welsh medium secondary provision in the area so how can there be an impact on pupil numbers transferring to Welsh medium provision? However, there has always been Welsh medium secondary provision through dual stream schools such as Ysgol Bro Caereinion, Ysgol Llanfyllin and Llanidloes High School. If there has been a decline in the number of Welsh medium pupil numbers in secondary education in recent years as the consultation document states, it must be because there is less of a demand for Welsh medium secondary education. The supply is there, the demand isn't. Where else would parents send their children if they want their children to learn through the Welsh medium? They are not going to send them to a designated English medium school. A business wouldn't create a product there is no demand for.</p>	<p>As stated in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020:</p> <p><i>'At a time when bilingual/Welsh education has grown across Wales and is often a showcase sector for other counties, Powys has been stagnant, and in some key indicators the local authority has been going backwards...Powys has a smaller percentage of its children learning through the medium of Welsh than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the wider population. It is believed to be the only authority in Wales where this is the case.'</i></p> <p>One of the significant differences between the Welsh-medium provision in Powys and the provision elsewhere in Wales is that there is no access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision. Evidence from elsewhere in Wales supports the view that establishing</p>

		Welsh-medium provision usually results in an increase in pupil numbers.
3.10.2.9	Page 14 states 'Whilst historically, the Welsh-medium secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion has served a wide catchment area, including the towns of Newtown and Welshpool as well as the traditional Llanfair Caereinion catchment, the proportion of pupils from Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng in Welshpool transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Llanfair Caereinion has been relatively low in recent years, with pupils choosing to transfer to other schools instead, or choosing to transfer to English-medium secondary provision.' Please could details be provided as how Powys County Council aim to ensure that these pupils mentioned will choose Ysgol Bro Caereinion and not other dual stream schools or transfer to English medium.	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, there will be a need for the school to work with feeder schools to develop links to promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion. In addition, there will be a need to ensure that other arrangements are in place to promote Ysgol Bro Caereinion, such as transport arrangements and capital investment.
3.10.2.10	On page 20, it says that there will be <i>More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh and increased breadth of curriculum</i> . What does the term 'more opportunities' mean? What are the 'more opportunities' that could be offered?	The additional Welsh-medium opportunities would include enhanced use of the Welsh language outside the classroom. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the expectation would be that the vast majority of school activities would take place in Welsh, including school assemblies, concerts, plays, trips, sports activities and other extra-curricular clubs, meetings and so on.
3.10.2.11	On page 20 it says <i>Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area</i> . I would like to see the data that says that pupils are put off continuing their education in Welsh due there not been a designated Welsh medium high school. Secondly, there will continue to be dual streams in Llanidloes and Llanfyllin, what will be done to attract pupils away from these schools and ensure they come to Ysgol Bro Caereinion?	As stated in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020:  <i>'At a time when bilingual/Welsh education has grown across Wales and is often a showcase sector for other counties, Powys has been stagnant, and in some key indicators the local authority has been going</i>

		<p><i>backwards...Powys has a smaller percentage of its children learning through the medium of Welsh than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the wider population. It is believed to be the only authority in Wales there this is the case.'</i></p> <p>One of the significant differences between the Welsh-medium provision in Powys and the provision elsewhere in Wales is that there is no access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision. Evidence from elsewhere in Wales supports the view that establishing Welsh-medium provision usually results in an increase in pupil numbers.</p>
3.10.2.12	<p>Page 20 states <i>Opportunity to attract more pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools in the area</i> – this is integral, but there's no validation or plan aligned to it. Which pupils are we hoping to attract that don't already feed into the school?</p>	<p>This would include maximising the proportion of pupils from within Ysgol Bro Caereinion's current feeder schools that transfer to access Welsh-medium secondary provision at the school, however there would also be the potential that pupils in other schools that offer Welsh-medium primary provision that are not currently recognised as feeder schools would want to attend the school to access an enhanced level of Welsh-medium provision. This could include schools currently in the Llanidloes catchment and schools currently in the Llanfyllin catchment.</p>
3.10.2.13	<p>Page 20 says 'Limited impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – current pupils would be able to continue to access this provision throughout the primary or secondary phase, depending on which year group they are in'. Where it uses the term 'limited impact', for some families who may not wish for their child to switch to Welsh medium education, the stress, financial, logistical and emotional impact of switching to a different</p>	<p>Comment noted. Concerns about the impact of the proposal on pupils and their families have been addressed elsewhere in this report.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the proposal to introduce the change from Year 7 as well as Reception has resulted in significant concern in the local area, and has caused</p>

	high school, has this considered and how are they being supported?	<p>concern for pupils that may be affected by this change and their families.</p> <p>The Council will need to consider the feedback received during the consultation period when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p> <p>Should the Council decide to proceed, there would be a need to work with Ysgol Bro Caereinion and other schools in the catchment to ensure that pupils and their families were supported with transition arrangements, however this would depend on the individual circumstances of the pupils and their families.</p>
3.10.2.14	The assessment that there will be a 'limited impact' on current pupils shows a complete disregard to the emotional stress the consultation has had on them, never mind any future implementation. What support will be offered to children in light of this?	As above.
3.10.2.15	Page 20 says 'Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning to take place to support the change.' Please could clear information and timescales of how this will look be made available to staff?	If a decision is made to proceed with implementation of the proposal, the Council would work with the school to develop a programme.
3.10.2.16	Page 21 – who has devised the lists of advantages and disadvantages? There is no author to the document. What rationale has been used to support the points?	The SWOT assessments have been carried out based on the Council's view of the proposal, and reflect the views of a cross section of professionals from across the Council, e.g. School Improvement, Finance, Transforming Education.
3.10.2.17	On page 21 you list an advantage 'more opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh'. How do you plan to achieve this with a distinct lack of staff?	There is no reason to believe there would be 'a lack of staff'. Staffing levels would be in accordance with the budget allocated to the school.

3.10.2.18	Page 24 - Welsh provision will be more comprehensive - no mention of quality	The 'impact on quality and standards in education' is considered in section 17 of the Consultation Document.
3.10.2.19	Page 25 - statement - pupils from dual stream schools 'may' choose YBC - providing enhanced level of Welsh medium education - what evidence is there that this will occur? Why is there not an example, case study used here?	<p>The word 'may' is used to here to indicate that it this is a possibility, however it is not guaranteed.</p> <p>As stated in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020:</p> <p><i>'At a time when bilingual/Welsh education has grown across Wales and is often a showcase sector for other counties, Powys has been stagnant, and in some key indicators the local authority has been going backwards...Powys has a smaller percentage of its children learning through the medium of Welsh than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the wider population. It is believed to be the only authority in Wales there this is the case.'</i></p> <p>One of the significant differences between the Welsh-medium provision in Powys and the provision elsewhere in Wales is that there is no access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision. Evidence from elsewhere in Wales supports the view that establishing Welsh-medium provision usually results in an increase in pupil numbers.</p>
3.10.2.20	Page 25 says "In addition, pupils that would previously have chosen to access Welsh medium secondary provision at other dual stream schools in the area, such as Llanidloes High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin, may decide to choose at attend Ysgol Bro Caereinion as it would provide an	Pupils living closer to Llanidloes High School and Ysgol Llanfyllin wouldn't be entitled to transport to Ysgol Bro Caereinion based on the Council's current Home to School Transport Policy. However, should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal,



	enhanced level of Welsh medium provision compared to other dual stream providers in the area”. How would these potential pupils get to Ysgol Bro Caereinion if they are not within the catchment or live closer to one of the other dual stream schools? According to the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, they wouldn’t be able to access free school transport. If free transport is provided then this would be discriminatory.	there would be a need to ensure that other arrangements are in place to enable pupils to access fully Welsh-medium secondary provision, which may require the Council to review the Home to School Transport Policy.
3.10.2.21	Page 25, the impact on staff statement only talks about English speaking staff. With a possible reduction in pupil numbers, the school will need to look at it’s staffing structure. Will Welsh speaking staff in subjects where there are lots of staff need to deliver another subject? Will they be made redundant? How will their teaching allocation be fulfilled?	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, staffing arrangements would need to be determined by the school, and are likely to change as the proposal is phased in. Whilst there may be some impact on Welsh speaking staff, it is reasonable to expect that it is non Welsh speaking staff who would be most affected by the proposal.
3.10.2.22	Point 19(iii) that no additional costs will be associated with changing the language category is alarming.	Comment noted. The estimated savings are based on the Council’s funding formula for schools and the current home to school transport policy. The position will be reviewed should the Council proceed with the proposal.
3.10.2.23	Point 22(ii) no building work is necessary for the planned change – this is not correct, the school is not in a good state of repair as you agree in Appendix A – Key Data – Building Condition. The school needs a written guarantee of investment into the building.	The concerns about the condition of the school building is noted. The change to the school’s language category could be accommodated within the school’s current buildings, so the statement in the Consultation Document that ‘No building work would be necessary to be able to proceed with the proposal’ is correct. However, the Consultation Document does also state the following in respect of capital investment as part of the Council’s ‘Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme’:

		<i>'The current plans in respect of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's language category are not part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning Investment Programme. However, the need for investment in Ysgol Bro Caereinion's buildings is recognised, particularly to support the school's strategic role as a provider of Welsh-medium secondary provision. This will be reflected in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which is due to be developed in 2023/24.'</i>
3.10.2.24	The consultation document lists Welshpool High School for example as the closest secondary school at 9.9 miles away. It should be noted here that for many this distance will be larger as the catchment area extends a number of miles from YBC itself.	Comment noted.
3.10.2.25	The consultation states that the strength of the Welsh medium has been recognised throughout the proposal, in what provision? Exam results? Number of Pupils? How is it recognised as stronger? If you are basing this on numbers how do you consider 35 strong? And if you are basing this on exam results then what exactly are you doing to improve the English medium and support those learners in improving the results that are the basis of their futures? If you believe the English medium is weaker then how do you propose to improve not only the level of teaching but to encourage these same teachers, that I would assume you want to retain, to learn enough Welsh to be able to confidently teach their subject and to attain a higher grade from their learners?	The 'strength of Welsh-medium provision at the school' is based on the school's subject provision, ethos and pupil numbers in comparison with other providers of Welsh-medium secondary provision in North East Powys. It is not a comparison of the Welsh-medium and English-medium provision at the school.
3.10.2.26	Pg 40 - state limited impact on community - this is a significant underestimation.	The Council's assessment is based on the fact that primary and secondary education would continue to be available in Llanfair Caereinion. A draft impact

		assessment was prepared and published as part of the consultation documentation, this will be updated to reflect feedback received during the consultation period and an updated version will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.
3.10.2.27	Section 17 - Why isn't best practice already utilised/shared?	The expectation is that it is already being shared, however implementation of the proposal would provide an opportunity to further develop this across the school as all staff would be teaching through the medium of Welsh.
3.10.2.28	Statement - evidence of improved standards and progress - what evidence/data is there of this?	A team of professionals including school improvement etc. in response to the school organisation code's request for authorities to consider 'the likely impact of the proposal'.
3.10.2.29	No additional recurrence costs is stated - what about the support for families/students and trochi? no additional costs - what about the investment needed in facilities given suitability and condition of school stated in document.	Comment noted. The estimated savings are based on the Council's funding formula for schools and the current home to school transport policy. The expectation is that trochi would be grant funded, so would not be a cost to the Council, however it is acknowledged that there may be other costs associated with implementation of the proposal. The position will be reviewed should the Council proceed with the proposal.
3.10.2.30	Page 34 - 'there have been numerous calls for this provision' - from where/who? Is this from those already attending YBC, or non-YBC pupils that could be attracted in addition?? '	This has been from a number of places, including individuals in the Llanfair Caereinion area and elsewhere in the school's current catchment, feeder schools and other Welsh language organisations working in the area.
3.10.2.31	'Anticipated' is used in the context of increase of range of courses offered within this proposal, this is not reassuring as	The range of courses offered would be a matter for the school, and would depend on pupil numbers and the budget at the time. However, as stated in the

	a prospective parent - why can this not be modelled alongside a budget to ensure transparency.	Consultation Document, 'the school would no longer need to duplicate provision, which should have a positive impact on the curriculum that could be provided...'
3.10.2.32	Impact on pupils – you say that 'for pupils currently accessing secondary provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion there would be no change – they would continue to receive the same provision throughout their time at the school'. How can this be guaranteed if staff choose to leave?	Pupils would continue to access the same provision in terms of the language of the provision. Should staff choose to leave during the transition period, the school would need to make arrangements to provide appropriate provision for learners during the transition period.
3.10.2.33	How will operating as a single language school enable the school to improve tracking and monitoring of pupils throughout their school careers?	Having one language continuum would allow the school to focus on progression of all pupils through that language in all subjects. In a dual stream school the school would have had to operate tracking systems to monitor progress through both languages.
3.10.2.34	You list engagement with parents as a key part of the consultation process. Where has this taken place?	'Engagement with parents to take place throughout the process' is listed as a mitigating action to address the risk that 'parents don't want their children to attend a Welsh-medium school, so choose for them to move to alternative school'. The engagement with parents has included the consultation process, and should the Council proceed with the process, would continue through the Objection Period, and would continue throughout the transition period.

### 3.10.3 Comments / queries about data

3.10.3.1	Please can you share the detailed analysis of the projected pupil numbers provided in the consultation document?	The projected pupil numbers for primary aged pupils are based on postcode-linked live birth data and historical cohort survival rates for individual schools.
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		<p>The projected pupil numbers for secondary aged pupils are based on pupils currently on roll in Powys schools, using a transfer percentage for pupils moving from year 6 to year 7 which is applied to future projections.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that these figures are ‘projections’, so their accuracy will vary. In general, accuracy of the secondary projection model has been very good, with most if not all schools’ forecasts being within +/- 5% of actual numbers on roll on a regular basis. Accuracy at a primary level is more varied, and are less reliable for Welsh-medium schools or schools located close to each other.</p>
3.10.3.2	<p>The key data relating to pupil numbers (split by medium) currently attending Ysgol Bro Caereinion (shown on page 5 of the consultation document) is for one year only. There isn’t a huge difference in the number of Welsh and English stream learners especially in the secondary phase – a difference of 11 pupils! I understand that many of the feeder schools are Welsh medium only, however as mentioned above, if parents are concerned about Welsh medium secondary education for their child they will either switch or place their child in an English medium primary school or secondary school. You simply cannot base your projections on the number of Welsh medium children in primary schools.</p>	<p>The comments about current pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Caereinion are noted. The information about pupil numbers in the remainder of the Ysgol Bro Caereinion catchment provided on page 13 of the consultation document shows that there is a significant difference between Welsh-medium and English-medium pupil numbers in the primary phase; there are 566 pupils accessing Welsh-medium primary provision in the Bro Caereinion catchment, and 105 pupils accessing English-medium primary provision. Whilst acknowledging that it is possible that some pupils accessing Welsh-medium primary provision would continue to do so in the secondary phase, the Council’s aim is that all pupils that access Welsh-medium primary provision continue to so.</p>
3.10.3.3	<p>The data doesn’t show any trends in relation to an increase or decrease in the number of Welsh medium or English medium learners. Surely there would need to be a <u>substantial</u></p>	<p>The Council is not proposing Ysgol Bro Caereinion ‘staying open with half the number of pupils’. The proposal is to implement the change on a phased</p>

	<p>increase in the number of Welsh stream pupils to justify what you are proposing. How can Ysgol Bro Caereinion justify staying open with half the number of pupils? There are currently only 292 Welsh medium learners at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. Where do you think an increase in numbers will come from should the proposal go ahead bearing in mind the turnover with starters and leavers? Many pupils from the local Welsh medium primary schools would have attended Ysgol Bro Caereinion anyway (and if they don't, you have to question why). So in terms of increases, there are not really any substantial gains to be made here.</p>	<p>basis, so current pupils would continue to be able to attend the school, at least until the end of the primary or secondary phase.</p>
3.10.3.4	<p>The figures in the consultation document seem to assume that all Welsh-medium primary school age children will continue their secondary education through the medium of Welsh at Ysgol Bro Caereinion. How many children have historically changed streams from Welsh to English (and vice versa) during the transition to secondary school?</p>	<p>Information about the proportion of pupils educated in Welsh in Year 6 during 2020-21 and continuing to be educated in Welsh in Year 7 during 2021-22 is included in the Council's WESP for 2022-32. This shows that between the 2020/21 academic year and the 2021/22 academic year, 83% of pupils continued to access Welsh-medium education in the secondary phase.</p> <p>Information was not collected for pupils in year 6 in 2021-22, however in 2022-23, 228 pupils were educated through the medium of Welsh in year 6, and 191 of these continued to access Welsh-medium provision in year 7 in 2023-24.</p> <p>The Council fully acknowledges that there are many reasons why pupils and their parents make the choices they do when it comes to choosing which secondary school to transfer to, and that sometimes, pupils that have accessed Welsh-medium primary provision may choose to access English-medium secondary provision. The Council's WESP sets a target that by</p>

		2027, 92% of pupils that access Welsh-medium provision in year 6 in Powys will continue to access Welsh-medium provision in year 7.
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### 3.10.4 Comments about the consultation response form

3.10.4.1	Why are the questions in the survey focussed on detrimental impact on Welsh rather than asking about the impact on the Welsh stream?	The questions related to detrimental impact on the Welsh language are questions the Council is required to ask to meet the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.
3.10.4.2	Some of the questions in the questionnaire are clumsily worded and difficult to answer.	Many of the questions included in the questionnaire relate to the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. The wording reflects the wording in the Standards.
3.10.4.3	You need to provide a more accessible form – a simple Yes or No form for parents to agree or disagree with the changes with an opportunity to add their points would be far better.	Comment noted, however many of the questions included in the questionnaire relate to the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. Stakeholders were also able to respond to the consultation in writing via e-mail or letter.
3.10.4.4	The current form is over complicated and puts people off filling it in.	As above.
3.10.4.5	Comments about the wording of the questions in the questionnaire.	As above.

### 3.11 Requests for additional information

3.11.1	In the last 5 years how many children have started their primary education in Welsh-medium but moved into the English-medium stream in Ysgol Rhiw Bechan and the primary and secondary phases of Ysgol Bro Caereinion?	The Council would not have access to this data – any movement between streams would be dealt with within the schools.
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3.11.2	How do you propose to attract more pupils to the school?	Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, there will be a need for the school to work with feeder schools to develop links to promote transition to Ysgol Bro Caereinion. In addition, there will be a need to ensure that other arrangements are in place to promote Ysgol Bro Caereinion, such as transport arrangements and capital investment.
3.11.3	What are the plans for post-16 education in Powys? Will PCC follow the recently announced Ceredigion model?	The Council has developed a new model for post-16 in Powys – Chweched Powys Sixth – which has been in operation for 2 years. This is a collaborative model, where schools plan and share provision, with pupils able to travel to other schools to study subjects not available in their own school. The Council is currently reviewing the effectiveness of this model, and the outcome of the review will be known later this year.
3.11.4	If the school changes to Welsh-medium would it be safe from closure, even if numbers fall?	The Council is expected to provide access to comprehensive Welsh-medium provision. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, the school would be the only Welsh-medium secondary provider in North East Powys. It would be difficult to justify closing the school unless there was an alternative Welsh-medium secondary school which pupils could access instead.
3.11.5	Has research been carried out to see how many parents would continue their child's Welsh education in to high school?	No research has been carried out to see how many parents would continue their child's Welsh education into high school.
3.11.6	Outcomes from other schools that have been through this need to be showcased. People need facts and figures in black and white to prove to them it can have a positive impact on their children's education.	Comment noted.



3.11.7	In the last 5 years, how many English-medium pupils in the Caereinion catchment have joined the Urdd and represented their respective schools in competitions?	The Council does not have access to information about how many pupils have joined the Urdd.
3.11.8	What leadership and management improvements are planned as a result of this proposal?	Leadership and management arrangements at the school would be a matter for the Headteacher and Governing Body, with support from the Council through the School Improvement team.
3.11.9	Will English medium pupils be provided with free school transport to their closest English medium school (starting with pupils in Reception and Year 7 from 2025)?	<p>As stated in the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal:</p> <p><i>'The Council's Home to School Transport Policy states that if pupils are eligible for free home to school transport, the Council will provide this to their closest or catchment school. If pupils live closer to Ysgol Bro Caereinion but choose alternative schools instead, then they won't be able to access free school transport and would need to make their own transport arrangements.'</i></p> <p>Based on this policy, transport wouldn't be available for pupils wishing to access alternative English-medium provision instead of accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Caereinion.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the proposed transport arrangements in relation to this proposal, and the lack of transport to alternative English-medium provision, have caused concern in the local community. The Council will need to consider this when deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation.</p>
3.11.10	How much analysis has been done of the current affected pupils as to where they would opt to send their children to see if this can be accommodated?	No analysis has been carried out, as currently the Council is only consulting on the proposal to change the school's language category.

3.11.11	<p>What evidence is there that children seeking Welsh-medium education will travel for Welsh only education versus a dual stream school? I would hope there is evidence to support this, rather than an assumption.</p>	<p>As stated in the Council's 'Vision for increasing the number of fully bilingual learners in Powys' which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020:</p> <p><i>'At a time when bilingual/Welsh education has grown across Wales and is often a showcase sector for other counties, Powys has been stagnant, and in some key indicators the local authority has been going backwards...Powys has a smaller percentage of its children learning through the medium of Welsh than the percentage of Welsh speakers in the wider population. It is believed to be the only authority in Wales there this is the case.'</i></p> <p>One of the significant differences between the Welsh-medium provision in Powys and the provision elsewhere in Wales is that there is no access to full Welsh-medium secondary provision. Evidence from elsewhere in Wales supports the view that establishing Welsh-medium provision usually results in an increase in pupil numbers.</p>
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### 3.12 Other comments / queries

3.12.1	<p>Where will Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon pupils go? Bro Hyddgen and Caereinion are both too far.</p>	<p>Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon pupils would be able to apply for a place in any school they choose, which could include Ysgol Bro Hyddgen or Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however it is acknowledged that this would be a significant distance for some pupils, depending on where they live. Alternatively, they could continue to attend the Welsh-medium stream at Llanidloes High School. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the</p>
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		language category of Ysgol Bro Caereinion, it is unlikely that there would be sufficient pupils to support the establishment of further Welsh-medium provision to serve Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon pupils.
3.12.2	Will the Council be providing transport for pupils in Trefeglwys who have received Welsh-medium education to enable them to travel to Ysgol Bro Caereinion? A Welsh-medium category school is different to a bilingual category school.	<p>Transport for pupils in Trefeglwys would be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. This policy doesn't currently differentiate between dual stream provision and designated Welsh-medium provision, so transport for pupils in Trefeglwys would currently be provided to the Welsh-medium stream at Llanidloes High School.</p> <p>However, the Council acknowledges that there is a difference between the provision at a Welsh-medium and a dual stream school. This will need to be taken into consideration should the Council proceed with implementation of this proposal, to ensure that pupils wanting to access full Welsh-medium secondary provision are able to do so.</p>
3.12.3	There is a need for Welsh-medium provision for pupils with ALN – families have had to move because there is no Welsh-medium specialist ALN provision in the county.	The Council notes these concerns about access to support and provision for Welsh-medium ALN pupils in Powys.
3.12.4	Currently there is a total lack of support and provision for Welsh-medium ALN pupils in the county, in the mainstream and specialist sectors, which is a clear example of inequality.	As above.
3.12.5	Access to Welsh-medium education is currently being restricted because of the lack of Welsh-medium provision, specialism within mainstream schools and lack of Welsh-medium training and support for staff.	The Council is fully aware of these concerns relating to access to Welsh-medium provision. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education and its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan include actions that would improve access to Welsh-medium education across Powys, and would address these concerns.

3.12.6	Given the capacity available within Ysgol Bro Caereinion, can assurances be given that there are no plans to close Welsh primary feeder schools to increase pupils aged 4-11 within Ysgol Bro Caereinion?	The current has no current plans to make changes to any of Ysgol Bro Caereinion's feeder schools, however the Council has a duty to regularly review its schools infrastructure. If any changes were proposed, the Council would need to undertake the statutory process in order to implement them, which would provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to let the Council know their views.
3.12.7	PCC has a responsibility to put in place a 6 <sup>th</sup> form college in Powys so that students can continue their education in Powys rather than crossing the border to Shrewsbury.	The Council acknowledges these concerns about post-16 provision. The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a number of measures to improve post-16 provision, which are currently being implemented. There are currently no plans to establish a 6 <sup>th</sup> form college in Powys.
3.12.8	Will there be any changes to pre-school education in Powys? Currently in Powys schools don't accept pre-school children.	There are currently no plans to change the admission age to Powys schools.
3.12.9	We need creative ways to get Welsh speaking staff into Powys such as growing our own, bursaries for students in the sixth form to get them through university with a clause that they train and come back.	Comment noted.
3.12.10	Would pupils be expected to speak Welsh during break time etc?	All pupils accessing Welsh-medium education are encouraged to speak Welsh outside of the classroom, including during break time and when taking part in extra-curricular activities.
3.12.11	Would there be a new school uniform?	It is unlikely that there would be a new school uniform, as Ysgol Bro Caereinion would continue to operate as Ysgol Bro Caereinion, however any changes to the school's uniform would be a matter for the school's governing body.