



Ysgol Calon Cymru

Options Appraisal

February 2025



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1. INTRODUCTION

Ysgol Calon Cymru was established in 2018 as a dual stream, dual sited secondary school operating across two campuses. The school's dual sited operating model has caused challenges since the school was established. In addition, there are issues relating to the condition of the school buildings which need to be addressed, and the Welsh-medium provision available at the school does not meet the Council's aspirations for this type of provision.

In 2020, a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) was developed, which considered a range of options to address issues with Ysgol Calon Cymru's operating model. This identified a preferred way forward for Ysgol Calon Cymru, which was as follows:

- A new 11-18 English-medium campus in Llandrindod Wells; plus
- A new 4-18 Welsh-medium all-age campus in Builth Wells.

This was considered by Cabinet on the 29 September 2020.

Since then, activity has taken place to plan for the implementation of the preferred way forward for Ysgol Calon Cymru as outlined above. This has included the following:

- Informal engagement exercise
- Initial feasibility work for the new campus in Llandrindod Wells
- High level options for remodelling the Builth Wells campus
- Pupil number modelling
- Development of an implementation plan
- Updated financial assessment

In addition, the Council's vision for Ysgol Calon Cymru as outlined above has been reflected in the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was approved by Cabinet in May 2024 and subsequently by the Welsh Government.

The purpose of this paper is to consider options for the implementation of the Council's vision for Ysgol Calon Cymru, as outlined above, to identify a preferred option for consideration by Cabinet. This would then be subject to the statutory school reorganisation process as outlined in the School Organisation Code (2018).

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

2.1.1 Sustainable Powys

Public Services across the UK are under considerable pressure as demand and costs rise, far outstripping the funding that is and will be available to them over the medium term. These growing financial and workforce pressures are having an impact on the ability of public services to meet the needs of their population. Our financial modelling estimated a budget gap of more than £60 million over the next 5 years.

In response to this challenge the Council recognises the need to transform the type and volume of services that we can offer to put the organisation on a more sustainable footing. We cannot continue to deliver services in the same way we have done so for decades. To achieve this fundamental transformation, a significant programme of change will be delivered to achieve a Sustainable Powys which is financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable. We must become more connected to the population we serve.

Sustainable Powys is based on a set of principles:

- Being open minded and seeking innovative solutions, using all the expertise available
- Delivering best possible outcomes through transformation to provide better quality services
- Using evidence – better understand need and model future demand, if we aren't getting results, we should change
- A continual process of learning and adapting to meet existing and long-term needs sustainably
- Engaging early with people in agreeing, designing and delivering approaches so we listen, understand, reflect and feedback
- Addressing the fundamental question: why do we do what we do?
- A strategic whole system approach, with partners, communities and the people of Powys
- Delivering outcomes that are affordable or no cost

This is supported by a Place-Based Planning model based on the following principles:

- We will provide a hub in each of the four core areas - anything else will only be provided if there is an approved business case to support it
- We will utilise schools and other community assets wherever we can for community-based solutions and services
- Travel times can be up to 1 hour to your nearest hub (even if you are a child)

- Provision must be digitally supported
- Public and Community transport must align each locality to the hub

2.1.2 Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys

The Council's Transforming Education in Powys Strategy 2022-32 is instrumental to the delivery of Sustainable Powys. It sets out a number of Strategic Aims and Objectives to shape the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years.

The Strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020, and updated in July 2022 following the Council elections held that year.

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

The Vision Statement is as follows:

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

In addition, the Strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives to shape the Council's work to transform the Powys education system. One of the Strategic Aims is to 'improve learner entitlement and experience'. Within this aim, the Strategy sets out a Strategic Objective to 'Develop a network of all-age schools based around the 13 current secondary school locations'. The strategy also includes a Strategic Aim to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages'. Within this aim, the Strategy sets out Strategic Objectives to 'Move schools along the language continuum' and to 'Develop new primary and secondary provision.'

The Strategy also includes an enabling action which commits to capital investment to transform the school estate:

'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 and community and leisure facilities. This will also include developing a reliable, high quality digital infrastructure.'

2.1.3 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 was approved by the Cabinet and the Welsh Government in July 2022. The Plan sets out the Council's plans to develop Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10

years, with the aim of increasing the number of Powys pupils accessing Welsh-medium education.

The WESP includes a commitment to implement a programme of transformational change to address the challenges the Council faces in delivering equitable Welsh-medium provision in Powys, which include the following:

- Establishing Welsh-medium secondary provision in at least 3 localities in Powys. In the context of the Welsh Government's 'Guidance on school categories according to Welsh-medium provision' that was published in December 2021, this is defined as provision which meets the definition for a Category 3 Welsh-medium secondary school.

2.1.4 Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme

In May 2024, the Council's Cabinet approved a revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

The projects outlined within the SOP reflect the Council's Work Programme for Wave 2 of the Transforming Education Strategy, and aligns to the Sustainable Powys initiative and other key strategic policy drivers including the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan; Economic regeneration and Town Centre First; Active Travel; Sustainability and Decarbonisation; School Organisation; Community Access and Additional Learning Needs.

The SOP considers a number of options for investment. The preferred option is Option 3, which includes investment in the following:

- Deliver projects currently in design stage and any school with condition D categorisation
- Projects that will deliver the aspirations of the WESP
- Support for further reorganisation of primary, secondary and post-16 as required

The estimated total capital cost of the preferred option is £300,000,000.

2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

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

The Council's 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

Strategy was launched in the spring of 2020, and was updated following the Council elections in May 2022. An updated version was launched in July 2022.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education 2022-32:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this was approximately 43% of the primary provision in the county. 15 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil was 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 in the coming years.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2021 figures, there was 14% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools and 23% surplus capacity in Powys secondary schools.

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, which in 2024-25 ranged from £3,915 to £17,333 in the primary sector, £5,083 to £6,589 in the secondary sector and £5,890 to £7,179 in the all age sector.

vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education

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

vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer

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

viii) Inequality in access to ALN/SEN provision

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

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

ix) Historical lack of political decision making

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

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN YSGOL CALON CYMRU

3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

Ysgol Calon Cymru is a dual stream secondary school which operates across two campuses in Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells.

The school was established in 2018 following the merger of Llandrindod High School and Builth Wells High School.

Welsh-medium and English-medium provision are available on the Builth Wells campus, whilst only English-medium provision is available on the Llandrindod Wells campus.

The following is a summary of key data relating to Ysgol Calon Cymru:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹
Ysgol Calon Cymru	Community Secondary operating across two campuses	T2	115 (Builth Wells Campus)
	School buildings owned by Powys County Council	Welsh-medium and English-medium provision on the Builth Wells Campus	118 (Llandrindod Wells Campus)
		English-medium provision on the Llandrindod Wells Campus.	

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers²

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total
Ysgol Calon Cymru Llandrindod Campus	91	102	79	98	95	30	25	520
Ysgol Calon Cymru Builth Campus	73	81	95	85	62	22	17	435
Total pupils	164	183	174	183	157	52	42	955

¹ Admissions Information and Arrangements 2025-26

² Information provided by the School, September 2024.

ii) **Historical pupil numbers³**

	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Ysgol Calon Cymru	1024	1031	1048	991	1003	1017	976

iii) **Projected pupil numbers⁴**

	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028	Jan. 2029
Ysgol Calon Cymru	953	989	998	995	978

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity⁵**

The following table provides information about the school's current surplus capacity:

	Current Capacity	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Ysgol Calon Cymru	1,406	956	450

This can be broken down as follows for Ysgol Calon Cymru's two campuses:

	Current Capacity Jan 2025	Currently Filled September 2024	Surplus Capacity September 2024
Ysgol Calon Cymru Llandrindod Campus	708	521	187
Ysgol Calon Cymru Builth Campus	698	435	263

ii) **Building condition**

³ PLASC 2024

⁴ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2024

⁵ Supply of School Places Return – 2024

The latest condition and suitability assessments for Ysgol Calon Cymru are as follows:

	Condition ⁶	Suitability
Ysgol Calon Cymru - Llandrindod Campus	B Satisfactory but with minor deterioration	C Poor
Ysgol Calon Cymru - Builth Campus	B Satisfactory but with minor deterioration	C Poor

Standards of Education

Estyn inspection – October 2022

Estyn inspected the school in October 2022 and made the following recommendations:

- R1 Improve the quality of teaching.
- R2 Strengthen the provision for literacy, numeracy and digital skills across the curriculum
- R3 Strengthen improvement planning processes
- R4 Address the health and safety issues identified during the inspection

The school was required to draw up an action plan to show how it was going to address the recommendations. Estyn would work with the local authority to review the school's progress.

Monitoring visit – September 2024

A monitoring visit was carried out in September 2024, and the outcome of the visit was as follows:

'Ysgol Calon Cymru is judged to have made insufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection.

As a result, His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is increasing the level of follow-up activity.

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, His Majesty's Chief Inspector is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement...'

Financial information

⁶ Updated condition assessments carried out in 2024.

i) **Cost per pupil (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2024/2025)⁷**

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Ysgol Calon Cymru	£6,092,000	£6,264	£282,000	£357,000
Powys average (Secondary)	N/A	£6,164	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

i) **Free School Meals⁸**

	TP% Eligible	eFSM% Eligible	Total FSM % Eligible
Ysgol Calon Cymru	7.5%	12.8%	20.3%

ii) **CLA⁹**

	% children looked after
Ysgol Calon Cymru	2.3%

iii) **SEN/ALN¹⁰**

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Ysgol Calon Cymru	82.2%	11.1%	1.1%	0.2%	4.1%	1.3%	17.8%

⁷ [Delegated School Budgets per pupil, by school \(£\)](#)

⁸ PLASC 2024

⁹ Teacher Centre, 5th January 2024

¹⁰ PLASC 2024

iv) EAL¹¹

	% EAL pupils
Ysgol Calon Cymru	3.6%

v) NI & Ethnicity¹²

National Identity

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not provided
Ysgol Calon Cymru	37.4%	17.4%	0.1%	0.0%	39.8%	5.0%	0.3%

Ethnic Group

	% White British	% Other Known Ethnicity	% Not provided
Ysgol Calon Cymru	93.3%	6.4%	0.3%

¹¹ PLASC 2024

¹² PLASC 2024

3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN YSGOL CALON CYMRU

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Ysgol Calon Cymru:

i) Quality of provision

Estyn carried out an inspection of the school in October 2022. Following this inspection, Estyn placed the school in the Estyn Review category.

A monitoring visit was carried out in September 2024, and the outcome of the visit was as follows:

‘Ysgol Calon Cymru is judged to have made insufficient progress in relation to the recommendations following the most recent core inspection.

As a result, His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales is increasing the level of follow-up activity.

In accordance with the Education Act 2005, His Majesty’s Chief Inspector is of the opinion that this school is in need of significant improvement...’

It is clear that the current provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru is not currently meeting the Council’s aspirations for education provision, and the school’s current two sited model is causing challenges in terms of the school’s ability to continue to improve. Duplicating provision across two sites means that costs, effort and resources are not deployed effectively.

ii) Budget pressures

Ysgol Calon Cymru had a cumulative deficit of £1.7 million as at the 31 March 2024. Based on the 1 May 2024 budget submittal, this was forecast to increase to £2.1 million over the next 3 years if there was no further preventative action. The school is working closely with officers of the authority and has made significant inroads into mitigating the in-year deficits that had been projected. The latest plan discussed with the school estimates in-year underspends from 2025/26 onwards which will start to reduce the cumulative deficit.

All schools are currently working with the estimated funding levels included in the Councils Budget proposals for 2025/26.

iii) Welsh-medium provision

Welsh-medium provision is currently provided on Ysgol Calon Cymru’s Builth Wells campus. During the 2024/25 school year, Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Years 7-11 at the school are as follows¹³:

¹³ Information provided by the school, September 2024

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
23	25	21	15	14	98

Although pupil numbers are higher in years 7, 8 and 9 than in years 10 and 11, overall pupil numbers at the school's Welsh-medium stream have been decreasing over the last few years, which causes increasing challenge to the school in providing access to comprehensive provision, and maintaining a Welsh ethos to ensure pupils can continue to develop their Welsh language skills throughout their education.

The Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, one of which is 'Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education'. In respect of secondary provision, the strategy states that: 'The size and proportion of the secondary streams varies considerably across the county, and the range of subjects available through the medium of Welsh also varies significantly. The curriculum offer is increasingly limited for Welsh-medium learners, and there is significant concern amongst the profession regarding the commitment of the authority to learners who study in Welsh.'

Decisions have already been made which will ensure that pupils in other areas of Powys will be able to access comprehensive Welsh-medium secondary provision in the future, following the recent statutory processes to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and Ysgol Bro Caereinion from dual stream to Welsh-medium on a phased basis. Pupils living in South Powys are able to access designated Welsh-medium providers located in other local authorities, e.g. Ysgol Ystalyfera Bro Dur, so pupils in Mid Powys are now the only pupils who are unable to access designated Welsh-medium secondary provision.

It is also notable that there is currently no access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision in the Ysgol Calon Cymru catchment area either – Welsh-medium primary provision is currently delivered at a number of Welsh-medium streams.

The current Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru itself and the wider catchment does not meet the Council's aspirations for Welsh-medium provision, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Ensuring that learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers is a key driver for this project.

iv) Building condition and suitability

There are significant backlog maintenance costs on both sites. Updated condition surveys were carried out on both sites in 2024 which indicated that based on an updated grading methodology, both sites are now assessed as Condition B – Satisfactory but with minor deterioration. However, the surveys also identify significant backlog maintenance costs on both sites – estimated backlog maintenance costs of around £2.4m are identified on the school's Llandrindod Wells campus and estimated backlog maintenance costs of around £1.5m are identified on the school's Builth Wells campus. These figures exclude any fees associated with carrying out works to address the backlog maintenance identified.

Whilst the updated condition surveys have indicated an improvement in the overall condition assessment in respect of the Llandrindod site in particular, this is due to a change to the grading methodology used by Welsh Government.

The updated condition assessments did not consider the suitability of Ysgol Calon Cymru's buildings – these are assessed as Condition C.

The Council's view is that the current buildings, and the Llandrindod campus in particular, don't meet the Council's aspirations for education, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

The need for investment in the buildings is outlined in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

PART B – OPTIONS FOR YSGOL CALON CYMRU

The SOC in respect of Ysgol Calon Cymru, which was developed and considered by the Council's Cabinet in September 2020, outlined a number of future options for the school, mainly focussed on the number and location of buildings required.

Following an appraisal of these options, the preferred way forward identified is as follows:

- An 11-18 English-medium campus in Llandrindod Wells; plus
- A 4-18 Welsh-medium all-age campus in Builth Wells.

The aspiration to establish new 4-18 Welsh-medium all-age provision in Builth Wells is central to the aims of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and this vision for Ysgol Calon Cymru is reflected in the Council's new 9 year SOP (Strategic Outline Programme) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was considered by the Council's Cabinet in May 2024.

The purpose of this paper is to identify a preferred option for the organisational change that would be required to achieve the preferred way forward outlined above.

4. GOVERNANCE AND LANGUAGE CATEGORY OPTIONS

4.1 YSGOL CALON CYMRU

4.1.1 IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONS

The following governance options have been identified which would achieve the preferred way forward outlined above:

Option	Description
1	Status Quo <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ysgol Calon Cymru continues to operate as a dual sited secondary school- Welsh-medium and English-medium provision continue to be provided on the Builth Wells site, English-medium provision continues to be provided on the Llandrindod site
2	Ysgol Calon Cymru operates across two sites, with English-medium 11-18 pupils in Llandrindod and Welsh-medium 4 – 18 pupils in Builth. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cease providing English-medium secondary provision on the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru.- Extend the age range of Ysgol Calon Cymru to 4-18 on the Builth Wells site and provide Welsh-medium education only on this site

<p>3</p>	<p>Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Llandrindod Wells), plus establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru - Change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru to English-medium - Open a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells
<p>4</p>	<p>Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Builth Wells), plus establish a new English-medium secondary school in Llandrindod Wells.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close the Llandrindod Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru - Change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru to Welsh-medium - Extend the age range of Ysgol Calon Cymru to 4-18 - Open a new English-medium secondary school in Llandrindod Wells.
<p>5</p>	<p>Close Ysgol Calon Cymru, establish two new schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close Ysgol Calon Cymru - Open a new English-medium secondary school in Llandrindod - Open a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells.

4.1.2 SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

A SWOT analysis of each of the above options is provided below:

Option 1: Status Quo

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimises disruption for pupils, parents, and teachers - Maintains secondary education provision in both towns - No additional transport costs - No requirement for school reorganisation process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils and teachers are spread across two sites which doesn't enable the delivery of the most efficient operational model - Continued duplication of staffing resources required across the two campuses - Has limited potential for achievement of ongoing revenue savings for PCC - Does not enable a broader more wide-ranging curriculum to be provided as subjects are duplicated across two sites

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learners would still need to travel between schools / sites to access subjects if they choose subjects that are not available on their usual site - Would not improve Welsh-medium provision - Does not provide the most cost-effective model for post-16 provision, as learners are spread across two sites - Low pupil numbers for some post-16 subjects - Poor quality buildings in Llandrindod Wells in particular
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlikely to attract Sustainable Communities for Learning funding

Option 2: Ysgol Calon Cymru operates across two sites with English-medium 11-18 pupils in Llandrindod and Welsh-medium 4 – 18 pupils in Builth.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain secondary provision in both towns - Would provide some stability as Ysgol Calon Cymru would remain in the two towns - Minimal impact on staff - Would provide an improved Welsh-medium experience by having a Welsh-medium campus - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision - All-age Welsh-medium model would promote transition into Welsh-medium secondary provision - Would provide a greater mass of English-medium learners on one campus - Broader curriculum could be provided to English-medium learners - Broader Welsh-medium curriculum could be provided - The school could operate more efficiently through not having to duplicate English-medium provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased travel for English-medium pupils currently attending the Builth Wells campus - Increased transport costs - Pupil numbers on the Welsh-medium campus would be small initially, particularly in the secondary phase - The school would continue to be funded as one school – English-medium site may need to subsidise the Welsh-medium site in the short term due to the small number of Welsh-medium secondary pupils - Would not provide a new identity for the Welsh-medium campus - The school would still be operating across two sites – may not be attractive to prospective headteachers - Introduction of primary provision on one campus but not the other would result in a complex operating model

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to stimulate growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers by providing a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education - Opportunity to secure capital funding to improve the accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small pupil numbers on the Welsh-medium campus could have an impact on the school's budget - Potential impact on Builth Wells C.P. School

Option 3: Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Llandrindod Wells), plus establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain secondary provision in both towns - Would provide some stability in Llandrindod Wells as Ysgol Calon Cymru would remain as the provider - Would provide a greater mass of English-medium learners on one campus - Broader curriculum could be provided to English-medium learners - Would be no need to duplicate English-medium provision across two sites - A new Welsh-medium all-age school would be established which would provide an opportunity to 'rebrand' Welsh-medium provision in the Mid Powys area - A Welsh-medium all-age school would provide an improved Welsh-medium experience - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision - All-age Welsh-medium model would promote transition into Welsh-medium secondary provision - Broader Welsh-medium curriculum could be provided - Potentially more attractive to prospective headteachers, teachers and support staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on staff - Increased travel for English-medium pupils currently attending the Builth Wells campus - Increased transport costs - May not be attractive to some in the Builth Wells community - Pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium school would be small initially, particularly in the secondary phase - May be difficult to attract a headteacher for the Welsh-medium school - Would not provide an opportunity to 'rebrand' the English-medium provision
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to stimulate growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers by providing a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education - Opportunity to secure capital funding to improve the accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium school in the short term - Potential impact on Builth Wells C.P. School
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Option 4: Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Builth Wells), plus establish a new English-medium secondary school in Llandrindod Wells.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain secondary provision in both towns - Would provide some stability in Builth Wells as Ysgol Calon Cymru would remain as the provider - A Welsh-medium all-age school would provide an improved Welsh-medium experience - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision - All-age Welsh-medium model would promote transition into Welsh-medium secondary provision - Broader Welsh-medium curriculum could be provided - Would provide a greater mass of English-medium learners on one campus - Opportunity to establish a new English-medium secondary school which would be an opportunity to 'rebrand' - Broader curriculum could be provided to English-medium learners - Two separate schools which would be funded separately, therefore no requirement for one site to subsidise the other - Would be no need to duplicate English-medium provision across two sites - Would be more attractive to prospective headteachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant impact on staff - Increased travel for English-medium pupils currently attending the Builth Wells campus - Increased transport costs - May not be attractive to some in the Builth Wells community - Pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium school would be small initially, particularly in the secondary phase - Would not provide a new identity for the Welsh-medium school - May be difficult to attract a headteacher for the Welsh-medium school - The Welsh-medium provision is currently a fairly small proportion of Ysgol Calon Cymru, therefore may not be appropriate to continue with Ysgol Calon Cymru as the name of the Welsh-medium provision - Ysgol Calon Cymru does not have a successful track record of providing Welsh-medium provision, therefore continuing with the Ysgol Calon Cymru name for Welsh-medium provision may not be well received
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to stimulate growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers by providing a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education - Opportunity to secure capital funding to improve the accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium school in the short term - Potential impact on Builth Wells C.P. School
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Option 5: Close Ysgol Calon Cymru, establish two new schools.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain secondary provision in both towns - Establishing two new schools would provide an opportunity for both schools to ‘rebrand’ - A Welsh-medium all-age school would provide an improved Welsh-medium experience - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision - All-age Welsh-medium model would promote transition into Welsh-medium secondary provision - Broader Welsh-medium curriculum could be provided - Would provide a greater mass of English-medium learners on one campus - Broader curriculum could be provided to English-medium learners - Would be no need to duplicate English-medium provision across two sites - Two separate schools which would be funded separately, therefore no requirement for one site to subsidise the other - Would be more attractive to prospective headteachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would impact on all staff at Ysgol Calon Cymru - Negative impact on staff morale at Ysgol Calon Cymru, particularly given that many of the staff have only recently been through a staffing process as part of establishing Ysgol Calon Cymru - PCC would be required to undertake another extensive process in order to close YCC and open two new schools - Increased travel for English-medium pupils currently attending the Builth Wells campus - Increased transport costs - May not be attractive to some in the Builth Wells community - Pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium school would be small initially, particularly in the secondary phase - May be difficult to attract a headteacher for the Welsh-medium school - Cumulative deficit would need to be funded by the Council upon closure of Ysgol Calon Cymru
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to stimulate growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers by providing a clear pathway through Welsh-medium education - Opportunity to secure capital funding to improve the accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium school in the short term - Potential impact on Builth Wells C.P. School

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4.1.3 CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the Critical Success Factors (Annex A).

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	?	✓	?	✓
2 – Value for money	x	?	✓	✓	?
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4 – Potential affordability	x	?	✓	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	4	3	3
Total x	3	0	0	0	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Preferred	Possible	Possible

4.1.4 EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the options assessment above, the emerging preferred option is as follows:

Option 3: Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Llandrindod Wells), plus establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells.

- Close the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru
- Change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru to English-medium
- Open a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells

The reasons for this are:

- Would retain secondary provision in both towns
- Would provide some stability in Llandrindod Wells as Ysgol Calon Cymru would remain as the provider

- Would provide a greater mass of English-medium learners on one campus
- Broader curriculum could be provided to English-medium learners
- Would be no need to duplicate English-medium provision across two sites
- A new Welsh-medium all-age school would be established which would provide an opportunity to 'rebrand' Welsh-medium provision in the Mid Powys area
- A Welsh-medium all-age school would provide an improved Welsh-medium experience
- Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision
- All-age Welsh-medium model would promote transition into Welsh-medium secondary provision
- Broader Welsh-medium curriculum could be provided
- Potentially more attractive to prospective headteachers, teachers and support staff

4.2 BUILTH WELLS C.P. SCHOOL

Welsh-medium primary provision is currently available in Builth Wells at Builth Wells C.P. School's Welsh-medium stream.

Section 4.1 of this paper identified a preferred option to establish a new all-age Welsh-medium school in Builth Wells, which would include Welsh-medium primary provision. Therefore, there is need to consider the future language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to identify a way forward for the school, given the wider developments that are planned in the town.

This section provides information about the current provision at Builth Wells C.P. School, and considers future options for the school.

4.2.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

The following is a summary of key data relating to Builth Wells C.P. School:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ¹⁴
Builth Wells C.P. School	Community Primary schools School buildings owned by Powys County Council	Category 1 English-medium and Category 3 Welsh-medium	40

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹⁵

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Welsh-medium stream	23	15	19	14	19	13	16	119
English-medium stream	9	13	18	22	14	19	24	119
Total pupils	32	28	37	36	33	32	40	238

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹⁶

¹⁴ Admissions Information and Arrangements 2025-26

¹⁵ Teacher Centre, 8th November 2024 (Finance Count Date)

¹⁶ PLASC 2024

	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024
Builth Wells C.P. School	220	206	201	207	209	210

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)¹⁷**

	Jan. 2025	Jan. 2026	Jan. 2027	Jan. 2028	Jan. 2029
Builth Wells C.P. School	238	223	222	214	200

Building Capacity and Condition

iv) **Capacity¹⁸**

The following table provides information about the school's current surplus capacity:

	Current Capacity	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Builth Wells C.P. School	256	238	18 (7%)

v) **Building condition**

The latest condition and suitability assessments for Builth Wells C.P. School are as follows:

	Condition ¹⁹	Suitability
Builth Wells C.P. School	B	A/B

Standards of Education

Estyn inspection – March 2017

Estyn inspected the school in March 2017 and made the following recommendations:

- R1 Raise standards of pupils' English reading and writing skills in the English stream and pupils' writing skills in both languages in the Welsh stream at key stage 2

¹⁷ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC 2024

¹⁸ Supply of School Places Return – 2024

¹⁹ Updated condition assessments carried out in 2024.

- R2 Improve the standards of pupils' Welsh second language oracy skills and increase pupils' use of the language outside Welsh lessons
- R3 Improve pupils' ability to work independently and to take responsibility for their own learning
- R4 Improve the consistency and quality of teaching to ensure that pupils of all abilities make the best progress they are capable of making
- R5 Develop the leadership skills of all staff and the role of governors in holding the school to account for its outcomes
- R6 Strengthen the skills of leaders at all levels to bring more rigour and accountability to monitoring activities in order to raise the quality of teaching and learning
- R7 Address the health and safety issue identified during the inspection

The school was required to draw up an action plan to show how it was going to address the recommendations. Estyn would review the school's progress.

Monitoring visit – November 2018

A monitoring visit was carried out in November 2018, and the outcome of the visit was as follows:

'The school is judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations from the Section 28 inspection. The school has been removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn review. There will be no further monitoring activity in relation to this inspection.'

Financial information

vi) Cost per pupil (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2024/2025)²⁰

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Builth Wells C.P. School	£918,000	£4,435	£62,000	£117,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£5,864	N/A	N/A

Equalities Information

vii) Free School Meals²¹

²⁰ [Delegated School Budgets per pupil, by school \(£\)](#)

²¹ PLASC 2024

	TP% Eligible	eFSM% Eligible	Total FSM % Eligible
Builth Wells C.P. School	5.2%	11.0%	16.2%

viii) **Children Looked After²²**

	% CLA in School
Builth Wells C.P. School	0.5%

ix) **SEN/ALN²³**

	No ALN	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	IDP School	IDP LA	Total ALN
Builth Wells C.P. School	88.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.5%	1.4%	11.9%

x) **EAL²⁴**

	% EAL pupils
Builth Wells C.P. School	0%

xi) **NI & Ethnicity²⁵**

National Identity

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not provided
Builth Wells C.P. School	21.4%	16.2%	1.0%	0.0%	61.0%	0.0%	0.5%

Ethnic Group

²² Teacher Centre, 5th January 2024

²³ PLASC 2024

²⁴ PLASC 2024

²⁵ PLASC 2024

	% White British	% Other Known Ethnicity	% Not provided
Builth Wells C.P. School	97.6%	1.4%	1.0%

4.2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONS

The following options have been identified for Builth Wells C.P. School:

Option	Description
1	<p>Status Quo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Builth Wells C.P. School continues to operate as a dual stream school in addition to the new Welsh-medium all-age school – pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium primary provision could choose to attend Builth Wells C.P. School or the all-age school
2	<p>Builth Wells C.P. School becomes an English-medium school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium. This would mean that the school would operate as a single stream school providing education through the medium of English - Welsh-medium pupils transfer to the new Welsh-medium all-age school
3	<p>Builth Wells C.P. School becomes a Welsh-medium school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to Welsh-medium. This would mean that the school would operate as a single stream school providing education through the medium of Welsh. The school would operate in addition to the new Welsh-medium all-age school –pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium primary provision could choose to attend Builth Wells C.P. School or the all-age school - English-medium pupils transfer to alternative English-medium schools

4.2.3 SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

A SWOT analysis of each of the above options is provided below:

Option 1: Status Quo

Strengths	Weaknesses
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimises disruption for pupils, parents, and teachers at Builth Wells C.P. School - Would minimise the impact on Builth Wells C.P. School in the short term - Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision in Builth Wells - Welsh-medium pupils in Builth Wells could choose between Welsh-medium or dual stream provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be sufficient demand for Welsh-medium education in Builth Wells to support designated Welsh-medium primary provision as part of an all-age school and a dual stream primary - There may be difficulties in recruiting sufficient Welsh-medium staff for the two providers - Not all Welsh-medium pupils would benefit from total immersion in the Welsh language - Could lead to small numbers of Welsh-medium pupils at either the new all-age school or Builth Wells C.P. School
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be sufficient demand in Builth Wells to support two Welsh-medium primary providers

Option 2: Builth Wells C.P. School becomes an English-medium school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access a designated Welsh-medium school - Better opportunities to provide a fully Welsh ethos - Would provide complete immersion for Welsh-medium pupils, which would have a positive impact on their oral skills - Better opportunity for a Welsh-medium school to promote Welsh-medium provision - Improved transition within Welsh-medium education from being part of an all-age school - Would not be duplicating Welsh-medium primary provision in the town of Builth Wells - Opportunity for Welsh-medium staff to work in a designated Welsh-medium school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant impact on Builth Wells C.P. School - Would lead to increased surplus places in Builth Wells C.P. School - Could have a negative impact on the Welsh language opportunities offered to English-medium pupils in Builth Wells C.P. School - Potential loss of Welsh-medium staff from Builth Wells C.P. School

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surplus places in Builth Wells C.P. School would provide an opportunity to review primary provision in the catchment 	

Option 3: Builth Wells C.P. School becomes a Welsh-medium school

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access a designated Welsh-medium school - Better opportunities to provide a fully Welsh ethos - Would provide complete immersion for Welsh-medium pupils, which would have a positive impact on their oral skills - Better opportunity for a Welsh-medium school to promote Welsh-medium provision - Opportunity for Welsh-medium staff to work in a designated Welsh-medium school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of English-medium primary provision from Builth Wells - Would not be popular with the Builth community - Significant impact on non-Welsh speaking staff at Builth Wells C.P. School - May not be sufficient demand for Welsh-medium education in Builth Wells to support designated Welsh-medium primary provision as part of an all-age school and a dual stream primary - Duplication of Welsh-medium primary provision in Builth Wells - There may be difficulties in recruiting sufficient Welsh-medium staff for the two providers - Could lead to small numbers of Welsh-medium pupils at either the new all-age school or Builth Wells C.P. School
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to significantly increase Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Builth Wells in the longer term 	

4.2.4 CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the Critical Success Factors (Annex A). The assessment for each option is as follows:

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

4.2.5 EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the assessments above, the emerging preferred option for Builth Wells C.P. School is:

Option 2: Builth Wells C.P. School becomes an English-medium school

The reasons for this are:

- Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access a designated Welsh-medium school
- Better opportunities to provide a fully Welsh ethos
- Would provide complete immersion for Welsh-medium pupils, which would have a positive impact on their oral skills
- Better opportunity for a Welsh-medium school to promote Welsh-medium provision
- Improved transition within Welsh-medium education from being part of an all-age school
- Would not be duplicating Welsh-medium primary provision in the town of Builth Wells
- Opportunity for Welsh-medium staff to work in a designated Welsh-medium school

4.3 CONCLUSION

Based on the work carried out to consider options for Ysgol Calon Cymru and for Builth Wells C.P. School, the combined emerging preferred option includes the following:

- **Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Llandrindod Wells), plus establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells.**
- **Builth Wells C.P. School becomes an English-medium school**

The reasons for this are as outlined in sections 4.1.4 and 4.2.5 above.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

The preferred way forward for Ysgol Calon Cymru is dependent on the completion of two capital developments, which would see investment in the Builth Wells to remodel the current accommodation to accommodate an all-age school, and investment in the Llandrindod Wells site, to enable the site to accommodate a larger number of pupils. Both sites are currently in use as providers of secondary education, which further constrains the opportunities to commence elements of the capital works needed whilst the sites are being used to deliver education.

Full implementation of the preferred way forward for Ysgol Calon Cymru is dependent on completion of capital works on both sites. However, waiting for all of these works to be fully completed would mean that the Council would be unable to make progress with establishing designated Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area for a number of years.

Should the Council decide to proceed with implementation of the preferred way forward for Ysgol Calon Cymru, the Council's aspiration would be to establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school at the earliest opportunity, particularly given that pupil numbers at Ysgol Calon Cymru's Welsh-medium stream have now fallen to their lowest in many years. The establishment of this provision to improve the Welsh-medium provision in the area is a key aim of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, so not being able to establish new provision until the completion of two capital developments is a significant concern.

To address these concerns, this section considers options which would enable the Welsh-medium school to be established before the completion of the planned capital investment on the two sites.

5.1 OPTIONS THAT WOULD ENABLE THE WELSH-MEDIUM SCHOOL TO BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE PLANNED CAPITAL INVESTMENT ON THE TWO SITES

5.1.1 IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONS

Consideration was initially given to establishing the Welsh-medium school in a temporary location. A number of locations were considered, including the following:

- Current site of Builth Wells C.P. School
- Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd

However, challenges were identified with these options which meant they were not realistic options.

Two temporary options were considered more realistic options. These are considered below, along with a third option which would see the Welsh-medium school established on the Builth campus from the start, with the site initially being shared with Ysgol Calon Cymru.

Option	Description
1	<p>Temporary provision to be established on the current site of Antur Gwy in Builth Wells</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new Welsh-medium school would initially be established as a secondary phase school (Yrs 7-9) on the current site of Antur Gwy - The school would continue to access specialist facilities on the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru (e.g. science labs, DT, sports facilities) - Welsh-medium primary provision would continue via the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School until the completion of remodelling work on the Builth campus.
2	<p>Temporary provision to be established on the former Irfon Valley School site in Garth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new Welsh-medium school would initially be established for R-Yr 7 on the former Irfon Valley School site in Garth. - The school would expand to include further secondary years annually. - Consideration would need to be given to access to specialist secondary facilities – it is possible that some could be accommodated on the Irfon Valley site, whilst some may need to be accessed elsewhere, with potential additional transport required. - Home to school transport would be provided to enable pupils living in Builth to access the new location. - Builth Wells C.P. School would become an English-medium school. This would enable further reorganisation of primary provision in the area.
3	<p>The Welsh-medium school to be established in remodelled accommodation on the Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, initially sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential to establish the new school for the full age range from the start, however consideration would need to be given to phasing options - Part of the site would be remodelled to accommodate primary aged pupils prior to the establishment of the school - Part of the site would be redesignated as the Welsh-medium all-age school, however some facilities would need to be shared with Ysgol Calon Cymru. - Builth Wells C.P. School would become an English-medium school. This would enable further reorganisation of primary provision in the area.

5.1.2 SWOT ASSESSMENTS

A SWOT analysis of each of the above options is provided below:

Option 1 – Temporary provision to be established on the current site of Antur Gwy in Builth Wells

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No additional transport would be required as the building is in Builth Wells - Would enable the new Welsh-medium school to be established, so an opportunity to develop a name, identity etc. - Would improve the Welsh-medium secondary provision available in the short term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site is currently occupied by a range of organisations – arrangements would need to be made to terminate current lease arrangements - Some remodelling / investment in the site would be needed - Would not enable the establishment of designated primary provision in the short term - Would not free up space in Builth Primary School, therefore further reorganisation of primary provision in the area could not happen until the capital builds are complete - Would still need to be able to access facilities at the Builth secondary campus - The new Welsh-medium school would be very small initially – would only include secondary aged pupils - Limited outdoor access on site – would need to continue to access the Builth secondary campus - The school would be very small initially and would need to be funded in accordance with the funding formula, where a requirement to provide additional top ups through component 3 would be required. - There may need to be shared staffing arrangements needed with Ysgol Calon Cymru which would not support the development of the new school's identity.
Opportunities	Threats

Option 2 – Temporary provision to be established on the former Irfon Valley School site in Garth.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site is in the Council's ownership and is not currently occupied - The site is already a school site - Would enable the new Welsh-medium school to be established, so an opportunity to develop a name, identity etc. - A stand alone site, so would give the new school more autonomy - The site is separate to the current secondary site, so would not be affected by building / remodelling work on the Builth campus - As a stand alone site, there would be more flexibility in terms of continuing to be able to use the site should there be any delay to the remodelling / capital build projects - Enables secondary pupils to be diverted from the Builth campus, which would free up the Builth campus for remodelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consideration would need to be given to access to specialist secondary facilities - It would be more difficult to share facilities / staff with the Builth site - Additional transport costs to transport pupils from Builth Wells to Garth - Some remodelling / investment in the site would be needed - Inconvenient for parents living in Builth Wells - Site may not be large enough to accommodate all facilities required - May be unpopular with the Garth community - Would result in an additional school site in the short term
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would result in surplus capacity in Builth Wells Primary School, so an opportunity to review primary provision in the area sooner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupils may choose to access English-medium primary provision in Builth Wells instead of travelling to Garth, which could impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the short term. - Would need to consider maintenance of the site in the short term – the school has already closed, so the site would remain unused for a couple of years.

Option 3 – The Welsh-medium school to be established in remodelled accommodation on the Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, initially sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enables the school to be established on the Builth campus from the outset 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The site would need to be remodelled to accommodate primary aged pupils

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The majority of Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access the new school - The site is already a school site - Would enable the new Welsh-medium school to be established, so an opportunity to develop a name, identity etc. - Pupils would continue to access provision in Builth Wells, which would minimise disruption - No additional transport costs during the first phase - Minimal impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth campus – they would continue to attend this site initially - Staff could be shared across the two schools in the interim period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some potential disruption to pupils and staff on the Builth campus whilst remodelling work is ongoing - Does not reduce pupil numbers on the Builth campus in the short term. - The Welsh-medium school would not have full autonomy on the site initially which could impact on its ability to establish its identity. - Impact on Ysgol Calon Cymru as it would need to share accommodation
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would result in surplus capacity in Builth Wells Primary School, so an opportunity to review primary provision in the area sooner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new Welsh-medium school would need to share facilities with Ysgol Calon Cymru initially, which may be challenging for both schools. - Pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru's Welsh-medium stream may choose to continue to attend Ysgol Calon Cymru rather than transferring to the Welsh-medium school.

5.1.3 EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION TO ENABLE THE WELSH-MEDIUM SCHOOL TO BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF THE PLANS FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT ON THE TWO SITES

Based on the assessment above, the emerging preferred option is:

Option 3 – The Welsh-medium school to be established in remodelled accommodation on the Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, initially sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- Enables the school to be established on the Builth campus from the outset

- The majority of Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access the new school
- The site is already a school site
- Would enable the new Welsh-medium school to be established, so an opportunity to develop a name, identity etc.
- Pupils would continue to access provision in Builth Wells, which would minimise disruption
- No additional transport costs during the first phase
- Minimal impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth campus – they would continue to attend this site initially
- Staff could be shared across the two schools in the interim period
- Provides an opportunity to review primary provision in the Builth area

5.2 PHASING OPTIONS

Whilst the Council could proceed with proposing to open a new Welsh-medium school for ages 4-18 straight away, the low number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru and the complexity of the new Welsh-medium school sharing the Builth Wells site with Ysgol Calon Cymru for an initial period mean it may be more appropriate to establish the new school on a phased basis.

This section considers options for phasing the implementation.

5.2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONS

The following options have been identified;

Option	Description
1	Welsh-medium school to initially be established for the primary phase only (R – Yr6)
2	Welsh-medium school to initially be established for primary and Key Stage 3 (R – Yr 9)
3	Welsh-medium school to initially be established for primary, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4
4	Welsh-medium school to be established for the full age range (4-18) from the start

5.2.2 SWOT ASSESSMENTS

Option 1 – Welsh-medium school to initially be established for the primary phase only (R – Yr6)

Strengths

Weaknesses

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May be easier to make appropriate staffing arrangements - Gives time for the new school to plan for secondary provision - Gives time for Welsh-medium numbers to grow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No improvement to Welsh-medium secondary provision in the short term - Full implementation of the Welsh-medium all-age school would take longer - Longer transition period for Ysgol Calon Cymru - New Welsh-medium school pupil numbers would be small, which would present budget challenges
Opportunities	Threats

Option 2: Welsh-medium school to initially be established for primary and Key Stage 3 (R – Yr 9)

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would immediately strengthen Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in years 7-9 - Minimises impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru who will be in KS4 - Gives time for the new school to plan for Key Stage 4 / post-16 provision - May be easier to make appropriate staffing arrangements as no KS4 / options would need to be provided straight away - Enables full implementation of the Welsh-medium all-age school to be achieved more quickly than Option 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not result in improvement in Welsh-medium provision for pupils in Key Stage 4 / Post-16 in the short term
Opportunities	Threats

Option 3: Welsh-medium school to initially be established for primary, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Strengths	Weaknesses
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would immediately strengthen Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in years 7-11 - Gives time for the new school to plan for post-16 provision - Enables full implementation of the Welsh-medium all-age school to be achieved more quickly than Options 1 and 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption for current Welsh-medium pupils at Ysgol Calon Cymru who are entering KS4 - May be difficult to provide sufficient options for KS4 learners that meet the 'Category 3' definition - Would require significant sharing of staff and facilities, which would be complex to manage
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible challenges in staffing arrangements with a short period to build the staff base - Insufficient space within the existing Builth campus to segregate teaching and learning spaces between the two schools

Option 4: Welsh-medium school to be established for the full age range (4-18) from the start

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would strengthen Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in all years from the start 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disruption for current Welsh-medium pupils at Ysgol Calon Cymru who are entering KS4 and post-16 aged pupils - May be difficult to provide sufficient options for KS4 learners that meet the 'Category 3' definition - May be difficult to provide an appropriate Welsh-medium post-16 offer due to low pupil numbers initially
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Likely challenges in staffing arrangements with a short period to build the staff base - Insufficient space within the existing Builth campus to segregate teaching and learning spaces between the two schools

5.2.3 EMERGING PREFERRED PHASING OPTION

Based on the assessment above, the emerging preferred option is:

Option 2: Welsh-medium school to initially be established for primary and Key Stage 3 (R – Yr 9).

The reasons for this are as follows:

- Would immediately strengthen Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils in years 7-9
- Minimises impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru who will be in KS4
- Gives time for the new school to plan for Key Stage 4 / post-16 provision
- May be easier to make appropriate staffing arrangements as no KS4 / options would need to be provided straight away
- Enables full implementation of the Welsh-medium all-age school to be achieved more quickly than Option 1

PART C – IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

6. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the assessments carried out above on the various aspects of achieving the preferred way forward for Ysgol Calon Cymru, the preferred options are as follows:

Governance Options:

Ysgol Calon Cymru:

Option 3: Ysgol Calon Cymru operates from one site (Llandrindod Wells), plus establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells.

- Close the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru
- Change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru to English-medium
- Open a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells

Builth Wells C.P. School:

Option 2: Builth Wells C.P. School becomes an English-medium school

Implementation Options:

Options to enable the Welsh-medium school to be established before the completion of plans for capital investment on the two sites:

Option 2: The Welsh-medium school to be established in remodelled accommodation on the Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, initially sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru

Phasing options:

Option 2: Welsh-medium school to initially be established for primary and Key Stage 3 (R – Yr 9)

This indicates that the plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru will be taken forward in two phases.

The reasons for this are outlined in sections 4.1.4, 4.2.5, 5.1.3 and 5.2.3.

By combining the options identified above, the emerging preferred option for Ysgol Calon Cymru is as follows:

Phase 1 (September 2027):

- To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.

- Initially the school will share the Builth campus with Ysgol Calon Cymru, using part of its building and sharing some facilities.
- This will be a temporary arrangement until there has been capital investment on the Llandrindod site under Phase 2.
- To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.
 - Pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School will move to the new Welsh-medium all-age school.
- To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.
 - Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 of the Welsh-medium stream of Ysgol Calon Cymru in September 2027 will transfer to the new Welsh-medium all-age school. The Welsh-medium stream of Ysgol Calon Cymru will be phased out by September 2029.

Phase 2 (September 2029 at the earliest):

- Following capital investment on the Llandrindod Wells campus to accommodate all Ysgol Calon Cymru pupils and improve existing facilities, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus.
 - Pupils from Ysgol Calon Cymru’s Builth Wells campus will move to the Llandrindod Wells site.
 - The Welsh-medium all-age school will take over the whole of the Builth Wells site.

Further consideration of the emerging preferred option will be carried out, to include consideration of the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code. The impact of Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be considered separately.

PART D – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PHASE 1

This section considers the impact of Phase 1 of the preferred way forward outlined above on the factors outlined in the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2018) as factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals.

Phase 1 of the preferred way forward is as follows:

- To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.
 - o Initially the school will share the Builth campus with Ysgol Calon Cymru, using part of its building and sharing some facilities.
 - o This will be a temporary arrangement until there has been capital investment on the Llandrindod site under Phase 2.
- To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.
 - o Pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School will move to the new Welsh-medium all-age school.
- To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.
 - o Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 of the Welsh-medium stream of Ysgol Calon Cymru in September 2027 will transfer to the new Welsh-medium all-age school. The Welsh-medium stream of Ysgol Calon Cymru will be phased out by September 2029.

7. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	The Council would expect the establishment of a Welsh-medium all-age school to have a positive impact on standards and progress overall for Welsh-medium pupils, including standards in Welsh. It is anticipated that establishing an all-age school would have a positive impact on standards and progress overall for all Welsh-medium pupils, including pupils belonging to specific groups such as English as an Additional Language, pupils eligible for Free School Meals, Looked After Children, Additional Learning Needs. One learning continuum could be implemented across all age ranges, meaning that pupil progress could be monitored and supported
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	<p>more effectively throughout their school career. This would be particularly beneficial for pupils belonging to specific groups such as those outlined above, as there would be improved opportunities for sharing staff specialisms and expertise in working with these groups of pupils across all age ranges, ensuring that they can be more effectively supported throughout their time in the school.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that establishing an all-age school 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 all age ranges, and through the ability to target across all phases of education.</p> <p>The Council would also expect establishing an all-age school to have a positive impact on provision and progression, through the effective implementation of the Curriculum for Wales. An all-age school would allow for careful planning in the six areas of learning and experiences and the core purposes across all age groups, to allow for strong progression in skills, knowledge and understanding, and would allow for the sharing of staff expertise and skills.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school would be sharing the Builth campus during this phase, so successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between the two schools. However it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills, for pupils at both schools.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would have an impact on the standards and progress overall for English-medium pupils accessing Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth Wells campus.</p> <p>These pupils would continue to access this site, where they would receive similar provision to their current provision, however they would be sharing the site with the Welsh-medium all-age school during this period, which could impact on their ability to access facilities.</p>

	<p>It is acknowledged that Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school would be sharing the Builth campus during this phase, so successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between the two schools. However it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills, for pupils at both schools.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that changing the language category of Builth Wells CP School to English-medium would cause disruption to Builth Wells CP School in the short term, in the longer term it is anticipated that changing the language category of Builth Wells CP School to English-medium would have a positive impact on standards and progress overall for all pupils, including pupils belonging to specific groups such as English as an Additional Language, pupils eligible for Free School Meals, Looked After Children, Additional Learning Needs, by enabling the school to focus on delivering education in one language stream.</p> <p>It is also anticipated that the change would have a positive impact on the skills of all pupils in the long term, including literacy, numeracy and ICT. It is acknowledged that there could be an impact on the Welsh language opportunities available to pupils at the school should the school no longer operate as a dual stream school, which could impact on the school's ability to develop bilingualism and to succeed in achieving the Siarter Iaith, however there are examples within the Council of English-medium schools which provide numerous opportunities for pupils to develop their bilingual skills and participate in activities through the medium of Welsh.</p>

7.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school would have a positive impact on the wellbeing and attitudes to learning of Welsh-medium pupils.</p> <p>Pupil numbers at the school would be low in the short term, particularly in the secondary phase, which could impact on learner well-being. However, in the longer term, the Council would expect establishment</p>
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	<p>of a new all-age school to lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers.</p> <p>The school would initially be sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru, which could impact on well-being in the short term. However, this would also provide an opportunity to ease transition to the new model for pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru. It is however acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p> <p>There would be some disruption to Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells C.P. School as they would move to remodelled accommodation on Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth Wells campus, however they would be moving as a group, so would continue to attend the same school as their classmates, and there would be opportunities for them to be introduced to the site during the transition period to help them become familiar with the site before the move.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this element would have a significant impact on the well-being of pupils attending Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth Wells campus during the transition. They would continue to attend school in the same location, however it is acknowledged that they would be sharing the site with the Welsh-medium all-age school, which could impact on their ability to access some facilities. In addition, there would be more pupils on site, as primary aged pupils would also be accessing the site. It is acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p> <p>The school would need to ensure that appropriate provision and support was provided to learners to minimise any impact on their well-being.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>Should Builth Wells C.P. School change from a dual stream school to an English-medium school, Welsh-medium pupils would no longer attend the school. This could have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of pupils at Builth Wells C.P. School should their friends move to the new Welsh-medium all-age school. This may have an impact on some learners attitude to learning.</p>

	<p>In addition, there would be a reduction in pupil numbers at Builth Wells C.P. School. This could have an impact on the opportunities available for pupils, which could also impact on pupil wellbeing.</p>
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7.3 Teaching and learning experiences

7.3.1 Quality of teaching

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>The Council would expect that establishing a Welsh-medium all-age school would lead to improvements in the quality of teaching for Welsh-medium pupils, due to the improved professional development and collaboration opportunities that could be offered to staff, for example cross phase working, peer to peer working, triad working, and sharing pedagogical principles. In addition, the opportunity to work in a newly established Welsh-medium all-age school could be more attractive to staff than working in a dual sited dual stream school, which could have a positive impact on the school's ability to appoint Welsh speaking staff, which would also ensure teaching of the highest quality.</p> <p>During Phase 1, pupil numbers at the Welsh-medium all-age school would be small, particularly in the secondary phase. The new school would need to ensure appropriate staffing to maintain the quality of teaching during this time. In the short term, it's possible that this could include shared staffing arrangements with Ysgol Calon Cymru, however it is acknowledged that this would be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that starting to phase out Ysgol Calon Cymru's Welsh-medium stream would have a detrimental impact on the quality of English-medium teaching at Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that there would be a detrimental impact on the quality of teaching at Builth Wells C.P. School if the school were to become an English-medium school.</p>

7.3.2 The breadth, balance, and appropriateness of the curriculum

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>Welsh-medium pupils would attend a designated Welsh-medium school instead of a dual stream school, which should have a positive impact on the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum available to them in their chosen language, particularly in respect of secondary provision.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that pupil numbers at the school would be small initially, in the secondary phase in particular, so the Council would need to work with the school to ensure that appropriate provision is offered during this phase. This could include shared provision with Ysgol Calon Cymru whilst the schools are sharing the Builth site.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not expected that there would be a detrimental impact on the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum for English-medium learners on the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru during this phase.</p> <p>They would continue to attend school in the same location, however it is acknowledged that they would be sharing the site with the Welsh-medium all-age school, which could impact on their ability to access some facilities. In addition, there would be more pupils on site, as primary aged pupils would also be accessing the site.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that Ysgol Calon Cymru would be sharing the Builth site with the new Welsh-medium school during this phase, and it is acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P.</p>	<p>It is not expected that there would be a detrimental impact on the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum should Builth CP School become an English-medium school. However it is acknowledged</p>

School to English-medium.	that this would mean that there would no longer be Welsh-medium pupils at the school, which could impact on the opportunities offered to pupils to take part in activities through the medium of Welsh.
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7.3.3 The provision of skills

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	<p>It is anticipated that establishing a Welsh-medium all-age school would have a positive impact on the skills of all Welsh-medium pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT, through improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources across all age ranges, and through the ability to target across all phases of education.</p> <p>Being part of a Welsh-medium school instead of a dual stream school would have a positive impact on pupils' Welsh language skills in particular, as they would benefit from attending a school with a stronger Welsh ethos.</p> <p>Establishing an all-age school would allow for careful planning in the six areas of learning and experiences and the core purposes across all age groups, to allow for strong progression in skills, knowledge and understanding, and would allow for the sharing of staff expertise and skills.</p>
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	It is not anticipated that there would be a detrimental impact on the provision of skills, including literacy, numeracy and ICT, for English-medium pupils accessing the Builth Wells site during this phase.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	<p>It is not anticipated that there would be a detrimental impact on the provision of skills, including literacy, numeracy and ICT should Builth CP School become an English-medium school.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that there would no longer be Welsh-medium pupils at the school, which could impact on the opportunities for pupils to take part in Welsh language activities, and the development of their bilingual skills, however there are examples of English-medium schools within the Council that provide numerous opportunities for pupils to develop their bilingual skills and participate in activities through the medium of Welsh.</p>

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7.4 Care, support, and guidance

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

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>In the short term, the new Welsh-medium all-age school would have to develop systems to track, monitor and provide learning support, personal development and safeguarding.</p> <p>In the longer term, the Council would expect being part of a Welsh-medium all-age school to lead to improvements in the care, support and guidance provided to pupils. Pupils would be part of one establishment throughout their primary and secondary education, which would result in improvements in the tracking and monitoring arrangements which could be put in place throughout their time in school, and would enable more effective transition arrangements to be implemented during the pupil's time in school.</p> <p>During this phase of the proposals, the new Welsh-medium school would be sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru. Appropriate safeguarding arrangements would need to be put in place to safeguard pupils at both schools during this phase. It is also acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that there would be an impact on the tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils on the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p> <p>However, during this phase of the proposals, Ysgol Calon Cymru would be sharing the site with the new Welsh-medium school. Appropriate safeguarding arrangements would need to be put in place to safeguard pupils at both schools during this phase. It is also acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school.</p>

<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding at Builth CP School should the school becomes an English-medium school.</p>
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7.5 Leadership and Management

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

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the establishment of a new Welsh-medium all-age school in the area would have a positive impact on the quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self-evaluation processes and improvement planning in the longer term as a Welsh-medium school may be more attractive for prospective Headteachers and senior leaders than a dual sited dual stream school.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that the all-age school will be small initially, therefore it may be more difficult to secure effective leadership arrangements.</p> <p>It is also acknowledged that during this phase of the proposals, the new Welsh-medium school would be sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru. Successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school, and in particular, between the leaders and managers at the two schools.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on the quality and effectiveness of leaders and managers, self-evaluation processes and improvement planning at Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that during this phase of the proposals, Ysgol Calon Cymru would be sharing the site with the new Welsh-medium school. Successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school, and in particular, between the leaders and managers at the two schools.</p>
<p>To change the language category</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on the quality and effectiveness of leaders</p>

<p>of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>and managers, self-evaluation processes and improvement planning at Builth Wells C.P. School. However it is acknowledged that this would result in a significant reduction in pupil numbers at the school as pupils currently in the school's Welsh-medium stream would move to the new all-age school. Currently 119 of the school's 238 pupils attend the Welsh-medium stream.</p>
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7.5.2 Professional learning

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>Working in a Welsh-medium all-age school would provide additional professional learning opportunities for staff, particularly through the medium of Welsh. Establishing an all-age school would enable the school to develop as an effective learning organisation, in accordance with the ambition set out for all schools, as outlined in 'Our National Mission'.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that pupil numbers at the Welsh-medium all-age school would be low initially, in the secondary phase in particular, which would mean that the number of staff at the school initially would be relatively small. However, this would provide opportunities for staff development and professional learning as the school increases.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would impact on professional learning.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that becoming an English-medium school could lead to a reduction in staff numbers at Builth Wells C.P. School, which could have a negative impact on the opportunities available for staff in the short term.</p>

7.5.3 Use of Resources

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>In the short term, pupil numbers at the new Welsh-medium all-age school would be low, which could mean that additional resources would need to be provided to enable the school to function effectively. However, the school would initially share the Builth</p>
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	Wells campus with Ysgol Calon Cymru, which could enable some sharing of resources.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	Ysgol Calon Cymru would have fewer pupils during this period while still functioning on two sites, as some Welsh-medium pupils would transfer to the new Welsh-medium all-age school, which would impact on the school's budget. However, the school would be sharing the Builth site with the Welsh-medium all-age school during this period, which would also be reflected in the school's budget.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	Builth Wells CP School would only need to deliver education through the medium of English, reducing their overall costs. They would see a corresponding reduction in their budget share also to reflect this change. They would need to manage any changes required to ensure that they continue to operate within the funding available.

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	<p>Any pupils belonging to vulnerable groups that currently attend Welsh-medium provision at Builth Wells C.P. School or Ysgol Calon Cymru would transfer to the Welsh-medium all-age school.</p> <p>For primary aged pupils, this would mean that they would attend school in a different location, however there would be opportunities for them to become familiar with the site as part of the transition arrangements. The new site would still be located in Builth Wells, so no additional travel would be required.</p> <p>Secondary aged pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.</p>
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	It is not anticipated that this would impact on pupils belonging to vulnerable groups. Pupils accessing English-medium provision on the Builth Wells campus would be able to continue to access this provision.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P.	It is not anticipated that there would be a detrimental impact on pupils belonging to vulnerable groups, including children with additional learning needs if

School to English-medium.	Builth Wells CP School were to become an English-medium school.
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7.7 Ability of the school/schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	<p>Pupil numbers at the Welsh-medium all-age school would be small initially, in the secondary phase in particular, which could impact on the curriculum offered to secondary aged pupils.</p> <p>The school would initially be sharing the Builth Wells site with Ysgol Calon Cymru. It is acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase would be dependent on a good working relationship between the new Welsh-medium school and Ysgol Calon Cymru, to ensure appropriate access to facilities to enable the delivery of the full curriculum.</p> <p>This would also be dependent on the ability of the new Welsh-medium school to recruit sufficient Welsh speaking staff to deliver the full curriculum through the medium of Welsh.</p>
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	<p>It is not expected that there would be a detrimental impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum to English-medium pupils.</p> <p>However it is acknowledged that they would be sharing the site with the Welsh-medium all-age school, which could impact on their ability to access some facilities. In addition, there would be more pupils on site, as primary aged pupils would also be accessing the site.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school, to ensure appropriate access to facilities to enable the delivery of the full curriculum.</p>
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	<p>It is not anticipated that this would impact on Builth Wells C.P. School's ability to deliver the full curriculum to English-medium pupils throughout the primary phase. It is acknowledged that there may be a reduction in the use of Welsh in the school should</p>

	there be no Welsh-medium pupils at the school, however there are numerous English-medium schools in Powys and across Wales who successfully provide opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills.
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8. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

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

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>The proposal is to establish the Welsh-medium all-age school in the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, with the school initially sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru. The site would be remodelled to accommodate primary aged pupils. The anticipated demand for Welsh-medium provision is based on the total number of pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium primary provision in the Ysgol Calon Cymru catchment, which is as follows:²⁶</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>R</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> <th>6</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Builth Wells C.P. School</td> <td>23</td> <td>15</td> <td>19</td> <td>14</td> <td>19</td> <td>13</td> <td>16</td> <td>119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rhayader C. in W. School</td> <td>5</td> <td>23</td> <td>10</td> <td>14</td> <td>7</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ysgol Trefonne</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>5</td> <td>10</td> <td>12</td> <td>11</td> <td>14</td> <td>79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>41</td> <td>52</td> <td>34</td> <td>38</td> <td>38</td> <td>35</td> <td>41</td> <td>279</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Should all of these pupils transfer to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Builth Wells, numbers in the secondary phase in the new Welsh-medium school from September 2027 onwards would be as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yr 7</th> <th>Yr 8</th> <th>Yr 9</th> <th>Yr 10</th> <th>Yr 11</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sept 2027</td> <td>38</td> <td>35</td> <td>41</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>114</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sept 2028</td> <td>38</td> <td>38</td> <td>35</td> <td>41</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>152</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Builth Wells C.P. School	23	15	19	14	19	13	16	119	Rhayader C. in W. School	5	23	10	14	7	11	11	81	Ysgol Trefonne	13	14	5	10	12	11	14	79	Total	41	52	34	38	38	35	41	279		Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Total	Sept 2027	38	35	41	N/A	N/A	114	Sept 2028	38	38	35	41	N/A	152
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²⁶ Teacher Centre, 8th November 2024 (Finance Count Date)

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sept 2029</td> <td>34</td> <td>38</td> <td>38</td> <td>35</td> <td>41</td> <td>186</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sept 2030</td> <td>52</td> <td>34</td> <td>38</td> <td>38</td> <td>35</td> <td>197</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sept 2031</td> <td>41</td> <td>52</td> <td>34</td> <td>38</td> <td>38</td> <td>233</td> </tr> </table> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that not all pupils accessing Welsh-medium primary provision in the catchment currently transfer to Ysgol Calon Cymru’s Welsh-medium stream, it is anticipated that the establishment of designated Welsh-medium provision with a strengthened Welsh-medium offer would result in an increase in the proportion of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision.</p> <p>The new Welsh-medium school could also attract applications from outside Ysgol Calon Cymru’s current catchment area from parents/carers looking for designated Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>The provision in Builth Wells would have sufficient capacity to accommodate all these pupils.</p> <p>There is currently sufficient capacity on the Builth campus to accommodate all pupils currently attending the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru and the pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School. However it is possible that some temporary accommodation would need to be provided on the site whilst remodelling work is ongoing.</p>	Sept 2029	34	38	38	35	41	186	Sept 2030	52	34	38	38	35	197	Sept 2031	41	52	34	38	38	233
Sept 2029	34	38	38	35	41	186																
Sept 2030	52	34	38	38	35	197																
Sept 2031	41	52	34	38	38	233																
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>There would be no negative impact on the quality of accommodation on the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru. Pupils would continue to access the same building, however Ysgol Calon Cymru would be sharing the site with the new Welsh-medium all-age school during this period, which could impact on their ability to access some facilities. It would also mean that more pupils would be accessing the site during this period. Whilst the total capacity of the site remains sufficient to accommodate the anticipated number of pupils, it is possible that some temporary accommodation would need to be provided on the site whilst remodelling work is ongoing.</p>																					
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the capacity and accommodation at Builth Wells C.P. School. The school’s current capacity is 256, and this would continue.</p>																					

	<p>English-medium pupils at the school would continue to access the same building.</p> <p>There would be additional surplus capacity in the school as Welsh-medium pupils would move to the Welsh-medium all-age school. Currently 119 of the school's 238 pupils attend the Welsh-medium stream.</p>
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8.2 Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and (if relevant) designated religious character?

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	This would provide continued access to Welsh-medium provision in Builth Wells in one designated Welsh-medium school rather than Welsh-medium streams in separate dual stream primary and secondary schools.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	There would be continued access to English-medium secondary provision in Builth Wells during this phase.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	This would provide continued access to English-medium provision in Builth Wells.

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	There would be no significant impact on journey times. Pupils currently accessing the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru would continue to access the same site. Pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School would move to a different site, however the site is still in Builth Wells, so there would be no significant impact on journey times.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon	There would be no impact on journey times for pupils currently accessing the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.

Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	There would be no impact on journey times for English-medium pupils at Builth Wells C.P. School.

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	<p>Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area are currently low, in the secondary phase in particular.</p> <p>The Council's intention is that establishing designated Welsh-medium provision would provide a clear progression route for pupils, and would result in an increase in demand for Welsh-medium provision in the primary and secondary phases in the longer term.</p>										
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	The latest pupil projection figures suggest that pupil numbers in the secondary sector are forecast to fall over the coming years.										
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	<p>In general, pupil numbers in Powys are projected to decrease over the coming years. The Council's latest projected pupil numbers for Builth Wells C.P. School, which are based on PLASC 2024, are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Jan 2025</th> <th>Jan 2026</th> <th>Jan 2027</th> <th>Jan 2028</th> <th>Jan 2029</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>209</td> <td>198</td> <td>201</td> <td>185</td> <td>180</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This indicates that pupil numbers at the school are projected to decrease over this period, even without changing the school's language category to English-medium.</p> <p>The following table provides the current capacity and pupil numbers at Builth Wells C.P. School:</p>	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028	Jan 2029	209	198	201	185	180
Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028	Jan 2029							
209	198	201	185	180							

Capacity	Current pupil numbers	Surplus places
256	238	18 (7%)

Current pupil numbers at Builth Wells C.P. School are as follows:

Welsh-medium stream	English-medium stream	Total
119	119	238

This suggests that there would be significant surplus places at Builth Wells C.P. School should all Welsh-medium pupils move to the alternative provision.

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	Pupils currently accessing the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru would continue to access the same site. Pupils currently accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School would move to the new Welsh-medium all-age school, which would be located on the current Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru. The buildings would need to be remodelled to accommodate primary aged pupils, and the remodelling work would need to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	Pupils attending Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth Wells campus would continue to attend the same building so there would be no negative impact in terms of access for disabled pupils. The plans include remodelling of the Builth Wells site, which will need to take account of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. It is possible that there would be some improvement in access for disabled pupils whilst this remodelling work takes place, dependent on the phasing of the works.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	This would not impact on access for disabled pupils – pupils attending Builth Wells C.P. School would continue to attend the same building.

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9. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>Moving Welsh-medium pupils from Builth Wells CP School would result in surplus places at Builth Wells C.P. School. However, this does provide an opportunity to carry out a review of English-medium primary provision in the wider Builth Wells area, which may address this.</p> <p>In the short term, there is likely to be a reduction in surplus places on the current Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, as primary aged pupils would also be attending the site.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>In the short term, there would be a reduction in surplus places on the current Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, as primary aged pupils would also be attending the site.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>Moving Welsh-medium pupils from Builth Wells CP School would result in an increase in surplus places at Builth Wells C.P. School.</p> <p>However, this would provide an opportunity to carry out a review of English-medium primary provision in the wider Builth Wells area, which may address this.</p>

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

The Council's intention to provide significant capital investment in Llandrindod and to remodel the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru to accommodate a new Welsh-medium all-age school is included in the Council's revised Strategic Outlined Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was approved by the Council's Cabinet in May 2024 and Welsh Government in July 2024.

The estimated cost of providing a replacement secondary building in Llandrindod is currently £60m - £80m, based a complete replacement of the current building. However, consideration will be given to a range of options in

order to improve and increase the accommodation on the site, which could include a combination of new build options and remodelling elements and on a phased basis in order to ensure affordability.

The long term aim of the proposals is to improve the condition of the Council's school estate and to ensure the better strategic management of the school estate. Remodelling work to the Builth Wells site during Phase 1 will improve the condition of this site, and will enable progress to be made whilst the capital investment in Llandrindod is being completed.

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

Phase 1 will require additional funding of £164k in 2027-28 and a further £113k in 2028-29, totalling £277k. This is broken down in the table below.

Formula Allowance	2027/28 Saving / (Cost)	2028/29 Saving / (Cost)
ALNCo Lump sum for the new Welsh medium school	(£76k)	(£54k)
Small School top up for the new Welsh medium school	(£90k)	(£61k)
Bilingual Allowance no longer needed in the primary school	£1k	£1k
Bilingual Allowance for the new Welsh medium school	(£3k)	(£2k)
Grounds top up	£4k	£3k
Total	(£164k)	(£113k)

The total estimated saving following full implementation of phase 2 of the proposal is £82k (as set out in the table below).

Formula Allowance	2030/31 Saving / (Cost)
Small School Management top up for the new Welsh medium school	(£136k)
Small School Teaching & Learning top up for the new Welsh medium school	(£147k)

Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) lump sum for the new Welsh medium school	(£130k)
Multiple site management top up no longer required	£127k
Multiple campus teaching and learning top up no longer required	£249k
Dual Stream Teaching & Learning top up no longer required	£306k
Bilingual allowance reduction from primary school	£2k
Net Premises & Rates costs for both sites	(£125k)
Total estimated formula funding annual saving	£146k
Estimated annual transport costs	(£64k)
Estimated net annual saving	£82k

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	No additional transport costs will be incurred as a result of this aspect of the proposal for Phase 1.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	No additional transport costs will be incurred as a result of this aspect of the proposal for Phase 1.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	No additional transport costs will be incurred as a result of this aspect of the proposal for Phase 1.

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

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>Capital costs will need to be incurred to remodel Ysgol Calon Cymru’s Builth Wells campus. Initially remodelling work will need to be carried out to enable the site to accommodate primary pupils.</p> <p>It is currently estimated that the cost of this work could be up to £5 million, however this is based on early design work and does not consider any work required to improve the energy efficiency of the building.</p> <p>The estimated costs would be continually reviewed and updated as the plans move forward.</p> <p>The expectation is that the work would be jointly funded by the Welsh Government and the Council as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. The Council’s plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru are included in its revised Strategic outline Programme (SOP) for the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was approved by Cabinet and the Welsh Government in 2024.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>There are no capital costs associated with this aspect of the proposal, however it is acknowledged that capital costs will need to be incurred to accommodate primary aged pupils on the Builth site during phase 1, as outlined above.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>There are no capital costs associated with this aspect of the proposal.</p>

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

There are no projected net savings as a result of phase 1 of the proposal. Projected revenue savings of £146k per annum will only be realised once phase 2 is implemented.

<p>Formula Allowance</p>	<p>2030/31 Saving / (Cost)</p>
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Small School Management top up for the new Welsh medium school	(£136k)
Small School Teaching & Learning top up for the new Welsh medium school	(£147k)
Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) lump sum for the new Welsh medium school	(£130k)
Multiple site management top up no longer required	£127k
Multiple campus teaching and learning top up no longer required	£249k
Dual Stream Teaching & Learning top up no longer required	£306k
Bilingual allowance reduction from primary school	£2k
Net Premises & Rates costs for both sites	(£125k)
Total estimated formula funding annual saving	£146k
Estimated annual transport costs	(£64k)
Estimated net annual saving	£82k

The Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) that was submitted to Welsh Government as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme included significant investment in the Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells campuses. The SOP was based on investment of up to £107 million across both sites and it is anticipated that Welsh Government will fund 65% of the capital costs and Powys funding the remaining 35%. If the Council's contribution towards this scheme is to be funded from borrowing as no other funding has been identified at this stage, the cost to the Council's revenue budget because of this borrowing is estimated at £2.06 million per year for 34 years. This amount could be reduced if capital receipts are available to use in place of borrowing. Capital investment plans for Builth Wells and Llandrindod Wells campuses will be subject to an options appraisal developed in accordance with HM Treasury's Green Book and Welsh Government approval of the relevant business cases to secure funding through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

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

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	This would involve establishing a new school, with a new budget share. The school would be expected to manage its budget within the available resources.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	Ysgol Calon Cymru currently has a significant cumulative deficit. The school will need to review the current structure in place and the funding envelope available to ensure the requirements of the scheme for financing schools are met. The actual cumulative reserve would remain with Ysgol Calon Cymru as they would not be a new school.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	At the beginning of the 2024/25 financial year the school were projecting a cumulative surplus of £65,171 by the 31 March 2025. Based on current projections the school has a cumulative surplus in future years. The actual cumulative reserve would remain with Builth C.P. school as they would not be a new school.

9.8 Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority’s local schools budget?

It is not anticipated that there will be savings in recurrent costs during Phase 1.

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

There would not be any capital receipts during Phase 1 of the proposals.

10. OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

10.1 What impact will the proposals have on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds?

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	It is anticipated that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells would have a positive impact on the educational attainment of all pupils accessing Welsh-medium education, including children from economically deprived backgrounds.
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<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this element would have a detrimental impact on the educational attainment of children from economically deprived backgrounds accessing English-medium provision on the Builth Wells site of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that Builth CP School changing its language status to English-medium would have a detrimental impact on the educational attainment of children from economically deprived backgrounds.</p>

10.2 Any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments

No particular equality issues have yet been identified, however should the Council move forward with the plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru, a range of impact assessments will be carried out, including equality impact assessments. These will be reviewed and updated throughout the process to reflect any issues identified.

10.3 Whether the school / schools involved are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land.

The schools involved are not subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by implementation of the proposals.

11. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE CHANGE OF LANGUAGE MEDIUM

11.1 The extent to which existing provision by the local authority of education in the medium of English and/or Welsh exceeds or falls short of demand or projected demand from parents for that type of provision, and the contribution the proposal would make to remedying that situation

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>There is currently no dedicated Welsh-medium primary or secondary provision in this area of Powys.</p> <p>This development would provide an opportunity to offer this provision in the Mid Powys area. It is anticipated that this would lead to an increase in the number of parents choosing Welsh-medium provision.</p>
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	<p>It is acknowledged that during Phase 1, the new Welsh-medium school would be sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru, so successful implementation of this phase will be dependent on a good working relationship between Ysgol Calon Cymru and the new Welsh-medium school, to ensure that an appropriate Welsh-medium ethos is achieved in the Welsh-medium school.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>Welsh-medium and English-medium secondary provision would continue to be available to pupils in the area during Phase 1 of the proposals.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>Whilst education through the medium of Welsh is currently available via a Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School, there is no access to Welsh-medium provision at a Welsh-medium school, which is the Council's preferred delivery model for Welsh-medium education. Pupils currently accessing Builth Wells C.P. School's Welsh-medium stream would be able to access the new Welsh-medium all-age school, which would provided access to dedicated Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>Pupils currently accessing English-medium education would be able to continue to access this provision at Builth Wells C.P. School.</p>

11.2 The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>Establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school to replace the current dual stream provision in Builth Wells would support the targets in the Council's WESP to increase the number and proportion of pupils in Powys taught through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The number of Welsh-medium pupils in this area is currently low, and the Council's aspiration is that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school in the area would result in an increase in Welsh-medium pupils in the area in the longer term.</p> <p>The WESP includes the following aim:</p>
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	<p><i>‘Establishing Welsh-medium secondary provision in at least 3 localities in Powys’.</i></p> <p>The Council has already carried out the necessary processes to ensure that Welsh-medium secondary provision will be available in 2 localities in Powys in the future, so implementation of the current plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru will enable this aim to be met in full.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>This would result in a reduction in Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru, which may appear not to support implementation of the Council’s WESP.</p> <p>However, the current Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru is limited, and low pupil numbers mean that it is increasingly difficult for the school to offer comprehensive provision for Welsh-medium learners.</p> <p>Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access a designated Welsh-medium school instead of accessing the stream at Ysgol Calon Cymru, so overall these proposals would have a positive impact in terms of implementation of the WESP.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>This would result in a reduction in Welsh-medium provision at Builth Wells C.P. School, which may appear not to support implementation of the Council’s WESP.</p> <p>However, Welsh-medium pupils would be able to access a designated Welsh-medium school instead of accessing the stream at Builth Wells C.P. School, and they would also be able to access more comprehensive Welsh-medium secondary provision, so overall these proposals would have a positive impact in terms of implementation of the WESP.</p>

12. SPECIFIC FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROPOSALS TO REORGANISE SECONDARY SCHOOLS OR TO ADD OR REMOVE SIXTH FORMS

12.1 Whether proposals will lead to an improvement in the educational or training achievements of persons who are above compulsory school age but below the age of 19

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	The intention is that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school would lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area in the longer term, which would result in improvements in the post-16 provision available for Welsh-medium learners, and therefore an improvement in their educational achievements.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	It is not anticipated that this would impact on the educational achievements of post-16 learners.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	No impact.

12.2 Whether proposals will contribute to an appropriate range of relevant courses and qualifications and high quality, employer informed, vocational learning routes targeted at pupils of all abilities, whilst maintaining GCSE, AS/A level and other established courses, as required under the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 for 14-19 year old learners

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	The intention is that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school would lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area in the longer term, which would result in improvements in the post-16 provision available for Welsh-medium learners.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	It is not anticipated that this would impact on the courses and qualifications available for post-16 learners.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	No impact.

12.3 Whether proposals are likely to lead to an increased participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age, taking into account transport issues and costs to the learner and others, the affordability of such costs, and the likelihood of learners being willing to travel

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>The intention is that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school would lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area in the longer term, which would result in improvements in the post-16 provision available for Welsh-medium learners, and the participation in learning beyond compulsory school age for Welsh-medium learners.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>

12.4 The extent to which proposals contribute to the 14-19 agenda taking account of the views of regional 14-19 networks

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>In the longer term, establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school should have a positive impact on Welsh-medium 14-19 provision.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>

12.5 The effect of proposals on 11-16 provision in schools

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact on the Welsh-medium 11-16 provision available.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would impact on the 11-16 provision available.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

12.6 How proposals would affect the viability of institutions already providing good-quality post-16 provision, including school sixth forms, Further Education Institutions, and private training organisations

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would impact on the viability of any other providers of post-16 provision.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>

12.7 How proposals might affect the sustainability or enhancement of Welsh medium provision in the regional 14-19 network and wider area and promote access to availability of Welsh medium courses in post-16 education

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>The intention is that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school would lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area in the longer term, which would result in improvements in the post-16 provision available for Welsh-medium learners.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>

12.8 The extent to which proposals will provide additional learner benefits compared with the status quo and other tenable options for post-16 organisation

<p>To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>	<p>The intention is that establishing a new Welsh-medium all-age school would lead to an increase in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area in the longer term, which would result in improvements in the post-16 provision available for Welsh-medium learners.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>
<p>To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.</p>	<p>No impact.</p>

12.9 How proposals might affect discretionary transport provision a local authority may provide to learners above compulsory school age

To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.	No impact.
To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.	No impact.
To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.	No impact.

PART E – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PHASE 2

This section considers the impact of Phase 2 of the preferred way forward outlined above on the factors outlined in the Welsh Government’s School Organisation Code (2018) as factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals.

Phase 2 of the preferred way forward is as follows:

- Following capital investment on the Llandrindod Wells campus to accommodate all Ysgol Calon Cymru pupils and improve existing facilities, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus.
 - o Pupils from Ysgol Calon Cymru’s Builth Wells campus will move to the Llandrindod Wells site.
 - o The Welsh-medium all-age school will take over the whole of the Builth site.

13. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

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

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	<p>It is anticipated that moving from a dual-sited dual-stream school to a school operating from a single site in Llandrindod Wells to have a positive impact on standards and progress overall for all pupils, including pupils belonging to specific groups such as English as an Additional Language, pupils eligible for Free School Meals, Looked After Children, Additional Learning Needs.</p> <p>Implementation of this model would enable the school to centralise leadership and teaching and learning expertise on one site. The whole school vision for excellence and the school’s ability to develop as an effective learning organisation would be easier from one school site rather than two campuses as is currently the case.</p> <p>The breadth of English-medium provision would be extended, and pupils and staff would no longer need to travel between sites, which would maximise the teaching and learning time and expertise available. It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT.</p>
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13.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that there could be a negative impact on pupil well-being and attitudes to learning in the short term as pupils currently attending Ysgol Calon Cymru’s Builth Wells campus would need to transfer to Llandrindod Wells. This would mean that they would have a longer journey to school, and would need to be transported by bus.</p> <p>In the longer term, however, it is anticipated that there would be a positive impact on wellbeing and attitudes to learning, as pupils would attend school in brand new accommodation, with new facilities and resources. In addition, it is anticipated that centralising wellbeing support and guidance for pupils on one site would lead to improved standards of wellbeing and attitudes to learning.</p>
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13.3 Teaching and learning experiences

13.3.1 Quality of teaching

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>It is anticipated that becoming a single-sited English-medium school would have a positive impact on the quality of teaching at Ysgol Calon Cymru. Locating English-medium provision on one site would enable the school to develop a strong vision for teaching and learning through professional development opportunities and the development of the school as an effective learning organisation.</p> <p>In addition, the opportunity to work in a school operating on one site could be more attractive to staff than working in a dual sited school, which could have a positive impact on the school’s ability to appoint staff, which would also ensure teaching of the highest quality.</p>
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13.3.2 The breadth, balance, and appropriateness of the curriculum

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum, would improve significantly following a move to one site. Having a larger cohort of pupils on one site would enable the school to provide a broader curriculum, with increased choice, particularly in Key Stage 4.</p>
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the Llandrindod campus	The new facilities would also enable the delivery of the new curriculum to be optimised.
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13.3.3 The provision of skills

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	It is anticipated that there would be a positive impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT.
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13.4 Care, support, and guidance

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

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	<p>It is anticipated that operating on one site would enable an improvement in the care, support and guidance Ysgol Calon Cymru provides to pupils.</p> <p>Pupils would be sharing a single campus where they would be able to access high quality accommodation, enabling effective tracking, monitoring and transition arrangements between key stages.</p> <p>Pupils would be part of a larger body of pupils, and it is expected that this would have a positive impact on their personal development and the opportunities available to them.</p> <p>Safeguarding would be a fundamental consideration when developing the new campus, so the expectation is that this would be improved.</p>
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13.5 Leadership and Management

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

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod	It is anticipated that reconfiguring Ysgol Calon Cymru as a single-sited English-medium school would lead to improvements in terms of leadership and
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<p>campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>management. Managing a single-sited school removes the challenges that the school currently experiences of managing across two sites, and there would be an opportunity to create a single ethos across the staff at the school.</p>
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13.5.2 Professional learning

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>As a single-sited English-medium school, it is anticipated that Ysgol Calon Cymru's leadership team would be able to strengthen the professional opportunities available for staff at all stages of their careers, and effectively establish the school as a learning organisation.</p>
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13.5.3 Use of Resources

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>Ysgol Calon Cymru operating as a single-sited English-medium school would be a far more efficient model than the current dual sided dual stream model. The need to duplicate across two sites would be eradicated, as well as the need for staff and pupils to be travelling across both sites.</p> <p>The school would also benefit from new facilities, which would reduce the impact on the school's maintenance budget and running costs.</p>
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13.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>There may be an impact on vulnerable groups currently attending the Builth Wells campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru as they would have to transfer to Llandrindod Wells, and the transition and additional travel may be more challenging for them.</p>
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13.7 Ability of the school/schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>Ysgol Calon Cymru operating as a single sited English-medium school would enable improved delivery of the curriculum in all phases of education, as the school would have a larger cohort of pupils attending the same location, enabling a broader curriculum to be offered.</p>
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14. NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

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

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>The intention is to provide a replacement building in Llandrindod Wells, which will provide sufficient capacity for existing and projected pupil numbers, and the facilities will be significantly improved.</p> <p>There would be a significant number of surplus places on the Builth Wells campus, but this would be taken into account when remodelling, and the design would need to consider if there are alternative uses for the buildings, which could include community use.</p> <p>It is also expected that pupil numbers would increase in the longer term, so the accommodation will need to be able to meet any future increase in demand for Welsh-medium education in the area.</p>
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14.2 Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and (if relevant) designated religious character?

<p>Following capital investment on the</p>	<p>This would provide continued access to English-medium secondary provision in the area, however it</p>
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<p>Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>is acknowledged that pupils currently accessing this provision in Builth Wells would need to travel to Llandrindod Wells.</p> <p>The school is a community school, and it would continue to be so.</p>
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14.3 What will be the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>There would be an impact on English-medium secondary aged pupils from the Builth Wells area who would need to travel to Llandrindod Wells. In some cases, the impact could be quite significant e.g. on pupils from the South of Builth Wells such as Llanwrtyd Wells.</p> <p>The Council would need to ensure that free home-to-school transport is available for these pupils, and the Home-to-School Transport Policy would need to be revised to allow for this.</p> <p>Whilst travel times would be within the expected travel times for secondary aged pupils, as outlined in the Council’s Home-to-School Transport Policy and Learner Wales Travel Measure, there would be a significant impact on some pupils who already live a significant distance from Builth Wells. This would also be the case for pupils with SEN.</p>
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14.4 Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>The latest pupil projection figures suggest that pupil numbers in the secondary sector is forecast to fall over the coming years.</p>
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14.5 Will the proposals improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010?

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	There would be capital investment in Llandrindod Wells, which would improve the accommodation for all pupils and would ensure full compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
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15. RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	The new campus in Llandrindod Wells will be built with sufficient capacity for existing and projected pupil numbers. It is currently anticipated that the building will accommodate a capacity of 1000, which is higher than the current pupil capacity on the Llandrindod campus, and pupil numbers at the new Welsh-medium school are likely to be low initially, so there may be an increase in surplus places in the area initially.
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15.2 Do the proposals form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	<p>The Council's intention to provide a replacement building for Ysgol Calon Cymru on its Llandrindod Wells site is included in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was approved by the Council's Cabinet in May 2024 and Welsh Government in July 2024.</p> <p>The estimated cost of providing a replacement 1000 place secondary building in Llandrindod is currently £60m - £80m, based a complete replacement of the current building. However, consideration will be given</p>
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	to a range of options in order to improve and increase the accommodation on the site, which could include a combination of new build options and remodelling elements and on a phased basis in order to ensure affordability.
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15.3 What are the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and is the necessary recurrent funding available?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>The recurrent costs phase 2 of this proposal would be the increased rates charges for a new build which are currently estimated to be an additional £41k and the estimated increased premises related allowances of £100k, which are netted off with reductions of underspends in grounds and premises top ups of £16k.</p> <p>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.</p>																									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Formula Allowance</th> <th>20230/31 Saving / (Cost)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Small School Management top up</td> <td>(£136k)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small School T&L top up</td> <td>(£147k)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALNCO Lump sum</td> <td>(£130k)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple site management</td> <td>£127k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple campus teaching and learning</td> <td>£249k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dual Stream Teaching and learning</td> <td>£306k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bilingual allowance</td> <td>£2k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net Premises & Rates costs</td> <td>(£125k)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£146k</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transport</td> <td>(£64k)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>£82k</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Formula Allowance	20230/31 Saving / (Cost)	Small School Management top up	(£136k)	Small School T&L top up	(£147k)	ALNCO Lump sum	(£130k)	Multiple site management	£127k	Multiple campus teaching and learning	£249k	Dual Stream Teaching and learning	£306k	Bilingual allowance	£2k	Net Premises & Rates costs	(£125k)			Total	£146k	Transport	(£64k)	Total
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15.4 Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth</p>	<p>Additional transport costs would be incurred as a result of this change, as English-medium secondary pupils from the Builth Wells area would need to be transported to Llandrindod Wells.</p>
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<p>Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>An initial estimate puts the potential cost of this at approximately £64k and is based on staggered opening times for the 2 sites in order to utilise existing transport</p>
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15.5 What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>The estimated cost of providing a replacement 1000 place secondary building in Llandrindod is currently £60m - £80m, based on a complete replacement of the current building. However, consideration will be given to a range of options in order to improve and increase the accommodation on the site, which could include a combination of new build options and remodelling elements and on a phased basis in order to ensure affordability.</p> <p>Following approval of the strategic approach, a feasibility study would be used to refine requirements and associated costs, which provide a more accurate estimate of costs. These would be further reviewed and updated throughout the business case process.</p> <p>The Council's intention to provide a replacement building for Ysgol Calon Cymru on its Llandrindod Wells site is included in the Council's revised Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, which was approved by the Council's Cabinet in May 2024 and Welsh Government in July 2024, however individual business cases will need to be prepared and considered by Welsh Government to secure funding as the process moves forward.</p>
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15.6 What is the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport, and capital costs)

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>Phase 2 of this proposal would result in an estimated net recurrent formula funding saving of £146k having taken into account the additional formula funding costs from Phase 1.</p> <p>Transport costs would be estimated to increase by £64k.</p> <p>Capital costs in respect of the new build include an estimation of £107 million for the replacement school</p>
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	<p>on the Llandrindod Wells Campus and refurbishment of the Builth Wells Campus – it is anticipated that WG will fund 65% of the capital costs and Powys funding the remaining 35%. If the Council's contribution towards this scheme is to be funded from borrowing as no other funding has been identified at this stage, the cost to the Council's revenue budget because of this borrowing is estimated at £2.06 million per year for 34 years. This amount could be reduced if capital receipts are available to use in place of borrowing.</p>
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15.7 Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>Ysgol Calon Cymru currently has a significant cumulative deficit. The Council would continue to work with the school to ensure that the school budget complies with the scheme for financing schools and the school operates within the funding envelope available, and that any in year deficit is recovered as part of the regulations.</p>
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15.8 Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority's local schools budget?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>Any revenue savings to the Council would be reinvested into the school service budget as per section 3.7.2 of the scheme for financing schools.</p>
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15.9 Will the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol</p>	<p>There would be no capital receipts associated with this aspect of the Council's plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p>
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<p>Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	
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16. OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

16.1 What impact will the proposals have on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds?

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>It is anticipated that Ysgol Calon Cymru operating as a single-sited English-medium school in Llandrindod would have a positive impact on the educational attainment of all pupils, including children from economically deprived backgrounds.</p>
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16.2 Any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>No particular equality issues have yet been identified, however should the Council move forward with the plans for Ysgol Calon Cymru, a range of impact assessments will be carried out, including equality impact assessments. These will be reviewed and updated throughout the process to reflect any issues identified.</p>
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16.3 Whether the school / schools involved are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land.

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth</p>	<p>The schools involved are not subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by implementation of the proposals.</p>
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<p>Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	
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17. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE CHANGE OF LANGUAGE MEDIUM

- 17.1 The extent to which existing provision by the local authority of education in the medium of English and/or Welsh exceeds or falls short of demand or projected demand from parents for that type of provision, and the contribution the proposal would make to remedying that situation**

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>Implementation of this element of the proposal would mean that Ysgol Calon Cymru would operate from one site, and would be an English-medium school, providing access to a larger cohort of pupils on the Llandrindod site.</p> <p>The intention is to provide capital investment to enable pupils to be accommodated on the Llandrindod site. This would be sufficient to accommodate the current and projected number of English-medium learners at Ysgol Calon Cymru.</p> <p>Welsh-medium provision would be available at the Welsh-medium all-age school in Builth Wells. The intention is to remodel the site to accommodate an all-age school which is sufficient to accommodate the current number of Welsh-medium learners in the area, however there would be scope to further expand the provision on the site should this be required in the future.</p>
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- 17.2 The extent to which the proposal would support the targets in the local authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)**

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from</p>	<p>This would enable the new Welsh-medium all-age school to be the sole occupant of the Builth Wells campus, which would enable the Council to fully achieve its aim to establish Welsh-medium secondary provision in at least 3 localities in Powys.</p>
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the Llandrindod campus	
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18. SPECIFIC FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROPOSALS TO REORGANISE SECONDARY SCHOOLS OR TO ADD OR REMOVE SIXTH FORMS

18.1 Whether proposals will lead to an improvement in the educational or training achievements of persons who are above compulsory school age but below the age of 19

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact on post-16 learners at Ysgol Calon Cymru as all Ysgol Calon Cymru pupils would attend the same site, enabling them to benefit from being part of a larger cohort of learners accessing provision on one site, and enabling the school to offer a wider curriculum as it won't need to duplicate provision.</p>
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18.2 Whether proposals will contribute to an appropriate range of relevant courses and qualifications and high quality, employer informed, vocational learning routes targeted at pupils of all abilities, whilst maintaining GCSE, AS/A level and other established courses, as required under the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 for 14-19 year old learners

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>It is expected that this would enable an improved choice of subjects for Ysgol Calon Cymru learners by centralising provision in one location. This would include vocational learning routes.</p>
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18.3 Whether proposals are likely to lead to an increased participation in learning by pupils beyond compulsory school age, taking into account transport issues and costs to the learner and others, the affordability of such costs, and the likelihood of learners being willing to travel

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>The expectation is that this would enable an improved choice of subjects and an improved learner experience for Ysgol Calon Cymru learners by centralising provision in one location. It is hoped that this would result in an increase in Post-16 pupil numbers at the school.</p>
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18.4 The extent to which proposals contribute to the 14-19 agenda taking account of the views of regional 14-19 networks

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>This would have a positive impact on 14-19 provision as the expectation is that having all learners on one site would enable an improved choice of subjects and an improved learner experience for Ysgol Calon Cymru learners by centralising provision in one location.</p>
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18.5 The effect of proposals on 11-16 provision in schools

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact on the 11-16 provision available as all learners would be located one site, which would enable an improved choice of subjects and an improved learners experience for Ysgol Calon Cymru learners by centralising provision in one location.</p>
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18.6 How proposals would affect the viability of institutions already providing good-quality post-16 provision, including school sixth forms, Further Education Institutions, and private training organisations

<p>Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that this would impact on the viability of any other providers of post-16 provision, however it is possible that there would be some impact on pupil numbers at other institutions should pupils choose to attend the provision at Ysgol Calon</p>
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close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	Cymru instead of accessing provision elsewhere. This could include other secondary schools in the area, as well as colleges located in Powys and in neighbouring authorities.
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18.7 How proposals might affect the sustainability or enhancement of Welsh medium provision in the regional 14-19 network and wider area and promote access to availability of Welsh medium courses in post-16 education

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	No impact – this change would not impact on Welsh-medium provision or access to Welsh-medium courses.
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18.8 The extent to which proposals will provide additional learner benefits compared with the status quo and other tenable options for post-16 organisation

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	There would be additional learner benefits for post-16 learners at Ysgol Calon Cymru from being part of a larger cohort in terms of social and extra-curricular opportunities.
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18.9 How proposals might affect discretionary transport provision a local authority may provide to learners above compulsory school age

Following capital investment on the Llandrindod campus, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and	No impact. Discretionary transport provision would continue to be provided to enable learners to access the Llandrindod site.
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operate solely from the Llandrindod campus	
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PART F – CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Based on the options appraisal carried out and further consideration of the emerging preferred option against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code, the preferred option for Ysgol Calon Cymru remains the same, and is as follows:

- Ysgol Calon Cymru eventually operates from one site (Llandrindod Wells) as a single-sited English-medium school
- A new Welsh-medium all-age school is established, which will eventually operate from Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth Wells campus
- Builth Wells C.P. School becomes an English-medium school
- The Welsh-medium school to be established in remodelled accommodation on the Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru, initially sharing the site with Ysgol Calon Cymru.

The reasons for this are:

- Would retain secondary provision in Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells
- Would provide some stability in Llandrindod Wells as Ysgol Calon Cymru would remain as the provider
- Would provide a greater mass of English-medium learners on one campus
- Broader curriculum could be provided to English-medium learners
- Would be no need to duplicate English-medium provision across two sites
- A new Welsh-medium all-age school would be established which would provide an opportunity to 'rebrand' Welsh-medium provision in the Mid Powys area
- A Welsh-medium all-age school would provide an improved Welsh-medium experience
- Would provide access to designated Welsh-medium primary provision
- All-age Welsh-medium model would promote transition into Welsh-medium secondary provision
- Broader Welsh-medium curriculum could be provided
- Two separate schools would potentially be more attractive to prospective headteachers, teachers and support staff
- The two phased approach enables the Welsh-medium all-age school to be established on the Builth campus from the outset as there is insufficient space at the Llandrindod Wells campus to accommodate all Ysgol Calon Cymru pupils

It is therefore recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on the following proposal:

Phase 1 (September 2027):

- To establish a new Welsh-medium all-age school (4-18) on the current Builth campus of Ysgol Calon Cymru.
 - o Initially the school will share the Builth campus with Ysgol Calon Cymru, using part of its building and sharing some facilities.

- This will be a temporary arrangement until there has been capital investment on the Llandrindod site under Phase 2.
- To change the language category of Builth Wells C.P. School to English-medium.
 - Pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells C.P. School will move to the new Welsh-medium all-age school.
- To change the language category of Ysgol Calon Cymru from dual stream to English-medium.
 - Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 of the Welsh-medium stream of Ysgol Calon Cymru in September 2027 will transfer to the new Welsh-medium all-age school. The Welsh-medium stream of Ysgol Calon Cymru will be phased out by September 2029.

Phase 2 (September 2029 at the earliest):

- Following capital investment on the Llandrindod Wells campus to accommodate all Ysgol Calon Cymru pupils and improve existing facilities, Ysgol Calon Cymru will close its Builth Wells campus and operate solely from the Llandrindod campus.
 - Pupils from Ysgol Calon Cymru's Builth Wells campus will move to the Llandrindod Wells site.
 - The Welsh-medium all-age school will take over the whole of the Builth Wells site.

ANNEX A – CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2032 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme • The option must align with the Council’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-32
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable • The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council