

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION



Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School Consultation Document

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Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

If you require a paper copy of this document, or a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the Transforming Education Team on 01686 611553, or e-mail transforming.education@powys.gov.uk.

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Consultation on Proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

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Consultation on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposals

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposals are as follows:

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

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

2. How to respond to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation by completing the online questionnaire which is available on our website:

https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14956/Ysgol-Calon-y-Dderwen-and-Treowen-C.P.-School

A paper copy of the questionnaire is also available at the back of this document.

Alternatively, you can respond in writing using the contact details below.

All responses must be received by the 26 February 2024

3. Contact details

All responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team Powys County Council County Hall Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 5LG

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

Phone: 01686 611553

4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will consider whether or not they wish to proceed with the proposals outlined in the consultation document. This is expected to happen in the spring 2024.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, a statutory notice would be published, and there would be a period of 28 days for people to submit objections. The Cabinet would then need to consider another report summarising any objections received and decide whether or not to proceed with implementation.

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The proposals are as follows:

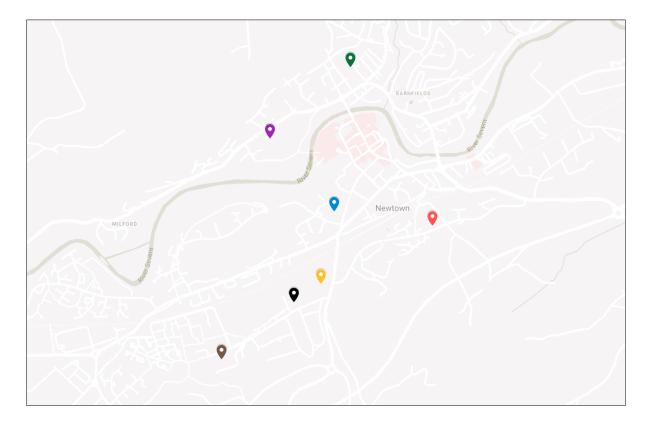
Phase 1: Close Treowen C.P. School from 31 August 2025 and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from 1 September 2025

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

1. BACKGROUND

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are English-medium primary schools located in the town of Newtown, in North Powys. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was established in September 2021 following the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, and currently operates from the buildings of the two previous schools.

The following map shows the location of the two schools and other primary schools in Newtown:



Key: Blue – Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Red – Treowen C.P. School, Yellow – Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd, Brown – Maesyrhandir C.P. School, Purple – St Mary's RC School, Green – Penygloddfa C.P. School, Black – Newtown High School.

The following is a summary of key data relating to the two schools:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹	Rural School ²
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English- medium	48	No
Treowen C.P. School, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1NJ	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English- medium	24	No

Current pupil numbers³ at the two schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	39	35	45	26	33	38	35	251
Treowen C.P. School	10	15	15	9	15	14	27	105
Total	49	50	60	35	48	52	62	356

Whilst Ysgol Calon y Dderwen was established in the existing Ladywell Green and Hafren buildings, the intention was that eventually a replacement building would be provided on the site, to be co-located with the new Health and Well-being Campus being developed as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme.

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

Following consideration of these plans by the Council's Cabinet, officers were asked to consider whether it would be possible to increase the size of the planned

¹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24

² Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

⁽https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf)

³ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

new building, to accommodate more pupils, potentially the pupils currently attending Maesyrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School as well as Ysgol Calon y Dderwen pupils.

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

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

The engagement exercise identified a number of concerns about the possible plan to bring these together. These included:

- Concern about the impact of pupils attending a larger school
- Concern about traffic and parking
- Concern about the impact on staff
- Concern about loss of community identity and facilities
- Concern about land and facilities for the replacement building
- Concern about location and access to the new building
- Suggestions that smaller schools are preferred
- Concern around wellbeing, bullying and behavioural issues
- Concern around loss of parental choice
- Concern around the impact on pupils with ALN

Respondents were asked to outline any specific local issues which the Council would need to consider when exploring the idea further. The following is a summary of the comments received:

- Traffic and parking in the Park Street area of Newtown
- Impact on pupils and learning around class sizes
- Impact on communities and families
- Concerns around the North Powys Wellbeing Programme
- Size of the new school
- Accessibility and transport from Treowen and Maesyrhandir

Since the engagement exercise was carried out, the Council has carried out an options appraisal exercise to identify a preferred option for the three schools. The feedback received during the engagement was taken into consideration when undertaking the options appraisal exercise.

The following steps have been undertaken:

- Options appraisal exercise
- Recommendation considered and agreed by the Transforming Education Programme Board
- Recommendation considered and agreed by Cabinet

On the 24th October 2023, the Cabinet considered the options appraisal and engagement report, and agreed to commence consultation on the following proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:

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

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

2. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

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

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

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 43% of the primary provision in the county. 21 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

ii) Decreasing pupil numbers

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

iii) High number of surplus places

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

iv) Building condition

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

v) Financial pressures

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

vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welshmedium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer

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

viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision

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

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

ix) Historical lack of political decision making

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

3. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the summer of 2019, Powys Education Services were inspected by Estyn. The report published by Estyn following the inspection outlined significant concerns regarding the Council's progress on school reorganisation, and includes a recommendation to 'Ensure that the organisation of provision for non-maintained, post-16, Welsh-medium education and secondary education meets the needs of children and young people of Powys.'

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

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

The Vision Statement is as follows:

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

In order to achieve the vision and guiding principles, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to transform the Powys education system over the next few years, in order to provide the best possible opportunities to Powys learners now and in the future. One of these aims is to 'improve learner entitlement and experience' and this aim includes an objective to 'rationalise primary provision'.

The strategy also includes an Enabling Action which includes a commitment to capital investment in Powys schools, as outlined below:

'E.A.1 – The implementation of a major capital investment programme that will ensure that schools in Powys have inspiring, environmentally sustainable buildings that can provide opportunities for wider community activity, including where possible childcare services, early years, ALN, multi-agency support and community and leisure facilities. This will also include developing a reliable, high quality digital infrastructure.'

The current proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are in line with these priorities.

4. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN NEWTOWN

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

The reasons for this were as follows:

i) Decrease in pupil numbers

As shown in the table below, total pupil numbers at the three schools have decreased from 626 in 2017 to 462 in 2023. This is a decrease of 164 pupils.

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

The projections, which are shown below, suggest that pupil numbers, whilst remaining steady at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, are projected to continue to decrease significantly at Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrhandir C.P. School⁴.

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	236	235	229	224	229
Treowen C.P. School	105	88	85	77	78
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	92	86	77	72	71
Total	433	409	391	373	378

⁴ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023.

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

ii) Increase in surplus places

Currently the three schools combined have a surplus capacity of 273 pupils, or 37.5%. This is much higher than the current 21% of surplus places in primary schools across Powys.

As pupil numbers in the three schools are set to fall, significantly in Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrhandir C.P. School, these surplus places will increase. By 2028, according to the projections, surplus places could be 350 places or 48.1% based on the current configuration of schools.

iii) Building condition

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

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The following options were identified for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Treowen C.P. School and Maesyrhandir C.P. School to address the challenges identified above:

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

SWOT analyses have been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors. These can be found in <u>Appendix B</u> of this document.

Based on the SWOT analyses and the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred option for the schools is as follows:

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

The reasons for this are:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building
- Improved building condition for the two schools
- Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building
- Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites
- The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- New building would be meet Welsh Government net zero requirements
- Potential financial saving
- Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc
- Additional services could be provided in a larger school
- Reduction in surplus places in Newtown

- This Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future

6. IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

Having identified a preferred option, a number of possible implementation options were identified to take this option forward.

These are as follows:

Option 4A	 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. When the new building opens, Treowen C.P. School closes, and pupils transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen along with Calon y Dderwen pupils.
Option 4B	 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. When the new building opens on the Calon y Dderwen site, a new primary school is established in the new building by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.
Option 4C	 From September 2025, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building. Treowen pupils would continue to attend the Treowen site, however the school would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Treowen C.P. School would close. When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.
Option 4D	 From September 2025, a new primary school is established by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The school initially operates from the current Calon y Dderwen and Treowen buildings. When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.
Option 4E	 From September 2025, Treowen C.P. School closes and pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Pupils continue to occupy current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen buildings until the new building is ready.

SWOT analyses have also been carried out for each of these options. In addition, the options have been assessed against a number of Critical Success Factors. These can be found in <u>Appendix C</u> of this document.

Based on the SWOT analyses and the assessment against the Critical Success Factors, the preferred implementation option is as follows:

Option 4C:

- From September 2025, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the current Treowen C.P. School building. Treowen pupils would continue to attend the Treowen site, however the school would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Treowen C.P. School would close.
- When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.

The reasons for this are as follows:

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

7. IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the preferred option identified in section 5 above and the preferred implementation option identified in section 6 above, the preferred option is as follows:

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

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

In order to take forward this preferred option, the Council is consulting on the following proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:

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

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

The proposals are further explored in the following section. The reasons why the other options considered have not been taken forward are summarised in <u>Appendix</u> \underline{D} of this document.

PART B – THE PROPOSALS

8. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building. The proposals are as follows:

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

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

9. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSALS

The Council is proposing to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building for the following reasons:

- Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building
- Improved building condition for the two schools
- Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building
- Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites
- The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
- New building would meet Welsh Government net zero requirements
- Potential financial saving
- Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc
- Additional services could be provided in a larger school
- Reduction in surplus places in Newtown
- Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future
- Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school
- Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed.
- Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed.
- Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.
- Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources
- Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school.
- Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

10. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building are summarised below:

		Diaghyantarag			
Ad	vantages	visadvantages			
	Provides the opportunity for all learners at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen to benefit from the capital investment in a new building Improved building condition for the two schools Would eventually enable all pupils to be taught in one building Removal of backlog maintenance at the existing school sites The new building would fully meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 New building would meet Welsh Government net zero requirements Potential financial saving Would enable the schools to be run more efficiently through shared staffing, shared resources etc Additional services could be provided in a larger school Reduction in surplus places in Newtown Would retain enough capacity to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in Newtown in the future Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period.	School would the benefits of learning envi- Possible con- area if more the current O Pupils curren C.P. School walk/travel fu- than they do Treowen is lear which may m challenging f Possible imp to having to Community of Possible imp to having to Community of Possible imp to having to Community of Possible imp to having to Community of Parents may their children school than fi Doesn't addr maintenance Maesyrhand Pupils would until the new Impact on sta managemen would need fi Would not pr savings until constructed.	igestion in the local pupils were attending Calon y Dderwen site atty attending Treowen would have to urther to get to school currently ocated on top of a hill hake walking to school for some bact on attendance due walk/travel further opposition to the the concerned about a being part of a larger they are used to ress backlog		

-	Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school. Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school	

11. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposals to close Treowen C.P. School, extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and move to a new building.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Parents choose for their children to attend alternative schools instead of Treowen / Calon y Dderwen which results in a reduction in pupil numbers at these schools	Low	Low	Engagement with parents to take place throughout the process.
Period of uncertainty for the affected schools whilst the statutory process is being carried out and implemented may have a negative impact on standards at the two schools.	Medium	Medium	The Council to provide advice and support to the schools and governing bodies to ensure that standards and performance continue to improve during the transition period.
Uncertainty for staff during the transition period, may result in some staff leaving	Low	Low	Engagement with staff to take place throughout the process and staff to be kept informed of developments. Process to be concluded as quickly as possible in order to minimise the period of uncertainty for staff.

No capital funding is available to fund the project, either from the Welsh Government or the Council.	Low	High	A SOC for a new build 270 place school has previously been approved by Welsh Government, however it is recognised that should the decision be implemented, the estimated costs would be higher than the current funding envelope. The Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme to Welsh Government by the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.
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11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposals, potential implementation timescales are as follows:

Formal Consultation	15 January to 26 February 2024
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Cabinet	April 2024

If Cabinet decide to proceed:

Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	May 2024
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	July 2024

If Cabinet approves implementation:

Phase 1:

Treowen C.P. School closes	31 st August 2025
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is extended to include the former Treowen C.P. School site	1 st September 2025

Phase 2:

The target date for completion of the new school building is 2026/2027. Once this is complete then the Treowen site would close.

PART C – LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSALS

12. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School

Implementation of Phase 1 of the proposals would see the continuation of English-medium primary provision on the current sites of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. It is anticipated that the impact on pupils attending the two schools would be minimal during this phase, however it is possible that there could be a greater impact on pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School as they would be part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This may mean some staffing changes, however it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on pupils. Pupils would continue to attend school at their current location, so there would be no additional travel to school.

During this phase, there would be improved opportunities for pupils in all key stages to benefit from staff specialisms. There would also be improved opportunities for more able and talented pupils.

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would mean that all pupils would transfer to the new site. The new building would provide significantly improved accommodation compared with the current accommodation of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, which would have a positive impact on pupils. However, for pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, the move to a new building would require additional travel. Whilst the distance to the site of the new building would be less than a mile, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a steep hill, which could make it more difficult for pupils and their families to walk to and from the new site.

There would also be opportunities to provide more activities for pupils during this phase, as all pupils would be attending the same building.

ii) Pupils attending other schools in Newtown catchment

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposals would impact on any pupils attending any other schools in the Newtown catchment. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend alternative schools instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School, which could result in an increase in pupil numbers at these schools, it is not anticipated that the numbers would be large enough to have an impact on these schools.

iii) Pupils attending other schools not in the Newtown catchment

It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposals would impact on any pupils attending any other schools in the Newtown catchment. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend alternative schools instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School, which could result in an increase in pupil numbers at these schools, it is not anticipated that the numbers would be large enough to have an impact on these schools.

13. IMPACT ON STAFF

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close, and a Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the former Treowen site.

The Council would work with the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen on an expanded staffing structure, which would enable the school to operate from the Treowen site in addition to its current site during Phase 1. This would be in accordance with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. As part of this process, there would be an opportunity for the governing body to 'ringfence' all teaching and associated staff posts to staff currently employed within Treowen C.P. School in the first instance.

It is possible that further changes to the staffing arrangements would be needed when the school moves to a new building during Phase 2. Any such changes would be carried out by the headteacher and governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen in accordance with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff.

Should the proposals be implemented, all cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council would be supported by the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

14. IMPACT ON NURSERY / EARLY YEARS PROVISION

In September 2017, the Council changed the age of admission to primary schools in Powys from "at the start of the term in which they attain their fourth birthday" to "at the start of the school year following his/her fourth birthday". Following this change, there are no nursery aged pupils attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen or Treowen C.P. School.

However, ten hours of funded early years education provision is available on the sites of both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. Information about this provision is provided below:

Derw Bach

Derw Bach is a non-maintained community run setting which operates from the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. They also provide the Childcare Offer for Wales. There are 32 places available at this provider which are currently sufficient to meet the need for early years education in the area.

Treowen 3+

Treowen 3+ is a non-maintained school run setting which operates from the site of Treowen C.P. School. There are 20 places available at this provider which is currently sufficient to meet the needs for early years education in the area.

During Phase 1 of the proposals, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the current site of Treowen C.P. School. During Phase 1, the expectation is that funded early years education would continue to be available on both sites, however consideration would need to be given to the management arrangements of the provision at Treowen, as the setting is currently run by Treowen C.P. School, which would no longer exist.

Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Accommodation to provide funded early years education would be provided in the new building. The demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.

Should all provision move to the new building, this would mean that funded early years education would no longer be available at Treowen, and families currently living in Treowen who access this provision at Treowen C.P. School would need to travel further to access this provision.

Parents would also be able to access other providers in Newtown, however due to recent changes in provision in the town, there is currently some pressure on places. Demand for places in the area will be reviewed as the proposal moves forward, to ensure that sufficient places are provided to accommodate demand.

15. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON AVAILABILITY OF PLACES AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

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

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

The following table provides information on the number of spaces available and building condition of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School:

School	Capacity	Current Pupils⁵	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	342	251	91	26.6%	С	В
Treowen C.P. School	172	105	67	39.0%	В	В

This information shows that there is enough capacity within the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to accommodate existing and projected pupil numbers at the two schools. The accommodation would be at least equivalent quality for current pupils until the new building is constructed.

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

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

School	Capacity	Current Pupils ⁶	Available Space	Available Capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	214	99	115	53.7%	B/C	B/C
Penygloddfa C.P. School	312	273	39	12.5%	В	В
St Mary's RC School	117	60	57	48.7%	В	B/C

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

ii) Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and designated religious character?

⁵ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

⁶ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School are both community primary schools. The proposal is to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would provide continued access to community primary provision for pupils currently attending these schools. As indicated above, there are sufficient places at the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen buildings to accommodate current and projected pupil numbers at these two schools.

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

Additional English-medium C.P. provision is also available at other providers in Newtown, such as Maesyrhandir C.P. School and Penygloddfa C.P. School.

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would result in additional travel for pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school. The Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site is approximately 0.8 miles from Treowen C.P. School, therefore whilst there would be additional travel time for all pupils for whom Treowen C.P. School is currently the closest school, including SEN pupils, this would be minimal.

School name	Distance from Treowen C.P. School	Approx. travel time
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	0.8 miles	3 minutes
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	1.0 miles	3 minutes
Penygloddfa C.P. School	1.2 miles	4 minutes
St Mary's RC School	1.6 miles	5 minutes

In respect of primary provision, the nearest alternative English-medium provision to Treowen C.P. School would be as follows:

The travel times above are the approximate travel times from Treowen C.P. School to the alternative schools, however the distance from individual pupils' homes to alternative schools would be different. Analysis has shown that the distances and travel times to alternative English-medium provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes for primary pupils. The travel times above are the approximate travel times from Treowen C.P. School to the alternative schools, however the distance from individual pupils' homes to alternative schools would be different. The distances and travel times to alternative English-medium provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes for pupils.

It is also acknowledged that Treowen C.P. School is located up a hill, which could mean that it would be less convenient for families from the Treowen estate to get to school following the move to the new building, however the additional distance is not considered to be excessive and should not have a significant impact on the accessibility of the provision. The Council's view is that this should not have an effect on pupils' engagement with and attendance at school.

Should the proposals be implemented, the existing Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, therefore during Phase 1, walking / cycling routes to school would be the same as the current walking / cycling routes to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building.

As the proposed site for the new building is currently a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre. There has also been some development of active travel routes on the Treowen estate recently, with the construction of a path which runs from Kerry Road to the school and continues to Bethshan Nursing Home. However it is acknowledged that further development is needed of routes from the Treowen estate to the town centre. Several potential future routes have been identified to better connect this area to the town centre, which would be considered as part of the process of developing the new building, to ensure that there would be safe routes in place to enable pupils from the Treowen estate to access the new site.

iv) Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?

The latest pupil projection figures⁷ for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School suggest that pupil numbers at both schools are not expected to increase over the coming years. This is in-line with the general trend in terms of pupil numbers in Newtown.

⁷Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 & Birth Rates.

School	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Maesyrhandir C.P. School	92	86	77	72	71
Treowen C.P. School	105	88	85	77	78
Penygloddfa C.P. School	287	289	286	275	272
St Mary's RC School	65	63	53	44	41
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	236	235	229	224	229
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	193	201	201	199	190
Total	978	962	931	892	881

The following table provides the latest primary projections for all primary schools in Newtown:

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

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

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

16. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposals would result in the closure of Treowen C.P. School and the extension of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to current Treowen site. This would mean that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's current governing body would become responsible for the Treowen site in addition to the Calon y Dderwen site. The governing body of Treowen C.P. School would be dissolved. There would be opportunities for representatives of the Treowen site to be appointed to the governing body if there were any vacancies.

The governing body of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may also decide to add additional governors in line with the Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005.

17. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

i) Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

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

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

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

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

ii) Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

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

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupil wellbeing during transition to the new operating model, however the expectation is that Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would work with Treowen C.P. School to support transition to the new operating model from September 2025, to minimise any negative impact. Pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend the same location during the transition period, and it is likely that they would continue to be taught by the same staff.

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

iii) Teaching and learning experiences

Quality of teaching

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

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

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

The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

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

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

The provision of skills

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

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

iv) Care, support and guidance

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

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

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

v) Leadership and Management

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

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

The expanded Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be a larger school and would enable increased focus on leadership. Extending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site would also provide enhanced opportunities to develop leadership across the school, on both sites and would provide enhanced leadership opportunities for staff, and enhanced opportunities for improvement planning across the school.

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

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

Professional learning

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

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

Use of Resources

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

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

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

vi) Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

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

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

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

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

The arrangements for supporting vulnerable pupils at the school would be further enhanced following the planned move to a brand new building, however it is acknowledged that there would be a change in location for pupils attending the Treowen site, which could mean that it is make it more difficult for them to access school.

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

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

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

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

18. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

i) What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?

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

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

ii) Do the proposals form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

Phase 1 of the proposals, to extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, is not dependent on Sustainable Communities for Learning funding.

Phase 2 of the proposals, to provide a replacement building, is dependent on capital funding, and is part of the local authority's Sustainable Communities for Learning (formerly 21st Century Schools) Investment Programme.

Plans to provide a new primary school in Newtown are included in the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. This is linked to wider plans to develop a multi-agency Health and Well-being campus in Newtown. A SOC for a new build 270 place school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen has previously been approved by Welsh Government. However it is recognised that the current estimated costs for a 360 place school would be higher than the funding envelope approved within the SOC.

The Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme for the new Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme before the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.

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

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the increased rates charges for a new build which are currently estimated to be an additional £14,000 and it is expected that utility costs would rise in the new build by an estimated £20,000. This has been included in the delegated revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal. These costs will need to be updated as the build is developed and more information is known.

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

It is not anticipated that any additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of the proposals.

During Phase 1, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be extended to include the Treowen site. During this phase, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would continue to attend school in the same location.

During Phase 2, all pupils would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This means that there would be some additional travel for pupils attending the Treowen site, as they would need to travel to the new school site. However the new building would be located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen building, so it is not anticipated that there would be any additional transport costs associated with this move.

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

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

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

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

However, the original SOC was based on a 270-place school, with an estimated cost of just under £13m, based on 2020 costs. It is noted that the Council would need to submit a revised SOC if the scope of the project was to change.

The Council will be submitting a new Strategic Outline Programme for the new Sustainable Communities for Learning rolling programme before the end of March 2024, which will include an updated cost for this project.

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

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the new school would move to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is estimated that the capital cost of this (including optimism bias) would be £16m, however this would be reviewed and updated as the design process moves forward.

It is anticipated that the lifetime costs of the status quo option, which would include backlog maintenance would be $\pounds78.00m$ over a 60-year investment period. This is compared with the lifetime costs of the move to a new school building which would be $\pounds72.61m$ over a 60-year investment period, generating a saving of $\pounds5.39m$.

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

vii) Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

Based on the latest information held by the Council's Finance Team, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen is projecting a cumulative surplus of £61,543 in March 2024 and Treowen C.P School is projecting a cumulative surplus of £36,161 in March 2024.

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

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

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

be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the old Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would result in the Treowen site becoming surplus. The Council would need to consider what to do with this site in the future. This would initially be considered through the Council's Strategic Asset Board.

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

19. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

i) Impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds

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

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

Eventually, the intention is that the new school moves to a new building located on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. This would mean that pupils attending the school would need to transfer to the new site. For

pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, this would require additional travel. However, the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site is located less than 1 mile from the existing Treowen school building, so it is not expected that the additional travel required would impact on pupils' educational attainment.

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

ii) Land and Buildings

Comparison of the quality of accommodation at the school from which pupils would be transferred

As the proposal is to initially close Treowen C.P. School and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include this site, there would be no impact on the quality of accommodation for pupils.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, which would result in new facilities, leading to a significant improvement in the quality of accommodation for pupils in the longer term.

Information on any building works necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated

All current pupils can be accommodated within the current accommodation and no building work would be necessary to proceed with Phase 1 of the proposals.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. A new building would be required in order to enable this move to take place, which will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate all pupils.

Details of any potential transfer or disposal of land or buildings that may need to occur as a result of the proposals

The Treowen site would be surplus following a move to a new building and this would be disposed of in accordance with the Council's asset management policy. Is the school / schools involved subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land?

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

iii) Walking routes to school

Should the proposals be implemented, the existing Treowen site would become part of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, therefore during Phase 1, walking / cycling routes to school would be the same as the current walking / cycling routes to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School.

Eventually, the intention is that the school would move to a new building located on the site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG. Active travel is a key consideration when developing new school buildings, therefore every effort would be made to encourage walking / cycling to school when developing the new building.

As the proposed site for the new building is currently a school site, there are already good active travel links between the site and the town centre. There has also been some development of active travel routes on the Treowen estate recently, with the construction of a path which runs from Kerry Road to the school and continues to Bethshan Nursing Home. However it is acknowledged that further development is needed of routes from the Treowen estate to the town centre. Several potential future routes have been identified to better connect this area to the town centre, which would be considered as part of the process of developing the new building, to ensure that there would be safe routes in place to enable pupils from the Treowen estate to access the new site.

iv) School Admissions

Admissions for the two schools are administered by the Council. Should the current proposals be implemented, admissions for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would continue to be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available on-line at: https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place

Should the proposals be implemented, pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would be allocated a place in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

New pupils wishing to attend the school would need to apply for a place in accordance with the Council's admissions arrangements.

v) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The proposal is not directly linked to the targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and would not expand or reduce the availability of Welsh language provision.

Welsh-medium education is available in Newtown at Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen's new building when it opens instead of choosing Welsh-medium education, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is itself located in a new building provided by the 21st Century Schools Programme. As Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd is closer to Treowen than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, it is also possible that some pupils would choose to attend Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in the future, instead of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen.

20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

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

A range of options have been considered in respect of Treowen C.P. School, these are outlined in section 5 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

The preferred option is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen C.P. School site, which would result in establishing a multi-sited school, until the new building is constructed for learners on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site.

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

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

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

Clustering, collaboration or federation have not been considered as they would not solve the key issues of surplus places and decreasing pupil numbers, nor would they provide opportunities for larger numbers of pupils to benefit from the planned capital investment in Newtown. However the status quo option indicated opportunities for the schools to work collaboratively.

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

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

Upon transfer to the new building, the future use of the Treowen site would be considered in accordance with the Council's asset management policy. This would include exploring the possibility that the building could be used as a community resource.

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

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that educational provision would continue to be available in Newtown for pupils that currently attend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. Ultimately, there would be a positive impact on the community in Newtown, through the provision of a new primary school with enhanced facilities, including community facilities.

During the first phase, provision would continue on the current Treowen site, so the impact on the Treowen community would be minimal. However eventually, there would no longer be provision in Treowen. This would have a negative impact on the Treowen community and would result in the loss of primary provision on the Treowen estate, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school. However, pupils would continue to be able to access education in the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site.

A community impact assessment has been carried out, which includes input from the affected schools to identify the potential impact on the community. This will be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received and will be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, thereby ensuring full engagement with Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The nature of this support will depend on the needs of the parents/pupils, however it is likely to include whole school activities for staff, pupils and parents, school council and governing body to include representation from both sites.

21. EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Draft impact assessments have been carried out in respect of the proposals. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. The assessments are available on the Council's website: <u>https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14956/Ysgol-Calon-y-Dderwen-and-Treowen-C.P.-School</u>

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

i) Equalities impact assessment

Should the proposals be implemented, Treowen C.P. School would close and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen be extended to include the Treowen site. The school would then eventually move to a new building on the existing Ysgol Calon y Dderwen site and the Treowen site would close. All pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School would be able to attend the new school. The aim of the proposals is to improve the educational opportunities available to pupils in Newtown, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups.

During the first phase of implementing the proposals, pupils would continue to attend school in their current buildings, therefore the impact on pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups would be minimal.

Eventually the intention is that the new school moves to a new building in Newtown. Whilst this would provide significant improvements to all pupils in terms of the quality of accommodation and the facilities available, this phase would have a more significant impact on pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend that school, including any pupils with ALN, as some additional travel would be required in order to attend the new building. However, the additional distance from Treowen C.P. School to the proposed site of the new school is minimal.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposals would impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the two current schools, there is no reason to believe that the extended Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be unable to meet the needs of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that would be affected, including pupils with Additional Learning Needs, pupils belonging to Ethnic Groups other than White British, EAL pupils, pupils eligible for Free School Meals and Looked After Children.

ii) Impact on the community

Should the proposals be implemented, Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would initially be extended to include the Treowen site. During this phase, it is expected that a similar range of activities to the activities currently provided would be available to pupils. It is also possible that an increased range of activities and opportunities could be offered to pupils, through the ability to share staff expertise and the ability to offer joint activities to a larger group of pupils. Both schools also benefit from links with the community. It is expected that these would continue during Phase 1. During Phase 1, pupils would continue to attend school at the two existing sites, so no additional travel would be required. It is anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be minimal during Phase 1.

Eventually, the intention is that all pupils would move to one new building located on the current site of Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. It is anticipated that the new building would have a range of community facilities, which would ensure that many of the activities which currently take place in the schools could continue, and could also provide the opportunity to offer new activities.

It is acknowledged, however that the move to one new building in the town centre would mean that there would be no school provision in the Treowen. This would mean that school activities would no longer take place on the Treowen estate, and could impact on links with the Treowen community. Activities that currently take place in the Treowen C.P. School building would need to find an alternative location. There is a community centre and a M.U.G.A. directly opposite the school which would continue to be available to community should there be no school in Treowen. Some of the activities that currently take place at the school could be held in the community centre.

It is also acknowledged that Phase 2 of the proposals would result in an increase in the distance to school for pupils for whom Treowen is currently their closest school. Whilst the additional distance would be minimal as the site would still be located within Newtown, it is acknowledged that Treowen is located up a hill, so it might be more difficult for parents without access to a car to access the site. Concern has also been raised about the walking route to the new school, and that pupils would have to cross a busy road.

PART D – CONSULTATION DETAILS

Who will we consult with?

The Council will consult with a range of stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code, which include the following:

- Parents, carers and guardians at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Governors at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- Pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, and other schools which may be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The Member of the Senedd for Montgomeryshire and regional Members of the Senedd for the area
- The MP for Montgomeryshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- Mid Wales Partnership
- The Police & Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
- Nursery providers in the local area
- Mudiad Meithrin
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the Welsh children and young people's national participation standards⁸.

The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the 15 January and end on 26 February 2024

The statutory process

Consultation on these proposals will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the revised School Organisation Code which became operational on the 1st November 2018. The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

⁸ <u>https://gov.wales/children-and-young-peoples-national-participation-standards</u>

Consultation will start on the 15 January and end on 26 February 2024. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a consultation report will be produced and shared with stakeholders.

It is important to note that responses made to the consultation will not be counted as objections to the proposals, and that only objections can be registered following publication of a statutory notice.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposals, to make changes to the proposals, or to not proceed with the proposals. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of these proposals.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by the Cabinet in the Spring of 2024.

ii) Statutory notice

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposals, a statutory notice would be published after the Cabinet meeting. There would then be a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there were objections, the Council would publish an objection report providing a summary of the objections and the Council's response to them before the end of 7 days beginning with the day of the local authority's determination. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered as objections and included in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period would not be counted as objections. Should stakeholders wish their consultation responses to be considered as objections, they would need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period.

A further report would be presented to the Council's Cabinet, which they would consider alongside the objection report, in order to decide whether or not to approve the proposals.

It is anticipated that a final decision would be made by the end of July 2024 at the latest.

iii) Implementation

If the Council's Cabinet were to approve the proposals, it would be implemented in accordance with the date given in the statutory notice or any subsequently modified date.

How to respond to the consultation

A consultation response form is attached to this document. An online version is also available on the Council's website:

https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14956/Ysgol-Calon-y-Dderwen-and-Treowen-C.P.-School

Alternatively, you can respond in writing.

Completed forms and other written responses should be sent to the following address:

Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

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

All correspondence should be received by the **26 February 2024**.

If you have any further questions about these proposals, you can contact the Transforming Education Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01686) 611553.

APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

Key data about Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School is provided below.

As the proposal is to initially extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the Treowen site, before all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site in the future, it is not anticipated that the proposals would affect any other schools. Whilst it is possible that some pupils may choose to attend other schools in Newtown other than Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School, it is not anticipated that the numbers would be significant.

General Information

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ⁹	Rural School ¹⁰
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Park Street, Newtown, SY16 1EG	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English- medium	48	No
Treowen C.P. School, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1NJ	Community Primary School building owned by the Powys County Council	English- medium	24	No

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹¹

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr6
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	39	35	45	26	33	38	35	251
Treowen C.P. School	10	15	15	9	15	14	27	105
Total	49	50	60	35	48	52	62	356

⁹ Powys County Council's Admissions Information and Arrangements 2023-24 ¹⁰ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf)

¹¹ Teacher Centre, 12th January 2024

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹²

	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	270	256	264	239	231	230	230
Treowen C.P. School	146	146	145	131	136	135	106

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Live birth info)¹³

	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	236	235	229	224	229
Treowen C.P. School	105	88	85	77	78

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

	Capacity ¹⁴	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	342	251	91 (26.6%)
Treowen C.P. School	172	105	67 (39.0%)

ii) Building condition¹⁵

	Condition	Suitability	Sufficiency
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	C – Poor	B – Satisfactory	No
Treowen C.P. School	B – Satisfactory	B – Satisfactory	Yes

¹² PLASC

 $^{^{\}rm 13}$ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2023 & Birth Rates.

¹⁴ Welsh Government Planning of School Places Return – October 2022

¹⁵ Transforming Education PowerBI Dashboard - 2022

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	Treowen C.P. School	
Date of inspection	Not yet inspected	May 2018	
Standards	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement	
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	N/A	Good	
Teaching and learning experiences	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement	
Care, support and guidance	N/A	Good	
Leadership and management	N/A	Adequate and needs improvement	
Next steps	N/A	School placed in Estyn Monitoring. Removed from monitoring in December 2019.	

Before the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School were both inspected by Estyn. The outcomes of the last inspections of these two schools are listed below:

	Ladywell Green Infants School	Hafren C.P. Junior School	
Date of inspection	June 2019	December 2015	
Standards	Good	N/A	
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good	N/A	
Teaching and learning experiences	Good	N/A	
Care, support and guidance	Good	N/A	
Leadership and management	Good	N/A	

School's Current Performance	N/A	Adequate		
Prospects for Improvement	N/A	Adequate		
Next steps	The school will prepare an action plan to address the recommendations.	Estyn Monitoring Estyn Monitoring visit March 2017 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring		

Financial information

Cost per pupil¹⁶

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	£484,515	£4,528	£37,966	0
Treowen C.P. School	£985,816	£4,401	£55,266	0
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,729.23	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

i) National Identity¹⁷

	British	English	lrish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused/ Blank
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	32.2%	19.1%	0.4%	0.0%	21.7%	4.3%	22.2%	0.0%

¹⁶ Section 52 Budget Statement, 2023/2024

¹⁷ PLASC 2023

Treowen	64.9%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%	10.5%	2.6%	7.0%
C.P.								
School								

ii) Ethnic Group¹⁸

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	80.4%	11.3%	8.3%
Treowen C.P. School	77.2%	15.8%	7.0%

iii) English as an Additional Language¹⁹

	% EAL	% EAL A/B/C
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	7.0%	2.6%
Treowen C.P. School	8.8%	6.2%

iv) Free School Meals²⁰

	Eligible for FSM %	Eligible for Transitional Protection %
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	30.9%	5.2%
Treowen C.P. School	32.1%	9.4%

v) Pupils in care²¹

	Looked after Children
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	2.7%
Treowen C.P. School	0.9%

¹⁸ PLASC 2023

¹⁹ PLASC 2023

²⁰ PLASC 2023

²¹ PLASC 2023

vi) Additional Learning Needs²²

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	School IDP	LA IDP	% ALN
Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	20.4%	3.9%	0.4%	3.5%	0.0%	28.3%
Treowen C.P. School	6.1%	6.1%	0.0%	3.5%	0.9%	16.7%

APPENDIX B – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of these three options identified in section 5 are provided below:

Option 1 – New build for	[,] Ysgol Calon v Dderwer	ı. other schools to rer	nain as thev are
	roger earen y Baernen		nam ao anoy aro

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Provides pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with a modern new building to replace existing poor buildings Provides a more efficient model of education as all pupils would be taught in a single building rather than across two separate buildings Removal of backlog maintenance at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets No disruption to pupils, parents or staff at Treowen or Maesyrhandir Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff, who have only recently been through a change process, would not be affected by a further change Schools would continue to be located in the various communities within Newtown 	 Would not allow pupils from other schools to benefit from the investment in the new building Would not reduce surplus places in Newtown Would not address issues with building condition at Treowen and Maesyrhandir Would not provide any efficiency savings

Opportunities	Threats
- Opportunities for children and	- A new attractive learning
families to benefit from close	environment at Ysgol Calon y
integration with the proposed North	Dderwen may attract more pupils,
Powys Wellbeing Campus.	which may lead to a reduction in
- Opportunity for increased	pupil numbers at Treowen C.P.
collaboration between the schools.	School and Maesyrhandir C.P.
	School – this could have an impact

	on funding and staffing levels at these schools.
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Option 2 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils to atatend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Provides the opportunity for all learners from the current three schools to benefit from an improved learning environment A larger school provides a more efficient model of education Removal of backlog maintenance at three schools New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets 	 Constraints around space on the site, particularly as the site will be shared with the North Powys Wellbeing Programme There would be no room to extend the school should there be an increase in pupil numbers in the future Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site Pupils currently attending Maesyrhandir and Treowen would have to walk/travel further to get to school Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/ travel further to school Maesyrhandir and Treowen schools would lose their unique identities as provision would no longer be linked to those communities Community opposition to the proposals Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used to

Opportunities	Threats
 Opportunity for more pupils, including those from deprived areas, to benefit from a modern learning environment Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus 	 The new building would be almost full from the beginning, without any 'buffer' should pupil numbers in the area increase in the future Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project

 Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes Reduces surplus places 	 Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes
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Option 3 – New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrhandir C.P. School with pupils to attend the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrhandir C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment A larger school provides a more efficient model of education Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets Reduces surplus places but places remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Treowen C.P. School, to accommodate for future fluctuations in pupil numbers 	 Pupils from Treowen C.P. School would not be able to receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrhandir have a very different pupil profile which could make the transition into a new school more challenging – the percentage of pupils with additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher in Maesyrhandir Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site Pupils currently attending Maesyrhandir would have to walk/travel further to get to school than they do currently Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/travel further Community opposition to the proposals Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a larger school than they are used to Doesn't address backlog maintenance issues at Treowen C.P School

Opportunities	Threats
- Opportunity for more pupils, including those from a deprived area, to	 Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Provides the opportunity for all learners from both Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School to benefit from an improved learning environment A larger school provides a more efficient model of education Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have a similar pupil profile in terms of additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals – this would enable a positive transition process Removal of backlog maintenance at two schools New school building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen would be fully accessible and would meet the requirements of the Equality Act New build is planned to be a Passivhaus building which is a very efficient energy standard, and the school would meet Welsh Government's net zero targets Reduces surplus places but places 	 Pupils from Maesyrhandir C.P. School would not be able to receive the benefits of a new modern learning environment Possible congestion in the local area if more pupils were attending the current Calon y Dderwen site Pupils currently attending Treowen C.P. School would have to walk/travel further to get to school than they do currently Treowen is located on top of a hill which may make walking to school challenging for some Possible impact on attendance due to having to walk/travel further Community opposition to the proposal Parents may be concerned about their children being part of a larger school than they are used to Doesn't address backlog maintenance issues at Maesyrhandir C.P School
remain available at other schools in Newtown, including Maesyrhandir	

C.P. School, to accommodate for	
future fluctuations in pupil numbers	

Opportunities	Threats
 Opportunity for more pupils, including those from a deprived area, to benefit from a modern learning environment Opportunities for children and families to benefit from close integration with the proposed North Powys Wellbeing Campus Opportunity to improve social cohesion across areas of Newtown Opportunities for staff development as part of a large school Opportunities to develop Active Travel Routes 	 Availability of capital funding – a larger school would cost more than the current budget available for this project Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes A new attractive learning environment at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen may attract more pupils, which may lead to a reduction in pupil numbers at Maesyrhandir C.P. School – this could have an impact on funding and staffing levels in future.

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description	
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	 The option must align with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032, to include the following: 	
	 Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme 	

2 – Value for money	 The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	 The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level The option must be achievable within current legislation The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives
5 – Potential affordability	 The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted revenue of participating organisations The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding of participating organisations

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

- \checkmark meets the criteria
- ? may meet the criteria
- X does not meet the criteria

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

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

APPENDIX C – SWOT AND CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR ANALYSIS – IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

1. SWOT ANALYSES

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified in section 6 are provided below:

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. Limited disruption to pupils and staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. 	 Pupil numbers would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Treowen would lose its identity once the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. Temporary leadership arrangements would continue at Treowen until the new building is constructed. No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building.

Opportunities	Threats
 Opportunity for greater collaboration / federation between Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen until Treowen closes. 	 Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. Pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. All staff at both schools would be treated in the same way and would have the same opportunity to secure positions at the new school Both schools would have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new school's identity. 	 Pupil numbers at Treowen would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Both schools would lose their identity once the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021. Would incur costs to establish a new school.

Opportunities	Threats
 Opportunity for greater collaboration / federation between the Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen until both schools close. 	 Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

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

Strengths	Weaknesses		
 Minimal impact on staff and pupils at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen who have only recently gone through a staffing restructure process during the establishment of the new school Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. 	 Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place. 		

 practice to be shared across both sites during the transition period. Would enable the school to run more efficiently during the transition period through shared staffing and resources Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school. Avoids expenditure associated with establishing a new school

Opportunities	Threats
 Opportunities for staff to be part of a larger team. 	 Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Would provide education in Treowen until the new building is constructed. Treowen pupils would continue to attend school at the same location until the new building is constructed. Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across both sites. Would enable the school to run more efficiently through shared staffing and resources. All staff at both schools would be treated in the same opportunity to secure positions at the new school Both schools would have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new school's identity. 	 Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021. Would incur costs to establish a new school.

Opportunities	Threats
 May address the issue of recruitment to leadership positions in Newtown. 	 Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

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

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Limited disruption to pupils and staff at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Would help solve building condition in the short term. Pupils would be taught together in one building. Would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the short term. Improved transition arrangements to support pupils' move from Treowen to the new building as they would already be part of the school. No costs incurred to establish a new school. 	 Provision in Treowen would be lost immediately. Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place. Treowen would lose its identity. No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. Pupils from Treowen would be subject to two moves. Not enough surplus places in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate Treowen pupils. A larger number of pupils would be on site during the construction period.

Opportunities	Threats
- Opportunities for staff to be part of a larger team.	 Difficult to recruit staff in a period of instability. Instability could impact on the continued need to improve outcomes.

2. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	 The option must align with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032, to include the following:

	 Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2022-2032 The option must optimise the benefits of the Council's Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	 The option must optimise the resources available for the
	delivery of learning
	 The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	The option must be politically acceptable at local, county and national level
	The option must be achievable within current legislation
	 The option must be operationally achievable / physically achievable
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	The option must secure sufficient appropriate resources and expertise to be deployed within Powys to achieve the investment objectives
5 – Potential affordability	The extent to which the option is affordable within the foregoated revenue of participating organizations
anoruability	forecasted revenue of participating organisationsThe extent to which the option is affordable within the
	forecasted capital funding of participating organisations

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

 \checkmark – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 4A	Option 4B	Option 4C	Option 4D	Option 4E
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	?	?	V	V	V
2 – Value for money	\checkmark	\checkmark	?	x	\checkmark

3 – Potential achievability	\checkmark	?	\checkmark	?	X
4 – Supply-side capacity and capability	√	V	✓	V	Ý
5 – Potential affordability	\checkmark	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	✓
Total ✓	4	3	4	3	4
Total x	0	0	0	1	1
Outcome	Possible	Possible	Possible	Discount	Discount

APPENDIX D – REASONS WHY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN FORWARD

Options

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
1	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, other schools to remain as they are	 Would not lead to any financial efficiency savings Would not address the building issues at Treowen and Maesyrhandir Pupils at Treowen and Maesyrhandir would not benefit from the investment Would not reduce surplus places
2	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrhandir C.P. School and Treowen C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	 The proposed site has size constraints and would be difficult a school of this size around the North Powys Wellbeing Programme The site size means that there would be no room to extend the school if pupil numbers increased Possible travel congestion in the area Pupils who walk to school would have to travel further to school Parental concerns about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used to
3	New build for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen with increased capacity, the closure of Maesyrhandir C.P. School with pupils attending the new build at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen	 Would still need to maintain three buildings in the short term, and at least two buildings in the long term Unlikely to attract capital funding to improve the buildings at Treowen Would not address the issues with building condition at Treowen Would not address surplus places at Treowen Would not address surplus places at Treowen Pupils who walk to school would have to travel further to school Parental concerns about their children being part of a much larger school than they are used toYsgol Calon y Dderwen and Maesyrhandir have a very different pupil profile which could make the transition into a new school more challenging – the percentage of pupils with additional learning needs and pupils eligible for free school meals is much higher in Maesyrhandir Pupils at Treowen would not benefit from the investment

Implementation Options

Option	Description	Reason for discounting
Option 4A	 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. When the new building opens, Treowen C.P. School closes, and pupils transfer to the new building at Ysgol Calon y Dderwen along with Calon y Dderwen pupils. 	 Pupil numbers would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Treowen would lose its identity once the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. Temporary leadership arrangements would continue at Treowen until the new building is constructed. No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building.
Option 4B	 Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School continue to operate as separate schools until the new building is constructed. When the new building opens on the Calon y Dderwen site, a new primary school is established in the new building by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. 	 Pupil numbers at Treowen would continue to decrease until the new building is constructed. Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Both schools would lose their identity once the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021.

Option 4D	-	From September 2025, a new primary school is established by merging Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School. The school initially operates from the current Calon y Dderwen and Treowen buildings. When the new building opens, all pupils move to the new building on the Calon y Dderwen site. The Treowen site would close.	 Would incur costs to establish a new school. Pupils would be taught separately until the new building is constructed. Impact on staff at both schools as management of change process would need to take place. Ysgol Calon y Dderwen staff would have to go through another management of change process, having only recently gone through a process Would not provide any efficiency savings until the new building is constructed. Would close Ysgol Calon y Dderwen which only opened in September 2021. Would incur costs to establish a new school.
Option 4E	-	From September 2025, Treowen C.P. School closes and pupils transfer to Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. Pupils continue to occupy current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen buildings until the new building is ready.	 Provision in Treowen would be lost immediately. Impact on staff at Treowen as management of change process would need to take place. Treowen would lose its identity. No opportunities for pupils and staff to be part of a single identity prior to the move to the new building. Pupils from Treowen would be subject to two moves. Not enough surplus places in Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to accommodate Treowen pupils. A larger number of pupils would be on site during the construction period.

APPENDIX E – RESPONSE FORM

PROPOSALS FOR YSGOL CALON Y DDERWEN AND TREOWEN C.P. SCHOOL

Introduction

Powys County Council is consulting on proposals for Treowen C.P. School and Ysgol Calon y Dderwen. The proposals are as follows:

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

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

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at <u>http://www.powys.gov.uk/transformingeducation</u>. This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposals. The response form can also be completed online – a link to the online form is available by following the link above.

The closing date for this consultation is the **26 February 2024.** All responses must be received by this date.

For information on how the Transforming Education Team protects and uses personal information collected during consultation processes, please see the Transforming Education privacy notice, which is available via the following link: https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9803/Transforming-Education-Privacy-Notice

Part 1 – About You

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

Parent, carer or guardian	Prospective parent, carer or guardian
Governor	Member of staff
Member of the community	Organisation e.g. Community Council
No association	Other

If you said 'Other' or are responding on behalf of an organisation, please specify:

2. If you are associated with a school, please specify which school you are associated with:



If you are associated another school, please specify which school:

3. Please provide your postcode:

Part 2 – Consultation Response

Please indicate your responses to the questions below.

4. Please provide any comments you have in respect of Phase 1 of the proposals, to close Treowen C.P. School from the 31st August 2025, and extend Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include the former Treowen C.P. School site from the 1st September 2025.

5. Please provide any comments you have in respect of Phase 2 of the proposals, to move the new school to a new building on the site of the current Ysgol Calon y Dderwen when the new building is ready in 2026/27.

6. Are there any other options you think the Council should be considering for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School?

Please outline any alternative options below, including a description of the option(s) you	
think the Council should be considering:	

Impact on people with protected characteristics

7. Do you have any comments or concerns about the impact of the proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School on people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010?

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Copy of Consultation Report

8. At the end of the Consultation Period, the Council will publish a Consultation Report, summarising the issues raised in the consultation responses received and providing the Council's response to these issues.

Would you like to be informed of the publication of the consultation report?

100		Yes
-----	--	-----

No

If you answered 'Yes', please provide an e-mail address or postal address:

Part 3 – Equalities Information (Optional)

We want to ensure that we include all sectors of the community in our consultation, and are requesting that you provide this information to enable us to identify whether the consultation has been inclusive. However, these questions are optional.

9. How old are you?

	Under	16		16-24		25-34		
	35-44			45-54		55-64		
	65-74			75-84		85+		
	Prefer	not to say						
10. What is your gender?								
	Male			Female		Gender Fluid		
	Non-B	inary		Gender neutral		Prefer not to say		
11. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?								
	Yes			No		Prefer not to say		
12. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?								
	Yes			No		Prefer not to say		
13. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?								
	Yes			No		Prefer not to say		
14. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?								
	Yes			No		Prefer not to say		
15. What is your ethnic group?								
	White			Asian		Black, African or Caribbean		
	Mixed			Gypsy/Traveller		Other		
	Prefer	not to say						

Part 4 – Impact on the Welsh language (Optional)

We are required by the Welsh Language Standards to consider the effects of any policy decisions on the Welsh Language. Please note these questions are optional.

1. In your opinion, what positive or adverse effects would the proposals for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

2. How do you think the proposals to for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen and Treowen C.P. School could be formulated or revised so that it would have positive / more positive effects, or so that it would not have adverse effects / less adverse effects on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 26 February 2024**.

Transforming Education Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

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