

Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

Cabinet

Man Cyfarfod
**Siambwr y Cyngor - Neuadd y Sir,
Llandrindod, Powys**

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod
Dydd Mawrth, 12 Hydref 2021

Amser y Cyfarfod
10.30 am

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â
Stephen Boyd
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Neuadd Y Sir
Llandrindod
Powys
LD1 5LG

Dyddiad Cyhoeddi

Mae croeso i'r rhai sy'n cymryd rhan ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg. Os hoffech chi siarad Cymraeg yn y cyfarfod, gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i ni erbyn hanner dydd ddau ddiwrnod cyn y cyfarfod

AGENDA

1.	YMDDIHEURIADAU
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Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

2.	COFNODION
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Awdurdodi'r Cadeirydd i lofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 28 Medi 2021 fel cofnod cywir.

(Tudalennau 1 - 4)

3.	DATGANIADAU O DDIDDORDEB
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Derbyn unrhyw ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb gan Aelodau yn ymwneud ag eitemau i'w hystyried ar yr agenda.

4.	CATEGORI IAITH YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN
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Ystyried adroddiad gan y Cynghorydd Sir Phyl Davies, Aelod Portffolio ar faterion Addysg ac Eiddo.

(Tudalennau 5 - 238)

5.	ADBORTH PERFFORMIAD CYNNIG YMGYSYLLTU PARHAUS
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Ystyried adroddiad gan y Cynghorydd Sir Myfanwy Alexander, Aelod Portffolio ar faterion Cyfathrebu ac Ymgysylltu.

(Tudalennau 239 - 242)

6.	PENDERFYNIADAU DIRPRWYEDIG A WNAED ERS Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF
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Nodi penderfyniadau dirprwyedig a gymerwyd gan Aelodau Portffolio.

(Tudalennau 243 - 244)

7.	BLAENRAGLEN WAITH
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Ystyried blaenraglen waith y Cabinet.

(Tudalennau 245 - 246)

8.	EITEMAU WEDI'U HEITHRIO
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Mae'r Swyddog Monitro wedi penderfynu bod yr adroddiad canlynol yn destun categori 5 y Rheolau Trefn Mynediad at Wybodaeth. Ei farn o ran prawf lles y cyhoedd (wedi ystyried darpariaethau Rheol 11.8, Rheolau Mynediad at Wybodaeth y Cyngor), oedd y byddai gwneud y wybodaeth hon yn gyhoeddus yn datgelu gwybodaeth yn ymwneud a:

Gwybodaeth a allai fod yn destun braint broffesiynol gyfreithiol mewn achos cyfreithiol.

Yn ei farn ef, mae'r ffactorau hyn yn fwy pwysig na diddordeb y cyhoedd wrth ddatgelu'r wybodaeth. Gofynnir i Aelodau ystyried y ffactorau hyn wrth benderfynu ar brawf lles y cyhoedd, a dylent benderfynu hyn wrth iddynt ystyried eithrio'r cyhoedd o'r rhan hon o'r cyfarfod.

9.	CANLLAW POLISI PECYN TAI FFORDDIADWY
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Ystyried adroddiad gan y Cynghorydd Sir Iain McIntosh, Aelod Portffolio ar faterion Tai, Cynllunio ac Adfywio Economaidd.

(Tudalennau 247 - 266)

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD BY TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 28
SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, B Baynham, P Davies, A W Davies, H Hulme,
I McIntosh and R Powell

In attendance: County Councillors H Lewis and P Roberts

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Executive Director Economy and Environment.

2. MINUTES

The Leader was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

County Councillors Beverley Baynham and Rachel Powell declared personal and prejudicial interests in the following item, Llanfihangel Rhydithon CP School.

4. LLANFIHANGEL RHYDITHON CP SCHOOL
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County Councillors Beverley Baynham and Rachel Powell left the meeting for this item having declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item.

Cabinet considered the results of the consultation carried out on the proposal to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools. It was confirmed that the Cabinet had seen and read the correspondence received including the letter from the Governing body forwarded by County Councillor Hywel Lewis that morning.

County Councillor Pete Roberts, the Chair of the Learning and Skills Committee reported the Committee's findings. In addition to the recommendations from Scrutiny, Councillor Roberts noted that when Castle Caereinion school was closed, the Cabinet had offered assistance to help keep the hall open for the community. He hoped that this could be accepted as a principle and that support offered if Cabinet decided to close the school. He advised that the Scrutiny Committee was not assured that the current proposal met the requirements of the rural schools policy and had recommended that more consideration was given to

- the opportunity for federating this school with another larger school;

- the opportunity to move the school from an English Medium School to either a dual-stream or Welsh medium school and meet the aspiration of the WESP for a Welsh medium primary school in Mid Powys (East).

County Councillor Hywel Lewis asked why federation with Llanelwedd was not being explored and argued that there was no evidence that mixed aged classes were detrimental to learning. He questioned why Scrutiny's recommendation that the opportunity for the school to become a Welsh medium school had been dismissed as three members of staff had attended the Welsh sabbatical scheme and one was a fluent Welsh speaker.

Cabinet noted that further assessments had been carried out in response to the recommendations from Scrutiny. These complied with the requirements of the School Organisation Code in terms of assessing 'alternative reasonable options', which considers the impact on the quality and standards of education, impact on the community and impact on travel. It was confirmed that the council had carried out all the steps required under the Rural Schools Policy, and that having done so, officers remained of the opinion that the proposal was the correct one. Officers addressed the point raised about having mixed age learning groups noting that this added to teachers' workload taking more planning and preparation time.

Officers advised that in deciding where to site a Welsh medium or dual stream school, the authority would need to have regard to where there was a critical mass of learners and that it would be difficult to grow from a base of 36 pupils. The Welsh sabbatical scheme was intended to provide teachers with the language skills for the use of incidental Welsh in schools rather than enable them to teach through the medium of Welsh. Cabinet noted that to establish a dual-stream school the number of teachers in the school which would need to be doubled which would be hugely expensive and not a good use of scarce resources.

The Leader and Portfolio Holder thanked everyone who had taken part in the consultation and the Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee and the local member for their comments.

RESOLVED

- 1. To receive the Consultation Report in respect of closing Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School.**
- 2. To approve the publication of a statutory notice to close Llanfihangel Rhydithon C.P. School from the 31st August 2022, with pupils to attend their nearest alternative schools.**

County Councillors Baynham and Powell returned to the meeting.

This item was being deferred to 5th October 2021.

6.	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME
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The Cabinet forward work programme was noted.

County Councillor M R Harris (Chair)

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwriadol

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**CABINET EXECUTIVE****12 October 2021**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies
Portfolio Holder for Education and Property

REPORT TITLE: Ysgol Bro Hyddgen Language Category

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 18th May 2021, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from dual stream to Welsh-medium on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet members of the outcome of the statutory objection period.
- 1.3 The report includes a recommendation to proceed with implementation of the proposal on a phased basis from the 1st September 2022.
- 1.4 The report is supported by the following appendices:
 - **Appendix A** – Statutory Notice (Welsh)
 - **Appendix A** – Statutory Notice (English)
 - **Appendix B** – Objection Report
 - **Appendix C** – Updated Impact Assessments

2. Background**Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys**

- 2.1 On the 14th April 2020, a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys was approved by the Leader via a delegated decision.
- 2.2 The Strategy was developed following extensive engagement with a range of stakeholders during two separate periods between October 2019 and March 2020. The Strategy sets out a new vision education in Powys, 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.'

2.3 The new strategy also sets out a number of guiding principles which will underpin the transformation of education in Powys. These are as follows:

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

2.4 The new strategy 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. One of the Strategic Aims of the Strategy is to '*improve Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.*' Within this aim, the Strategy sets out a Strategic Objective to '*Move schools along the language continuum*'.

2.5 On the 10th November 2020, the Council's Cabinet considered an options appraisal paper in respect of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and agreed to carry out consultation on the following:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from Bilingual (dual-stream) to Welsh-medium

- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The Consultation Period

- 2.7 Consultation on the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018) from the 8th December 2020 to the 26th January 2021.
- 2.8 A Consultation Report listing the issues raised during the consultation and the authority's response to them was published. This was considered by Cabinet on the 18th May 2021.
- 2.9 At the meeting on the 18th May 2021, Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen through the publication of a Statutory Notice.

Statutory Notice

- 2.10 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 18th May 2021, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the following:
- i. *To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys, Powys, SY17 5PH from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.*
 - ii. *This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.*

The proposal will be introduced on a phase basis as the pupils joining the school's Reception class in September 2022 move through the school. The phasing of the implementation for each year group would be as follows:

Reception – September 2022	Year 4 – September 2026
Year 1 – September 2023	Year 5 – September 2027
Year 2 – September 2024	Year 6 – September 2028.'
Year 3 – September 2025	

- 2.11 The Statutory Notice was published on the 17th June 2021 for a period of 28 days, in accordance with the guidance within the School Organisation Code (2018). A copy of the Statutory Notice is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.12 The objection period ended on the 15th July 2021.

Objections

- 2.13 258 objections were received during the statutory objection period.

- 2.14 This included two petitions, one in support of the proposal which received 278 signatures and one against the proposal, which received 1,219 signatures.
- 2.14 Of the remaining 256 'objections' received, 4 were in support of the proposal.
- 2.14 Objections were received from the following:
- Parents of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
 - Members of the community
 - Llanbrynmair Community Council
 - Machynlleth Golf Club
 - Machynlleth Bowling Club
 - Machynlleth Community Children's Project Ltd (MCCP)
 - Russell George MS
- 2.15 The issues raised in the objections to the statutory notice, are listed in the Objection report (Appendix B), along with the Council's response to these issues.
- 2.16 The Objections received relate to the following headings:
1. Positive comments about dual stream provision
 2. Comments about the need for choice
 3. Comments about Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
 4. Comments about funding for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's new building
 5. Comments about the impact on pupils
 6. Comments about additional learning needs
 7. Concern about the impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
 8. Comments about alternative provision
 9. Comments about travel implications
 10. Comments about additional support that would be needed to support a change of language category
 11. Comments about the impact on the community
 12. Comments about the impact on local employment and businesses
 13. Comments about early years provision
 14. Comments about the use of Welsh in the local area
 15. Other comments about the Welsh language
 16. Comments about discrimination / equality
 17. Comments about the Council's approach to developing Welsh-medium provision
 18. Comments about other proposals
 19. Other options
 20. Criticism of Powys County Council
 21. Criticism of Welsh Government
 22. Comments about the process
 23. Comments about documentation
 24. Comments in support of the proposal

3 Advice

3.1 Having considered the objections received, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with implementation of the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from dual stream to Welsh-medium on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022, as outlined in the Statutory Notice (Appendix A).

3.2 The reasons for this are as follows:

- i) To improve educational outcomes
 - Children would no longer be taught in small mixed age classes
 - There would be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally
- ii) To improve educational provision
 - Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils
 - Having one language stream would make it easier to track and target the progress of pupils and their well-being
- iii) To improve leadership and management
 - The school's management team could work more efficiently
- iv) To improve efficiency in the delivery of education
 - Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff and resources
- v) To increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education
 - More pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.

3.3 It must be noted that proceeding with the proposal to change the school's language category does not preclude that school from being a part of future reorganisation proposals.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 Based on the current formula, the formula funding requirement will reduce as a result of these proposals and it is estimated that changing the school's language category would eventually result in annual revenue savings to the Council of approximately £184k per annum, once the school is fully single-stream. There would be no saving in the first year, and although there would be opportunities for savings as the phasing takes place, this would be dependent on pupil numbers. The effectiveness of a single-stream school is optimised in the secondary sector.

It is not anticipated that there would be an impact on transport costs, and there would be no capital costs.

- 4.2 Implementation of the proposal would require involvement from a number of service areas, including staff from the Schools Service, HR and Finance.
- 4.3 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the report and can support the recommendation.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.
- 5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: " I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Comment from local member(s)

- 6.1 **Cllr Elwyn Vaughan:** Whatever the decision of Cabinet, we as Governors will do our utmost to deliver that vision. What is clear is that bilingualism is the norm in the world. Not only is it beneficial in it's own right, opening up opportunities and a wider understanding of the cultures and diversity of humankind, but also provides the basis to learn other languages and become truly multilingual – a important asset for the future. What we know is that the proposed model of education as recommended for Hyddgen is the best format for ensuring true bilingualism, and it's well known, that learning languages from an early age as proposed from foundation stage, is the best means of learning. Naturally, there will be some concerned about the inability to understand a different language, that is why the proposed Trochi provision and support mechanisms are welcomed and which have proved successful for a number of years in other counties. This model of delivery is the norm and indeed has been the norm for nearly 50 years to the north of the Dyfi river throughout Gwynedd, and will from 2022 also be the norm throughout Ceredigion to the South of Machynlleth. There is no logical reason therefore why this cannot equally be as successful and natural at Machynlleth.

7. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 7.1 An initial impact assessment was considered by Cabinet on the 10th November 2020.
- 7.2 In addition, a range of draft impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation documentation. These included an Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.
- 7.3 The draft impact assessments were updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period and the updated impact assessments were considered by Cabinet on the 18th May 2021 when considering whether or not to proceed with the publication of a statutory notice.
- 7.4 These have been further updated following the objection period, and the updated version is attached as Appendix C.

8. Recommendation

- To receive the Objection Report in respect of changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
- To approve the proposal to make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

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Head of Service:	Emma Palmer – Head of Transformation & Communications Lynette Lovell – Interim Chief Education Officer
Corporate Director:	Dr Caroline Turner

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION X

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwriadol

CYNGOR SIR POWYS

HYSBYSIAD O GYNNIG I AD-DREFNU YSGOLION DAN DDEDDF SAFONAU A THREFNIADAETH YSGOLION (CYMRU) 2013

Rhoddir rhybudd drwy hyn yn unol ag adran 42 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion (Cymru) 2013 ("y Ddeddf") a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion ("y Cod") bod Cyngor Sir Powys, Neuadd y Sir, Llandrindod, Powys LD1 5LG ("y Cyngor"), wedi iddo ymgynghori â'r unigolion gofynnol, yn cynnig y canlynol:-

- i. Gwneud newid rheoledig i ddiwygio cyfrwng y dysgu yn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR o Ddwy Ffrwd i Gyfrwng Cymraeg.
- ii. Byddai hyn yn cael ei gyflwyno fesul cam, o flwyddyn i flwyddyn, gan ddechrau gyda Derbyn ym mis Medi 2022.

Bydd y cynnig yn cael ei gyflwyno fesul cam wrth i'r disgyblion sy'n ymuno â dosbarth Derbyn yr ysgol ym mis Medi 2022 symud drwy'r ysgol. Byddai hyn yn cael ei weithredu ar gyfer pob grŵp Blwyddyn fel a ganlyn:

Cyfnod Cynradd:

Derbyn – Medi 2022
Blwyddyn 1 – Medi 2023
Blwyddyn 2 – Medi 2024
Blwyddyn 3 – Medi 2025
Blwyddyn 4 – Medi 2026
Blwyddyn 5 – Medi 2027
Blwyddyn 6 – Medi 2028

Cyfnod Uwchradd:

Blwyddyn 7 – Medi 2029
Blwyddyn 8 – Medi 2030
Blwyddyn 9 – Medi 2031
Blwyddyn 10 – Medi 2032
Blwyddyn 11 – Medi 2033
Blwyddyn 12 – Medi 2034
Blwyddyn 13 – Medi 2035

Cynhelir yr ysgol ar hyn o bryd gan Gyngor Sir Powys.

Cynhaliodd y Cyngor gyfnod o ymgynghori cyn penderfynu cyhoeddi'r cynnig hwn. Mae adroddiad ymgynghori sy'n cynnwys crynodeb o'r materion a godwyd gan yr ymgynghoreion, ymatebion y Cyngor a barn Estyn ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor:

<https://cy.powys.gov.uk/article/10004/Ysgol-Bro-Hyddgen-Machynlleth>

Derbyniadau

Bydd y Cyngor yn parhau i fod yr awdurdod derbyniadau ar gyfer yr ysgol newydd. Ni fydd y cynnig yn effeithio ar nifer y disgyblion a fydd yn cael eu derbyn yn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. Byddai'r nifer derbyn ar gyfer disgyblion sy'n cael eu derbyn am y tro cyntaf i'r cyfnod cynradd yn parhau i fod yn 30. Byddai'r nifer derbyn ar gyfer disgyblion Blwyddyn 7 yn parhau i fod yn 72.

O 1 Medi 2022:

- Byddai'r holl ddisgyblion a dderbynnir i'r grŵp blwyddyn Derbyn yn cael eu haddysgu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg
- Byddai pob disgybl a dderbynnir i unrhyw grŵpiau Blwyddyn arall yn gallu mynegi dewis ar gyfer y ffrwd cyfrwng Cymraeg neu'r ffrwd cyfrwng Saesneg, yn unol â'r trefniadau presennol.

Byddai hyn yn parhau i fod yn wir tan fod categori iaith y flwyddyn berthnasol wedi newid, fel yr amlinellir uchod.

Gall rhieni fynegi dewis ar gyfer ysgol arall a bydd y Cyngor yn cydymffurfio ag unrhyw ddewis a fynegir yn amodol ar Adran 86(3) Deddf Safonau a Fframwaith Ysgolion 1998.

Categori iaith

Ar ôl gweithredu'r cynnig yn llawn, categori iaith Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, fel y'i diffinnir gan Ddogfen Wybodaeth Llywodraeth Cymru rhif 023/2007¹ "Diffinio Ysgolion yn ôl y Ddarpariaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg", fydd fel a ganlyn:

- Cyfnod Cynradd – Cyfrwng Cymraeg (Categori 1)
- Cyfnod Uwchradd – Ddwyieithog (Categori 2A)

¹ Ar gael yma: <https://llyw.cymru/diffinio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg>

Cludiant

Ni fydd unrhyw newid i'r trefniadau cludiant ar gyfer disgyblion sy'n mynychu Ysgol Bro Hyddgen ar hyn o bryd.

Darperir cludiant yn unol â Pholisi Cludiant y Cyngor rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion a fydd yn mynychu Ysgol Bro Hyddgen yn y dyfodol.

Gweithredu

Bydd y cynnig yn cael ei weithredu gan Gyngor Sir Powys, yn unol â'r camau a amlinellir uchod.

Sut i fynegi Gwrthwynebiad i'r Rhybudd yma

Gall unrhyw un wrthwynebu'r cynigion hyn o fewn cyfnod o 28 diwrnod ar ôl diwrnod eu cyhoeddi, hynny yw erbyn **dydd Iau 15 Gorffennaf 2021**.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Lynette Lovell, Prif Swyddog Addysg Dros Dro, Cyngor Sir Powys, Neuadd Sir Powys, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG neu drwy e-bost at education@powys.gov.uk.

Bydd Cyngor Sir Powys yn cyhoeddi crynodeb o unrhyw wrthwynebiadau o'r fath a wnaed o fewn y cyfnod gwrthwynebu (a heb eu tynnu'n ôl trwy lythyr), ynghyd â sylwadau'r Cyngor arnynt, o fewn cyfnod a nodir yn y Cod.

Lynette Lovell
Prif Swyddog Addysg Dros Dro
Ar ran Cyngor Sir Powys

Dyddiedig y diwrnod hwn 17 Mehefin 2021

NODYN EGLURHAOL

(Nid yw'r nodyn eglurhaol hwn yn ffurfio rhan o'r Rhybudd, ond cynigir y nodyn fel modd o egluro'r sefyllfa).

- Mae'r Cyngor yn bwriadu newid categori iaith Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth o Ysgol Ddwy Ffrwd i Ysgol Cyfrwng Cymraeg.
- Manylwyd ar sail resymegol y cynnig hwn mewn Dogfen Ymgynghori a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Rhagfyr 2020. Mae'r Cyngor wedi cyhoeddi Adroddiad Ymgynghori wedi hynny, sy'n crynhoi'r materion a godwyd yn ystod y cyfnod ymgynghori gan ddarparu ymateb y Cyngor i'r materion hyn. Mae'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor: <https://cy.powys.gov.uk/article/10004/Ysgol-Bro-Hyddgen-Machynlleth>
- Y bwriad yw bod y newid i gategori iaith yr ysgol yn digwydd fesul cam, o flwyddyn i flwyddyn, gan ddechrau gyda Derbyn ym mis Medi 2022.
- Byddai pob disgybl sy'n defnyddio darpariaeth cyfrwng Saesneg yn yr ysgol ar hyn o bryd yn gallu parhau i fanteisio ar y ddarpariaeth hon drwy gydol eu hamser yn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
- Ar ôl gweithredu'r cynnig, byddai pob disgybl sy'n mynychu Ysgol Bro Hyddgen yn datblygu'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen i ddod yn gwbl ddwyieithog, yn rhugl yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.
- Byddai'r newid yng nghategori iaith yr ysgol yn cael ei gyflwyno fesul cam fel a ganlyn:

Cyfnod Cynradd:

Derbyn – Medi 2022
Blwyddyn 1 – Medi 2023
Blwyddyn 2 – Medi 2024
Blwyddyn 3 – Medi 2025
Blwyddyn 4 – Medi 2026
Blwyddyn 5 – Medi 2027
Blwyddyn 6 – Medi 2028

Cyfnod Uwchradd:

Blwyddyn 7 – Medi 2029
Blwyddyn 8 – Medi 2030
Blwyddyn 9 – Medi 2031
Blwyddyn 10 – Medi 2032
Blwyddyn 11 – Medi 2033
Blwyddyn 12 – Medi 2034
Blwyddyn 13 – Medi 2035

- Ar ôl gweithredu'r cynnig yn llawn, categori iaith y cyfnod cynradd fyddai cyfrwng Cymraeg (Categori 1), a chategori iaith y cyfnod uwchradd fyddai Dwyieithog (Categori 2A).

- Mae dogfen wybodaeth Llywodraeth Cymru "Diffinio ysgolion yn ôl y ddarpariaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg 023/2007" yn rhoi disgrifiad o'r categorïau iaith ar gyfer ysgolion yn ôl faint o Gymraeg a ddefnyddir mewn addysgu a dysgu. Mae'r ddogfen ar gael ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru yn: <https://llyw.cymru/difinio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg>
- Yn ddiweddar, cynhaliodd Llywodraeth Cymru ymgynghoriad ar gategoriâu ysgolion wedi'u diweddarau yn ôl y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg. Gellir cael gwybodaeth am yr ymgynghoriad ar wefan Llywodraeth Cymru yn y cyfeiriad hwn: <https://llyw.cymru/categoreiddio-ysgolion-yn-ol-y-ddarpariaeth-cyfrwng-cymraeg>. Nid yw canlyniad yr ymgynghoriad hwn wedi'i gyhoeddi eto.
- Unwaith y cyhoeddir canlyniad yr ymarfer ymgynghori diweddar gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gategoriâu iaith ysgolion, bydd y Cyngor yn adolygu categori iaith Ysgol Bro Hyddgen yn unol â'r camau sy'n ofynnol gan Lywodraeth Cymru.
- Mae rhagor o wybodaeth am ddwyieithrwydd ac addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg ar gael ar wefan y Cyngor yn: <https://cy.powys.gov.uk/article/10744/Taith-at-Ddwy-iaith-manteision-dewis-addysg-Gymraeg>
- Er mwyn cefnogi'r newid i gategori iaith Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, byddai'r Cyngor yn sicrhau bod cymorth iaith ychwanegol ar gael yn yr ysgol i gefnogi disgyblion, gan gynnwys darpariaeth drochi, cymorth iaith Gymraeg ychwanegol a chyfleoedd i rieni ddysgu Cymraeg.
- Ni fyddai'r cynnig hwn yn effeithio ar hawl rhieni i fynegi dewis ar gyfer ysgolion eraill.
- Ni fyddai unrhyw newid i'r trefniadau cludiant ar gyfer disgyblion sy'n mynychu Ysgol Bro Hyddgen ar hyn o bryd. Byddai cludiant yn cael ei ddarparu yn unol â pholisi cludiant y Cyngor o'r cartref i'r ysgol ar gyfer disgyblion a fydd yn mynychu Ysgol Bro Hyddgen yn y dyfodol,.

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwriadol

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF SCHOOL REORGANISATION PROPOSAL UNDER THE SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION (WALES) ACT 2013

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 42 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ("the Act") and the School Organisation Code 011/2018 ("the Code"), that Powys County Council of County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LG ("the Council"), having consulted such persons as required, proposes the following:-

- i. To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.
- ii. This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The proposal will be introduced on a phased basis as the pupils joining the school's Reception class in September 2022 move through the school. The phasing of the implementation for each year group would be as follows:

Primary phase:

Reception – September 2022
Year 1 – September 2023
Year 2 – September 2024
Year 3 – September 2025
Year 4 – September 2026
Year 5 – September 2027
Year 6 – September 2028

Secondary phase:

Year 7 – September 2029
Year 8 – September 2030
Year 9 – September 2031
Year 10 – September 2032
Year 11 – September 2033
Year 12 – September 2034
Year 13 – September 2035

The school is currently maintained by Powys County Council.

The Council undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish this proposal. A consultation report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the responses of the Council and the views of Estyn is available on the Council's website:

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9999/Ysgol-Bro-Hyddgen-Machynlleth>

Admissions

The Council will continue to be the admissions authority for the new school. The proposal will not impact on the admissions number for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The admissions number for first time admission to the primary phase would continue to be 30. The admissions number for pupils in Year 7 would continue to be 72.

From 1 September 2022:

- All pupils admitted to the Reception year group would be taught through the medium of Welsh
- All pupils admitted to any other year groups would be able to express a preference for the Welsh-medium stream or the English-medium stream, in accordance with the current arrangements.

This would continue to be the case until the language category of the relevant year has changed, as outlined above.

Parents may express a preference for another school and the Council will comply with any such expressed preference subject to Section 86(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Language Category

Following full implementation of the proposal, the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as defined by "Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision", Welsh Government Information Document No: 023/2007¹ will be as follows:

- Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1)
- Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)

¹ Available at: <https://gov.wales/defining-schools-according-welsh-medium-provision>

Transport

There will be no change to the transport arrangements for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.

Implementation

The proposal will be implemented by Powys County Council, in accordance with the phasing outlined above.

How to Object to this Notice

Within a period of 28 days after the date of publication of these proposals, that is to say by **Thursday 15th July 2021** any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Lynette Lovell, Interim Chief Education Officer, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG or by email to education@powys.gov.uk.

Powys County Council will publish a summary of any such objections made within the objection period (and not withdrawn in writing), together with the Council's observations thereon, within the period set out in the Code.

Lynette Lovell
Interim Chief Education Officer
For Powys County Council

Dated this day 17th June 2021.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This explanatory note does not form part of the Notice but is offered by way of explanation).

- The Council intends to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a Consultation Document which was issued in December 2020. The Council has subsequently published a Consultation Report, which summarises the issues raised during the consultation period and provides the Council's response to these issues. The Consultation Report is available on the Council's website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9999/Ysgol-Bro-Hyddgen-Machynlleth>
- The intention is that the change to the school's language category happens on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.
- All pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
- Following implementation of the proposal, all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would develop the skills needed to become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
- The change in the school's language category would be phased in as follows:

Primary phase:

Reception – September 2022
Year 1 – September 2023
Year 2 – September 2024
Year 3 – September 2025
Year 4 – September 2026
Year 5 – September 2027
Year 6 – September 2028

Secondary phase:

Year 7 – September 2029
Year 8 – September 2030
Year 9 – September 2031
Year 10 – September 2032
Year 11 – September 2033
Year 12 – September 2034
Year 13 – September 2035

- Following full implementation of the proposal, the language category of the primary phase would be Welsh-medium (Category 1), and the language category of the secondary phase would be Bilingual (Category 2A).
- The Welsh Government information document "Defining schools according to Welsh Medium provision 023/2007" provides a description of the language categories for schools according to the amount of Welsh used in teaching and learning. The document is available on the Welsh Government's website at: <https://gov.wales/defining-schools-according-welsh-medium-provision>.

- The Welsh Government has recently carried out consultation on updated school categories according to Welsh-medium provision. Information about the consultation is available on the Welsh Government's website at this address: <https://gov.wales/school-categories-according-welsh-medium-provision>. The outcome of this consultation exercise has not yet been published.
- Once the outcome of the Welsh Government's recent consultation exercise on school language categories has been published, the Council will review the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in accordance with the actions required by Welsh Government.
- More information about bilingualism and Welsh-medium education is available on the Council's website at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/10742/Destination-bilingual-the-benefits-of-choosing-a-Welsh-medium-education>.
- To support the change to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, the Council would ensure that additional language support is available at the school to support pupils, including immersion provision, additional Welsh language support and opportunities for parents to learn Welsh.
- This proposal would not affect the right of parents to express a preference for other schools.
- There would be no change to the transport arrangements for pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy.

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwriadol



Changing the language category of Ysgol
Bro Hyddgen
Objection Report



Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Objection Report

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Consultation on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Objection Report

1. BACKGROUND

Powys County Council consulted on proposals to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The consultation took place from the 8th December 2020 to the 26th January 2021. The Council published a consultation report outlining the findings of the consultation exercise.

On 18th May 2021, the Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed with the proposal, and Statutory Notices were published from the 17th June 2021 to the 15th July 2021.

The proposals were as follows:

From 31 August 2022:

- i) The To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.
- ii) This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The proposal would be introduced on a phased basis as the pupils joining the school's Reception class in September 2022 move through the school. The phasing of the implementation for each year group would be as follows:

Reception – September 2022

Year 1 – September 2023

Year 2 – September 2024

Year 3 – September 2025

Year 4 – September 2026

Year 5 – September 2027

Year 6 – September 2028

Year 7 – September 2029

Year 8 – September 2030

Year 9 – September 2031

Year 10 – September 2032

Year 11 – September 2033

Year 12 – September 2034

Year 13 – September 2035

2. OBJECTIONS RECEIVED

258 objections were received during the statutory objection period. Objections were received from the following:

- Parents of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
- Members of the community
- Llanbrynmair Community Council
- Machynlleth Golf Club
- Machynlleth Bowling Club
- Machynlleth Community Children's Project Ltd (MCCP)
- Russell George MS

The objections received included two petitions:

- A petition in support of the proposal which received 278 signatures
- A petition against the proposal which received 1,219 signatures

Of the remaining 256 'objections', 4 were in support of the proposal.

The issues raised in the objection are outlined on the following page, along with the Council's response. The Objections received relate to the following headings:

1. Positive comments about dual stream provision
2. Comments about the need for choice
3. Comments about Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
4. Comments about funding for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's new building
5. Comments about the impact on pupils
6. Comments about additional learning needs
7. Concern about the impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
8. Comments about alternative provision
9. Comments about travel implications
10. Comments about additional support that would be needed to support a change of language category
11. Comments about the impact on the community
12. Comments about the impact on local employment and businesses
13. Comments about early years provision
14. Comments about the use of Welsh in the local area
15. Other comments about the Welsh language
16. Comments about discrimination / equality
17. Comments about the Council's approach to developing Welsh-medium provision
18. Comments about other proposals
19. Other options
20. Criticism of Powys County Council
21. Criticism of Welsh Government
22. Comments about the process

23. Comments about documentation
24. Comments in support of the proposal

3. ISSUES RAISED DURING THE OBJECTION PERIOD

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

1. POSITIVE COMMENTS ABOUT DUAL STREAM PROVISION

1.1 Dual stream provision has enabled pupils in the English stream to learn Welsh

1.1.1	<p>My family have lived in Machynlleth for generations and have all attended Ysgol Bro Hyddgen (Ysgol Bro Dyfi). Some of my family went through the school through the medium of Welsh and the others through the medium of English, I can assure you that those that went through the medium of English were at no disadvantage in regards to learning the Welsh language, the teachers employed in the school were able to teach Welsh at such high standard that it didn't matter that they were learning it as a 'second language'.</p>	<p>In a dual stream school some learners are enabled to become fully bilingual while other learners in the school study in English only. The learners in the Welsh stream study Welsh and English as first languages and are expected to be fully bilingual, learners in the English stream study English to first language standard and Welsh as a second language, and it is not designed for them to become fully bilingual by the end of their time at school.</p> <p>Whilst some learners may become fluent in Welsh after studying Welsh as a Second Language, these learners are exceptions – generally, pupils accessing English-medium provision and studying Welsh as a Second Language do not become fluent in Welsh.</p>
1.1.2	<p>I am a long term local resident, having had two children complete their schooling in Machynlleth from nursery to sixth form. They were both in the "English" stream, both speak Welsh fluently, and both excelled at the school. They had opportunities to learn about Welsh culture, attend Urdd club</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	and the Eisteddfods and spoke Welsh daily, both in the classroom, playground and through their school life in general.	
1.1.3	I have a daughter who completed all of her education at Ysgol Gynradd Machynlleth/Ysgol Bro Ddyfi/Ysgol Bro Hyddgen; in the English stream; whom is now a valued member of the community, working at Machynlleth leisure centre. She can communicate effectively through the medium of Welsh despite completing her education in English!	As above.
1.1.4	I joined what then was called 'Ysgol Bro Ddyfi' and was put into the English speaking 'stream', with lessons in Welsh. I was able to learn Welsh and use it on my peers, and to speak it many times throughout my day - which helped my confidence incredibly. Many of my school friends were of similar levels to me having spoken English themselves, and therefore we could learn together. I even joined in the school 'Eisteddfod', and learnt all my lines in Welsh and stood on stage and performed them. I was encouraged to speak and therefore because I was not forced, I found myself learning much faster and choosing to practice. I feel strongly that if the school had been a 'Welsh only' speaking school it would have segregated me and likely I would not have attended at all, unable to learn. I am proud of having been part of the town, my friends I made here are my closest and dearest and I often speak Welsh all these years later.	As above. All pupils accessing English-medium provision would be required to study Welsh as a Second Language up to GCSE level, therefore pupils would continue to be introduced to the Welsh language should they access English-medium provision in a different location.
1.1.5	Those which support the change of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category to Welsh-medium choose to ignore the importance of the Bilingual stream in ensuring that Ysgol Bro	The English-medium stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is not a 'bilingual stream' – it is the Welsh-medium stream which ensures that pupils become fully bilingual, fluent in

	Hyddgen retains its Welsh ethos. The Bilingual stream has given opportunities to English speaking pupils, by introducing them to the Welsh language, without forcing them.	Welsh and English. All pupils accessing English-medium provision would be required to study Welsh as a Second Language up to GCSE level, therefore pupils would continue to be introduced to the Welsh language should they access English-medium provision in a different location.
	We have had pupils moving to the school from abroad, with no knowledge of English, let alone Welsh, but by being in the bilingual setting, they have succeeded in mastering both languages.	It is the Welsh-medium stream which ensures that pupils become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, pupils moving from abroad would continue to be welcome at the school, and appropriate support would be provided for them.

1.2 Dual stream provision means that pupils can move from the Welsh stream to the English stream

1.2.1	I studied through the medium of Welsh up to year 9, when I considered myself to be bilingual, and I still consider myself to be bilingual up until this day, even though I decided to complete my GCSE's and A Levels in English. I decided this because I knew I would not have reached my full education potential if I had completed my studies in Welsh. This does not imply that my Welsh speaking is poor, only that my academia is better in English, and so why would I choose to complete my studies, that dictate my future, in a language that would put me at a disadvantage of achieving this?	<p>The Council notes these comments regarding the dual stream model enabling pupils from the Welsh stream to move to the English stream during their time at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>The Council's aim is that as far as possible, pupils that start in Welsh-medium education continue to do so throughout their education. This is the best way to ensure that pupils continue to develop their bilingual skills, so that they are bilingual in both Welsh and English when they leave school.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that</p>
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		<p>the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p> <p>Many pupils across Wales attend single stream Welsh-medium schools (Category 1 or Category 2A) in the primary and secondary sector. In these schools, there is no English stream for pupils to move into. However, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply to transfer to an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
1.2.2	The dual stream was great for me and allowed me to learn Welsh but also meet my well-being needs when I needed to switch streams.	As above.
1.2.3	My children attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and were originally in the Welsh stream up until year 8, at this point they struggled with the Welsh language so decided to move over to the English stream, the school made this transition easy and smooth and both my children are happy to have the option to do their GCSEs in English.	As above.

1.2.4	There are many families that have started their education in the Welsh stream and somewhere though the years primary, Juniors or high school have needed to change to English or bilingual to complete their education.	As above.
1.2.5	My eldest daughter is very highly educated but chose to do her exams in English. My nephews have had completely different experiences in school, similarly they started their education in the Welsh Stream but they COULD NOT learn through the medium of Welsh, they moved across to the English stream.	As above.
1.2.6	My wifes younger brother is in the junior school and he struggled in the all Welsh stream. He became disheartened, stressed and thought he was simply not clever enough. He switched to the English stream where he is now flourishing all his school work has vastly improved.	As above.
1.2.7	I, as an individual, attended this school and for one can say how much having a dual stream helped a number of individuals. All had the ability to move to the English stream from the Welsh stream if they found their learning was challenging and vice versa.	As above.
1.2.8	I have lived in Machynlleth all of my life and I went to both primary and secondary school here. I was taught through the medium of Welsh from the ages of 4-11 before I decided it was the best option for me to change to the English medium for my GCSE's. It wasn't a decision I made lightly, but it was one I am thankful I was allowed and able to make.	As above.

1.2.9	As a former pupil at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen I studied through the Welsh medium until I reached year 10, when I decided to change to the English medium to sit my GCSE's, and then continued through English for my A-levels. From my experience, I can say without a doubt that it was of benefit to me to change the language that I was learning in as I got to this crucial stage in my education, despite the fact that I am a fluent and confident Welsh speaker. I would go as far as to say that continuing in Welsh would have been a detriment to me going forward to University.	As above.
1.2.10	Both of my children started their educational journey through the medium of Welsh. They are now both fluent in Welsh, however when it came to studying for and sitting their GCSE's and A level's, both decided it was more beneficial for them to move to the English stream. The choice to do so was definitely the right move.	As above.
1.2.11	I am a pupil at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and I am strongly against the proposed changes. I attended the Welsh stream from reception up until year 8, then I began to struggle in the Welsh stream and was lucky enough to have the option of changing over to the English stream to continue with my GCSEs, which helped a lot.	As above.
1.2.12	At present I do have the comfort knowing that there is the English stream that I could my children to if needs be as I hate the thought of them struggling with work and being unhappy. I want all my children to be able to do the best that they can, be	As above.

	it being taught through Welsh or English whichever is best for them.	
1.2.13	It will not improve the uptake of Welsh medium education, which is currently quite high, since removing the safety net makes the decision to enter Welsh medium education far more of a gamble, and families may prefer to move elsewhere than risk unsettling a child part way through their schooling.	As above.

1.3 Pupils that have moved to the area during their time in school have been able to attend the school's English stream

1.3.1	Thanks to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen dual stream, my older daughter was able to achieve excellent results at GCSE and A levels and was able to secure an unconditional offer from university. If Machynlleth only had Welsh stream, my daughter would never have succeeded academically as she was already 15 when she entered the system.	<p>The Council notes this concern regarding the possible impact on any children moving to the area during their school years if there isn't an English stream in Machynlleth.</p> <p>Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families, providing the opportunity for pupils moving to the area during their time in school to be immersed in the Welsh language, so that they would be able to access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that this provision may not be suitable for all pupils, particularly those towards the end of their time in school. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro</p>
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		Hyddgen’s language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
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2. COMMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR CHOICE

2.1 There is need for choice

2.1.1	I believe our children should have a choice in their education and not be segregated because of the language they speak or end up struggling to learn their subjects because they struggle with the Welsh language!	<p>The majority of people in the Machynlleth catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision, and the proposal to change the school’s language category to Welsh-medium reflects this choice.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change would be introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken attending the school in the future would be immersed in the Welsh language when they start school, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen’s language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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		The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.
2.1.2	Children have the right to CHOICE and the right to an education which develops their personalities, talents and abilities to the fullest possible extent	As above.
2.1.3	Lack of choice. Every child in the Dyfi valley has the right to be educated in their own community.	As above.
2.1.4	Everyone has a choice and can be taught in their preferred language.	As above.
2.1.5	Both English and Welsh are the official languages of Wales so pupils should be able to learn in the language of their choice.	As above.
2.1.6	All official documents are required to be in both languages so education should be as well.	As above.
2.1.7	If Powys County Council change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to a Welsh medium school then they are taking away the freedom of choice for the pupils.	As above.

2.1.8	Reduces choice for pupils and forces a Welsh Only secondary education at Bo Dyfi.	As above.
2.1.9	As a family we have to make the decision that's right for our children, and Powys County Council should not be dictating that such choices cannot be made.	As above.
2.1.10	Personal choice. Wales has two official languages - parents should therefore be able to exercise their right to choose which language their child is educated in.	As above.
2.1.11	Pupils and their families have the right to decide which language is right for them to be educated in. This is not a decision that Powys County Council has the right to make or take away from local families.	As above.
2.1.12	We have the luxury of being given the freedom of choice, that choice should be the same for our children. As local residents, we are passionate that the Welsh language and heritages does not fizzle out, but to be forced into doing something that isn't our choice is not acceptable.	As above.
2.1.13	At present the provision of bilingual education gives pupils and their families choice. Pupils in the English stream learn Welsh and some become fluent in the language while others struggle. There is no segregation, Welsh and English pupils working and learning together in one school. This proposal takes away choice and creates exclusion.	As above.
2.1.14	This infringes on the freedom of choice that is central to any democratic nation. The status quo allows parents and pupils to choose in which medium in that child is educated – why	As above.

	<p>does the Council want to deprive them of this choice? Indeed, what right does it have, especially looking at the make-up of councillors who have benefitted from that choice to deprive it from others? The Council would rightly be castigated if it were making YBH an English-medium school – why does it not recognise the gross hypocrisy and Anglophobic prejudice behind the proposal?</p>	<p>The Council disagrees that there is ‘anglophobic prejudice’ behind the proposal.</p>
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2.2 Not being able to choose English-medium provision will impact on educational progress

2.2.1	<p>Not allowing them to learn through the medium of English which may in fact be their ‘first language’ hinders them from achieving high grades as not only are they learning the initial subject but they are then also having to learn the Welsh within that subject too as it would not come naturally to them.</p>	<p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school’s language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Across Wales, a significant proportion of pupils that access Welsh-medium education come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, and this does not impact on their ability to succeed in their education. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh would eventually become the main language of communication within the school, which would enable all pupils to improve their Welsh language skills, and should enable those from non-Welsh speaking homes to develop more fluency in Welsh, ensuring that they are better able to thrive in Welsh-medium education. Pupils would also be fluent in English, and would have the skills needed to use both language in future education / employment opportunities.</p>
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		<p>Evidence in Wales would indicate that pupils from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds accessing Welsh-medium education have educational outcomes which are at least equivalent to their peers in English-medium schools.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
2.2.2	I believe that by surrendering the right to choose from these children and parents you are impacting their grades and chances of jobs in the future. It helped my grades by having the option to choose in more ways than one. I'm sure many of my ex-classmates would agree with me on my views and could also share stories on how their right to choose helped them further their learning and helped them get the grades that they deserved.	As above.
2.2.3	I would like to register my disapproval with regard to changing the system from dual to a Welsh medium only as I believe that this is a divisive move which removes choice for local parents and, from my experience, has the potential to adversely affect the future academic development of local children entering into a global workplace where the Welsh language makes up only a tiny part.	As above.
2.2.4	Why should parents be forced to have their children educated in a language that they fear will leave them disadvantaged.	As above.

2.2.5	Increasing the number of Welsh speakers is commendable but expecting success for all students in secondary education to write, read and speak in their second language is NOT.	As above.
2.2.6	I fear that children will not be allowed to make such decisions for themselves and be forced to struggle in the Welsh medium and not get the grades they deserve.	As above.
2.2.7	My child went to a Welsh-only primary school at the age of six where he was taught to read in Welsh – a language he didn't know – and he proceeded to do badly at school and taunted by some of the other children as being 'stupid'. He was a very bright, articulate and lively child but during this period became unconfident (which remained with him throughout his school years even when he went to an English-medium school).	<p>Whilst we acknowledge that this must have been difficult for the family involved, this is not a comment about Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. This is not reflective of the experiences of most pupils accessing Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>There are no 'Welsh only' primary schools in Wales. In a Welsh medium primary school, all pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. English is introduced formally as a subject at Key Stage 2 and is taught through the medium of English. The requirements for schools and pupils in terms of English at Key Stage 2 are the same in all schools in Wales, whatever the designated medium of the school.</p>

3. COMMENTS ABOUT YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN

3.1 Concerns about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

3.1.1	Each year the support [from the school] becomes less and less due to funding. Currently almost non-existent.	All schools in Powys are funded according to the Powys Fair Funding Formula.
3.1.2	Following the amalgamation this is when the problems began, it was evident that the primary campus finances were becoming a concern as it was felt the secondary campus was utilising the money and this was having an adverse effect on the provision of support. The primary headteacher left her post and was replaced by the head of the 6th form.	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-age school and receives one budget from Powys CC. The allocation of budgets within the school is the responsibility of the school.
3.1.3	I just want my children to have the support they need to do this smoothly which going by Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's history is little and late if it materializes at all there's been lots of should we need help / talk of external units to help with Welsh maybe we are not re assured at all that this support will come.	The local authority will work with the school to provide immersion support to all learners that need the additional support with the Welsh language.
3.1.4	There is already children at YBH struggling with no support. Children are being let down by the school. I worked tirelessly with the school to help them understand my child's needs, but they just didn't want to know! What hope would he of had in an all Welsh school, none! There is many children already in that school being let down.	Support for pupils' needs would be an issue for the school to address with support and guidance provided by the Local Authority.
3.1.5	Children will need more support if this goes ahead I have no doubt, but Ysgol Bro Hyddgen seems to be getting rid of support teachers.	As above.
3.1.6	There is already a high number of children struggling in that school because they have NO support. ALN needs to be looked at down there. They are destroying children!!	As above.

3.1.7	Education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen does need to improve - standards of education are poor.	<p>The Council does not have any concerns over the quality of education provided at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The Consultation Document included the latest Estyn judgement and the 2019 National Categorisation for the school. It must be noted that there is a difference between Estyn inspections and National Categorisation – Estyn evaluate by judgements, National Categorisation uses colours to identify the support a school needs.</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was inspected in 2017 and were placed in Estyn review. However by December 2018 the school was judged to have made sufficient progress in addressing the recommendations and was removed from Estyn review.</p> <p>National Categorisation identifies the amount of support a school will receive on an annual basis. The last categorisation took place in the autumn term 2019. Since that period, Welsh Government have suspended categorisation. There are four colours for categorisation (Green and Yellow are seen as self-improving schools; Amber and Red are schools in need of significant support).</p> <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was categorised as Yellow in 2019, indicating that the school is a self-improving school.</p> <p>Although there is no National Categorisation for schools, the Council has continued to work closely to support the school. The school has responded well to the challenges of providing education over the pandemic period. This</p>
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		<p>has reinforced the view of the local authority that the school is a self-improving school and provides education to a standard that is equitable.</p> <p>Estyn's response to this consultation also confirms the Council's view: <i>'Estyn believes that the proposal is likely to maintain, or improve, the existing standards in terms of education, provision, and leadership and management.'</i></p>
3.1.8	<p>School staff have refused to speak English to me even when being told I do not understand or speak Welsh, their way round this was to speak Welsh to my child and force them to struggle translate what they were saying to me, no reverse translation was needed as they fully understood English, they just refused to speak it to me. I would only imagine this getting worse if they were officially a Welsh only school which would force my child to seek other education providers outside of the county.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>
3.1.9	<p>Concern about the English language skills of school staff.</p>	<p>All teachers and leaders are required to have an English qualification.</p>
3.1.10	<p>My youngest daughter would be the first year to be affected by this change proposed. As an English speaking family, we already struggle with the current Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as they refuse to translate everything into English.</p>	<p>Good practice is that all correspondence to parents is provided bilingually at Welsh-medium / bilingual schools.</p>
3.1.11	<p>Currently Bro Hyddgen is not able to offer biology A level, other Bro Hyddgen A level students have to commute to Aberystwyth. This is a question of provision not language.</p>	<p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen works in partnership with Ysgol Penweddig, secondary schools across Powys and e-ysgol provision. This has ensured the broadening of the</p>

		breadth of academic and vocational provision for Bro Hyddgen Post 16 learners through the medium of Welsh and English, as well as securing the quality of provision.
3.1.12	There is already a shortage of teachers. My son in year 8 has a TA teaching him in some lessons.	Funding is provided to the school through the funding formula to enable the school to appropriately staff all classes. The school's leadership team and governing body is responsible for the staffing of the school.
3.1.13	The secondary school is often short-staffed, currently borrowing a teacher from the primary I believe. They have had many staffing problems over the years.	As above. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-age school, therefore it is not the case that the secondary school is 'borrowing' a teacher from the primary. It is considered good practice for teachers to teach across phases.
3.1.14	This school which already has multiple incidents of racist behaviour will now probably have a distinctly non-diverse teaching staff. How many people of colour are Welsh Speakers? How many of those are teachers?	All schools are required to have an inclusive curriculum which promotes diversity, and to report racist incidents to the local authority. There is no evidence of 'multiple incidents of racist behaviour' at the school.
3.1.15	My child is being taught English through the medium of Welsh even though he is in the English Stream. What hope do these children have. I urge Powys County Council to investigate the goings on at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and to withdraw the proposed changes for the good of the future of Machynlleth and the generations to come.	English is a statutory subject. It is the responsibility of the school to monitor the standards that pupils achieve.
3.1.16	As an example, my son's ability to speak Welsh has suffered greatly due to Covid and the lack of online learning during 'homeschooling'. He is in the Welsh stream at primary school. There is no provision to help him with the language so he struggles on.	These concerns regarding difficulties parents who do not speak Welsh have experienced supporting home learning during the Covid pandemic are noted. Schools remain the first point of contact when it comes to children's' continued learning. All pupils in a Welsh medium stream are taught through the medium of

		<p>Welsh, with the exception of English as a subject, and thus hear and use the language in a variety of contexts on a daily basis. Teachers are responsible for observing and assessing the progress of all pupils with an expectation that they use this information to plan the next steps in skill development for the pupils. Schools should be able to support or advise parents on the best way to support children to develop their Welsh language skills and understand all set tasks. In addition to the work set by the school, parents can also help their children by encouraging them to engage in activities available through various media, e.g. listening to Welsh-language music, downloading Welsh-language apps, watching Welsh-language television programmes and various online resources. The important thing is that children have contact with the language as often as possible.</p> <p>Additional support for parents is available through https://www.welsh4parents.cymru. Resources and guidelines are frequently updated.</p>
3.1.17	<p>I would also like to point out my disappointment that Powys County Council have allowed the Cofiwch Dreweryn sign that has been graffitied on the wall of the school to remain in place and have not requested the governors remove it. I know full well being a first language Welsh speaker who has lived in the town all my life the meaning of that phrase (a political slogan used for welsh nationalism) What council who is operating an inclusive education system allows such a slogan on their premises?</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for signs displayed at the school.</p>

3.2 References to changes already taking place at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

3.2.1	They have already removed the English stream on the secondary campus and changed it to a Bilingual stream running alongside the Welsh stream, without consultation.	<p>For a number of years, in order to accommodate both Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have used a 'bilingual' teaching model, where Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils are taught in the same class using both languages. The Council made reference to this in the Consultation Document published in respect of this proposal:</p> <p><i>'In the secondary sector, in order to be able to accommodate both Welsh-medium and English-medium pupils, many classes are taught bilingually, with teaching taking place in both Welsh and English in the same class. This is not a desirable model for Welsh-medium or English-medium pupils. Subject choice is also limited for English-medium pupils.'</i></p>
3.2.2	Powys County Council have stated that no children who currently attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen through the English stream will be affected by these changes. However, new term classes have been set for September 2022 and the English stream classes have been amalgamated into just a few classes. Children aged 4 years old and children aged 8 years old will be taught in one classroom. Can you guarantee that a class can be taught effectively with varying different age groups and who are at different stages of development?	<p>The school's class structure for September 2022 is a matter for the school and its governing body. All schools are required to regularly review their class structure based on pupil numbers in order to ensure that provision is affordable within the budget allocated to the school.</p> <p>There are many schools across Powys that have classes with mixed age classes. These pupils can be taught effectively through differentiation and challenge in mixed age classes.</p>
3.2.3	My daughter currently attends reception in the English stream, we were assured that the proposal would have no implications	Any changes made to the school's class structure have been made due to the number of pupils accessing

	on children already in school. This is already questionable giving as her class will now compromise reception-year 3. The same is happening from year 4-6. How are these children with such massive age gaps going to be given a satisfactory education.	English-medium provision in the school. This is not linked to the Council's proposal to change the school's language category.
3.2.4	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is already a predominantly Welsh speaking school, this is reflected in how the English medium classes are set up. Where years 0-3 and years 4-6 are crammed together. I find it extremely concerning and disappointing that those who are for the change are happy to see other people's children and their education suffer when it does not affect or concern them or their own.	As above.
3.2.5	I also find it upsetting that the English classes being provided this year has minimised where children are being put together from different age groups yet the same is not happening on the Welsh side. I cannot help but feel the children are being forced out the school through the exclusion they are being directly faced with, as well as the impact their learning will face through less attention for each age group. How is the English classes less important than the Welsh classes? Why do these children deserve less attention less space less focused age appropriate learning?	As above.
3.2.6	You have stated that it will not affect the children already in the English stream but there has already been changes e.g. putting 3 years in one class and what about the resources?	As above.

3.3 The school pressurises pupils to attend the Welsh-medium stream

3.3.1	Many start YBH in the Welsh stream because you're under pressure to do so.	<p>As outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and to contribute to the implementation of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, the Council's priority is to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision, to increase the number of Powys pupils that are fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>The Council would expect all schools that offer Welsh-medium education to share information with parents about the benefits of Welsh-medium education, with the aim of encouraging parents to choose Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>The Council's Admissions information has stated that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is a dual stream school, and any parent could have applied for a place at the school's English stream. Applications for places at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are processed centrally by the Council. Any applications for places in the English-medium stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would have been processed in accordance with the Council's admissions process.</p>
3.3.2	I have noticed a concerted effort by a vocal minority including certain teachers at Bro Hyddgen who have slowly picked away at the English stream using various tactics such as under investment, virtual coercion of new parents with dire stories of the consequences of not being taught solely in Cymraeg.	As above.
3.3.3	I have been told parents are being told at year 6 – Welsh stream when they ask for their children to go into the English stream for secondary education – Don't – Naughty children are	As above.

	in the English stream. What is going on? This must be investigated.	
3.3.4	For many years, the management of the school has been pushing an agenda of 'Welsh above all else' and parents have been coerced into putting their children in the Welsh stream on the understanding that they can move them back to the English stream at any time.	As above.
3.3.5	The school management team have employed various tactics over the years to make the numbers of families wanting an English medium provision for their children seem lower than it is. This includes making personal phone calls to parents who had requested their child be in the English stream for reception and applying pressure during these calls to persuade the parent to change their choice to Welsh stream. The school management team have also been refusing to move children over to the English stream on parental request, even when the child is deeply unhappy and struggling with their education in the Welsh stream.	As above.
3.3.6	I have heard from local parents that primary school starters in the last few years have been strongly encouraged by the school to start their children in Welsh medium, with the security that they will always have the option to move their children to the English stream should they have concerns at any time. This may have falsely elevated the preference for Welsh medium education at primary level as many parents would have selected the English stream if they'd had any inkling their child would be denied that shift later.	As above.

3.3.7	Children were no longer moved over, parents no longer consulted and advised of the best decision for their child. This has continued to the point of those opting for English medium education were being contacted and persuaded to go into the Welsh stream, parents letters have been sent to cabinet members highlighting this but no action has resulted from those. Parents requests to move their children have not been sanctioned and reassurances have been provided that they are ok with a promise of support??	As above.
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3.4 Criticism of the Governing Body / Chair of Governors

3.4.1	Parents have been lied to by the school Governors sending letters out informing us that its going to be a bilingual school, which is leading people to believe we'll still have an English stream.	This would be a matter for the governors. Any complaints against any governor should be addressed by following the appropriate complaints procedure.
3.4.2	Powys County Councillors who represent Plaid Cymru and sit on the board of governors are continuing to cause huge division in our town by sharing their personal views through media channels. Once again those concerns when reported have been ignored by Powys officials.	As above.
3.4.3	The board of Governors is not representative of the local Community. I am aware of resignation of a significant proportion of Governors who could not continue to tolerate the attitudes towards English speakers in meetings.	The governors of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have been appointed in accordance with the required procedures. Any governors are entitled to resign from their positions at any time if they wish to do so.
3.4.4	The governing body is not a fair representation of the community of Machynlleth. It is predominantly made up of Welsh language activists who have strong connections to	As above.

	PCC employees involved in this consultation process. It is my understanding also that many governors resigned when this proposal was introduced as they did not agree with it. They have since been replaced with co-opted members approached by County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan who is also Chair of the Governors, Plaid Cymru representative and secretary for Menter Iaith Maldwyn.	
3.4.5	There has been a huge push towards Welsh Medium education and the governing body had many Welsh language activists sitting on it actively promoting Welsh medium education and were critical of Powys for their lack of Welsh medium schools.	As above.
3.4.6	Why has Cllr E Vaughan not declared an interest in this matter. He is an active Plaid Cymru councillor and the Chair of Governors. The board of Governor's is NOT representative of the local Community. There has been a mass exodus of Governors resigning who could not tolerate the attitudes towards English speakers in meetings.	As above. Cllr Elwyn Vaughan is not a member of the Council's Cabinet, so is not a decision maker in respect of the Council's proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. There is no requirement for him to declare an interest in this matter.
3.4.7	I object to the inappropriate conduct of Cllr Elwyn Vaughan, Chair of Governors, during this objection period. Surely, it is inappropriate for someone in his position to publicly comment on the proposal during this period?	As above.
3.4.8	In fact it's fair to say that once again County Councillor Elwyn Vaughan has portrayed himself through media channels as the person who will ensure that support is available through the Canolfan Hyddgen building, I must add that the company he is secretary of Menter Iaith Maldwyn was included in those	The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.

	plans! How convenient! Education of every child must ultimately be the responsibility of the Local Authority not a third party company. Once again a County Councillor of yours following his own agenda!	
3.4.9	This is another string in a worrying political takeover of the school: although it is normal for a local councillor to be on a school's board of governors, for them to be the Chair is highly unusual. Since, political graffiti has been sanctioned by the school's leadership and turning the Hyddgen building into a Welsh Language Immersion Centre has been suggested, when the main beneficiary of such a move would likely be Menter Maldwyn. The Chair, Elwyn Vaughan, is the Chief Officer of Menter Maldwyn. There is clearly a conflict of interest here and the Council is failing in to conduct due diligence on ensuring politics stays out of the classroom. This is all the more disappointing given the education brief is held by a so-called Conservative who is meant to uphold freedom of choice and tackle nationalism.	<p>There are other examples in Powys of county councillors being Chairs of governing bodies.</p> <p>There is no 'political takeover' of the school – the proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</p>
3.4.10	The governors and supporters of Bro Hyddgen school need to put the welfare, wellbeing and the education of the pupils before their personal beliefs and stop trying to make a name for themselves. They are taking away the children's choice of education and setting them up to fail before they've even started on their education/learning journey.	<p>The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council, not by the 'governors and supporters of Bro Hyddgen school'.</p> <p>It is not true that the proposal is 'taking away the children's choice of education and setting them up to fail'. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers</p>

		English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
3.4.11	The governors of Bro Hyddgen school should ensure that the school caters for every child, whether their Welsh or English!! It's their duty of care to ensure that every child has the right to their education.	As above.
3.4.12	The suspicion of many locals is that there is a political agenda from the Ysgol Bro Hyddgen governors in having this proposal accepted. The feeling is that the school governance has changed in recent years to become more nationalistic of Welsh identity. Where previous proposals to reduce English provision have failed, an opportunity has presented itself via new Welsh Government targets for this 'agenda' to be adopted. As someone who deals with a lot of American and European compliance due to my employment, there is a suspicion that this proposal is more to meet that agenda. To the detriment of those who struggle speaking Welsh.	As above.
3.4.13	The Chair of Governors recently spoke on local radio about the proposal. It is interesting that he chose to do this as he has not chosen to talk to parents and answers their questions and concerns at any point during the consultation period. Neither has PCC made any attempt to engage with parents and the community during this period. During the radio presentation, the Chair of Governors commented on the Welsh Government's vision of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050; but he failed to mention that Bro Hyddgen already has 76% Welsh-medium pupils (exceeding Welsh Government's target of 70%). The Chair of Governors made comparisons with Penweddig School in Aberystwyth; but	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p> <p>It is not true that PCC has not 'made any attempt to engage with parents and the community during this period' – nearly 500 consultation responses were received, as well as over 250 objections and two petitions signed by a total of nearly 1500 people,</p>

	<p>failed to acknowledge that families in Aberystwyth have the choice of Penweddig (608 pupils) or Penglais (1087 pupils). He clearly failed to recognise the far higher number of pupils in Aberystwyth choosing English medium secondary education. He also dismissed the fact that pupils from Machynlleth would have to travel at least 18 miles to have a choice of English medium education, unlike those in Aberystwyth who have a choice of both within their own town. He also talked about the success of Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd; but failed to mention that there are also several English medium schools in the Newtown area available for pupils. He also failed to mention that once pupils leave Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd there is no Welsh medium secondary education available to pupils in Newtown – unlike at Machynlleth where pupils can access Welsh medium at every key stage. The Chair of Governors also commented on pupils/parents ‘opting out’ of learning Welsh. Surely, he is aware that all pupils at Bro Hyddgen learn Welsh. In fact, results for second language Welsh at Bro Hyddgen are very good. It is very sad that he fails to understand that parents and pupils have very valid and genuine reasons for choosing English provision and this absolutely underlines the lack of empathy shown by himself and PCC throughout this proposal.</p>	<p>therefore it is clear that parents and the community have engaged with the process.</p>
3.4.14	<p>The Chair of Governors is wrong to suggest that the pupils in the English stream only receive education through English, throughout Key Stage 4 every GCSE lesson is taught bilingually and with great success. This never caused any negative impact on the teachers or pupils, with high grades being achieved by both the English and Welsh medium pupils in the same class. I believe being in a bilingual class greatly improved my Welsh language skills, and allowed me to</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors’ radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p>

	<p>achieve the high Welsh grade that I did. Also, there are so few pupils in the GCSE classes in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, that bilingual classes are the only sensible approach. For example, in GCSE PE, there were only around 12 boys, with only 3 pupils studying through Welsh. Obviously with so few pupils, they have to be grouped together for the school to be sustainable. The Chair of Governors is wrong when he suggests that the English stream in Bro Hyddgen only receives their education through the medium of English, there is a strong Welsh ethos in the school, which is no comparison to English medium schools such as Penglais.</p>	
3.4.15	<p>We are looking to our future, and not reacting to historical acts of our ancestors. It seems that Cllr Elwyn Vaughan is stuck in history, and was quoted in the Cambrian News as saying 'the welsh language been undermined so much during the last century' he also stated 'Its the language of the oppressor over the oppressed, the language of intolerance, and that's why we have to call it out and condemn it' Which is ironic as he is now leading a campaign that is causing so much division, leading to children feeling ashamed to speak their own language in public, the tables turned so that he is now the oppressor..and that is not the future we want for my children.</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p>
3.4.16	<p>Not only is it inappropriate for the Chair of Governors/Powys Councillor to comment so publicly on this proposal during the objection period, but the information given was very selective to say the least. Yet again, some parents and local residents could hear the information given during this radio presentation and be misinformed of current provision at Bro Hyddgen. Following this radio presentation, a member of the community actually commented that they were in favour of this proposal</p>	<p>The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.</p>

	as they believed it to be right and correct that pupils should be able to learn and study through Welsh! Once it was explained that pupils already have full access to Welsh medium provision, they were surprised as they had assumed, from the information given, that this was not available!	
3.4.17	Cllr Elwyn Vaughan said that PCC had made this proposal following a critical ESTYN report; but failed to mention that Bro Hyddgen have the highest percentage of Welsh-medium pupils in Powys. Pupils at Bro Hyddgen have full access to Welsh-medium provision.	The Council is not responsible for the content of the Chair of Governors' radio interview or any content issued to the local press. Any complaints about the content should be directed to the radio station / media outlets in question.
3.4.18	It must also be noted that the mistruths and false reassurances by your Plaid Cymru County councillor Elwyn Vaughan has been a contributory factor in residents of our town becoming confused over the actual proposal, several attempts by residents to PCC to address these concerns have been ignored.	The Council has been clear throughout that the aim of this process is to make a regulated alteration to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category from dual stream to Welsh-medium.
3.4.19	Even the name of the school – which when it was changed due to becoming a through age school – I was thrilled to hear that the children would be consulted. They chose to call the new through school, Ysgol Bro Ddyfi – a healthy reflection of the area it serves. However, their views were ignored and the Governing body decided to choose the name HYDDGEN which again harks back to the Battleground where the Welsh fought the English 620 years ago!	The new school name was proposed by the school's temporary governing body following input from pupils and the community, and was ratified by the Portfolio Holder for Education. It was chosen as it is the name of a historic battle where Owain Glyndwr, an important figure in the history of Wales who is associated with Machynlleth, won his first big victory, not because it was a location 'where the Welsh fought the English'.
3.4.20	Just two years ago the governing body tried to change the intake of children within the reception class and had support from Cllr Myfanwy Alexander and Marianne Evans who both	It is true that a couple of years ago a letter was issued to parents advising of planned changes to the provision in the reception class, and that eventually, this change

	<p>attended the governors meeting. A letter sent out to parents caused huge anger within the community and the parents campaigned to keep it dual stream. Once again the community was really anxious and the community divided. Parents spoke up and the decision was overturned.</p>	<p>did not take place following representations made by parents.</p> <p>The current process to change the school's language category is separate to the governing body's attempt to change the provision. This process is being carried out by the Council in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. All issues raised in the consultation were considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice, and all issues raised in the Objections will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>
3.4.21	<p>I sat on the governing Body following that attempt 2 years ago to change the provision in the foundation Phase and was stunned that the subject of language never came up in any of the meetings, so you can image my surprise when I found out via an email sent to Russell George MS by Cllr Phyl Davies that he had been in discussions with representatives of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and the proposal was going to be a Welsh medium school. Many governors were equally as stunned and five resigned, they did not know who those representatives were! We are still attempting to access those minutes, but no avail other than reassurances from Cllr Phyl Davies Education Portfolio holder that those discussions were open and honest. We are currently on our fourth email to the cabinet attempting to access the minutes from those open and honest discussions. Maybe you could help with that?</p>	<p>Informal discussions took place between officers and the Chair of Governors and Headteacher of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. These were no minutes taken of these discussions.</p>

3.5 Positive comments about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

3.5.1	I think Ysgol Bro Hyddgen currently delivers a brilliant service, with options for both local families, Welsh and non Welsh, as well as incomers, from other areas of Wales, the general UK or further afield. The school is currently a valuable resource locally for all members of the community, regardless of their ethnic background or country of origin. We chose to move to Machynlleth, rather than Tywyn, because of the wonderful community and the school.	The Council is pleased to note these positive comments about the current provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, the current small numbers of English-medium pupils at the school causes challenges, as outlined in the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal. The Council's aim is to change the school's language category to enable the school to operate more efficiently in future, to ensure that it can continue to offer the best possible education to all learners.
3.5.2	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen currently offers a choice to parents and pupils and meets the pupils needs at every stage of their education.	As above.
3.5.3	YBH has lovely primary school teachers (I have very limited experience of the secondary school teachers, so I will not comment on them) and Mrs Haf Af Robert has got time for each and every little person in her care. This, however, is not enough to make me feel content to keep my child in YBH or with my decision to enrol my son in the school.	As above.
3.5.4	I like Ysgol Bro Hyddgen I have a lovely teacher and lots of friends.	As above.

3.6 Other comments / queries

3.6.1	How many children who don't have additional learning needs - 'swap' from the Welsh stream to the English at secondary education level, or even before?	<p>The number of pupils 'swapping' from the Welsh stream to the English stream varies on an annual basis.</p> <p>Information received from the school indicates that 6 pupils at the school have moved from the Welsh stream to the English stream since September 2020, 3 in the primary phase and 3 in the secondary phase. These figures include any pupils with additional learning needs.</p>
3.6.2	It was unacceptable that friends of my son applying to university were unable to understand and complete UCAS application forms because they had not been taught English properly.	All pupils are taught English as a subject up to GCSE level. Any concerns about the standard of teaching would be identified during Support Visits, and if required, appropriate actions would be put in place to support the school to improve the provision. The last Support Visit took place during the summer of 2021.
3.6.3	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen has a very successful 6th form, drawing pupils from Dolgellau, Tywyn, Aberystwyth etc - many of these pupils are not first language welsh speakers and choose to attend YBH as they are able to study the subjects of their choice through Welsh or English. My daughter is currently in the 6th form and is currently studying A Level History, which she does through Welsh, however completing IT and Medical Science through English. If A level/BTEC subjects will only be delivered through Welsh it is likely that a large number of students will decide to go elsewhere to continue their studies, which would have a devastating effect on the numbers attending this current successful 6th form. YBH is currently able to work along other schools such as Llanidloes, Penweddig and Penglais to offer students a wide range of subjects - many of which are delivered in English due to their	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to work in partnership with other schools across Powys and nationally through the e-sgol provision. By working together through the newly established Operational and Strategic Post 16 Management Boards, the North Powys Post 16 provision will ensure a breadth of academic and vocational provision through the medium of Welsh and English. Bro Hyddgen Post 16 learners will be able to access this breadth of provision.

	delivery partners, thus reducing choices for pupils at the school.	
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4. COMMENTS ABOUT FUNDING FOR YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN'S NEW BUILDING

4.1	Wasn't the funding for the new build 'super school' received under the impression it was to remain a dual stream educational setting?	The business cases submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the new school building reflected the school's dual stream delivery model. Welsh Government colleagues are fully aware of the Council's current proposal to change the school's language category, and there has been no indication that the Welsh Government would not provide funding for the new building should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category.
4.2	I'm confident in saying the only reason the proposal to make the new school a single Welsh stream school is that by doing so the funding will be increased / granted in full by the Welsh Government in full.	There is no requirement to change the school's language category in order to access 21 st Century Schools funding for the new school building.

5. COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON PUPILS

5.1 General concern about the impact on pupils

5.1.1	There are more creative ways to ensure than every child has a knowledge and grounding in the Welsh Language than to	The Council is not introducing a 'blanket ban' on English-medium education. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should
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	blanket ban any class from being taught in the first language of the majority of the children.	the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
5.1.2	Forcing a child to be educated in Welsh is the hallmark of an oppressive regime which should not be tolerated in the 21 century. The wrongs of the past, where children in Wales were forced to learn in English, should not be copied by forcing them to learn in Welsh. Two wrongs do not make a right.	The Council is not 'forcing' pupils to be educated in Welsh. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
5.1.3	The pupils would also be at a great disadvantage as Welsh is a language only spoken and recognised in Wales whereas English is a language spoken internationally.	The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be able to communicate effectively in English. The aim of Welsh-medium education is to ensure that pupils become bilingual and are able to communicate effectively in both Welsh and English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, all pupils would continue to study English to GCSE level, and would be able to talk, read and write in English as well as Welsh.
5.1.4	My question is, why should a child's educational needs be treated as secondary to a social / political position? I think there is a serious risk of putting a 'politically correct' decision ahead of a child's welfare and well-being. How can a child from an English-speaking family who are unable to give him / her support in their work because of the language barrier, do	The Council is not treating the educational needs of children as secondary to a social / political position. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to be bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.

	<p>well? They will be at a huge educational disadvantage that will impact the rest of their lives.</p>	<p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Across Wales, a significant proportion of pupils that access Welsh-medium education come from homes where no Welsh is spoken, and this does not impact on their ability to succeed in their education. Should the proposal be implemented, Welsh would eventually become the main language of communication within the school, which would enable all pupils to improve their Welsh language skills, and should enable those from non-Welsh speaking homes to develop more fluency in Welsh, ensuring that they are better able to thrive in Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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5.1.5	Education is a right and the key to their future. Don't let the pride and love for the Welsh Language blind you to putting that before the vital importance of what education is for and how it can utterly shape the lives of the children of Machynlleth.	As above.
5.1.6	I am very concerned that a Welsh medium school would harm the opportunities of the children of Machynlleth. Not all children can learn through the medium of Welsh. Not all parents can, or would be willing to learn enough Welsh to support their children in school. We cannot fail these children by adding more barriers to their opportunity to make the best of their education.	As above.
5.1.7	Not making an already tough time for many children even tougher. Language shouldn't be a barrier, it should be enjoyed, something that is loved, not something that is grown to be despised.	As above.
5.1.8	Every child has the right to be treated fairly. All children should be welcomed at their local school with their friends from the primary school, and be able to be taught in a language they feel most comfortable with, surely they are entitled to this?	As above.
5.1.9	Our Welsh children who are not able to learn through a second language will be treated like second rate citizens and face an increase in barriers to learning that will not be solved by a few weeks in an immersion centre... (Especially one that is housed in a building that was built for the whole community, but hasn't allowed its community open access to it in recent years).	As above.
5.1.10	I am concerned about the influence of those children that cannot learn through the medium of Welsh on the education of	The Council does not agree that the proposal would disadvantage pupils learning through the medium of

	<p>those children that are able to learn through the medium of Welsh. Many think that they can [cannot?] cope or that they will move to other English language schools, but I believe that they will in fact stay at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as it is not likely that they will be willing to make the effort to travel elsewhere to be educated.</p>	<p>Welsh. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils are fully bilingual in Welsh and English and have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium education. Across Wales, the majority of pupils attending Welsh-medium schools come from home where no Welsh is spoken.</p>
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5.2 Concern about pupils' ability to access Higher Education

5.2.1	<p>Which university is going to teach a Welsh speaking student for example chemical engineering or doctors, before they relearn terminology in English. I know of such people.</p>	<p>Pupils that access Welsh-medium education become bilingual – fluent in both Welsh and English, and able to use both languages in their future education or in their chosen careers. Accessing Welsh-medium education does not mean that pupils cannot attend universities in England – many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have successfully attended universities in England, Scotland and further afield as well as universities in Wales, and have proceeded to secure jobs which require them to work in English, Welsh or both languages.</p> <p>There are opportunities to study in Welsh at all universities in Wales. These are continually being developed. The 'Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol', which was founded in 2011, plans and supports Welsh language Higher Education provision across Welsh universities, working with providers to ensure and develop more Welsh medium study opportunities for students in Wales.</p>
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5.2.2	I am currently studying Medicine. Although some aspects of my course have the option to be taken in Welsh, the core learning and lecture material is delivered in English. Being such a difficult course, I do not think I would be able to cope with all the scientific and medical terms if I was constantly having to translate between both languages. I also believe that if I didn't have my base of scientific knowledge from A-levels in English this would have put me at a disadvantage when undergoing the huge step up from school to university.	As above.
5.2.3	The impact to Further Education and Higher Education need to be considered, what are the statistics for current Welsh-medium education at YBH that go on to Further Education and by which language, University in Wales or elsewhere. The statistics of previous pupils at this school and where their education has taken them, need to be assessed before any significant changes are implemented.	As above.
5.2.4	Does this also mean that the push to encourage star pupils to apply for Oxford and Cambridge and Russell group universities will be abandoned? Machynlleth pupils could miss out on fulfilling their potential here, which would be a huge loss.	As above.
5.2.5	My daughter went to the school from primary though to 6th form, and although she was predominantly in the Welsh stream, and took hers GCSEs in Welsh. However when it came to choosing A levels, she knew that she needed to take these in English in order to have the best choice of university. Limiting the school to Welsh only would have been highly detrimental to her further education.	As above.

5.2.6	The option to progress to university will be reduced, due to the limited number of universities in Wales.	As above.
5.2.7	Many of these pupils may not stay in Wales after they leave school, they may go to universities all over the country- if the proposal goes ahead their level of English could not be sufficient. There are 10 universities in Wales in comparison to 109 in England not counting the rest of the UK.	As above.
5.2.8	The top universities in the United Kingdom are mainly situated outside of Wales, on various tables you have to go down some fair way before actually coming across one located in Wales. The majority of these will be taught in English despite attracting students from all over the world.	As above.
5.2.9	When I attended university (in England) I spend most of my time with a Welsh medium student. We were best friends. Watching her truly struggle with the work, the reading and understanding, translating was painful. Having been schooled in Welsh medium only meant that she had such a language barrier, and learning through any means in English for her degree was so much more difficult. Although in the end she did well at university, following this experience, I would not choose that for any of my children. Unlike other students from France and Italy, Welsh was not considered a 'first language' for my friend and so she was not afforded extra support/points for completing her work through her second language English.	As above.
5.2.10	I do not wish for my children to struggle if they go to university in the future and with so little choices in Welsh language degrees across the country (UK), I therefore want to ensure	As above.

	the provision for them to study in English and Welsh so they can be truly bilingual. It's so that they can complete their education to the best of their ability, with one hundred percent support possible from both parents and without language barriers.	
5.2.11	What happens when they want to go to university and they've only been taught through Welsh but wish to attend university in England?	As above.
5.2.12	Something else to consider is that if a pupil completes their school education through the medium of Welsh, and they decide to go to an English University, they may experience a troublesome transitional period, which could lead to them giving up.	As above.
5.2.13	Removing the English stream will hold back young people from the area who wish to move away to study a professional career. To study any subject at university level, a good command of English is essential. Furthermore, if this young person starts working on the international stage, it is normal to run technical conferences (and journals) in English.	As above.
5.2.14	Comfort within education is crucial. Many of my friends and I speak Welsh together and with family members, but we completed our education in English. This is because we felt most comfortable and able to achieve the grades needed to be accepted into the university of our choice through studying in English. We were thinking of our future in making this decision. I ask you to do the same.	As above.

5.3 Concern about the impact on the future employability of pupils

5.3.1	Most jobs people get they need to speak English, not many need to speak Welsh.	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need for Council to have good English language skills. The aim of Welsh-medium education is to ensure that pupils become bilingual and are able to communicate effectively in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, all pupils would continue to study English to GCSE level, and would be able to talk, read and write in English as well as Welsh. Pupils that access Welsh-medium education become bilingual – fluent in both Welsh and English, and able to use both languages in their future education or in their chosen careers. Accessing Welsh-medium education does not mean that pupils cannot secure jobs where they are required to work in English – many generations of students from Welsh-medium schools from across Wales have secured jobs which require them to work in English, Welsh or both languages.</p> <p>Bilingual pupils have an additional skill to take to the workplace as they are also able to work through the medium of Welsh. This additional skill would be beneficial to pupils looking for work in Wales, where employers are increasingly looking for staff who have the ability to work in both Welsh and English.</p>
5.3.2	The majority of further education and any potential jobs are mainly in English and I believe my children will have a huge set	As above.

	back if they were to have all their primary/high school subjects in Welsh.	
5.3.3	To be well served by their education, pupils need to be prepared for gaining employment. The opportunities for employment for school leavers where Welsh is essential are few. The main opportunities for Welsh linguists are in public service, joining the ranks of the 80% of the population who are dependent on the public purse for some or all of their income. The ability to select candidates on the basis of ability to do the job rather than prioritising the ability to speak Welsh is essential if standards are to be maintained.	As above.
5.3.4	In this day and age of less jobs for our children we should be equipping them with as many different skills as we can during their period in education and broadening their career horizons not restricting them.	As above.
5.3.5	If you go to any employer in the UK, the likelihood is you will mainly trade in English, My employer before he sold his business had lived in Wales since he was 10 and even though he has become very successful in the 40 years that he has lived in Wales, still only speaks English and the firm now employs over 30 people from the local community, of which I'd say 50% are English speaking only.	As above.
5.3.6	STEM careers are on the increase on the global platform, computer coding is primarily conducted through English language. By removing the English language option may reduce the numbers of students in Wales reaching these significant career options.	As above.

5.3.7	Not everyone wants to work for the Welsh Government, Local Authority, where Welsh Language is mandatory, by keeping freedom of education provides workforce for all areas of Wales future.	As above.
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6. COMMENTS ABOUT ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

6.1 General concern about the impact on pupils with Additional Learning Needs

6.1.1	Some children in Machynlleth rely on the English stream due to various reasons, but specifically because they might have learning difficulties. A mixture of learning difficulties plus being raised in an English-speaking household does not equate to a successful education in an entirely different language.	<p>The Council acknowledges that there are many concerns about how pupils with SEN/ALN who have little or no Welsh when they start at school would cope in a Welsh-medium setting.</p> <p>Across Wales there are children with SEN/ALN who are educated successfully in Welsh-medium schools, whether they are from Welsh-speaking homes, English-speaking homes or homes where other languages are spoken. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, along with other schools, can benefit from learning from best practice.</p> <p>The Powys SEN/ALN strategy, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, is committed to improving the provision for all pupils with SEN/ALN, whatever their first language. This includes pupils who can be educated in mainstream classes as well as pupils who require specialist provision.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro</p>
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		<p>Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium of English as outlined in the proposal. Pupils who attend the specialist centre at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to attend the centre, whatever their first language – English, Welsh or other.</p> <p>If the proposal goes ahead, the intention is that all pupils, including those with SEN/ALN are taught through the medium of Welsh. However, the needs of each individual pupil with SEN/ALN would be fully assessed, and, if required, support could be provided using both languages.</p> <p>Under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, pupils with ALN will have individual development plans (IDPs) which will set out their needs and the support that they will receive. This could include support from school staff as well as specialist support from the local authority. Where appropriate, interventions to support pupils' learning, such as phonics, early reading and writing and speech and language support, may take place through the medium of English. This will be determined in line with the needs of the individual pupil. Similarly, if a pupil arrives at the school with no English, a level of support may be provided in their own language.</p>
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		<p>Pupils with SEN/ ALN would also have the opportunity to access any Trochi provision that is provided to improve their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>However, it must be noted that, whilst this is an area of genuine concern, children of a wide range of abilities operate entirely flexibly in more than one language in most countries around the world. This is true of learners with a range of learning difficulties in Welsh-medium and bilingual schools across Wales. Teachers are mindful of the unique needs of each learner, and with the right support are able to provide full access to all learners, including those with challenges.</p> <p>As part of the SEN/ALN strategy, the Council is developing and improving its range of specialist provision, including specialist centres and satellites of special schools, in order to make sure that the needs of all pupils in Powys can be met effectively. The design of the new building planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen includes significantly improved facilities for pupils with SEN/ALN which will enable them to receive high quality support.</p>
6.1.2	<p>I feel taking away this opportunity for individuals to have access to learning in English will make it very difficult for some individuals to learn and reach their own potentials. Individuals with learning disabilities for instance may have to now travel to a different county to be able to access education in a language that they are able to process</p>	<p>As above.</p>

6.1.3	The impact on children with Additional Learning Needs. Those children who come from an English speaking family with no Welsh at all will be at a huge disadvantage with a Welsh only education. They already have enough problems to overcome without this additional barrier making it virtually impossible to be educated and gain the support they need and deserve in the town in which they live.	As above.
6.1.4	Children with additional learning needs already feel different to their peers so why are we now making it difficult for them to learn in a language they feel comfortable with.	As above.
6.1.5	What about SEN/ALN? How will this be addressed?	As above.
6.1.6	The impact on pupils with ALN – The impact on their families – coming from non-Welsh speaking homes – How will they cope?	As above.
6.1.7	this will have a detrimental effect on my family and future generations. my son has additional needs and would never been able to do lessons solely in Welsh.	As above.
6.1.8	Children with additional learning needs wouldn't stand a chance in an all-Welsh school, they would have to travel to access another school causing stress and anxiety to them and their families.	As above
6.1.9	Secondly, if our children struggle with the changes (which many will) either it being through learning disabilities or falling behind due to the language barrier; will these children have the option to be taught in English?	As above

6.1.10	Impact on children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) – these can be a whole spectrum of needs, but if their main language at home is English, then a pure Welsh Medium Education will present them with an insurmountable barrier. Ostracising them from the right to an education meeting their needs in their community. It is not as if we live in an area which has more than one school option in the town. Children would be forced to travel a minimum of 18 miles from Machynlleth to another town to be able to access this support.	As above
6.1.11	I also worry about the impact of Children with ALN, how will pupils be supported from non-Welsh speaking homes?	As above.
6.1.12	My son has learning difficulties and would not be able to attend a Welsh medium setting. His difficulties mean he needs to be surrounded by a language he understands, he has no capacity to learn another and we have no desire for him to become bilingual if that means he will become distressed and suffer from further isolation in the process. He already faces many barriers to his learning and successful inclusion in society, we will not introduce another. I do not believe Powys will provide sufficient support to overcome these difficulties that face so many ALN pupils, I do not believe there will ever be sufficient support. So I also oppose the proposal because of the damage that will be done to the education and experiences of some ALN pupils.	As above
6.1.13	My child would struggle with having to be taught all his lessons in the medium of Welsh, he has additional needs and this would have a profound effect on his progress. A huge part of who he is necessitates his environment remaining constant	As above

	as much as possible, change greatly upsets him and would be detrimental to his ability to keep learning	
6.1.14	Although I appreciate the benefits to be gained from a successful bilingual education, I don't feel this should come at the cost of a child's happiness, self-confidence or attainment of other skills. My aspirations for my son are that he enjoys school, can express himself confidently (he is non-verbal), feels comfortable in his surroundings and less isolated due to his disabilities, spends quality time with peers learning social skills and experiencing positive interactions in a language that is familiar to him.	As above.
6.1.15	How is this proposal inclusive at all to those children whose parents were probably told at some point they may never speak at all, but who are now thriving in an English medium in a mainstream school? This isn't inclusivity, this is privilege and ableism at it's best.	As above.
6.1.16	Taking away the right to study in English and just speaking in Welsh in my opinion will alienate students with learning disabilities as well as those suffering with dyslexia and things like that.	As above. There is no evidence that learning Welsh disadvantages learners that have dyslexia.
6.1.17	The proposal disadvantages pupils with special educational needs. Coping with things like dyslexia, poor hearing, poor vision, poor concentration, being a bit slow etc, is difficult enough, without being expected to learn a language which all concerned know is a difficult one, unless you've spoken it from early childhood.	As above.

6.1.18	<p>For children with Autistic spectrum disorders this choice could be especially disabling. A child who would perform well in their first language, but struggles socially, should not be forced to become isolated from their local peer group and undergo travel that may trigger their symptoms of sensory overwhelm, if that is the only alternative to a second language environment that they find too overwhelming to learn within. There is no adequate proposal in the consultation document to address the needs of children such as this. I can only conclude that cutting the English stream will have a disproportionate adverse impact on the most vulnerable children in the area</p>	<p>The council is currently reviewing its provision for children and young people with autism and will ensure that they have access to appropriate support. The councils' vision is to provide specialist support as close to home as possible for all children and young people. At Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year, starting with the reception class in 2022 and so pupils with autism already at the school will have time to grow accustomed to any changes.</p>
6.1.19	<p>What about those English speaking children who are on the autistic spectrum who come from English speaking families, who struggle enough with one language?</p>	<p>As above</p>
6.1.20	<p>I was a student with Aspergers which is a type of Autism in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen school which then was called Ysgol Bro Ddyfi when I was there and because I don't fully speak Welsh because of the way I am and I had special needs in a few sessions in the school and because I had difficulty speaking and understanding a lot of Welsh I want to speak on the behalf of children that are like me and in my opinion I don't agree with the dual language system being scrapped in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and it should be kept for children to study in both Welsh and English if they choose to.</p>	<p>As above</p>
6.1.21	<p>My child receives one to one support and we would not be happy having to find another member of staff who understands him as well as his helper does now</p>	<p>If the child is already at school, there should be no change of provision for him. The proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a</p>

		phased basis, year by year, starting with the reception class in 2022.
6.1.22	My children have been taught in both English and Welsh at different stages, my middle child suffers from global learning delay and has had to concentrate on English only, please keep that option available at secondary level!	As above.
6.1.23	What about pupils with special needs? How are these pupils going to have an education? Pupils with speech and Language difficulties? Across Wales the policy for children with additional needs that have individual support from outside agencies is that these pupils will be spoken to and taught in their home language?	It is common for bilingual pupils with speech and language difficulties to be supported in both languages. The aspiration is bilingualism and for each learner to be supported to achieve that.
6.1.24	I am sure others will highlight the need to support children with additional needs, I do not have sufficient knowledge in that area, so can only speak from a personal experience my grandson who was attending the Welsh stream of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen developed speech and language difficulties and unfortunately was unable to access the support through the medium of Welsh. There are many other support services within Powys that do not operate through the medium of Welsh.	The historical shortage of support available in Welsh and English is being addressed comprehensively by the local authority, and it is intended that the ALN Strategy will lead to more comprehensive specialist coverage for all key areas, in both languages.
6.1.25	The 'ALN code' on the Welsh Government website states that one of their principles is to have an inclusive education where children with ALN are supported to participate fully in mainstream education and a whole setting approach is taken to meet their needs.	The local authority is totally committed to ensuring that the national ALN expectations are delivered across Powys.

6.1.26	The continued sending of our ALN children (who benefit through learning through their language choice) away from their community is unacceptable and not inclusive.	See above.
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6.2 Queries about the support that will be provided to support pupils with ALN

6.2.1	<p>In the consultation report, there are numerous concerns raised about the impact on pupils with ALN. This is by far the area that has been most commented upon. It was also raised as a concern by staff and Governors and some really valid concerns were raised by the staff.</p> <p>Whilst the authority reports ‘The Council fully recognises these concerns’, the response is ‘If the proposal goes ahead, pupils with ALN will be taught in the medium of Welsh’.</p> <p>Unfortunately, this seems to reflect the general response of the authority throughout this report - ‘one cap fits all’ and, if the cap doesn’t fit, find a different school!</p>	<p>The Council acknowledges that there are many concerns about how pupils with SEN/ALN who have little or no Welsh when they start at school would cope in a Welsh-medium setting.</p> <p>Across Wales there are children with SEN/ALN who are educated successfully in Welsh-medium schools, whether they are from Welsh-speaking homes, English-speaking homes or homes where other languages are spoken. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, along with other schools, can benefit from learning from best practice.</p> <p>The Powys SEN/ALN strategy, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, is committed to improving the provision for all pupils with SEN/ALN, whatever their first language. This includes pupils who can be educated in mainstream classes as well as pupils who require specialist provision.</p> <p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school’s language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro</p>
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		<p>Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium of English as outlined in the proposal. Pupils who attend the specialist centre at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to attend the centre, whatever their first language – English, Welsh or other.</p> <p>If the proposal goes ahead, the intention is that all pupils, including those with SEN/ALN are taught through the medium of Welsh. However, the needs of each individual pupil with SEN/ALN would be fully assessed, and, if required, support could be provided using both languages.</p> <p>Under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, pupils with ALN will have individual development plans (IDPs) which will set out their needs and the support that they will receive. This could include support from school staff as well as specialist support from the local authority. Where appropriate, interventions to support pupils' learning, such as phonics, early reading and writing and speech and language support, may take place through the medium of English. This will be determined in line with the needs of the individual pupil. Similarly, if a pupil arrives at the school with no English, a level of support may be provided in their own language.</p> <p>Pupils with SEN/ ALN would also have the opportunity to access any Trochi provision that is provided to improve their Welsh language skills.</p>
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		<p>However, it must be noted that, whilst this is an area of genuine concern, children of a wide range of abilities operate entirely flexibly in more than one language in most countries around the world. This is true of learners with a range of learning difficulties in Welsh-medium and bilingual schools across Wales. Teachers are mindful of the unique needs of each learner, and with the right support are able to provide full access to all learners, including those with challenges.</p> <p>As part of the SEN/ALN strategy, the Council is developing and improving its range of specialist provision, including specialist centres and satellites of special schools, in order to make sure that the needs of all pupils in Powys can be met effectively. The design of the new building planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen includes significantly improved facilities for pupils with SEN/ALN which will enable them to receive high quality support.</p>
6.2.2	The proposal seems to offer no confidence that children with additional learning difficulties will be supported if they are struggling to learn through the medium of Welsh, and indeed when I queried with the school if any additional help will be offered to those children not from first language Welsh families the response was very vague and non committal, leaving us with little confidence in how the transition will be made.	As above.
6.2.3	None of the conversations I have been part of or information I have received have reassured me that this could be done in a way that will ensure inclusive access to education for children	As above.

	like my son, who have significant learning difficulties or emotional needs.	
6.2.4	Powys have not delivered the support they promised two years ago so I have no faith they will deliver extra support for children who may need it.	As above.

7. CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT ON PUPIL NUMBERS AT YSGOL BRO HYDDGEN

7.1	I really believe it would lead to a decrease in pupil numbers, which is a major concern.	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the possible impact of changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen on pupil numbers at the school in the future.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal: <i>'It is possible that changing the school's language category could lead to a reduction in pupil numbers as pupils from out of county currently</i></p>
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		<p><i>accessing English-medium provision at the school may no longer choose to attend the school, or pupils from the local area may choose to attend alternative English-medium providers</i></p> <p><i>However, it is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, as pupils from other areas could choose to attend the school. This may be the case in respect of secondary provision in particular.'</i></p>
7.2	Any risk of decreasing the already minimal pupil numbers that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should be taken seriously and avoided at all costs. Surely this also poses the risk of injecting resources into a school that will be faced with low pupil numbers? This is not an efficient use of resources or funding.	As above.
7.3	The removal of the English stream would surely see a dramatic decrease in pupil numbers, I have been informed that there is nearly 150 pupils that are in the English stream. And if there is a decrease in pupil numbers does that then lead to a decrease in funding for the school? Is that the aim to decrease funding here so it can go elsewhere?	As above.
7.4	When the pupil numbers continue to decline where will that leave education as a whole in Machynlleth? The primary joined the school to safeguard the secondary! Now we are losing our English stream! What is the real agenda here Powys County Council?	As above. There is no hidden agenda in respect of the Bro Hyddgen catchment – the Council is committed to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as evidenced by the planned investment in a new community campus to replace the current school building.
7.5	This could result in a drastic loss of pupils and perhaps the failure of the school.	As above.

7.6	It will be a sad day when the numbers of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen drop below sustainable levels, and be forced to close at the cost of a small percentage increase in Welsh speakers.	As above.
7.7	There will be a dramatic effect on pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen if this proposal is accepted. Can you please advise on the total number of pupils currently attending the school and how many of these are <u>exclusively</u> taught in Welsh and not accessing English provision at all? Is the council prepared to support a school of this size without alteration to the current catchment area and with markedly reduced pupil numbers?	<p>As above. The Council is committed to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as evidenced by the planned investment in a new community campus to replace the current school building.</p> <p>The 119 pupils currently accessing Welsh-medium primary provision at the school in September 2021 are taught exclusively in Welsh.</p> <p>In the secondary phase, there are 156 year 7-11 pupils accessing Welsh-medium secondary provision (September 2021). 38 of these pupils study Maths and Science through the medium of English.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that</p>

		<p>pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school. Therefore, the current number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision at the school is not an accurate reflection of what the numbers would be in the future.</p> <p>As indicated in the consultation document issued in respect of this proposal: <i>'It is possible that changing the school's language category could lead to a reduction in pupil numbers as pupils from out of county currently accessing English-medium provision at the school may no longer choose to attend the school, or pupils from the local area may choose to attend alternative English-medium providers</i></p> <p><i>However, it is also possible that changing the school's language category could lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the longer term, as pupils from other areas could choose to attend the school. This may be the case in respect of secondary provision in particular.'</i></p>
7.8	The viability of the school as it stands rests on retaining the majority of that proportion of English speaking pupils in the school. That is one of many reasons why people can see a situation very soon when PCC will shut all local small primary	As above. The Council is not currently reviewing primary provision in the catchment.

	schools to boost relative numbers in their new school. It will be 'apparently' an unfortunate necessity, but in fact it was inevitable, and planned. Tell me I'm wrong? I'd love to be proved wrong.	
7.9	If the school is made single stream there will be a loss of choice and a reduction in pupil numbers. Many pupils are fine in Welsh medium up to secondary school age and then gradually transfer to learning in English for GCSE and further exams – this is the simple reality.	As above.
7.10	The pupil numbers in our school are low, in fact many have moved to other areas for English medium education already because of your attempt at this 2 years ago as to ensure a stable path for their children.	As above.
7.11	There will be no need for a school on such a large scale as parents will be opting to send their children out of county.	As above.
7.12	Additionally, local and Powys Council may find that the multimillion-pound new school will not have the numbers of children to make it viable or at the very least run effectively.	As above.
7.13	The planned building to be built for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will not be able to sustain its capacity because there will not be enough students with the confidence and ability to successfully complete an education only through the medium of Welsh.	As above.
7.14	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is going to become a super school with the new build happening very soon. It will be a sad day when this multi million pound project will not have the required number of pupils to remain sustainable.	As above.

7.15	I don't think this is going to do the pupil number of the school any favours which will be such a shame, especially with the plans in place for the new super school.	As above.
7.16	We could have a fantastic new school, however, numbers could be low as the dual stream option will be removed.	As above.
7.17	A brand new super school is being built, yet if the current proposal is put in place the school won't be well attended, as anyone wanting access to an English education will attend a different school.	As above.
7.18	This small community want choice for their children so listen to the local people otherwise your big shiny new school will have no children in it.	As above.
7.19	Parents will take their children to other schools to access English stream. (it's already happening). The New school will be empty.	As above.
7.20	Spending £48 million on a new school and then putting in place a policy that will reduce the number of pupils seems perverse. It is very clear from local discussions that many parents with young children will choose to send their children to other schools to avoid the Welsh only teaching policy when they leave primary. This will deplete the numbers in the school.	As above.
7.21	Why build this incredible new school but not make it accessible to everyone?	As above. The new school will be accessible to everyone.

8. COMMENTS ABOUT ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

8.1 Pupils would attend alternative schools instead of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

8.1.1	<p>I fully intend for my children to move to English medium education once they reach secondary school, should the proposal go ahead I will be forced to send my children to secondary school in Tywyn or Aberystwyth, out of county.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments that should the Council proceed with the proposal, pupils would move to alternative schools to access English-medium provision.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>However, ultimately pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
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8.1.2	If Bro Hyddgen becomes an all Welsh school, I will be sending my children out of county to either Aberystwyth or Tywyn so that they can have the best chance at an education in their first language.	As above.
8.1.3	It breaks my heart that my daughter will not be attending the secondary campus and will have to go to Penglais school in Aberystwyth if this proposal goes ahead.	As above.
8.1.4	If the school becomes a Welsh only medium I will unfortunately have no choice but to move my daughter to another school out of county assuming places will be available.	As above.
8.1.5	If the dual language option disappears, I will have no option but to find alternative primary and secondary for my 2 children who can both speak Welsh fluently but would struggle without the dual language option.	As above.
8.1.6	I feel that removing the language choice would drive others locally to alternative education providers and some other parents I have discussed this with who would be in the same group have expressed how they would not send their children to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and might have to move out of the area.	As above.
8.1.7	If the change does go ahead, I will be one of many parents having to move my children to a bilingual school which will then impact on my working life.	As above. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would continue to be a 'bilingual' school, where all pupils would become fluent in Welsh and English.
8.1.8	I disagree with sending children out of catchment area for schooling, this isolating them from their own community	The Council is not proposing to 'send children out of catchment area for schooling.'

	<p>especially if the child has additional needs that could be provided in a local school.</p>	<p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>However, ultimately pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
8.1.9	<p>There is a lack of choice of alternative schools.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Alternative English-medium primary provision is available at a number of providers in Ceredigion, including Ysgol Comins Coch, St Padarn Primary School, Plascrug Primary School and Llwyn yr Eoi Primary School, and at Caersws C.P. School or Llanidloes C.P. School in Powys.</p> <p>Alternative English-medium secondary provision is available at Ysgol Penglais in Aberystwyth or Llanidloes High School.</p>

		<p>Whilst these alternative providers are located several miles away from Machynlleth, this is similar to the position in respect of pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision in some parts of Powys, where only English-medium provision is available.</p>
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8.2 Concerns about availability of places at alternative schools

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tudalen 88</p>	<p>8.2.1 No guarantee of availability of suitable school places in neighbouring areas</p>	<p>The Council's intention is that pupils living in the Machynlleth catchment area would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, the intention is that this would be introduced on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Should parents / pupils wish to access alternative provision in other local authority areas, they would need to apply for a place in accordance with that local authority's admissions arrangements.</p>
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8.2.2	What happens if Aberystwyth – Penglais secondary school / Comins coch primary school / Plascrug primary school cannot accommodate all these pupils who will have to move?	As above.
8.2.3	I feel that many local families whose children are already at the school will be forced to apply to Penglais school in Aberystwyth to continue their education in English and will have to travel out of their community in order to do this. They may or may not be allowed to attend Penglais, as it is out of County and may be full already.	As above.
8.2.4	No guarantee of availability of suitable school places in neighbouring areas	As above.
8.2.5	It is not the responsibility of neighbouring counties to ensure school places for our children, how can we be certain that other counties will accept children from our community?	As above.
8.2.6	Lack of clarity as to capacity for English medium education elsewhere and whether Machynlleth pupils can be educated in said schools	As above.
8.2.7	You will drive away existing students and future students & potentially their families as some may consider relocating. Can Gwynedd or Ceredigion cope with an influx of students who have been isolated by this proposal? Have they been consulted even?	As above. Gwynedd and Ceredigion Council's were notified of the Council's proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

9. COMMENTS ABOUT TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Additional travel would be required to access alternative provision

9.1.1	<p>I be forced to put my children through a different school outside of Machynlleth. This will then cause financial problems for both me and my partner due to transport costs.</p>	<p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, no parents will be 'forced' to put their children in alternative schools. The Council's intention is to introduce the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school, therefore minimising the impact on pupil numbers. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>However, ultimately pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference. It is acknowledged that there would be transport implications for these families.</p>
9.1.2	<p>Access to alternative (English Medium) educational provision would see children travelling far outside their community (Aberystwyth/Newtown). Not only would this make their day incredibly long (Especially for younger children) but would again cause massive issues for families' ability to be involved</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that additional travel would be required for any pupils choosing to access alternative provision, and that there would be other implications associated with this. The Council's intention is that</p>

	in the school community, parents evenings, extra curricular activities and local friendships.	pupils living in the Machynlleth area continue to access provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and the intention is to implement the proposal on a phased basis in order to ensure that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to do so.
9.1.3	The local options for that appear to be Aberystwyth and Newtown, both of which would involve a substantial bus journey of over 30 minutes. I do not feel that over an hour travelling each day to access education would be a reasonable thing to put a child through and would have a detrimental effect on their life.	As above.
9.1.4	Penglais as the only credible English speaking alternative is in Aberystwyth 18 miles away and would require hours of increased traveling each and every school day via Train or Bus as well as increasing costs for many.	As above.
9.1.5	Yes they can travel an extra 18 miles (at their expense) to Aberystwyth which is in another county. Personally I dont think a 4 year old should be subjected to this.	As above.
9.1.6	I am concerned about the lack of transportation for children who will not be able to study through the medium of Welsh and will be forced out of their local school if this proposal is to go ahead.	As above.
9.1.7	It's also very unlikely that Powys County Council will provide transport for those pupils that don't wish to be educated in the medium of Welsh.	As above.

9.1.8	However, a concern of mine regarding this would be transport. I attended Ysgol Penglais in Aberystwyth and moved to Machynlleth at the age of 14. Instead of changing schools, I travelled on the public bus for the remainder of my school years. During this journey and whilst waiting at the bus stops, I had witnessed a huge number of things from bad language, drug and alcohol abuse and violence. This is not something I would like my children at the age of 11 to witness!	As above.
9.1.9	Pupils who wish to be educated at least in part in English will have to travel 20 or 25 miles each way every day.	As above.
9.1.10	Is it really acceptable to expect a child to travel this far to school? The journey for our children should be to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which is 7 Miles away (12 minutes in the car).	As above.
9.1.11	The impact of spending a potential of 50-60 miles on the road and at least 1hour and 40 minutes on a bus travelling to and from school every day would be HUGE. I should imagine by the time they turn up for school they would be feeling tired and hungry before they have even begun their school day. It would all be just so unnecessary, terribly frustrating, and would certainly have an insurmountable impact on their ability to learn.	As above.
9.1.12	Traveling to Aberystwyth worries me I will feel sick on the bus	As above.
9.1.13	The only option available to us would be to send her to Tywyn, Dolgellau or Aberystwyth all of which are a 20 – 30 minute journey each way. The extra time spent travelling and the unknown costs to us as a family are of great concern.	As above.

9.1.14	The nearest English language setting in Powys is 22 miles away and PCC have made it clear they would not provide transport to this setting.	As above.
9.1.15	Powys County Council has not provided full information with options, such as free transport to alternative schools.	As above.

9.2 Reference to transport costs for attending nearest English-medium school

9.2.1	It is disappointing that the proposal does not even address whether there will be a free provision of school transport for such pupils who choose to be educated through the medium of English, at their nearest English medium stream school.	<p>The Council would hope that pupils in the Machynlleth area would continue to attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and the intention is that the proposal would be implemented on a phased basis to enable pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school to continue to do so throughout their time in school. There would be no change in the transport arrangements for these pupils.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that 'For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.'</p> <p>The Policy approved by Cabinet in September 2020 came into operation in September 2021. This states that free home-to-school transport is provided to a learner's nearest suitable or catchment school, subject to the learner meeting the eligibility criteria. If an application</p>
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		<p>for transport is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal that decision. The decision at all transport appeals are heard and decided upon on a case by case basis.</p> <p>For a learner, who for personal or circumstantial reasons, might be denied effective access to learning because of the language medium of the school, consideration will be given to how transport provision can best support that learner to gain appropriate access to education.</p>
9.2.2	Concerns about transport costs and arrangements for pupils who want an English-medium education. Can't see PCC providing transport and also what happens if neighbouring counties are unable to accommodate these pupils.	As above.
9.2.3	Lack of available free transport that would be needed in order for the children not able to cope with Welsh Medium only education to travel to another school. Is the extra cost of this to be carried by those families affected?	As above.
9.2.4	The nearest alternative school that offers English medium education are out of county in Aberystwyth, Parents will inevitably have the financial burden of meeting those costs with a possibility of relocating to that area.	As above.
9.2.5	Those families needing/wanting English medium education, many are not financially as stable as affluent families, so will inevitably struggle to fund the transport costs to access English medium education.	As above.

9.2.6	Will PCC provide free transport to pupils to attend alternative schools in Powys?	As above.
9.2.7	Is transport to the closest English medium school going to be funded by the government or Powys County Council?	As above.
9.2.8	Powys County Council have also stated that no transport costs will be met for this purpose. Basically, if you cannot afford to move your children from the school, they will stay in an educational facility that is not meeting their basic educational rights. This is not a fair approach.	As above.
9.2.9	The nearest school offering bilingual education for those children who cannot cope with Welsh medium education is 18 miles away. Will their families, some of who are already struggling to make ends meet, be expected to pay the extra travelling expenses?	As above. Should the Council proceed with the proposal Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would continue to be a 'bilingual' school – pupils accessing the school would become fluent in both Welsh and English. English-medium provision is not 'bilingual' – generally, pupils attending English-medium provision are only fluent in English.
9.2.10	There is no commitment by Powys to fund the required the transport that will be required. Not taking responsibility for the consequences of the proposal.	As above. In order to minimise impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is proposing to implement the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, ensuring that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school can continue to do so, and therefore minimising the impact on current pupils.

9.2.11	<p>I note that Powys County Council would expect parents to fund a child's travel to a school that taught in the English language should parents see the Welsh medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen as unsuitable. When making enquiries with Powys County Councils transport department I was told that an estimate cost of a 'vacant seat' would be £400 per quarter. This cost is per child, per term, up until the age of 16 only. IF this 'vacant seat' arrangement is even available - (which I am informed it is NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE) for us from home to Newtown, Llanidloes, or Welshpool, the total cost would be £6000 from year 7 to year 11!!!! That's a cost of £1200 per year for one child. I have four children so for our family this could mean a total cost of £24,000!! This is without considering inflation. Powys County Council, can you justify charging a family £24,000 in bus fees so that their children can learn in their preferred language of English?!!</p>	<p>The Council's intention is that pupils in the Machynlleth area would continue to access provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and that transport would continue to be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. The Council is proposing to implement the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, ensuring that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school can continue to do so, and therefore minimising the impact on current pupils. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Ultimately, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference. It is acknowledged that there would be transport implications for these families.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that 'For pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future, transport will be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.' The Policy approved by Cabinet in September 2020 came into operation in September 2021. This states that free home-to-school transport is</p>
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		<p>provided to a learner's nearest suitable or catchment school, subject to the learner meeting the eligibility criteria. If an application for transport is refused, the applicant has the right to appeal that decision. The decision at all transport appeals are heard and decided upon on a case by case basis.</p> <p>For a learner, who for personal or circumstantial reasons, might be denied effective access to learning because of the language medium of the school, consideration will be given to how transport provision can best support that learner to gain appropriate access to education.</p>
9.2.12	The decision to make Ysgol Bro Hyddgen a Welsh medium only school would quite simply force families into debt	As above.

9.3 Other comments

9.3.1	No thought as to the impact on road-based emissions at a time when the council had declared a climate emergency.	It is acknowledged that there would be an environmental impact should pupils choose to travel to alternative provision instead of accessing the provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, the Council's aim is to implement the proposal on a phased basis, ensuring that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen can continue to do so, minimising the need for additional transport.
9.3.2	Do these costings include increased travel allowances for family who will be forced to send their children possibly in excess of a 60 mile round trip to the nearest English language	The Council anticipates that there would no additional transport costs associated with this proposal.

	provision school that will, incidentally, be out of Powys councils boundaries and in Ceredigion or Gwynedd?	
9.3.3	Reading the Gov.Wales page that covers legal duties of the local authority with regard to school transport, it states, that they must provide free home to school transport for primary school age children who live more than 2 miles from their nearest suitable school, and 3 miles for secondary school age. If the child's nearest school is not willing to educate a child in their primary language then it may be argued (especially if the child is suffering emotionally or educationally) that the school is not suitable and PCC would then have the costs of providing transport to a variety of schools for such pupils.	<p>Parents can apply for a place for their child at any school and would admitted to be that school if there was a place available.</p> <p>Section 1.39 of the Learner Travel: Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance (June 2014) states “deciding which suitable school is the learner’s ‘nearest’ is a matter for the local authority to determine in accordance with their own learner travel and education policy”.</p>

10. COMMENTS ABOUT ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT A CHANGE OF LANGUAGE CATEGORY

10.1 Concerns about support for pupils that move to the area during their education

10.1.1	How will the school help non-speakers who move to the area (for example, when their parents have to relocate for work or family breakdown), especially for those later in their education? In the middle of an already stressful relocation, the council wants to force them to have their education in a language they do not understand, triggering mental health problems and setting them back in their education.	The Council notes these concerns regarding the possible impact on any children moving to the area during their school years if there isn't an English stream in Machynlleth. Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school, ensuring that they become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
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		<p>Alongside any change to the school's language category, the Council would ensure that additional provision such as immersion provision and additional language support would be available to support pupils and their families, providing the opportunity for pupils moving to the area during their time in school to be immersed in the Welsh language, so that they would be able to access Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that this provision may not be suitable for all pupils, particularly those towards the end of their time in school. Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
10.1.2	Machynlleth is now such a diverse area with many outsiders coming to live here, a lot do embrace the Welsh language where as soon do struggle as my eldest does but he is persevering but some are unable to do this, what choice will these families have? What are they to do with their children??	As above.
10.1.3	What about those pupils who join the school in their teen years?	As above.

10.1.4	The proposed immersion programmes and infrastructure is not good enough to support English families already living in the area or for anyone considering moving to the area.	As above.
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10.2 Immersion provision

10.2.1	<p>The numerous concerns of parents need to be addressed in concrete terms - where is the guaranteed funding for immersion Welsh learning, and where will it be provided? We need to know - specifically where, and for how many years this is to be funded and supported. Surely it will have to be ongoing? Still we have not had those concerns addressed.</p> <p>The school should be a wonderful place, it will be, for those who can attend. It would be welcomed by all - if the concerns are addressed. It is not a case of 'IF' there is a need for support, there will 100% have to be support, so let's now hear details about that, clear unequivocal detail. What is this 'virtual support' that may or may not be offered?</p> <p><i>'Should the Council proceed with the proposal, it would work with the school to identify additional support required to support transition to the new operating model. This could include offering the opportunity for current pupils to access immersion provision...'</i></p> <p>It is this sort of vague can kicking down the road that is so seriously concerning to parents and local residents. If PCC have not budgeted for it, then that shows they do not take seriously their responsibility in supporting the community in this change. If they HAVE budgeted, then you must let</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that support would need to be provided to the school during the transition to the new delivery model.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, officers would work with the school to identify and introduce the support needed to support any pupils already attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, as well as any pupils that might move to the area in the future. Officers are already in discussion with the school about the type of immersion provision which could be required should the Council proceed with the proposal, but this could also include other Welsh language support.</p> <p>Alongside this the specific work to support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes an objective to 'Develop immersion opportunities', and progress has been made in implementing this objective since the Strategy was approved. In order to improve the provision and provide more access for pupils, a virtual immersion programme has been piloted successfully during the Covid pandemic. Positive feedback has been received by the schools that have been accessing this provision. To</p>
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	parents know the details of what they have budgeted for and what is on offer.	further develop this provision, the Council will establish new Welsh language immersion centres to support pupils who move into Powys with little or no Welsh language skills The first Welsh language pilot Trochi centre will open in Newtown at the beginning of November 2021 for KS2 pupils that are latecomers to Welsh language education. The plan is to establish further immersion centres in other areas of the county in the future. Alongside this, virtual provision will continue to be utilised where needed, for example where pupils are unable to access a centre due to their location. This provision is funded by the Council.
10.2.2	I feel strongly that the immersion unit should be provided and funded by Powys County Council and should be available to ALL children, local or non local. PCC needs to provide a safety net for those children who WILL struggle with Welsh if you remove the English.	As above.
10.2.3	Information provided is very vague. PCC acknowledge the limits of this support. This could have a massive effect on pupils moving to the Dyfi Valley, meaning they would have to attend English medium in alternative locations.	As above.
10.2.4	The proposal accepts there will be problems for incoming pupils who are not Welsh language speakers. The proposals for “Immersive Education in Welsh” are vague.	As above.
10.2.5	The support for Welsh immersion has been very non committal on your part.	As above.

10.2.6	Will there be adequate immersion provision available for those children who need it? Where will this take place? Are those children who need extra support for their Welsh, going to have to travel away from the school/Machynlleth to receive this? How will this be funded?!	As above.
10.2.7	Immersion centres are only for children moving into the area	Immersion Centres are for children / learners that are accessing Welsh medium education at a later stage and are new to the Welsh language. Plans are in place in the LA to pilot an immersion centre in Newtown for the primary phase during the second half of the autumn term. This information will be used to plan further immersion provision in various locations, according to the need. As stated above, conversations are taking place in the Bro Hyddgen area to identify the level of support that is needed, should the Council proceed with the proposals.
10.2.8	Immersion is for children moving into the area not children who already attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. What about them....?	As above. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, officers would continue to work with the school to identify the level and type of support needed. However, the intention is that the proposal is implemented on a phased basis, therefore pupils currently accessing English-medium provision would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at the school.
10.2.9	I have concerns about the proposal for an immersion unit. I don't think it is realistic for pupils to join the school at the secondary phase and be able to learn Welsh in a few	It is acknowledged that this provision may not be suitable for all pupils, particularly those towards the end of their time in school. Pupils/parents are entitled to

	weeks/months and then be able to study through the medium of Welsh.	apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
10.2.10	In order to enable ALL pupils to be taught in Welsh medium classes, you propose additional Welsh language support for latecomers or pupils needing additional support. Do you honestly believe that such immersion programmes would enable ALL pupils to succeed in Welsh medium education and to undertake their GCSE courses in Welsh? If such immersion provision is as successful as you claim, why have you not introduced this support in area such as Newtown or Welshpool? I agree that immersion support can be successful for supporting latecomers at a primary level but do you realistically believe that this would enable English speaking pupils to access Welsh medium education at a secondary level?	As above. As outlined in the response to 10.2.1, the Council is developing immersion provision across Powys.

10.3 Concern about the support that would be provided for non-Welsh speaking families

10.3.1	All the parents I've spoken to are only opposed to the change because they agree that the support isn't coming	The Council fully acknowledges that support would need to be provided to the school during the transition to the new delivery model. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, officers would work with the school to identify and introduce the support needed to support any pupils already attending Ysgol Bro
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		Hyddgen as well as any pupils that might move to the area in the future. Officers are already in discussion with the school about the type of immersion provision which could be required should the Council proceed with the proposal, but this could also include other Welsh language support, including the sharing of resources across schools, both within and outside the Local Authority, Welsh lessons for parents, effective use of IT to provide support with homework, additional resources, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.
10.3.2	Powys County Council's lack of concrete plans for support for families and children whose first language is not Welsh and may struggle with this transition is saddening	As above.
10.3.3	To respond with vague promises of help for parents to learn the Welsh language is simply not good enough I'm afraid.	As above.
10.3.4	Lack of support for those families that find Welsh is not part of their everyday lives. It is not as if these families have only just moved to the area – many may well be parents who themselves were born here but as already mentioned this reflects the true nature of our community – it is a bilingual I've concerns I have, and lack of reassurances from Powys, regarding any extra support for pupils should the proposal go ahead – plans for how to support pupils have been vague, lacking in direction or a detailed understanding of the difficulties that could arise and how these will be dealt with and seriously lacking in proficiency.	As above.

10.3.5	I also feel there is a lack of support for non-Welsh speaking families in the community.	As above.
10.3.6	Where is the support for families who are struggling with the Welsh language – there is no support now.	As above.
10.3.7	This proposal does not fully support those children and families who will struggling with the Welsh language.	As above.
10.3.8	I am worried for my daughter who starts school next year, I feel she will struggle and there is little or no indication of help for the transition to Welsh language (which I'm not opposed to)	As above.
10.3.9	Are parent communications going to be bilingual?	The Council would expect all Welsh-medium schools to ensure that communications with parents are provided bilingually.

10.4 Concern about parents' ability to help with homework

10.4.1	How will we be supported with my children bringing home homework from school. Will my children be less educated than other children who can receive the support from home and family members?	<p>The Council notes these concerns about the ability of parents who don't speak Welsh to help with homework. Across Wales, Welsh-medium schools have introduced many strategies to help parents support their children with homework, ensuring that pupils who do not have Welsh speaking parents are not disadvantaged.</p> <p>In addition, it has been shown to be beneficial to children to be able to discuss their homework in English with their parents because bilingualism aids conceptual development.</p>
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		Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, it would work with the school as part of the transition process to identify the support needed and to ensure that arrangements are made to offer appropriate provision to support parents / families. This could include Welsh lessons for parents, effective use of IT to provide support with homework, additional resources, opportunities to use Welsh in the community and other initiatives.
10.4.2	My concern is also that there will also be no support for children who struggle with the language and for parents who also can't help their children with homework.	As above.
10.4.3	My children 2 boys went to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen they went into English stream and some nights they brought home Welsh homework which I couldn't do.	As above.
10.4.4	I do fear the difficulty of having parents who can't help with homework in an English speaking household.	As above.
	In order to be fully supportive of the proposal I would have needed to see more assurances of bilingualism in homework for English speaking families.	As above.
	Are homework tasks going to be bilingual?	Teachers set homework tasks, therefore would decide the language in which they are provided. In line with the new curriculum, pupil-led activities are becoming popular, therefore pupils can also influence the language of homework.

11. COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

11.1 The proposal is causing division within the community

11.1.1	This school change is dividing our town community many against the change and I'm worried about how this will effect Machynlleth in years to come.	<p>Comment noted. Whilst the Council acknowledges that the proposal could cause some tensions within the local community in the short term, in the long term the Council would hope that the proposal would improve community cohesion, as all pupils would attend the same provision.</p> <p>As indicated in the Integrated Impact Assessment published as part of the consultation documentation:</p> <p><i>'In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.'</i></p>
11.1.2	Machynlleth community is very cohesive. This policy is already upsetting our harmonious relations.	As above.
11.1.3	The hurt and anger this issue has caused in my small town of Machynlleth is truly sad. For years we have all rubbed along	As above.

	nicely Welsh being taught to both stream with second language for the English stream.	
11.1.4	Your proposal has caused a huge division in our once closely knitted town and will take years and years to heal	As above.
11.1.5	It is already causing a divide in our community and it's extremely sad.	As above.
11.1.6	Where we are at today is that our community is struggling with social cohesion, anxiety levels of parents are extremely high, staff are concerned.	As above.
11.1.7	Please note that we are strongly opposed to this change. Bilingual education has worked and must be the way forward or it will certainly create a divide in the community.	As above.
11.1.8	The decision to make the only school in Machynlleth a Welsh medium provision could destroy a united community. It will increase disparities in wealth and income and divide the community.	As above. The Council does not agree that the proposal would 'increase disparities in wealth'. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils accessing Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become fluent in Welsh and English, therefore minimising disparities in wealth and income.
11.1.9	I speak for us all as a family who feel strongly that if this decision is made you will split a community, and children will suffer due to segregation.	As above.
11.1.10	It also creates a divisive atmosphere where children are subjected to a kind of educational and social apartheid.	As above.

11.1.11	The result of the proposal will be division in the town – separation of groups that have Welsh or English education. For example the annual pantomime, a very important event for much of the town. The event is in English, and is presented at the school. Will be tricky if the school is Welsh only.	As above. This would be a matter for the school, however changing the school’s language category does not mean that the school would not be able to host an English language pantomime. There are other examples of Welsh-medium schools in Powys who are used by other organisations to hold English language events.
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11.2 Concern about the impact on community activities

11.2.1	This example of a negative impact will be repeated in the town’s football and rugby clubs. All will result negatively upon this community.	The Council does not agree that implementation of the proposal would impact on community activities in the town. Primary and secondary provision will continue to be available in Machynlleth, and the Council’s intention is that pupils living in the area would continue to attend this provision, which would mean that they could continue to attend community activities in the town.
11.2.2	There is a real concern that if children are travelling a considerable distance to attend a school of their choice because of the plan, travelling time will erode their involvement in many of the social and leisure activities in the community that they would normally enjoy.	As above.
11.2.3	Consideration must be given to the impact of the wider community, and this proposal will inevitably over the coming years impact on our club. I am uncertain that the impact	As above.

	assessment undertaken by yourselves has considered clubs and organisations within the area. In fact it is safe to say many of our committee members knew nothing about this proposal and we had to rely on members of our community to inform us. Thanks to them we now can oppose!	
11.2.4	They will be to late getting home from school - which means that clubs will lose adult helpers, which means that the clubs might have to close.	As above.
11.2.5	We as a club rely heavily on membership for our club to flourish. We all know that thriving sports clubs are built on teamwork and togetherness, once that is shattered it will lead to reduced participation, fewer members and their eventual closure. It must be noted that we have already lost our cricket, tennis and snooker clubs along with our much-desired youth club. We cannot allow any more of our clubs to close and deprive youngsters in our area a means to develop essential skills. We have many local youngsters join our club from the school, we encourage juniors to join us, to experience that sense of belonging. That sense of belonging promotes good mental health and well being allowing them to be valued members of our community. Our qualified coaches conduct coaching sessions in both Welsh and English.	As above.
11.2.6	Your proposal will impact on the potential to recruit junior bowling members as we feel that those opting for English medium provision will have to leave our community, they will inevitably join in their social circle of that school and follow their school friends and join in clubs an organisation out of the community they live. That leaves clubs and organisations	As above.

	in Machynlleth in vulnerable positions with less and less youngsters joining.	
11.2.7	You will be making organisations e.g. Scouts defunct as we will lose children.	As above.
11.2.8	Pupils travelling to alternative schools will have to give up swimming lessons, after school sports and clubs as instead of arriving home at 3.30pm she won't arrive home till closer to 5pm	As above.
11.2.9	Those children will not have that sense of belonging to the community they live in and will inevitably be disadvantaged in forming social relationships within their hometown, they will not feel confident joining clubs and associations on offer within the town, this could impact on the long term future of those clubs.	As above.
11.2.10	It must be noted the success of 7 former pupils of the school who are members of our club, they joined as juniors and went on to represent the club at a County, International, European, World and Commonwealth Level. 3 of them are fluent Welsh speakers 4 of them 2 nd language Welsh speakers. We never discriminated against them on their spoken language and we as a club and a town are immensely proud of their achievements.	As above.

11.3 The proposal will mean that people will be pushed out of Machynlleth

11.3.1	You will be driving out families – even Welsh speaking families who need the dual system for additional learning need purposes.	<p>The Council disagrees that the proposal will push families out of the area.</p> <p>The proposal is to implement the proposal on a phased basis, and all pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision throughout their time at the school. All pupils joining the school’s reception class following implementation of the proposal would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English, meaning that they would have the language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision at the school.</p> <p>There are a range of factors which influence where people choose to live. Ultimately people are entitled to live wherever they choose, and are entitled to choose to move away from the area if they wish to do so.</p>
11.3.2	People will move away if this service is not provided.	As above.
11.3.3	This will lead to segregation and pushing half of the population out of town and possibly out of county, in order to get the best education that will serve that half of the population, in order for them to be the best that they can be, in the language that serves them best.	As above.
11.3.4	This may mean we move away from Machynlleth in the future. We are aware that there are many others in the community who feel similarly and have raised the concerns as described above.	As above.

11.3.5	By doing this families will move – leaving no children and no future, by making children travel for an education that they can't have in their home town!	As above. There should be no need for pupils to travel out of Machynlleth to access their education, however ultimately, pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply to attend alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference, however it is correct that additional travel would be required in order to access this provision.
11.3.6	I already know of two families that have moved from the local area in the last 2 months, people that fell in love with the area who are now put off by this whole ordeal.	As above.
11.3.7	English only speaking families are likely to leave the area of their children will have to travel long arduous journeys to other sites to access the education of their choice – which can only be detrimental to their well-being and mental health.	As above.
11.3.8	We feel that we are now being pushed out of the area by this decision, as when we have children they will be in the English stream. If the proposal goes through this will obviously not be an option here. This would mean we would no doubt have to move out of the area that I have grown up in and lived in my whole life.	As above.
11.3.9	It foresees the possibility of English-speaking families rejecting a re-location to the Dyfi Valley. It also anticipates a growing number of parents who will choose to 'opt-out' of the	As above.

	state school system in order to educate their children at home because of the denial of a system that recognises and responds to their needs and those of their children	
11.3.10	Parents are already moving their families out of town, and moving their children to schools that can and will accommodate to their needs without parents having to fight for the bare minimum they deserve, the choice.	As above.

11.4 The area would not be attractive to people looking to move in

11.4.1	The main reason for my objection is the potential to prevent families who wish to move to the Machynlleth area for work bringing with them older, especially younger teenagers, who will find it very difficult to suddenly have to master the Welsh language.	<p>The Council disagrees that the proposal will deter people from moving into the area. There is no evidence of this across Wales.</p> <p>It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.</p> <p>All pupils would continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. Many areas of rural Wales have Welsh-medium schools and this does not make these areas look closed to outsiders. Latecomers to Welsh medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will be provided with Welsh language development support to enable them to transition into Welsh medium education, for example through immersion programmes.</p>
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11.4.2	It is possible that those families will not feel able to come to live in the area and this will restrict the influx of new pupils to the school and new members for the community.	As above.
11.4.3	When moving home, the key things you look for are infrastructure/transport links, a nice home and if you have a family, or are planning for a family a school.	As above.
11.4.4	Machynlleth is well known for being a diverse and multicultural town. It is incredibly warm and welcoming and we thrive off people moving to the area.	As above.
11.4.5	This proposal will have a detrimental effect on the number of new comers moving to town	As above.
11.4.6	It restricts the opportunities for non-Welsh speaking families to relocate to the area. I have contributed much time, energy and effort to the Community and to the School since moving here.	As above.
11.4.7	One of my concerns is that if you change the language of tuition from dual medium (English and Welsh) to a Welsh medium only, you may end up in a situation where we will have fewer people moving to Machynlleth. We will lose potential new students and potential people moving into Machynlleth.	As above.
11.4.8	It would almost certainly deter a lot of people from moving to the area with their children and may drive families that are already here to go elsewhere.	As above.

11.4.9	This proposal could have a negative impact on local families and also to the prospect of new families moving into the area.	As above.
11.4.10	It will discourage people from moving here as their school-aged children will not cope with learning in Welsh.	As above.
11.4.11	The proposal will make the area look closed to outsiders. Not only would this give the area a bad name but become reinforcing as the children are educated in an environment that is hostile to non-Welsh speakers. This is not the attitude of people in the area now, so why would Powys Council want to instil such an insular viewpoint in future generations?	As above.
11.4.12	It saddens me to think that non Welsh speaking migrants will from now on not have the support and opportunities that my kids enjoyed from Powys.	As above.
11.4.13	A sad prospect for newcomers to Machynlleth.	As above.

12. COMMENTS ABOUT THE IMPACT ON LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESSES

12.1 Concern about the impact on businesses

12.1.1	Business will be effected, no one here to spend in the town, to be employed in the town.	<p>There is no evidence that having a Welsh-medium school affects the development of businesses.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change would be introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to</p>
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		minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken attending the school in the future would be immersed in the Welsh language when they start school, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. There should be no need for anyone currently living in the area to move from the Machynlleth area to access alternative provision.
12.1.2	I moved a business to this area some years ago and local education facilities were part of the consideration, looking forward, the removal of English medium school provision would be a negative for other businesses looking to make a similar decision.	As above.
12.1.3	This area relies on incoming immigration to maintain and develop the society and businesses on which we all depend.	As above.

12.2 It would be more difficult to recruit to positions in the area

12.2.1	Ultimately, people will take their children to where their educational needs can be met, and they will leave Machynlleth. The challenges of recruitment into professional roles will continue and posts remain empty, and services not provided.	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at the school.
12.2.2	Your proposal to alter the language medium of our school will have a significant impact on recruitment of professionals to our town, we already have 6 health professional vacancies that cannot be filled (dated 25/6/21) with the offer of a dual stream education establishment. How do you think by altering	There are challenges with recruiting health professionals in many areas across Powys, Wales and beyond, regardless of the education provision available in the local area.

	that it will give more opportunities to entice such professionals to the area?	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, pupils from all backgrounds would continue to be welcome at the school. Alternatively, anyone moving to the area to take up a position could apply for a place at an alternative school which offers English-medium provision.
12.2.3	The health centre has been advertising for a doctor to join the practice since sept 2019. We have had no permanent Health Visitor or School Nurse for the last 2 years and rely on those services form other area of Powys.	As above.
12.2.4	By having a Welsh medium only school it will not encourage professionals such as Doctors, Dentists Nurses to move into our community. The Health Centre has been trying to recruit Doctors to our area for over 2 years. We must ensure that our school is accessible to all.	As above.
12.2.5	In Machynlleth we have struggled to find Doctors. If your not aware of this...it's has gone on for years. The struggle for local people to see a GP has ultimately been affected greatly. So what's this got to do with the school....well if we are asking Doctors to move into the area (often from outside of Wales) to come and take care of our families, they aren't likely to do this if we don't take care of theirs.	As above.
12.2.6	In this area of the country we rely on specialist dentists, doctors and surgeons moving to the area from outside of Wales, they aren't going to want to move here where their children can't learn in English, this again will have an effect on the attraction of specialists.	As above.

12.2.7	Another important issue is that a new health centre is being built for Machynlleth, with all the associated staffing requirements. I understand that it has been notoriously difficult to fill senior medical positions for a long time here, this decision would risk shrinking the applicant pool even further, English speaking applicants, with school age children or contemplating starting a family, would be reluctant to take a position where they have concerns their child's education may be compromised.	As above.
12.2.8	We really need doctors, nurses, teachers, solicitors, engineers, chefs, entrepreneurs, and many others in our community. We already have difficulties recruiting good staff to fill jobs in the area, and this will just make matters worse. More professional families may also send their children away to be educated in English and experience tells us that many of these do not return to the Dyfi Valley having made connections elsewhere. (someone told me that this could be a good thing because we would have a more Welsh speaking community but this sounds narrow minded and possibly racist).	As above.
12.2.9	Our area is crying out for skilled tradespeople, nurses, GPs, and a wide diverse range of wonderful people from all ethnicities and walks of life, they deserve to have the chance to live in this beautiful area of the world and contribute where we so desperately need the help as the younger generations move out of the area to seek training elsewhere.	As above.
12.2.10	How many nurses and healthcare professionals work here who are from other areas? How many of these people have	As above.

	brought their children with them? Cutting off a dual education will see the number of people moving to the area drop. Where will we be then?	The Council does not access to information about healthcare staff.
12.2.11	We as a business would be really concerned of the effect this would have on the future of Machynlleth and local businesses. I run a successful business in Machynlleth where we employ 30 staff. We have always employed local where possible. Over 80% of the team live within 5 miles of Machynlleth. I do feel that we would struggle to offer the same opportunities if we didn't have the mixed language in our company. We have both plenty of fluent Welsh speakers in the office, including myself. Which brings us to the question, do you want professional people (it is difficult to recruit professionals, let alone first language Welsh speaking professionals) to move to Machynlleth, because I don't think you value them enough to want to educate their children in a way that enables their parents to help them. If you want to attract professionals, the priority should be to provide a good education, not a mediocre education in the Welsh language. Professional people will not move to the area if they cannot foresee a good education for their children!	As above. The Council's priority is to provide a good education to pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, in accordance with the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which aims to improve learner entitlement and experience alongside its aim to improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages.
12.2.12	Lifeblood of Machynlleth's future is to welcome incomers to fulfil some the few positions of employment available.	Pupils will continue to be welcome at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their background, and latecomers to Welsh medium education attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will be provided with Welsh language development support to enable them to transition to Welsh medium education, for example through immersion programmes. There is no reason why implementation of the proposal should mean that people would not want to move to the area to access

		<p>employment opportunities. Many areas of rural Wales have Welsh-medium schools and this does not make these areas look closed to outsiders.</p> <p>It is the Council's view that all children, regardless of their background, should be able to have the opportunity to enhance their skills by becoming fully bilingual in Wales and to participate fully in the community.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, eventually all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English so that they are able to utilise these skills in the workplace, where there is a growing demand for fluency in both languages in Wales.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposal would lead to improved employment opportunities for all pupils in the area in the future, as all pupils would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and therefore able to take advantage of employment opportunities which require fluency in both languages.</p>
12.2.13	I imagine people from non-Welsh speaking backgrounds who move to the area, particularly with children of secondary age, would be unwilling to place their children in a totally Welsh speaking environment, therefore such pupils would move to other schools.	As above.

12.2.14	Would English speaking professional people want to move to Machynlleth knowing that their children would struggle in an all Welsh school.	As above.
12.2.15	So by removing the English stream it also affects the wider Community because families like mine wouldn't move to the area and help with the local economy.	As above.
12.2.16	Surely for the future livelihood of Machynlleth we should be attracting families with diverse skills and ethnic backgrounds to add investment into our town.	As above.
12.2.17	This will further drive people away from the town and will make it even less attractive to people considering moving into the area from away.	As above.
12.2.18	I know of a brilliant teacher who has moved to the area from Leeds, and due to the language barrier (being that she can't speak welsh) trying to gain employment in her chosen field was near impossible, and instead moved into a new field away from the area for work.	As above.
12.2.19	What effect due envisage if you have a professional such as a doctor, nurse or solicitor that has when they have a child that only speaks English? Do you think that they are going to want to substitute their child's education while they get up to speed with the language or are they going to want to move to an area where the transition from schools is more seamless, or do you think they are going to relocate to an area that they feel there child will thrive, with them being able to support them	As above.

12.2.20	I think this would have a massive negative effect on our community with many people moving away and less people moving in. Surely this would then see local businesses and local services such as health care take a massive hit.	As above.
12.2.21	By changing the system as it stands - it will inevitably have a knock on effect on attracting new people to the town, medical professionals for example (whose second language might be English) will overlook Machynlleth and look towards Aberystwyth.	As above.
12.2.22	I'm positive it would put many professionals off coming to our community if they have to send their children off to another town to get a bilingual education. Doctors and dentists are already hard to attract to our town, this would make this an even harder sell.	As above.
12.2.23	We rely on people moving in to the town to keep it thriving and education is an important factor in parents' decision to move to an area. This proposal will have a very damaging effect on the growth of the town.	As above.

12.3 Reference to employment at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

12.3.1	It's also crazy in terms of attempting to recruit a high standard of fully fluent in Welsh teachers to cover the complete spectrum of subject areas. It's a challenge to fill vacancies in specialist subjects at the best of times.	The Council acknowledges that recruitment of Welsh speaking staff is a challenge. This is a challenge across Wales, not just in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen / Powys. The Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2022-2032, which includes an outcome on improving and developing the
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		workforce, with the aim of improving the ability to recruit Welsh speaking staff.
12.3.2	Statistically the proportion of Welsh speaking qualified teachers is tiny and those who feel confident enough to teach in Welsh is even lower, surely we should be striving to recruit the very best teachers for our children in both languages not just basing recruitment from a tiny pool on their ability to teach in just one language.	As above.
12.3.3	The choice of teachers to employ will be significantly reduced if it is mandatory to teach in Welsh. According to the School Workforce Census results as at November 2019, only 32.3% of teachers valued their Welsh language ability as 'Proficient' or 'Advanced' in Primary Schools and a mere 28.0% in High Schools. These statistics show the small proportion of teachers able to educate children in Welsh.	As above.
12.3.4	Another concern which I have not seen raised, is that of staffing. A totally Welsh medium education would require all staff to be fluent in the language. I am fully aware that there are very, very many excellent Welsh speaking teachers. However, sometimes the best candidate for a post might not be Welsh speaking. This could be the case in any subject, but more so in subject areas such as foreign languages and English.	The school is responsible for the appointment of staff, in accordance with the relevant recruitment processes.
12.3.5	Another concern is that the available pool of talented teaching staff will be much smaller as they will be appointed according to their fluency in Welsh rather than their teaching ability.	As above.

12.3.6	What about the teachers who are and will lose their positions?	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, a review of the curriculum would need to take place, along with a review of the staffing requirements to support that curriculum. This would then enable decisions to be made on the required staffing moving forward and if needed, a full consultation with staff would take place. This would also provide an opportunity to identify any training needs for those staff who currently work in the English stream.
12.3.7	I am also concerned for the staff team currently at Bro Hyddgen. What will happen to the teachers who only teach the English stream students? Are they going to be supported in finding other jobs, will they have the choice to stay on at Bro Hyddgen?	As above.
12.3.8	One report indicated the recruitment of English speaking teachers has, in the past, not met with expectations. My question is why? Should a current teacher not meet the expectations of teaching in Welsh, what happens to that teacher? If that teacher is reassigned to another school or made redundant, will that position be advertised? If you have falling pupil numbers this would indicate that in the future, you require less teachers.	<p>The staffing structures of schools is reviewed regularly and consideration given to pupil numbers and curriculum needs.</p> <p>Should the language requirements change, any training requirements would be discussed to enable current staff to fulfil the staffing needs. If changes were needed to the level of staff or to the requirements HR would support the school follow a staffing consultation process which would include looking at options other than redundancy.</p>
12.3.9	What if you no longer recruiting the right teachers? Just the one that "tick box" being hired on being able to converse in Welsh rather than the merits of their past accomplishments.	The recruitment of suitably qualified staff is a matter for the school and advice from the local authority can be

		sought in relation to adopting robust recruitment processes.
12.3.10	How many teachers aren't Welsh?	There is currently one member of the teaching staff who does not teach through the medium of Welsh but who is currently learning the language.
12.3.11	It will impact on local people who would seek employment in school however the preference of Welsh only would stop them from making an application. As a result, jobs are lost to local people.	<p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and many dual stream schools across Powys and beyond already look for staff with Welsh language skills when recruiting, in order to improve the school's Welsh language ethos and to ensure that staff can work confidently in both languages.</p> <p>Whilst it is possible that local residents who do not speak Welsh would not be able to secure positions at the school, there are many opportunities available for people to learn Welsh, either through attending 'Learn Welsh' courses offered by Aberystwyth University or through accessing various on-line courses.</p> <p>The aim of the proposal is to ensure that in the future, all pupils that attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are fluent in Welsh and English, therefore in future, any pupils that have attended the school would have the language skills needed to secure employment at the school.</p>

13. COMMENTS ABOUT EARLY YEARS PROVISION

13.1	We at MCCP have been contracted to deliver the English stream provision for Powys County Council since September	Comment noted.
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	2017. Although we deliver the provision bilingually. We had originally been contracted for 16 places. Since September 2020 this has been increased to 19 places. We work closely with the Cylch and they are also full. This suggests that 50% of children when given the choice choose the bilingual setting. We know the school encourages parents to send their children to the Welsh medium provision.	
13.2	By doing this the local nursery will struggle as they will have lack of children and staff.	The Council will work closely MCCP to identify staff who would need additional support to develop their Welsh language skills.

14. COMMENTS ABOUT THE USE OF WELSH IN THE LOCAL AREA

14.1 Comments about the bilingual nature of the community

14.1.1	The area is bilingual so the school serves the needs of the surrounding community.	In general, it is only pupils that access Welsh-medium education that become fully bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English. The Council's view is that implementation of the proposal would mean that the school would be better placed to serve the needs of the community as all pupils would be fluent in both languages and able to use both languages in the community.
14.1.2	The town is bilingual, and the school needs to reflect this.	As above.
14.1.3	Machynlleth is a bilingual community, and the towns' school must accommodate its bilingual community.	As above.

14.1.4	The Dual stream education that has existed in Machynlleth up to now, fully represents the population of Machynlleth and the area it serves. This will not be the case if the school becomes Welsh Medium only.	As above.
14.1.5	We must keep Machynlleth thriving in its greatest asset... As a bilingual community. And an education system that reflects the community it serves whilst recognising the rights of our children.	As above.
14.1.6	I was under the understanding that any school should serve its community not the community change to suit the needs of the school.	As above.
14.1.7	A towns school should reflect and serve the towns needs and wishes.	As above.
14.1.8	I oppose your proposal because it doesn't meet the needs community.	As above.
14.1.9	The proposal does not meet the needs of the local children and community	As above.
14.1.10	It does not meet the needs of our local community in any form what so ever.	As above.
14.1.11	Machynlleth has always been a bilingual town, so why change a system that already works??	As above.
14.1.12	Machynlleth is a community whereby both Welsh and English are spoken freely and equally respected within our town.	As above.

14.1.13	I object to this proposal as it would harm the pupils because Machynlleth is now a bilingual town	As above.
14.1.14	The proposal goes against the bilingual nature of the Bro Ddyfi area. The system of a Welsh, Welsh-learning, and English stream perfectly reflects the demographics of the area and serve the agenda of the growing the use of the Welsh language.	As above.
14.1.15	Machynlleth is a bilingual town.	As above.
14.1.16	This is and always has been a bilingual community, we need an education system that reflects the community and ensures that choices are kept available for all students who attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen now and in the future.	As above.
14.1.17	Machynlleth is a bilingual town, everyone is welcome. If the school were to change, it would affect our community.	As above.
14.1.18	Machynlleth is a bilingual and diverse community. As such, it needs a school that can provide education in both English and Welsh. It's as simple as that.	As above.

14.2 Reference to the number or proportion of Welsh speakers in Machynlleth

14.2.1	Mach has 51% English first language, at least. That's a lot of children having the right taken away.	Machynlleth is widely regarded as a traditionally Welsh speaking area. Compared with the rest of Powys, a high proportion of the population can understand Welsh.
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		<p>According to the 2011 Census, a majority of people in the Machynlleth LSOA can either speak or understand Welsh as indicated below:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39% can speak, read and write Welsh • 8% can speak but cannot read Welsh • 12% can understand spoken Welsh only • 8% other combination of skills • 33% no Welsh skills <p>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is the provider of secondary provision for the rural catchment area which surrounds Machynlleth. This area is also regarded as a traditionally Welsh speaking area. The figures for the Glantwymyn LSOA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51% can speak, read and write Welsh • 5% can speak but cannot read Welsh • 6% can understand spoken Welsh only • 5% other combination of skills • 34% no Welsh skills
14.2.2	Machynlleth has at least 51% people stating English as their first language with only 39% able to read, write or speak Welsh (2011 Census).	As indicated above, 67% of the population of the Machynlleth LSOA and 66% of the population of the Glantwymyn LSOA indicated that they had some knowledge of Welsh in the 2011 Census.
14.2.3	As a community 51% of the population are first language English speakers	As above.

¹ Census 2011 – Welsh Language Skills by LSOA (Office for National Statistics via the Powys Wellbeing Information Bank)

14.2.4	Cllr. Phyl Davies, Cabinet Minister for Education and Property, has said “Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is located in a traditionally Welsh-speaking area.” This may be true, though the most recent Census in 2011 would suggest that the proportion of English and Welsh speakers is almost split 50% - 50% in the Dyfi Valley.	As above.
14.2.5	The 2011 census showed that 60+% of the population spoke Welsh – many speaking in a local dialect not recognisable by other Welsh speakers. By taking away choices it could mean that this unique dialect of Machynlleth is destroyed.	It is correct that 60+% of the populations of the Machynlleth LSOA and the Glantwymyn LSOA indicated that they had some knowledge of Welsh in the 2011 Census. Whilst the Bro Ddyfi area does have a distinct Welsh dialect, it is not true that ‘many speak in a local dialect not recognisable by other Welsh speakers.’ The aim of the proposal is ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen become fluent in both Welsh and English, which would help to safeguard the local dialect which is spoken in the area.
14.2.6	Estyn, in fact, reported in 2017 that 62% of pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes. It is a great credit to the community and the school that parents have committed to Welsh-medium education.	According to the PLASC 2020 return, 42.5% of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen came from non-Welsh speaking homes ² .
14.2.7	Machynlleth is a predominantly English speaking area, welcoming more and more incomers every year. These people genuinely want to embrace the local language and lifestyle.	The Council does not agree with the statement that ‘Machynlleth is a predominantly English speaking area’ – see the census figures which are provided above.
14.2.8	Machynlleth is largely an English speaking town	As above.

² PLASC 2020 – No. of pupils who either ‘Do not speak Welsh at home but are fluent’ and ‘Does not speak Welsh at home and not fluent’.

15. OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT THE WELSH LANGUAGE

15.1	<p>The Welsh language shouldn't have to rely on the state to protect it – it is the duty of all those who want the language to prosper to act themselves through usage outside of an educational establishment. Research shows that use of the Welsh language drops off when people leave school, including with speakers like myself. Post-education use of Welsh is what needs tackling, not this virtue signalling that will only hurt others</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the challenges associated with increasing the use of Welsh outside school. The Siarter Iaith (Welsh Language Charter) is a national framework for all settings and schools to provide a holistic basis for planning experiences across the curriculum in order to increase learners' use of Welsh and develop their confidence in the language. It supports increased opportunities for learners to speak Welsh in a variety of contexts and embed their use of Welsh language patterns from an early age. The principles set out in the Siarter Iaith are in keeping with the Curriculum for Wales 2022 guidance. The 2050 Welsh strategy notes the need to plan provision for children and young people which not only gives them the opportunity to use or practise Welsh, but instils in them positive attitudes towards the language which translates into active use. This can reap dividends in the long term, helping them to see that the language is not something solely connected to school, and that there is a rich social and cultural world associated with it.</p>
15.2	<p>It is important to recognise that there are other ways to acquire the language and to integrate English-speaking and Welsh-speaking young people other than compulsory teaching in one language.</p>	<p>Whilst it is true that there are other ways to acquire the Welsh language apart from accessing Welsh-medium education, it is widely recognised across Wales that accessing Welsh-medium education is the best way for pupils to become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
15.3	<p>This cannot and should not be solely about the promotion of the Welsh language, you have got to consider the bigger</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the need for pupils to be able to communicate effectively in English as well as</p>

	<p>impact to families and communities. The Welsh language is available in the school for those who want it, why would you take the English away? Both are recognised languages of Wales our own Senedd uses and respects both, why can't our local school?</p>	<p>Welsh. The aim of Welsh-medium education is to ensure that pupils become bilingual and are able to communicate effectively in both Welsh and English. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change the school's language category, all pupils would continue to study English to GCSE level, and would be able to talk, read and write in English as well as Welsh.</p> <p>The Council is not proposing to 'take the English away' – rather the aim of the proposal is to provide the opportunity for all pupils attending the school to be fluent in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
15.4	<p>Welsh is still being treated as a separatist issue. Too many publications are produced with Welsh at one end and English at the other thus doubling the cost of printing the illustrations</p>	<p>The Council and many other organisations are required to publish documentation bilingually in order to meet the requirements of Welsh language legislation. There are</p>

	and minimising the ability of readers to familiarise themselves by comparing the Welsh with the English.	many different ways in which this can be achieved, however and this is a matter that is determined by each individual organisation for each publication. It is acknowledged that historically there has been an additional printing cost for bilingual documents, however documentation is increasing available online, which helps to minimise printing costs.
15.5	Can we be sure that this change isn't purely to enable contribution to the Welsh Government's aspiration to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050?	<p>The reasons for the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are outlined in the Consultation Document which was published. The reasons for the proposal are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To improve educational outcomes</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed language classes in the secondary phase</i> ○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed age classes in the primary phase</i> ○ <i>There will be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally</i> • <i>To improve educational provision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils</i> ○ <i>Having one language stream would make it easier to track and target the progress of pupils and their well-being</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To improve leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The school's management team could work more efficiently</i> • <i>To improve efficiency in the delivery of education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff and resources</i> • <i>To increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>More pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.'</i> <p>Whilst contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050 is one of the reasons identified, this is not the only reason.</p>
15.6	Education should be useful to pupils and in the <i>lingua franca</i> of whatever country it is in. To learn Welsh should be a pleasure and not a chore.	Comment noted.

16. COMMENTS ABOUT DISCRIMINATION / INEQUALITY

16.1 Discrimination

16.1.1	Withdrawal of English Language education from pupils is discriminatory, and disadvantages children long settled here, whom, owing to their ethnic or family backgrounds can't possibly attain the level of fluency to benefit from the education to which they are entitled, and to which the Local Authority is required by law to provide.	<p>The Council does not agree that the proposal is discriminatory. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the intention is that the change is introduced on a phased basis, from the Reception year up, in order to minimise the impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium provision in the school. Pupils from homes where no Welsh is spoken would be immersed in the Welsh language, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.</p>
16.1.2	This proposal is discriminatory. How can Powys County Council even consider doing this.	As above.
16.1.3	I believe that cutting the English stream without moving towards fully bilingual provision is nothing more than a cut in services. In a mixed community like Machynlleth this is discriminatory and divisive, and likely to drive English first language families away.	As above.
16.1.4	I feel it's a form of discrimination and that it's a step backward in education.	As above.
16.1.5	All children should have equal opportunity, be treated right and fairly. This is discrimination.	As above.

16.1.6	In honesty, I am surprised that in this day that anyone would want to exclude other languages, backgrounds or beliefs when we are more welcoming than ever, and embrace other's cultures rather than ban them. It is rather an archaic notion and discriminatory.	As above.
16.1.7	It's insular, xenophobic, and incredibly divisive.	As above.
16.1.8	If the intention is to improve inclusivity and attract capable English speaking residents to the area it will prove divisive and anti-English.	As above.
16.1.9	Would this be the same outcome if we where to keep the school as English only? This is racism between languages and we as a community are disgusted by this decision from PCC!	As above.
16.1.10	It feels like the English speaking familys are being pushed aside to force a political agenda and there education and needs and choice are being swept away. it is 2021 and im having to argue for the right for my children and others to be taught in the language which we believe is best for our children.	As above.
16.1.11	I think it's about time for some honesty, this anti English stance has to stop for the sake of the children because this is all starting to look rather menacing and if what you do fails it won't just be a few angry parents looking for names and explanations – it will be the national media.	As above.

16.1.12	Unfortunately, I really do believe that this is not the only reason that you want to get rid of the English stream. I do believe there is a component of anti-English racism and discrimination. Please refer to your Ysgol Bro Hyddgen questionnaire that only refers to the 'Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language' and 'Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language?'	As above. The questions in the consultation response form relating to 'Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language' and 'Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language' are questions the Council is required to include in order to meet the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards.
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16.2 Reference to human rights / UN Rights of the Child

16.2.1	I'd like your final decision to consider the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	<p>In order to minimise impact on any pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the proposal is to introduce any change to the school's language category on a phased basis, year by year. This would mean that pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>Any new pupils starting school would be able to access Welsh-medium provision when they start school, meaning that they would be fully immersed in the Welsh language, and would have the Welsh language skills needed to access Welsh-medium provision throughout their time in school.</p> <p>Pupils/parents are entitled to apply for a place in any school they choose. Should the Council proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a</p>
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		place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference.
16.2.2	I believe the proposal would remove the basic rights of the child to an education in their chosen language. To remove the English stream from Machynlleth, and the surrounding area, would be a failure to meet the basic rights of the child to an education, as outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 23 and 24).	As above.
16.2.3	I would also like to draw your attention to the other rights that I feel are not being wholly protected in this situation, Articles 2, 3, 4 and 5. These changes would affect English speaking-Welsh children and Welsh families who have a right to be represented fairly and supported by their local government.	As above.
16.2.4	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that they have a right to education and their views to be respected. If this decision is to go ahead, Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are going against the above.	As above.
16.2.5	Removing the option of the English stream goes directly against the UN Rights of the child to have an education that recognises the right of the child to Education, and with view to achieving this right progressively and in the Basis of Opportunity.	As above.
16.2.6	School life can be daunting for some young children and having the extra pressure of all their work in Welsh is an added barrier and pressure they do not need. This goes against the rights of children to have education in a language of their choice where they have the best chance of learning.	As above.

16.2.7	By removing the English Language stream you are denying English First Language children their Human Right to education in their first language. It may be ironic that English may be the minority language in this case, but the same principles which were applied to “save” the Welsh language over the last few decades must also be applied to the 81%* of people in Wales who do NOT speak the language. We also have a relatively high proportion of non-UK children in the area who are already learning in their second language. Making them learn in their third language will not help their development.	As above.
16.2.8	It would seem that Powys County Council is choosing to ignore that it is a child's basic right to be taught in the language of their choice according to the Human Rights Commission. Wales is and always will be bilingual with both English and Welsh having equal status and so they have every right to be given the choice of their education provision within their local school.	As above.

17. COMMENTS ABOUT THE COUNCIL’S APPROACH TO DEVELOPING WELSH-MEDIUM PROVISION

17.1 The Council should focus on areas other than Machynlleth

17.1.1	Welsh Language provision does need to increase in Powys as a whole, not in Machynlleth specifically, which exceeds targets currently - over 70% of pupils are taught here in Welsh, despite 62% of pupils coming from non-Welsh speaking homes. All pupils here have access to Welsh language	The Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a number of Strategic Objectives in order to take forward for the Strategic Aim to ‘Improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages’.
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	<p>education through school if they want it, and most do as you can see. Every other town in Powys has the option of education through either language, but Machynlleth is the only one that is to be changed.</p>	<p>Whilst the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is one of the first to be taken forward since the new Strategy was approved, many other proposals and developments will be taken forward in the coming years, in order to ensure that more Powys pupils have the opportunity to access Welsh-medium education throughout their time in school.</p>
17.1.2	<p>I would also like to oppose the proposal on the grounds that it isn't needed as Ysgol Bro Hyddgen already exceeds the targets set by Powys and Welsh Government for providing Welsh medium education. I feel there will be minimal gain here compared to other schools in the county where pupils struggle to access a Welsh medium education, especially at secondary level.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
17.1.3	<p>Whilst I respect the need to promote the Welsh Language, the number of children in this area currently learning through Welsh and the bilingual stream far outstrips most other parts of Powys which suggests that the local authority should look further afield in Powys to promote Welsh Language Learning.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
17.1.4	<p>The consultation report claims the Ysgol Bro Hyddgen change 'would contribute towards implementing the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)'. However they do not make proposals to change anything so significant at schools in Newtown or Welshpool, where respectively they are 'Predominantly English' and 'English' only provision. Surely THAT is where some achievement could be made in increasing Welsh medium education in Powys? By PCC's own admission the numbers receiving English medium education</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	<p>in Machynlleth is small, and therefore less significant in achieving that WESP aim, but it does significantly increase at examination age, something that PCC seem to also be ignoring in their presentation of data.</p>	
17.1.5	<p>Finally, the Council's proposal misunderstands how to implement the Welsh Government's new continuum – it is to increase Welsh-medium education opportunities across Wales – or in this case Powys – whereas the proposal simply takes away English-medium education in area already well-served with Welsh services. Surely, expanding Welsh-medium education opportunities in areas where use of Welsh is low would be a better use of the Council's time.</p>	As above.
17.1.6	<p>We are delighted to see that Ysgol Bro Hyddgen has the highest percentage of Welsh medium pupils at 76%. I was surprised to see Newtown HS and Welshpool HS in the lowest ranked secondary schools and appear to have 0%. I am absolutely dumbfounded as to why PCC are targeting YBH to achieve their aim of improving access to Welsh medium provision across all key stages. YBH provides excellent provision for Welsh medium pupils. Moving the school along the language continuum would therefore not improve provision for Welsh medium pupils as they already have full access to study all subjects in Welsh. Are PCC genuine about this strategic aim? If you were, surely you would be focusing on those areas which provide little or no Welsh medium provision and move these schools along the language continuum. It almost seems farcical that you are targeting Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>Newtown High School and Welshpool High School are both English-medium secondary schools, therefore it is no surprise that 0% of pupils at these schools access Welsh-medium education. Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils living in these towns is provided by Welsh-medium streams at Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfyllin and Llanidloes.</p>

17.1.7	<p>Why are PCC targeting Welsh provision at the school with the highest percentage of Welsh-medium pupils, whilst ignoring the total lack of Welsh provision in secondary schools such as Newtown HS or Welshpool HS? If we are to believe that PCC genuinely want to 'improve access to Welsh-medium provision across all key stages', then PCC should have been looking at improving provision in their English-medium schools or in their Bilingual Category 2C schools.</p>	As above.
17.1.8	<p>So, while ESTYN criticised Powys in 2019 ('the authority's record on stimulating the growth of Welsh-medium is weak. As a result, the proportion of pupils receiving their education through the medium of Welsh has stagnated over recent years'), it is staggering that PCC are focusing on Bro Hyddgen to address this. PCC acknowledges that Welsh provision in Powys is a postcode lottery and this report acknowledges that Newtown HS and Welshpool HS are English-medium high schools with 0% Welsh-medium pupils. As far as I am aware, there are no other proposals in Powys to move any other secondary schools along the language continuum – the new school in Llanfair Caereinion will remain as a dual stream/Bilingual Category 2B. This is an interesting decision by PCC given that throughout their report they have been quite critical of dual stream provision. Indeed, PCC are going ahead to merge and create new primary schools in Newtown and Brecon – both English-medium! It is this hypocrisy that the community of Machynlleth find difficult to accept. PCC are not addressing the inequality of provision as they have selected to address the school with the highest percentage of Welsh-medium pupils. So, PCC may tick their box of establishing a Welsh-medium secondary school, but the proportion/numbers of pupils receiving Welsh education will</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>Whilst it is true that the Council has recently completed the statutory process to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion from September 2022, the paper considered by Cabinet in respect of this proposal clearly stated that the Council's ambition is that the school moves along the language continuum, however a further statutory process would be required in order to achieve this.</p> <p>The Council is also developing proposals to change the provision at Ysgol Calon Cymru, a secondary school which currently operates across two campuses in Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells. The Council's current preferred way forward is to move all English-medium secondary provision to a new building in Llandrindod Wells, and to establish a new Welsh-medium all-through school in Builth Wells, which would provide access to Welsh-medium provision at a designated school, therefore moving along the language continuum.</p>

	not change – it is quite clear from the responses in this report that those currently studying fully or partly in English will simply move to an alternative school.	
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17.2 Other comments

17.2.1	It worries me that Powys' education policy is to move towards exclusively Welsh medium education, rather than Bilingual education, which I believe would more closely resemble the education my children wish for.	<p>The term 'bilingual' is sometimes used to describe dual stream provision, however this is misleading. In a dual stream school, it is usually only the Welsh-medium pupils that become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English. Whilst pupils in the English-medium stream study Welsh as a Second Language, generally these pupils do not become fluent in Welsh.</p> <p>'Bilingual' would therefore be a more appropriate term to describe Welsh-medium schools, where all pupils accessing the school become bilingual – fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
17.2.2	I do believe though that better Welsh lessons could be taught throughout the year for all ages so that children then could understand and spell in Welsh at a high level and keep the language alive as I do think that it is very important to do so.	<p>All pupils in Powys schools are taught Welsh up to GCSE level, regardless of whether they are taught through the medium of Welsh or English. Pupils accessing Welsh-medium education study Welsh and English as first languages and are expected to be fully bilingual. Learners in the English stream study English to first language standard and Welsh as a second language, and it is not designed for them to become fully bilingual by the end of their time at school.</p> <p>Whilst some learners may become fluent in Welsh after studying Welsh as a Second Language, these learners</p>

		are exceptions – generally, pupils accessing English-medium provision and studying Welsh as a Second Language do not become fluent in Welsh.
17.2.3	Your proposal to mainstream the Welsh language when you never even attempted to encourage more Welsh learning in the English classes before is beyond me?	As above.
17.2.4	I am first language Welsh, and completely agree that we need to keep the Welsh language alive and teach more of it in the English medium. However, I'd advise PCC take a long and hard look at the curriculum in which our children are taught from and suggest more Welsh history lessons should be taught. It would be beneficial to our culture, identity and language as a country and you'd find more children and their parents take a deeper interest into wanting to learn/better their Welsh.	<p>The Council agrees with this comment. The framework for the new curriculum reflects Wales, its cultural heritage and diversity, its language and values, histories and traditions of its communities and all of its people. Instilling learners with passion and pride in themselves, their communities and their country is central to the four purposes. Learners should be grounded in an understanding of the identities, landscapes and histories that come together to form their Cynefin.</p> <p>The Siarter Iaith also puts a strong emphasis on the Welsh dimension, which results in the learners having a positive attitude towards the Welsh language and heritage.</p>

18. COMMENTS ABOUT OTHER PROPOSALS

18.1	In the Welsh Government's document 'Cymraeg 2050', they state that the challenge for local authorities will be to reconfigure provision in order to create more Welsh-medium places and they also advise that when local authorities have opportunities to open new schools, they should make strong	There are already designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Newtown (where Ladywell Green / Hafren schools were located) and Brecon (where the Mount Streets Schools and Cradoc School are located).
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	plans clearly demonstrating how their proposals align with the aim of creating more Welsh speakers. So how do the reorganisation projects at Ladywell Green/Hafren or Mount Street/Cradoc meet this criteria?	The Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 which outlines the Council's plans to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, in order to contribute to the targets outlined in 'Cymraeg 2050'.
18.2	When PCC decided to merge Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, the decision was made to establish a new English-medium primary school. Again, no attempt to improve access to Welsh-medium provision and no attempt to move the school along the language continuum.	As above.
18.3	I understand that Llandrindod Wells will maintain the 'English Campus' status when/if plans go ahead to change Builth Wells into a Welsh Medium only high school. This strategy serves to provide children living in the local communities involved with a choice of preferred language. The schools are only 7 miles apart and so parents are able to send their children to the school they see fit for them and their families. I wonder then why is Builth/ Llandrindod looking to expand its language range from English medium to Welsh AND English, when Machynlleth children's choices are being removed completely?	<p>The Council's current 'preferred way forward' for Ysgol Calon Cymru which currently operates from Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells is to move all English-medium provision to a new build in Llandrindod Wells and to establish a new Welsh-medium all-through school in Builth Wells. The aim of this proposal is to increase the number of pupils choosing Welsh-medium provision in the area, and to significantly improve the Welsh-medium education offer for learners. As the catchment area is currently predominantly English-medium, it would not be possible not to offer English-medium secondary provision in the area.</p> <p>The number of pupils accessing English-medium provision in the Bro Hyddgen catchment is significantly lower than the number of pupils accessing English-medium provision in the Ysgol Calon Cymru catchment area. There are alternative English-medium secondary providers which would be available for any pupils wishing</p>

		to access English-medium provision instead of accessing the provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
18.4	The authority have been critical of dual stream provision throughout the Consultation Report. Again, this is ironic considering that during the recent consultation in Llanfair Caereinion, dual stream provision has been chosen as the language category for the new all-age school.	Whilst it is true that the Council has recently completed the statutory process to establish a dual stream all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion from September 2022, the paper considered by Cabinet in respect of this proposal clearly stated that the Council's ambition is that the school moves along the language continuum, however a further statutory process would be required in order to achieve this.
18.5	For example, when taking the decision to establish a new all-age school in Llanfair Caereinion, PCC decided to leave the primary phase as dual stream and the secondary phase as Bilingual Category 2B. How does this fit in with PCC's strategic aim? There was no proposal to move this school along the language continuum. Why is it acceptable to offer choice of language provision to the community of Llanfair Caereinion and to deny the very same choice to the community of Machynlleth?	As above.
18.6	If the aim (and I quote) 'Alongside the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council has also been reviewing small schools in Powys, and is taking forward a number of proposals to close small schools.' You cannot argue that this change is also about an increase in speakers of the Welsh language, IF you are planning on closing Welsh language primaries in the Dyfi Valley, something which impacts Welsh language in those communities that are already struggling in a second homes crisis, and with fewer and fewer Welsh speakers every year. Can you categorically say you will	It is true that alongside this proposal, the Council is also taking forward a number of proposals to close small schools, however none of these schools are located in the Bro Hyddgen catchment. The Council has no current plans to make any changes to the provision in Carno, Glantwymyn and Llanbryn-mair.

	<p>not be closing those schools in the Welsh-medium primary federation that includes Carno, Glantwymyn and Llanbryn-mair?</p> <p>Removing dual stream education in Machynlleth could therefore be seen as gifting Powys CC the opportunity to rip the heart out of these rural communities. It will look good on the balance sheet, and I understand that it is a difficult decision, and funding is tight, but that is the effect on these communities. Once these small Welsh schools close, families will of course move nearer to Machynlleth. It's happened so many times all over rural Wales, over generations, and is why these communities are now struggling as 'communities' at all, soon there will be no younger generation in these villages.</p>	
18.7	<p>Powys must NOT close more small schools if their aim is to increase the use of Welsh language in the Dyfi Valley.</p>	<p>The Council has no current plans to make any changes to primary provision in the Dyfi Valley.</p>

19. OTHER OPTIONS

19.1	<p>If it is a case of being so confident that the new school will be full of Welsh medium pupils. Why not repurpose the current primary campus into an English medium school (still under the YBH name). There are currently 5 rooms in the infants settings, and 8 in the juniors. All 157 English medium pupils could be accommodated for, along with new pupils.</p>	<p>The majority of people in the Machynlleth catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision. The Council's aim is to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision, and the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium reflects the choices being made by parents/pupils in the catchment, as well as the Council's aim is to increase access to Welsh-medium provision.</p> <p>The Council has no intention to establish an English-medium school in Machynlleth. Should the Council</p>
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		proceed with the proposal to change Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's language category, pupils / parents would be able to apply for a place in an alternative school which offers English-medium provision, should that be their preference. This is similar to the situation for parents / pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium provision in many areas of Powys where there is currently no Welsh-medium provision.
19.2	It would make much more sense, if the County Council wishes to save money, to close the sixth form at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, which has hardly any pupils.	Following approval of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, the Council has recently been reviewing post-16 provision across Powys. The Council's Cabinet considered a paper outlining the outcome of this work on the 18 th May 2021, when the Council agreed to proceed with the establishment of a new structure for the strategic management of Powys post-16 provision. The Council is now moving forward with implementation of this decision, and has no plans to close the sixth form at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen or any other school.
19.3	We know the financial costs of running a dual stream school has its challenges but maybe instead of disadvantaging children's right to an education, Powys look at the costs of the whole management structure and running of the sixth form before making such a drastic change to the community.	As above. The school's management structure is determined by the school's governing body.
19.4	If small classes are an issue where multiple years are in 1 class, how is this not the same issue for the feeder schools where only 3 classes cover 7 years? These schools even promote this as good learning. If this is the case, perhaps amalgamating these feeder schools into the through school	The Council has no current plans to make any changes to primary provision in the Dyfi Valley.

	would increase class size and this be able to have whole year classes?	
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20. CRITICISM OF POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

20.1 Criticism of Powys County Council's treatment of Machynlleth

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20.1.1	It's clear that Powys County Council has never cared about Machynlleth or its residents, I've lived here all my life and there has just been closure after closure, lack of support for the community almost as if the town is just ignored.	The Council does not accept this statement. Alongside the current proposal to change the school's language category, the Council is continuing to develop plans for a new community campus in Machynlleth to replace the current buildings of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and to provide new community facilities. This will be the first community campus of its kind in Powys with an approved funding envelope of £48,250,369.
20.1.2	This attitude towards Machynlleth must stop, it's time for the town to thrive. It's a sad shell of its former self.	As above.
20.1.3	Mach is famously comically the black sheep of Powys - too close to Gwynedd & Ceredigion and too far from Llandrindod / Brecon / Y Trallwng to even be an issue.	As above.
20.1.4	Powys County Council don't seem to understand or care about the concerns of the local community.	As above.
20.1.5	The super school should help build this brilliant little town up (even will the lack of support from PCC)	As above.

20.1.6	In terms of the community as a whole however, my greatest concern is the precedent this sets in bringing Powys as a County, and Machynlleth in particular into disrepute.	As above.
20.1.7	The people of Bro Ddyfi look forward to being ignored by the Council again	As above.
20.1.8	Machynlleth as a town in the heart of Powys seems to have been forgotten about and the local Council seem content on watching the town sink. You may argue that the current investments in the bypass, town hospital and school contradict by previous sentence but these investments are a necessity and bring no added value to the town.	As above.

20.2 General criticism of the proposal

20.2.1	My biggest objection to the proposal regrettably relates to the use of this subject as a political vehicle. The Council should be very careful about allowing individuals with an agenda to hijack policy and by the time I found out about the proposal (by accident rather than in any official announcements) it had been seized upon by powerful social media forces favouring Welsh independence.	<p>The proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is not being taken forward as 'a political vehicle', neither is the Council allowing 'individuals with an agenda to hijack policy'. The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</p> <p>Information about the proposal was shared with stakeholders in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and a press release was also issued to publicise the consultation.</p>
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20.2.2	I honestly feel this is political and you are playing with our children's live's, future and education.	As above.
20.2.3	I hope this appeals process will help the board understand the true nature of education demand in Dyfi Valley, and prevent our children falling victim to the combination of council points-raising and a personal egos.	As above.
20.2.4	It would seem this proposal before the Council is based on a shortsighted view of education in the 21 century. Shame on those who are promoting it as some kind of nationalism to be proud of. To my mind, it is just the opposite.	<p>The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English, and that the provision reflects the Council's Vision and Guiding Principles for education in Powys, as outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education.</p>
20.2.5	I would also ask what popular mandate the Council has to do this given making the school a Welsh-medium school given none of the Independent or Conservative councillors elected were done so on a pledge to make this change. In its response to the consultation exercise, the Council say its proposal is to ensure all children can grow up bilingually in the area. Well it currently can. Therefore the proposal has no merit based on this argument. However, those elsewhere in Powys do not. Perhaps Cllr Davies should choose Llanidloes High School to be a Welsh-medium school if he is so passionate for spreading the Welsh-medium education – or	<p>The majority of people in the Machynlleth catchment area choose Welsh-medium provision, and the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium reflects this choice.</p> <p>The proposal to change the school's language category is being taken forward by the Council in order to contribute to the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys, which was developed with input from Councillors from a range of political groups, and implementation of the Welsh</p>

	<p>maybe he'd prefer not to deprive local people of choice and because it would be wildly unpopular?</p>	<p>Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy, which has support from all political parties.</p> <p>The Council fully acknowledges that there is a need to improve access to Welsh-medium education in other parts of Powys. The Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 which outlines the Council's plans to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, in order to contribute to the targets outlined in 'Cymraeg 2050'.</p> <p>Alongside the proposal the change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council has also carried out the statutory process to change the language category of Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys from dual stream to Welsh-medium. Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon is located in Cllr Davies' ward.</p>
20.2.6	<p>It would seem that Powys County Council are unilaterally trying to marginalize and paradise their indigenous English speaking residents.</p>	<p>The Council is not 'trying to marginalize and paradise their indigenous English speaking residents'. The Council fully acknowledges the need for English language skills. The aim of the proposal is to ensure that all pupils accessing Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future have the opportunity to be fluent in both languages – Welsh and English.</p>
20.2.7	<p>PCC is recklessly gambling with the lives and futures of these children/students and PHYL Davies and his council should be ashamed.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree with this statement.</p>

20.2.8	I do not feel that Powys County Council have listened or worked with us as a community to set aside our fears and ensure that our children are well looked after.	The Council does not agree with statement. All issues raised in the consultation responses received were considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice. All issues raised in the Objections received will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether to proceed with implementation of the proposal.
20.2.9	We haven't yet seen a strategy from Powys County Council which seeks to abolish the English language being taught, so why remove this provision?!	<p>The Council's priority is to improve access to Welsh-medium provision, and to increase the number of pupils accessing this provision. This is clearly outlined in the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education, and the Council is currently consulting on a new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2022-2032 which outlines the Council's plans to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education in Powys over the next 10 years, in order to contribute to the targets outlined in 'Cymraeg 2050'.</p> <p>There is no strategy to improve access to English-medium provision or to increase the number of pupils accessing English-medium provision. All pupils</p>
20.2.10	It is very sad that PCC seems to have selected Bro Hyddgen as an easy target to establish a designated Welsh-medium all-through/secondary school.	The Council does not agree. The Council's view is that the proposal provides an exciting opportunity for the catchment area to host the Council's first Welsh-medium secondary provider.
20.2.11	As a parent, former educator and concerned resident of nearly 20 years I can think of nothing more absurd than this proposal to eradicate the world's most internationally	The proposal will not 'eradicate the world's most internationally accepted language'. Pupils would

	accepted language both culturally & in business - in what is after all, a bi-lingual community, for what appears to be purely political motives. SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!!!	continue to study English up to at least GCSE level, and would be fluent in both Welsh and English.
20.2.12	I think doing away with English is the most stupid thing I've ever heard.	The Council is not proposing to 'do away with English'. Pupils would continue to study English up to at least GCSE level, and would be fluent in both Welsh and English.
20.2.13	Having read the recent proposal to drop Bro Hyddgen's dual language programme in favour of a Welsh only one strikes me as complete lunacy. As a former teacher in international schools & parent of a pupil I urge the Council to reconsider this misguided proposal.	The Council does not agree that the proposal is 'complete lunacy'. However, all points raised in the Objections received will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.
20.2.14	This whole proposal is a sick joke.	The proposal is not 'a sick joke'.
20.2.15	It should not be all about money but about the best outcome for all our children.	The proposal is not 'all about money'. The aim of the proposal is to provide the opportunity for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to become bilingual, fluent in Welsh and English.
20.2.16	I feel young people are the innocent pawns in some blinkered social engineering experiment, which is doomed to fail.	This is not a 'blinkered social engineering experiment'. Many pupils across Wales access Welsh-medium schools at both primary and secondary level.
20.2.17	Within the document you outline how the change is enabling the local authority to meet one of its targets - one aim of which is to ' <i>move schools along the language continuum</i> '. That reveals yet again that this is not based on what is best for the children, or the specific community here, but neatly helps Powys CC out of a tight spot and is good PR.	The reasons for the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are outlined in the Consultation Document which was published. The reasons for the proposal are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • '<i>To improve educational outcomes</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed language classes in the secondary phase</i>○ <i>Children would no longer be taught in mixed age classes in the primary phase</i>○ <i>There will be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally</i>● <i>To improve educational provision</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils</i>○ <i>Having one language stream would make it easier to track and target the progress of pupils and their well-being</i>● <i>To improve leadership and management</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>The school's management team could work more efficiently</i>● <i>To improve efficiency in the delivery of education</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff and resources</i>● <i>To increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education</i>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>More pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.'</i> <p>Meeting the Council's aim to 'move schools along the language continuum' is not one of the reasons identified.</p>
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20.3 Other criticisms of Powys County Council

20.3.1	You are short staffed in hospitals due to negligent teaching practices within your schools, poor exam results are a direct result of spending up to 60% of their schooling on learning Welsh.	Pupils do not spend 'up to 60% of their schooling on learning Welsh'.
20.3.2	Powys Council should be focussed on increasing educational standards and outputs (especially considering Wales' dire PISA rankings) rather than this social engineering. The Machynlleth area is completely capable of growing the Welsh language without this imposition, demonstrated in its relatively high level of Welsh proficiency.	The Council's priority is to provide the best possible educational opportunities to all Powys pupils to enable them to achieve educational of the highest possible quality.
20.3.3	Powys as a County is severely underfunded, underdeveloped and seems completely out of touch and disjointed compared to other counties.	Comment noted, however this is not relevant to the proposal to change the language category at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
20.3.4	The Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy sets out objectives for tackling child poverty. Continued focus and investment in what we know works in tackling poverty using	The Council is committed to tackling child poverty. Implementation of the proposal would ensure that all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would access the

	<p>the levers available to us is vital. This includes continuing to strengthen families and communities through our early intervention and prevention programmes Flying Start and Families First, further developing an Early Childhood Care and Education system, improving employability and creating secure, fair work, including promoting the Welsh Living Wage. Are Powys County Council committed to this???</p>	<p>same provision, and would have the opportunity to be fluent in Welsh and English.</p>
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21. CRITICISM OF WELSH GOVERNMENT

21.1	<p>The WG has set a deliberately low bar so they can claim their Welsh language policy is a success and there's been a significant upturn in those speaking, reading, and writing it.</p>	<p>The Council does not agree with this statement. The Welsh Government has set an ambitious target to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050. All local authorities are required to set targets to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium provision in order to contribute to achieving this target.</p>
21.2	<p>WAG and all Welsh Local Authorities should instead be perusing policies across all their remits promoting inclusiveness, choice and opportunity in both English and Welsh.</p>	<p>The aim of the proposal is to promote inclusiveness, choice and opportunity in both and Welsh by ensuring that all learners attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have the opportunity to be fluent in both languages.</p>
21.3	<p>I resent the time, expense and resources already spent and continually being spent by WAG and Welsh Local Authorities in their attempts to exclude English and promote Welsh as the nation's main language.</p>	<p>Wales has two official languages, Welsh and English. Both are used by the Welsh Government and local authorities. The aim of the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is to ensure that all learners attending the school have the opportunity to be fluent in both of these languages, ensuring that they are able to use both languages in their future careers.</p>

21.4	WAG seems to have a policy of forcing pupils toward only Welsh universities, limiting their education, limiting their job prospects, limiting their prospects in life - all in an attempt to promote the Welsh language. It is shameful.	It is not true that the Welsh Government has any intention to limit the education, job prospects or life prospects of pupils.
21.5	I believe that the proposal to turn Ysgol Bro Hyddgen into a Welsh medium school is motivated by the Welsh government needing a Welsh medium school in Powys to balance some statistics.	The proposal is not 'motivated by the Welsh government needing a Welsh medium school in Powys to balance some statistics'. The proposal is being taken forward by the Council in order to implement its Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

22. COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROCESS

22.1 Criticism that the process has been carried out during the Covid pandemic

22.1.1	The consultation was held quietly in the midst of Covid Lockdowns, which will have prevented proper discussion among parents.	<p>The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.</p> <p>As required by the School Organisation Code, information about the consultation was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, staff and governors at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, parents of pupils attending feeder schools, early years providers and</p>
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		<p>community councils. Information was also shared with the local press.</p> <p>There is no requirement for public meetings to take place as part of consultation processes – as indicated on page 26 of the School Organisation Code, ‘There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings...’</p> <p>Nearly 500 consultation responses were received to the consultation, which suggests that people in the local area were aware that the consultation was ongoing and how to respond.</p> <p>There has also been a further opportunity for people to let the Council know if they don’t agree with the proposal during the Objection Period. 258 objections were received to the Statutory Notice, suggesting that people were aware that the process was ongoing.</p>
22.1.2	The Consultation period for the proposed change took place from 8/12/20 – 26/01/21 online only with no public/wider community meetings. Therefore, anyone without access to the internet or competency in the use of the internet was not able to engage fully with the proposal. Therefore, the results from this consultation period are not a full representation of the community that will be affected by the change.	As above.
22.1.3	The Consultation period for the proposed change took place from 8/12/20 – 26/01/21 most of this time the country was either in lockdown due to a pandemic or the council was on Christmas break. Again, reducing the time that the community	As above.

	could fully engage with the consultation or have any queries/questions answered by Powys County Council.	
22.1.4	My first query in regard to the consultation period would be was it carried out in a fair and just way. It was conducted at a very difficult time for parents of young children, it was during a period of lockdown , opening and threatened further lockdown. It was carried out online -in an area that is renowned for poor broadband and internet activity.	As above.
22.1.5	An online survey conducted over the Christmas period in a lockdown is hardly going to gain a representative view of the the families of children most affected by the change in provision. Many families did not know there was a consultation taking place.	As above.
22.1.6	The timing of the consultation has made it almost impossible for proper engagement and discussion to take place suggesting that this was a deliberate ploy by the local authority which would not bode well in a legal environment	As above.
22.1.7	I am also very concerned that the consultation document was released during the second wave of the pandemic, when the children were not in school, and that it was not publicised among parents. Parents of children who are due to be affected by the changes this coming September were not informed of the consultation and were unaware of the proposals.	As above.
22.1.8	The consultation process has so far been hidden under the radar as the whole community sits in Lock down. This is a very sneaky way to operate. We don't feel that we have been	As above.

	consulted with until the process has reached this level. PCC need to operate in a more transparent way moving forward.	
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22.2 Suggestion that people didn't know that the consultation was taking place

22.2.1	I understand that Powys County Council have worked through their 'consultation process' and consider that they have completed so far satisfactorily. From a local parents perspective I want you to know that myself and many others don't feel they have been consulted at all.	<p>The consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. Nearly 500 consultation responses have been received. The issues raised in the consultation responses were considered by the Council's Cabinet before deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p> <p>There has also been a further opportunity for people to let the Council know if they don't agree with the proposal during the Objection Period. 258 objections have been received to the Statutory Notice, suggesting that people were aware that the process was ongoing. Again, the issues raised in the Objections will be considered by the Council's Cabinet before deciding whether or not to proceed with implementation of the proposal.</p>
22.2.2	There's been no adequate public consultation. Most of us have only heard of it anecdotally, which in itself must be unlawful.	As above.
22.2.3	There is a feeling that this strategy has been rushed through under the noses of the entire community whilst we have all been locked down at home. This is unfair, unjust and absolutely disgusting.	As above.

22.2.4	This decision has been rushed without proper consultation of the Machynlleth people. It's a joke, you don't make big changes like that without doing it properly.	As above.
22.2.5	I really think more information should have been given to our community before such a drastic proposal was made, instead of keeping everyone in the dark!	As above.
22.2.6	I've read Powys County Council have been completing a consultation for months. Who exactly has been consulted with? I ask this because if you haven't spoken to actual parents of the actual children who will ultimately bear the consequence of such changes then I feel your consultation so far to be worthless.	As required by the School Organisation Code, information about the consultation was distributed to a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, staff and governors at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, parents of pupils attending feeder schools, early years providers and community councils. Information was also shared with the local press.
22.2.7	There has been little published information on how this decision has been made without the consideration or contact made with existing parents, prospective parents or those in the local area who will be disadvantaged when something so basic as standard schooling is taken away with no reasonable excuse to explain why.	As above.

22.3 Concerns that the consultation was an 'open' consultation

22.3.1	The way in which this consultation has been carried out has been of great concern to the community of Machynlleth. PCC's decision to conduct an 'open consultation' was totally inappropriate. Anyone could access PCC's website and respond. The whole process was anonymous and there were real concerns within our community that people could respond	All consultations carried out on school reorganisation proposals are 'open' consultations. As indicated on Page 5 of the Consultation Report, 60.91% of respondents to the consultation response form indicated that they were associated with Ysgol Bro
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	multiple times. This method of consultation obviously provides opportunities for some to abuse the whole consultation process.	Hyddgen with another 22.05% indicating that they were associated with the Glantwymyn, Llanbrynmair, Carno Federation. 71.13% of those that responded had Machynlleth postcodes. This suggests that the majority of those that responded to the consultation were from the Machynlleth area.
22.3.2	Apparently the response to the consultation was 61% in favour. But out of that 61% who were local or with strong connections to the area? Indeed the majority of the local people did not even know there was a consultation!! Were some of the responses to the consultation from people who wanted to address their own agendas rather than considering the future of the children of Machynlleth?	As above.
22.3.3	Why was the consultation held online and open to all – This was shared widely around north wales – Welsh language and extremist facebook sites – This is not the towns peoples view.	As above.
22.3.4	The consultation was open to anyone we have no idea how many in fact responded from afar. A more fair and informative way would've been for Powys to send out a code to each household in the catchment area.	As above.
22.3.5	Surely school consultations such as this should only be accessible to those who live in the areas concerned and to those who will be directly affected by it. When ESTYN seek the views of parents during inspections, only relevant parents and pupils are provided with access to their site.	As above.
22.3.6	This consultation is of huge significance to the community of Machynlleth. I am deeply concerned that 'anyone' was able to	As above.

	<p>contribute. I was also concerned with the consultation forms – the forms were anonymous and respondents could choose whether or not to provide their postcode. So, how would you know, for example, if anyone completed the form multiple times? How would you know if they actually were, for example, a parent? The consultation methods raise many questions about the transparency of this process.</p>	<p>The consultation response software allows the Council to filter any duplicate responses. A total of 29 responses were identified.</p>
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22.4 Comments about petitions

22.4.1	<p>I do not feel that the consultation poll was representative of the community's feeling especially since there are petitions with far more signatures than the responses collected during the consultation.</p>	<p>As indicated on Page 5 of the Consultation Report, 60.91% of respondents were associated with Ysgol Bro Hyddgen and 80.22% of respondents were either parent, carers or guardians, prospective parents, carers or guardians or members of the community.</p> <p>However, the consultation exercise was not a vote – in addition to the qualitative information, all issues raised in the consultation responses were considered by Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the proposal.</p>
22.4.2	<p>A petition was set up locally to object to the proposal. To date this has collected 1200 signatures.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
	<p>It is clear that the majority of people from Machynlleth oppose this proposal. 1,219 people have signed the petition to maintain the dual stream.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
22.4.3	<p>Parents have acquired over 1200 signatures on a petition and have demonstrated, in the plainest way possible, that removal</p>	<p>As above.</p>

	of the English stream is not an option that the community supports or, in point of fact, needs.	
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22.5 Comments about consultation meetings

22.5.1	For real consultation there needs to be public exhibition(s) and meetings in the whole school catchment area.	There is no requirement for public meetings to take place as part of consultation processes – as indicated on page 26 of the School Organisation Code, <i>‘There is no requirement for proposers to hold consultation meetings...’</i> .
22.5.2	There has been a lack of town meetings and engagement within the community due to this decision.	As above.
22.5.3	The community did not have an opportunity to question the proceedings through a public meeting.	As above.
22.5.4	There has been a noticeable lack of full, open and free public engagement to this proposal. Can you please advise me what public engagement events, fully publicised and available in both Welsh and English as per the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993, have been held in the catchment area of the school? Can you please provide copies of the publicity used to advertise this public engagement event/s and advise where these were posted.	As above.

22.6 Comments about consultation with pupils

22.6.1	I feel it doesn't take in consideration the child's voice - they need to be listened to.	A child version and young people's version of the document was also published, which provides information about the consultation in a simpler format. This was available to pupils throughout the consultation period, and provided information about how pupils could respond to the consultation. In addition, a meeting was held with pupils during the consultation period. Comments received from pupils were highlighted in the Consultation Report, ensuring that the Cabinet was aware of these comments when determining how to proceed.
22.6.2	Moreover it completely ignores the needs and options of young people who seem not to have a voice in this matter.	As above.
22.6.3	Have the children been asked? they are the ones that will suffer.	As above.
22.6.4	PCC did not make any attempt to consider other ways to engage with the pupils. For example, virtual child friendly consultation meetings, virtual drop-in sessions or online forums with wider groups of pupils.	As above.
22.6.5	Proposers must ensure learners' views are captured and considered as part of the consultation process. Surely the views of 12 pupils cannot be considered as an adequate response?	As above.
22.6.6	As far as I am aware, there has been no formal or systematic attempt to consult with the children themselves, either those who currently attend the school, or those who will in future.	As above.

22.6.7	It also worries me that this policy has been made without consulting any children, purely to satisfy an adult agenda of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in Wales.	As above.
22.6.8	The first consultation decision was based on a poll of just over 400 people and a mere 15 students from the school, hardly representative.	As above.
22.6.9	I do not feel that the process of consulting with pupils has been adequate or fair - too few pupils have been consulted with and all consultation has taken place under supervision.	As above. It is true that the meeting with pupils took place 'under supervision', with staff from the Council and the school in attendance. This is usual practice when meeting with pupils to ensure pupil well-being. As well as the meetings, a child version and young people's version of the document was also published, which provides information about the consultation in a simpler format. This was available to pupils throughout the consultation period, and provided information about how pupils could respond to the consultation, therefore pupils were free to respond independently to the consultation.
22.6.10	Powys County Council met online with 15 pupils (out of 477) how were these 15 pupils selected?	Arrangements for identifying pupils to meet with the Council were made by Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
22.6.11	The minutes of the primary meeting state: <i>The session was held with 3 pupils from the school council. The group were all in years 4 – 6.</i> There are 82 pupils in years 4 – 6 so it quite surprising to see that only 3 pupils were part of this process! In comparison, during a recent consultation in Dyffryn Trannon, virtual meetings were held with pupils from both the	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all-through school. The original intention was to hold one meeting with pupils from the school, to include pupils from the primary and secondary phases. Prior to the meeting, it was agreed that the Council would meet with the primary pupils separately to provide a better opportunity for them to let the Council know their views.

	<p>English stream and the Welsh stream and pupils from year 1 – 6 took part.</p> <p>Do you think that 3 pupils is adequate in order to gauge the views and opinions of the primary phase?</p>	<p>The meeting with pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen took place whilst pupils were learning remotely, whilst the meeting with pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon took place when they were in school together. This meant that it was easier for the Council to speak individually to the pupils that were present in the meeting with Ysgol Bro Hyddgen pupils, therefore it was necessary to meet separately with pupils from the Welsh stream and the English stream.</p>
22.6.12	<p>The session was held with 12 pupils from the Secondary Phase School Council. This is the only meeting with pupils that has taken place during this consultation. So, out of the 312 secondary pupils, a very small percentage of pupil were consulted.</p>	<p>This is similar to the usual ratio of pupils attending the meeting to pupils at the school for such meetings – 10 pupils attended the consultation meeting with pupils at Caereinion High School out of 459 pupils, and 12 pupils attended the consultation meeting with pupils at Llanfyllin High School out of 695 pupils.</p>
22.6.13	<p>Some secondary school pupils have even commented that they were not aware that a School Council had been elected this year - so are the minutes correct? If they were not representatives from the School Council, how were these pupils selected and by whom?</p>	<p>The arrangements for the meetings with pupils were made by the school.</p>
22.6.14	<p>In both meetings, members of the school's SLT were present. The Consultation reports for other recent consultations (Dyffryn Trannon and Llanfair Caereinion) do not indicate that school staff were present.</p> <p>Do you think pupils would be comfortable about expressing their opinions with the SLT present? Why were school staff</p>	<p>It is the Council's procedure when conducting pupil consultation meetings that staff from the school remain in the room to assist with the discussion and dissemination of information, and to ensure pupil well-being. Staff were also present at the meetings with pupils at Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon and Llanfair Caereinion.</p>

	present during these meetings with pupils at Bro Hyddgen? Is this appropriate?	
22.6.15	It was also noted that there were 5 adults present during this meeting (3 from PCC and 2 members of staff from the SLT). Do you think this ratio of adults to children was appropriate in a meeting where children should be free to give their views and opinions?	The number of adults present is broadly in-line with the number of adults usually present at such meetings. The meeting with pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen was held whilst pupils were learning remotely, therefore the arrangements were slightly different than usual, therefore two members of the school's SLT were in attendance.

22.7 Comments about previous consultations

22.7.1	We fought against this three years ago and won because we could have a proper consultation for everyone to attend.	No formal consultation has previously been carried out on the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
22.7.2	It was 10 years ago when PCC visited our school with a consultation company to gauge the feelings of the community in relation to a Welsh medium school, the findings were that the community was happy with the dual stream status, it met the needs of the community. PCC accepted this and no further actions were taken.	As above.
22.7.3	Our community does not want this change we have said this on 3 occasions in the last 10 years but you fail to hear and listen! Instead of changing the approach and consulting in an unfair way, listen to us residents! We welcome a bilingual dual stream school that allows every member of our community to access an education that meets their needs!	As above.

22.7.4	There have been many consultations over the years where County has reaffirmed the position of dual stream secondary provision in the Dyfi Valley.	As above.
22.7.5	A few years ago, you announced that YBH would change to a Welsh Medium School the following year. That year disgruntled parents decided to enrol their kids in English schools in Aberystwyth. YBH lost pupils that would have enrolled in the English stream.	As above.
22.7.6	As we are all aware, this isn't the first time this proposal has been made. It has been met with the same passion of objection by parents, and the wider community alike, time and time again. For every time the proposal has been made, there has been no attempt by Powys County Council to deliver on anything that would have made such a transition more accepted. immersion centres, Welsh lessons etc.	As above.
22.7.7	I wish to express my opposition to the language category changes that have been proposed at this school. Think this is the third time that these changes have been discussed, and I've yet to hear a convincing case for its acceptance.	As above.
22.7.8	It is with great disappointment that, yet again, I am writing to Powys County Council to convey my anger and frustration about your proposal to start a consultation to change the language provision at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. I attended the initial consultation several years ago when PCC proposed the merger of the town's two schools. The people of the Dyfi valley were clearly told by PCC that by accepting the proposal to establish a new 4 – 18 school in Machynlleth this would ensure the future of dual stream provision in the town.	As above.

	<p>However, we were astounded that in 2015 and again in 2018, we again had to fight against reorganisation of the school to a category 2A school. On each occasion, the community spoke very loudly and clearly against the proposals. So I am flabbergasted that two years on we find ourselves in this situation again. The views of the community have not changed and it clearly shows that PCC do not listen at a local level and have been disingenuous about the assurances they made to our community.</p>	
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22.8 Comments about Scrutiny / Cabinet meetings

22.8.1	<p>During the Cabinet meeting (Tuesday May 18th), Councillor Pete Roberts addressed the Cabinet and asked about the number of pupils moving between Welsh medium and English medium streams. Scrutiny's recommendation was that the Cabinet be provided with accurate figures for numbers moving between English medium and Welsh medium streams. In the minutes provided, the following was recorded: <i>Accept – information has been requested directly from the school on 13/05/21 in readiness for the Cabinet meeting 18/05/21.</i> However, the response given was 'the school advised that the numbers were low'. Surely, this cannot be considered as an adequate response? No figures were presented yet again.</p>	<p>The information received from the school indicated that one or two pupils usually move to the English stream between KS2 and KS3. The school advised that hardly any children move from the Welsh stream to the English stream between KS3 and KS4, however some ask to study Science and Maths in English.</p>
22.8.2	<p>Is Councillor Pete Roberts satisfied with the response provided during the Cabinet meeting on May 18th?</p>	<p>Councillor Pete Roberts attended the Cabinet meeting held on the 18th May 2021, and has not requested any further information following the meeting.</p>

22.8.3	Has the Cabinet provided a written response to the scrutiny report?	The response to Scrutiny's recommendations was attached as an Appendix with the Cabinet papers considered on the 18 th May 2021.
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22.9 Other comments

22.9.1	We implore Powys CC to reconsider their proposal, and at a minimum undertake a meaningful consultation process before imposing single stream education on Machynlleth.	The consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).
22.9.2	Beyond this, the Council's consultation exercise was so limited, it cannot be considered to have been a proper consultation, taking place over just 6 weeks – as opposed to the 12 recommended by both the UK Government and Welsh Parliament – which included Christmas and another coronavirus-related lockdown. Was there a reason why the Council chose this questionable timeframe?	<p>The Council has been developing its Strategy for Transforming Education since Estyn's inspection of Powys Education Services in 2019. Whilst acknowledging that it would have been preferable for the consultation process to have taken place at a time when there wasn't a global pandemic, the consultation has been carried out in line with Welsh Government requirements.</p> <p>The Welsh Government's requirement, as outlined in the School Organisation Code, is that consultation is carried out over a minimum of 6 weeks – as indicated in the Code, '<i>...consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days...</i>'</p>
22.9.3	A letter sent home with school children was MISLEADING as it stated there would be a consultation about a BILINGUAL education!	The Council has been clear in all documentation issued as part of this process that the proposal is to change the school's language category from dual stream to Welsh-medium.

22.9.3	Has Ceredigion and Gwynedd been consulted in relation to the increased burden of provision that this proposal will inevitably cause?	Gwynedd and Ceredigion Council's were notified of the Council's proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.
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23. COMMENTS ABOUT DOCUMENTATION

23.1 Consultation Document

23.1.1	The document places great emphasis on the positives but kicks all of the potential negatives into the long grass, and this is natural to an extent due to the change of category being the preferred option of the Council. To publish a document so riddled with bias is poor.	The consultation document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. The consultation document was written from the Council's perspective, however the Council does not agree that the document was 'riddled with bias'.
23.1.2	'It is suggested that a Welsh-medium all-age school would provide better opportunities to support pupils in vulnerable groups.' Suggested by whom? Everything is 'suggested' by PCC to Estyn in the report, it is also 'anticipated'. This only confirms the suspicion that these are just suggestions/ideas of those in PCC that are driving this change, not based on any research or data, but rather something that is 'hoped' for, without any research in the area.	As the proposal has not been implemented, the Council can only use terms such as 'suggested' and 'anticipated'.
23.1.3	Noted in the document is a fact that primary pupils are taught in small classes with a high number of year groups in each class, and this is seen as a negative. This is however exactly the situation in all the small primary schools across Powys, many of which are among the best performing in Wales.	Alongside the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, the Council is also consulting on proposals relating to small primary schools across the county. The high number of year groups in each class is one of the challenges facing the schools identified in these proposals.

23.1.4	You report that primary pupils are taught in small classes, with a high number of year groups in each class. This is no different to the situation in many small primary school across the county. Your data shows that there are 52 English-medium primary pupils at YBH. Carno has only 43 pupils and Llanbrynmair and Glantwymyn have 61 and 63 respectively. I therefore cannot see how this is considered a greater challenge to YBH than to these other feeder schools.	As above.
23.1.5	<i>'The school is located in a traditionally Welsh speaking area'</i> Yet 62% of pupils come from non-Welsh speaking homes, and the majority put their children into the Welsh stream.	<p>Machynlleth is widely regarded as a traditionally Welsh speaking area. Compared with the rest of Powys, a high proportion of the population can understand Welsh.</p> <p>According to the 2011 Census, a majority of people in the Machynlleth LSOA can either speak or understand Welsh as indicated below:³</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39% can speak, read and write Welsh • 8% can speak but cannot read Welsh • 12% can understand spoken Welsh only • 8% other combination of skills • 33% no Welsh skills <p>The figures for the Glantwymyn LSOA are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51% can speak, read and write Welsh • 5% can speak but cannot read Welsh • 6% can understand spoken Welsh only • 5% other combination of skills • 34% no Welsh skills

³ Census 2011 – Welsh Language Skills by LSOA (Office for National Statistics via the Powys Wellbeing Information Bank)

23.1.6	Where are the published consultation documents?	The consultation documentation was available on the Council's website throughout the consultation period. Copies can be obtained from the Transforming Education Team via email school.organisation@powys.gov.uk or via telephone 01597 826618.
23.1.7	<p>Why did the Consultation Document not include additional data to show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actual number of pupils studying all subjects in Welsh and the number studying all or some subjects in English at KS3. For example, my child is a Year 9 Welsh-medium pupil but undertakes all other subjects in English. • The number of pupils entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) and entered for at least two further qualifications through the medium of Welsh. • The number of pupils entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) and entered for 5 or more qualifications through the medium of Welsh. • The actual number of learners in Years 12 and 13 who study subjects through either English or Welsh. 	The data included in the Consultation Document is in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2018).
23.1.8	Do you feel that adequate information/data was provided during this consultation?	As above.
23.1.9	There has been no data provided to show the high number of Welsh-medium pupils currently accessing English medium provision. The language change being proposed will not only affect English medium pupils but all those Welsh-medium	The Consultation Document included information about actual pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium and English-medium streams at the time, as provided by the school.

	pupils currently accessing English-medium provision. Surely PCC should have included this data in the Consultation Document as it is pivotal when considering such a significant language change.	<p>The proposal is to introduce the change to the school's language category on a phased basis, therefore pupils currently accessing English-medium provision at the school would be able to continue to do so.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p>
23.1.10	The report is also misleading as it does not represent the number of students moving from Welsh to English stream for secondary schooling.	As above.
23.1.11	I also do not feel the figures provided in the consultation documents gave a clear and accurate picture of pupils accessing an English medium education at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.	As above.
23.1.12	There needs to be scrutiny around <u>the reported numbers</u> of children who are actually receiving their education fully through the medium of Welsh. The number of children that wish to or do transfer to the English stream for exams is grossly under reported.	As above.
23.1.13	Your figures for Children attending English stream are wrong.	As above.

	There has been speculation about the number of parents choosing to send their children to the Welsh stream classes at the school. I wish to have these figures clarified more clearly.	As above.
23.1.14	I also understand there are discrepancies in figures of children who have moved from the Welsh stream to the English stream over the years at both sites, this showing incorrect figures of the need for a dual stream education here at Machynlleth.	As above.
23.1.15	Do you agree that there has been a lack of acknowledgement of the difference between pupils studying Welsh First Language (which is high) and pupils studying other subjects through the medium of Welsh (which is lower)?	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that there is a difference between pupils studying Welsh First Language and pupils studying other subjects through the medium of Welsh, and that some pupils that study Welsh First Language and study some subjects in Welsh may study other subjects in English.</p> <p>The statutory notice published in respect of the proposal to change the school's language category states that the intention is that the language category of the secondary phase would be Category 2A. This category does allow for some subjects to be taught in English in the secondary phase, therefore some subjects could still be taught in English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal to change the school's language category.</p>
23.1.16	The consultation document was so wordy parents felt disenfranchised	The consultation document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, however the Council notes that the content which must be included is complex. A child

		version and young people's version of the document was also published, which provides information about the consultation in a simpler format.
23.1.17	Consultation should never have been done how it was. It was really difficult to understand.	As above.
23.1.18	The consultation on which the decision was made was flawed and confusingly worded.	<p>The consultation documentation published as part of this proposal is very clear that the proposal being consulted on is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.</i> • <i>This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.</i>
23.1.19	I don't feel that I was able to engage in the original consultation, I don't think that the proposals were made clear and I was surprised when I found out that the actual proposal was to remove the dual stream altogether.	<p>The consultation documentation published as part of this proposal is very clear that the proposal being consulted on is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.</i> • <i>This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.</i> <p>Nearly 500 consultation responses were received, which suggests that people in the local area were aware of the consultation and felt able to engage.</p>

23.2 Impact Assessments

23.2.1	<p>At a cost to their sense of place in the town in which they live and with huge negative impact on their wellbeing thereby ignoring both the Welsh Government Wellbeing and Future Generations Act a legal requirement that Powys County Council must to adhere to and the United Nations Right of a Child.</p>	<p>As part of the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment, the Council assesses the impact of the proposal against other factors including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Socio-economic Duty. The impact assessment also considers the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The impact assessment will be updated to reflect the Objections received, and an updated version will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.</p>
23.2.2	<p>You do have to question the whole process of this consultation. When the consultation documents were first presented PCC produced its 'Draft Impact Assessments'. Throughout this assessment there was not a single area assessed as potentially having a 'Negative' impact. Even when acknowledging that this proposal 'could lead to tensions and disagreements' and when commenting 'there could be a negative impact on pupils moving from outside the area/outside Wales. In particular this could mean that secondary aged pupils moving to the area would attend English-medium provision in alternative locations' – this was categorised as 'Moderate' impact! Here is an acknowledgement by the authority of the limitations of immersion provisions at the secondary stage. There seems to be a real lack of understanding of the genuine concerns of local parents and the community.</p>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges the general concerns of local parents and the community. The Council is proposing to implement the proposal on a phased basis in order to mitigate these concerns and minimise the impact on current pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.</p> <p>The impact assessment document is reviewed throughout the process to reflect feedback received during the process. The document will be further updated to reflect the Objections received, and an updated version will be considered by the Council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed in respect of this proposal.</p>

23.2.3	Where is your Child Impact Assessment, has one been carried out and why hasn't it been published?	The Council is not required to carry out a specific Child Impact Assessment. As part of the Council's Integrated Impact Assessment, the Council assesses the impact of the proposal against other factors including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Socio-economic Duty and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
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23.3 Consultation Report

23.3.1	There is a section in the Consultation Report with the sub-title: 'Some subjects should be available in English'. Respondents have specifically asked about subjects such as Maths and the Sciences being taught in English. The comments provided by the local authority do not give any indication that these subjects may be delivered bilingual (as in Bilingual 2A). The comments continuously refer to teaching these subjects through the medium of Welsh.	<p>The Council would hope that pupils taught through the medium of Welsh would continue to study all subjects through the medium of Welsh in the secondary phase, including Maths and Science. However, it is acknowledged that some pupils choose to study these subjects in English for a number of reasons.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that the Council proposes the following:-</p> <p>'To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.'</p> <p>The Notice goes on to describe the proposed new language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen following full implementation of the proposal, as defined by the Welsh Government information document on 'Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision'. Here, the Council specifies that the provision would be as follows:</p>
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		<p>'Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1) Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)'</p> <p>Whilst the provision in the school's secondary phase would be category 2A provision, which does allow for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils, the school would still be a single stream Welsh-medium school, with all pupils studying through the medium of Welsh.</p>
23.3.2	Llanidloes is a dual stream school and consistently one the highest ranked in Wales, so the argument that a dual stream negatively affects outcomes (repeatedly claimed in the Consultation Report) is totally flawed from the start. To therefore use this as a basis for any change is duplicitous at best.	The Consultation Report does not say that 'a dual stream negatively affects outcomes'. The Consultation Report states that changing the school's language category would provide an opportunity to improve outcomes at the school.

23.4 References to the Statutory Notice

23.4.1	As you know Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is an all through school from age 5 till A level. So why does the statutory notice say all welsh medium for the primary campus and 2a for the secondary campus.	The Welsh Government's guidance document 'Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision' ⁴ does not provide categories for all-through schools, therefore separate categories have been provided for the primary and secondary phases which reflect the guidance document.
23.4.2	When the consultation started, there was a great deal of discussion and ambiguity as to the language category that was being proposed. Some believed the school would be	As above.

⁴ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/defining-schools-according-to-welsh-medium-provision.pdf>

	<p>Welsh-medium and others understood it would be bilingual. As a result, I emailed PCC in December to ask for clarity. I received a reply from an officer who confirmed that the proposal was to change the language category to Welsh-medium, and also provided further clarity by defining the Welsh-medium category as defined by the Welsh Government. In this email, there was no mention at all of the Bilingual Category 2A. There was also no reference at all that the primary and secondary phase would have a different language category.</p>	<p>In a 'category 2A' school, all pupils are taught through the medium of Welsh, however there is the opportunity for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils. Many schools which are traditionally considered 'Welsh-medium secondary schools' are in fact 'category 2A' schools.</p>
23.4.3	<p>The consultation was based on the proposal to change the language category to Welsh-medium. At no point was Bilingual Category 2A discussed or mentioned. Neither was it ever communicated that the primary and secondary phase would have a different language category. I do not understand how PCC can publish a statutory notice to change the language category of a school to a category that was not proposed or consulted on. This would imply that the whole consultation process was pointless and not relevant or compatible with the statutory notice. Surely, as a result, this proposal cannot go ahead.</p>	<p>As above. The consultation was on a proposal to change the language category from 'dual stream' to 'Welsh-medium', however no reference was made to the proposed category of the new school as outlined in the Welsh Government's guidance document on 'Defining schools according to Welsh-medium provision.'</p> <p>The School Organisation Code (2018) requires local authorities to refer to the Welsh language categories in any Statutory Notices published, therefore this information was included in the Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal.</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that the Council proposes the following:-</p> <p>'To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.'</p>

		<p>The Notice goes on to describe the proposed new language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen following full implementation of the proposal, as defined by the Welsh Government information document on 'Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision'. Here, the Council specifies that the provision would be as follows:</p> <p>'Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1) Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)'</p> <p>Whilst the provision in the school's secondary phase would be category 2A provision, which does allow for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils, the school would still be a single stream Welsh-medium school, with all pupils studying through the medium of Welsh.</p>
23.4.4	I am very confused the Consultation said it will be an all Welsh medium school.	As above.
23.4.5	Now you have announced that you will change from a 'Dual medium school' to a 'Bilingual school taught through the medium of Welsh'.	<p>The Council has not announced that the school will become a 'Bilingual school taught through the medium of Welsh.'</p> <p>The Statutory Notice published in respect of this proposal states that the Council proposes the following:-</p> <p>'To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8DR from Dual Stream to Welsh-medium.'</p>

		<p>The Notice goes on to describe the proposed new language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen following full implementation of the proposal, as defined by the Welsh Government information document on 'Defining Schools According to Welsh medium Provision'. Here, the Council specifies that the provision would be as follows:</p> <p>'Primary Phase – Welsh-medium (Category 1) Secondary Phase – Bilingual (Category 2A)'</p> <p>Whilst the provision in the school's secondary phase would be category 2A provision, which does allow for some subjects to be taught in English to some pupils, the school would still be a single stream Welsh-medium school, with all pupils studying through the medium of Welsh.</p>
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24. COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSAL

24.1	I support the proposals to strengthen the Welsh language and to raise its status for the benefit of all pupils in a future Wales.	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.2	I am in full support of Machynlleth school become a Welsh only school and look forward to sending my little one there when he is old enough.	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.3	I support the establishment of a Welsh-medium school in Bro Ddyfi. Why should children lose the opportunity of having Welsh-medium education? Other areas in Wales are establishing secondary schools to meet the demand for	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.

	Welsh-medium education, such as in Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Newport and Cardiff. I hope that the school will be able to change its language status soon, as our children are our future. Our children are our future in order to protect and sustain the Welsh language. As the old saying goes “A country without language, is not a nation”.	
24.4	I am a parent and resident of Machynlleth, and it is expected that my daughter will attend Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in coming years. I am supportive of the change to Welsh-only, as I want to ensure that my daughter grows up in a vibrant and cohesive Welsh-language community. This has become particularly urgent since the consultation with the ongoing crisis over housing which threatens mid- and north Wales communities, particularly Welsh-speaking communities	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.5	I have previously contributed to the initial consultation regarding the conversion of Bro Hyddgen to a Welsh-stream school and am in full support of this measure!	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.6	I understand that there is also a great deal of support in Machynlleth to back the proposal and I am well aware how many think that total immersion in the Welsh language is good for a child's brain and indeed in my own children's case there have been no problems.	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.
24.7	I would also like to comment on the level of objection that has been locally in Machynlleth, in many cases undertaken by people with no direct interest in the school and no children, and in many other cases there are very public objections to the proposals that are based on misinformation. I therefore urge you to consider very carefully whether the objections you	The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.

	<p>receive are based on fact or misinformation and to reject those not based in fact. I know of many parents with children currently in the school who are objecting based on the impact it will have on their children already in the school - when in reality, the proposals will only affect pupils who start in the system as of 2023 (i.e. any children currently in the school system in 2021 will be unaffected by the proposals for the remainder of their time in the school).</p>	
24.8	<p>As a parent who will send her daughter to Bro Hyddgen in a few years time, I am angry at seeing the concerted efforts of people who try to stop the conversion of Bro Hyddgen from dual-stream to Welsh-stream. I am an immigrant in this country and made the effort to learn Welsh in order to reap the benefit of fitting in with all aspects that life in Wales has to offer, this includes participating in Welsh-language events such as the National Eisteddfod, local music gigs, talks or the Mari Lwyd. My life would be poorer if I wasn't able to enjoy these events for lack of understanding what is going on. An entire window of culture and community life would be shut to me.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.9	<p>My wife and I are also immigrants, and I have been particularly annoyed by the argument of the petition against the change of language status that English-speaking children will be disadvantaged by having to learn in a language other than their home language. They do not, however, advance the same argument for children, such as children of immigrants, whose home language is not English. My daughter's mother tongue is German, while I have friends in the Machynlleth area who speak Irish Gaelic with their children, and I know that other families speak a range of other European and non-European languages at home. If English-language tuition is</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>

	<p>offered by this argument, will tuition also be offered in these other languages for the same reason? I would presume not, because, as immigrants, we are often told that we need to learn the language of the country to which we have moved. Why does that argument not also apply here?</p>	
24.10	<p>Having responded to the official consultation with my support for the status change, I have been frustrated and dismayed to see a petition, apparently seeking to overturn this consultation. I am therefore writing to reiterate my support for the change. I also fear that many in support of the change, having already responded to the consultation via official channels and seen the positive outcome of that consultation, will not consider it necessary to continue to repeat their support, not because they are less passionate about the matter, but because they consider the matter already settled by the consultation.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.11	<p>I am concerned that a small minority of people who are not happy with the consultation result and statutory notice are getting a significant amount of media attention.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.12	<p>Myself and the majority who supported the change are not seeking media support as we are confident that Powys will stand by the democratic result of the consultation and continue with their plans to change the school to Welsh medium from 2022.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.13	<p>In a recent consultation, Powys County Council (PCC) assessed community and stakeholder opinion on changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen (YBH) to Welsh medium. This proposed change was to be introduced gradually year by year starting with the youngest children in</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>

	<p>September 2022. The main result of the consultation was 61% in support of the change. This petition calls on PCC to respect the findings of the official consultation, and to support the language category transition. The official consultation was conducted in a fair and unbiased way, and was open to all people of all opinions. Its results must be the sole consideration in making decisions - not the results of targeted petitions.</p>	
24.14	<p>I will not reiterate my response to the initial consultation, which chiefly focused on the contribution which would be made to strengthening and normalising the Welsh language and ensuring that my daughter grows up as a part of that community, able to participate fully in local and national Welsh culture. I simply wish to register my objection to the objecting petition and the way it has been carried on, contrary to the result of the fair and open consultation in which I, and many others, participated.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal.</p>
24.15	<p>I write in support of the proposals to move Ysgol Bro Hyddgen along the language continuum but only on the basis that this will not directly impact the viability of primary schools within Ysgol Bro Hyddgen's catchment area. If there is any suggestion that the change of status for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will make it 'easier' for the local authority to choose to close any primary school within the catchment area then I will withdraw my support.</p>	<p>The Council notes these comments in support of the proposal. The Council is not currently reviewing any other schools in the Bro Hyddgen catchment.</p>

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwiadol



Proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Updated Impact Assessments

Updated September 2021

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Proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Impact Assessments

1. Introduction

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The proposal is as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

In line with the Council's policy, an Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out which incorporates the Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management.

In addition, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018) requires local authorities to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment and Community Impact Assessment in relation to all school reorganisation proposals. For proposals which affect teaching through the medium of Welsh, local authorities are also required to carry out a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These impact assessments were provided in draft form during the consultation period and have been updated following the consultation, and again following the objection period. The Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out based on the latest PLASC information available. The Community Impact Assessment and Welsh Impact Assessment has been carried out with input from the affected schools.

2. Integrated Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment (IA) below incorporates Welsh Language, Equalities, Well-being of Future Generations Act, Sustainable Development Principles, Communication and Engagement, Safeguarding, Corporate Parenting, Community Cohesion and Risk Management, supporting effective decision making and ensuring compliance with respective legislation.

Service Area	Schools Service	Head of Service	Lynette Lovell	Portfolio Holder	Cllr Phyl Davies
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Proposal

To support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to move along the language continuum over time, by phasing in fully Welsh bilingual (Welsh-medium) provision year by year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

Outline Summary / Description of Proposal

The Council carried out consultation and subsequently published a statutory notice on the following proposal in order to move Ysgol Bro Hyddgen along the language continuum over time:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from Bilingual (dual-stream) to Welsh-medium
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

This would mean that:

- English-medium provision would be phased out gradually year by year, starting with Reception in September 2022 – pupils would be taught in Welsh-medium classes and become fully bilingual i.e. fluent in both Welsh and English
- Additional Welsh language support would be introduced alongside the change in language category for latecomers and those pupils needing the additional support. This would include immersion provision which has been very successful in other authorities.

Should this be implemented, the change would start to be phased in from September 2022.

1. Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Date
1	Developed at a workshop attended by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Astley, Programme Manager, Transforming Education Team - Richard Williams, Programme Officer, Transforming Education Team - Bedwyr Fychan, Welsh Language Officer 	16/10/2020
2	Amended following Cabinet meeting for inclusion as part of consultation documentation	12/11/20
3	Amended following consultation	22/04/21
4	Amended following objection period	24/09/21

2. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
£	£	£	£	£	£

3. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline/or justification for no consultation
Public consultation required	Consultation in accordance with the School Organisation Code was carried out between 8/12/21 and 26/01/21. A Statutory Notice was published on the 17 th June 2021 and people were able to submit objections until the 15 th July 2021.

4. Impact on Other Service Areas

**Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Have you considered the implications on Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting?)
PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY**

The proposal has the potential to impact the following services:

- Children’s Services
- Digital Services
- Education
- Finance

Data Protection Impact Assessment

Would the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals? Yes

Is Powys County Council the data controller? Yes

If you have answered yes to either of the above you would be required to complete, as a minimum, the screening questions on the data protection impact assessment. For further advice please contact the Data Compliance Team.

4a Geographical Locations

What geographical area(s) will be impacted by the proposal? (Chose all those applicable)

The following geographical areas would be impacted by the proposal:

- North Powys
- Machynlleth

5. How does your proposal impact on Vision 2025?

Council’s Well-being Objective	How does the proposal impact on this Well-being Objective?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from
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		drop down box below		drop down box below
<p>The Economy</p> <p>We would develop a vibrant economy</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, eventually all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and they would be able to utilise these skills in the workplace, where there is a growing demand for fluency in both languages in Wales</p> <p>During the consultation period and the objection period, concerns were raised that implementation of the proposal could mean that people would move from the area / wouldn't want to move to the area, which would impact on local business, and that it would be more difficult to recruit to positions in Machynlleth. The Council does not agree that these are valid concerns.</p>	Good		
<p>Health and Care</p> <p>We would lead the way in providing effective, integrated health and care in a rural environment</p>	<p>During the consultation period and the objection period, concerns were raised that implementation of the proposal could make it more difficult to recruit healthcare staff in the area as they would not want their children to attend a Welsh-medium school. However, should the Council proceed with the proposal, the school would welcome pupils from all backgrounds. Alternatively, anyone moving to the area could apply for a place at an alternative school which offers English-medium provision.</p>	Neutral		
<p>Learning and skills</p>	<p>The proposal would eventually provide a more sustainable model for delivering education in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, ensuring that all pupils are</p>			

<p>We would strengthen learning and skills</p>	<p>fully bilingual in Welsh and English when they leave the school.</p> <p>As the change is phased in, it is expected that implementation would lead to more effective and efficient use of resources as the school would no longer need to duplicate provision, which would enable improved opportunities for learners across all ages.</p>	<p>Good</p>		
<p>Residents and Communities</p> <p>We would support our residents and communities</p>	<p>In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school’s language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, there could be a negative impact on pupils moving to the area from outside the area / outside Wales. In particular, this could mean that secondary aged pupils moving to the area would attend English-medium provision in alternative locations, which would not support their integration into the community.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Additional Welsh language support to be introduced at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen alongside any change in language category e.g. Trochi, additional Welsh language support. Whilst this would ensure that primary aged pupils from outside the area would be able to attend the school, it is possible that this may not be attractive to older, secondary aged pupils.</p> <p>The Council’s ‘Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys includes a strategic objective to ‘develop immersion opportunities’, and work is underway to develop these opportunities in Powys. Online immersion provision was introduced in January 2021, and this will be developed further over the coming</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

			<p>months. Eventually, the intention is to provide opportunities for pupils across Powys to access immersion provision, to enable pupils to transfer into Welsh-medium education during their school careers. This would include areas such as Newtown or Welshpool as well as the Machynlleth area.</p> <p>Immersion provision exists in different forms across Wales. Whilst some programmes focus on primary aged pupils, there are successful programmes which provide opportunities for pupils to be immersed to Welsh-medium education on transfer to the secondary phase. There is no reason to believe that such provision could not be offered effectively at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. However, in some situations – for example when learners are nearing the end of their time in school – this may not be appropriate.</p>	
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Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
Consultation report, objection report

6. How does your proposal impact on the Welsh Government’s well-being goals?

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below

<p>A prosperous Wales:</p> <p>An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The proposal is to phase any change in the school's language category in over a number of years. This would ensure that no additional transport would need to be provided, as English-medium pupils currently attending the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave school.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposal would lead to improved employment opportunities for all pupils in the area in the future, as all pupils would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and therefore able to take advantage of employment opportunities which require fluency in both languages.</p> <p>During the consultation period and the objection period, concerns were raised that implementation of the proposal could mean that people would move from the area / wouldn't want to move to the area, which would impact on local business, and that it would be more difficult to recruit to positions in Machynlleth. The Council does not agree that these are valid concerns.</p>	Good		
<p>A resilient Wales:</p> <p>A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	No impact	Neutral		

<p>A healthier Wales:</p> <p>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p> <p>Public Health (Wales) Act, 2017:</p> <p>Part 6 of the Act requires for public bodies to undertake a health impact assessment to assess the likely effect of a proposed action or decision on the physical or mental health of the people of Wales.</p>	<p>In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. This could have a negative impact on people's well-being. Concerns about the impact on community cohesion were raised in the consultation period and in the objection period.</p> <p>Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.</p>	Neutral		Neutral
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities</p>	<p>In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Concerns about the impact on community cohesion were raised in the consultation period and in the objection period. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, there could be a negative impact on pupils moving to</p>	Neutral	Additional Welsh language support to be introduced at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen alongside any change in	Neutral

	<p>the area from outside the area / outside Wales. In particular, this could mean that secondary aged pupils moving to the area would attend English-medium provision in alternative locations, which would not support their integration into the community.</p>		<p>language category e.g. Trochi, additional Welsh language support. Whilst this would ensure that primary aged pupils from outside the area would be able to attend the school, it is possible that this may not be attractive to older, secondary aged pupils.</p>	
<p>A globally responsible Wales:</p> <p>A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p> <p>Human Rights - is about being proactive (see guidance) UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:</p> <p>The Convention gives rights to everyone under the age of 18, which include the right to be treated fairly and to be protected from discrimination; that organisations act for the best interest of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to be heard.</p>	<p>The proposal would ensure that all pupils accessing Ysgol Bro Hyddgen in the future will develop bilingual skills in Welsh and English. Being fully bilingual in Welsh and English contributes to the cultural wellbeing of Wales, and would enable pupils to take part in local, national and global activities through the medium of Welsh and English.</p> <p>It is anticipated that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on the use of resources, as it would enable the school to operate more efficiently as a single stream school, and would enable resources to be focussed on delivering education through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Consultation on the proposal was carried out, which included consultation with children and young people affected by the proposal, ensuring that all affected by the plans have the opportunity to give their views. In addition, the objection period provided a further opportunity for pupils to let the Council know if they don't agree with the proposal.</p>	<p>Good</p>		

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

Incorporating requirements under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards

Tudalen 202

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i></p>	<p>The proposal is to change the school’s language category over time, so that eventually, all pupils would be taught through the medium of Welsh, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>As well as ensuring that all pupils are fully bilingual, this would ensure a fully Welsh-medium ethos, leading to enhanced opportunities to use the Welsh language throughout the school, and increased opportunities for participation in Welsh language extra-curricular activities and opportunities.</p> <p>Implementing the proposal would strengthen and broaden Welsh medium provision by improving the breadth of Welsh medium options at all key stages and ensuring stronger transition and progress for pupils. As a result, pupils would develop into fully bilingual pupils that would be better placed to support the local and national economic and community needs.</p> <p>As well as a full Welsh-medium curriculum, it is likely that establishing a Welsh-medium all-age</p>	<p>Very Good</p>		

	<p>school would also result in increased opportunities for pupils to access Welsh language activities, including activities provided by the school and activities provided by other organisations e.g. Menter Maldwyn, the Urdd.</p> <p>Implementing the proposal would raise the profile of Welsh-medium education in the area, and create more fluent Welsh speakers who will be able to use the language within the community, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government target to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>			
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</p>	<p>The proposal is to change the school’s language category over time, so that eventually, all pupils would be taught through the medium of Welsh, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. This would lead to enhanced opportunities to promote the Welsh language within the school and beyond, for example through the “Siartr Iaith” (Welsh Language Charter) and through improved opportunities to provide Welsh language cluster activities.</p> <p>As well as a full Welsh-medium curriculum, it is likely that establishing a Welsh-medium all-age school would also result in increased opportunities for pupils to access Welsh language activities, including activities provided by the school and activities provided by other organisations e.g. Menter Maldwyn, the Urdd</p>	<p>Very Good</p>		

<p>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation</p>	<p>Currently, some sport, art and recreation activities which take place in Welsh in the local area may not be considered accessible to pupils.</p> <p>Should the proposal be implemented, all pupils would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, which would allow students to participate in these activities.</p>	<p>Good</p>		
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A more equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

Incorporating requirements under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and the Social Economic duty (2020).

<p>Well-being Goal</p>	<p>How does proposal contribute to this goal?</p>	<p><u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below</p>	<p>What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?</p>	<p><u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below</p>
<p>Age</p>	<p>The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen regardless of their age, including the opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>Initially the proposal would mainly impact younger pupils as the intention is that the change would be phased in, starting with Reception aged pupils.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
	<p>The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, including any pupils with disabilities. This would</p>		<p>Across Wales there are children with SEN/ALN who are educated successfully in Welsh-medium schools, whether they are from Welsh-</p>	

<p>Disability</p>	<p>include the opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>The Consultation Report and the Objection Report shows that there is a significant concern about the impact of the proposal on pupils with ALN.</p> <p>The parents of some pupils with disabilities or pupils with ALN may choose for them to be educated in English. This would require additional travel for these pupils</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>speaking homes, English-speaking homes or homes where other languages are spoken. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, along with other schools, can benefit from learning from best practice.</p> <p>The Powys SEN/ALN strategy, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, is committed to improving the provision for all pupils with SEN/ALN, whatever their first language. This includes pupils who can be educated in mainstream classes as well as pupils who require specialist provision.</p> <p>As part of the strategy, the local authority is developing and improving its range of specialist provision, including specialist centres and satellites of special schools, in order to make sure that the needs of all pupils in Powys can be met effectively. The design of the new building planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen includes significantly improved facilities for pupils with SEN/ALN which will enable them to receive high quality support.</p> <p>The school will not change from Welsh medium to English medium overnight. There will be a transition period for those pupils already in the school. During this transition period, pupils with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium of English as outlined in the proposal.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
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			<p>Pupils who attend the specialist centre at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to attend the centre, whatever their first language – English, Welsh or other.</p> <p>If the proposal goes ahead, pupils with SEN/ALN will be taught through the medium of Welsh. A key part of the strategy is that pupils with SEN/ALN have the right to be educated in mainstream schools alongside their peers.</p> <p>Under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, pupils with ALN will have individual development plans (IDPs) which will set out their needs and the support that they will receive. This could include support from school staff as well as specialist support from the local authority. Where appropriate, interventions may take place through the medium of English. This will be determined in line with the needs of the individual pupil. Similarly, if a pupil arrives at the school with no English, a level of support may be provided in their own language.</p>	
Gender reassignment	No impact	Neutral		
Marriage or civil partnership	No impact	Neutral		
Race	The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their race. This would include the	Neutral		

	opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English			
Religion or belief	The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their religion or belief. This would include the opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.	Neutral		
Sex	The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their sex. This would include the opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.	Neutral		
Sexual Orientation	The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, regardless of their sexual orientation. This would include the opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.	Neutral		
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact	Neutral		
Socio-economic duty	<p>Concerns were raised during the consultation about the proposal being a barrier to attracting incomers, professional people and new businesses to the area.</p> <p>The proposal would provide improved opportunities for all pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, including any learners from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This would include the opportunity for all pupils to become fully bilingual in Welsh and English.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the proposal would lead to improved employment opportunities for all pupils</p>	Neutral		Neutral

	in the area in the future, as all pupils would be fully bilingual in Welsh and English, and therefore able to take advantage of employment opportunities which require Welsh language skills.			
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Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements

Consultation Report, Objection Report

7. How does your proposal impact on the council's other key guiding principles?

Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<u>IMPACT</u> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
Long Term: Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	The proposal would provide a more sustainable model of delivering education in Machynlleth, which would enable the school to operate more efficiently through not having to duplicate provision. As a single language school, there would be no need for the school to duplicate provision in two	Good		

	languages, which would also ensure effective use of resources in the long term.			
Collaboration: Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.	Should Cabinet agree to implement the proposals the Council would work in collaboration with key stakeholders associated with the current school, and external partners such as Mudiad Meithrin to transition to the new delivery model.	Neutral		
Involvement (including Communication and Engagement): Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them including: Unpaid Carers: Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account	Full consultation was carried out with stakeholders in accordance with the School Organisation Code, which provided an opportunity for all interested parties to give their views. The findings of this exercise was reported to Cabinet and was taken into consideration when determining how to proceed. This impact assessment has been updated to reflect feedback received. The percentage in favour of the proposal suggests that a majority of respondents are in favour. The Objection Period provided a further opportunity for people to let the Council know if they don't agree with the proposal. All stakeholders have had the opportunity to give their views as part of this process, including any unpaid carers in the area.	Good		
Prevention: Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring including: Safeguarding: Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care	The proposal would provide a more sustainable model of delivering education in Machynlleth, which would enable the school to operate more efficiently through not having to duplicate provision. It is not anticipated that there would be an impact on safeguarding arrangements.	Good		

needs who can't protect themselves.				
Integration: Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives	An integrated approach would be taken in order to implement the proposal, which would include other Council service areas and other partners as required.	Neutral		
Powys County Council Workforce: What Impact would this change have on the Workforce?	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would have a positive impact on Welsh-medium staff by enabling them to work in a fully Welsh-medium environment.</p> <p>In the longer term, as the change in language category is phased in across the school, there may be an impact on school staff who cannot work through the medium of Welsh, however the number of affected staff is low.</p> <p>If the proposal was implemented, Welsh would be the primary, main language of the school. It is anticipated that this this would support the development of a fully Welsh ethos across the school.</p> <p>Implementing the proposal may have an additional impact on Council staffing services such as Children's Services, Catering, Payroll, ALN as there would be an expectation for services to be provided in Welsh. This would have a positive impact on opportunities for Council staff to use the Welsh language.</p>	Neutral	The Council will work with the school to support staff to develop their language skills.	Neutral
Payroll: How would this impact salary, any overtime/enhanced	The proposal complies with Powys CC's Single Status Terms and Conditions. The proposal would			

<p>payments etc? Does this affect any particular group of employees? E.g. Male/Female dominated workforce. Does this proposal comply with the Councils Single Status Terms and Conditions?</p>	<p>have no impact on PCC staff salaries/enhanced payments.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		
<p>Welsh language impact on staff</p>	<p>Implementation of the preferred way forward would have a positive impact on Welsh-medium staff by enabling them to work in a fully Welsh-medium environment.</p> <p>In the longer term, as the change in language category is phased in across the school, there may be an impact on school staff who cannot work through the medium of Welsh, however the number of affected staff is low.</p> <p>If the proposal was implemented, Welsh would be the primary, main language of the school. It is anticipated that this this would support the development of a fully Welsh ethos across the school.</p> <p>Implementing the proposal may have an additional impact on Council staffing services such as Children’s Services, Catering, Payroll, ALN as there would be an expectation for services to be provided in Welsh. This would have a positive impact on opportunities for Council staff to use the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Good</p>		
<p>Apprenticeships: Has consideration been given to whether this change impacts</p>	<p>No impact</p>			

negatively, or positively on Apprenticeships within the service?		Neutral		
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Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements
Consultation Report / Objection Report

8. What is the impact of this proposal on our communities?

Communities	How does the proposal impact on residents and community?	<u>IMPACT</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	What will be done to better contribute to a more positive impact or to mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> See impact definitions in guidance document	Source of Outline Evidence to support judgement
Machynlleth	In the short term, it is possible that the proposal to change the school's language category could lead to tensions and disagreement within the local community, in particular whilst consultation processes are ongoing. Eventually however, it is expected that these tensions would diminish, and in the longer term as the change in language category is implemented, it is hoped that the proposal would help to improve community cohesion, as all pupils in the	Moderate	The proposal includes additional Welsh language support to be introduced alongside the change in language category e.g. Trochi, additional Welsh language support. However, this support may not be attractive to older, secondary school aged pupils. The benefits of a bilingual education will need to be	Minor	

	<p>area would be fluent in both Welsh and English.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, there could be a negative impact on pupils moving to the area from outside the area / outside Wales. In particular, this could mean that secondary aged pupils moving to the area would attend English-medium provision in alternative locations, which would not support their integration into the community.</p>		explained carefully to the community.		
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9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating <small>Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)</small>	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating <small>Impact X Likelihood (See Risk Matrix in guidance document)</small>
Parents don't want their children to attend a Welsh-medium school, so choose for them to move to alternative schools	Medium	Change to be phased in to minimise the impact on current pupils Engagement with parents to take place throughout the process	Low
Risk that pupil numbers at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen could reduce if parents choose not to send their children to Ysgol Bro Hyddgen if they preferred an English-medium provision, which could have an impact on the school's budget and increase surplus places.	Medium	A promotional campaign is required to help parents understand the benefits of a bilingual education, and the support available to them e.g. Trochi	Low

10. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

This impact assessment has been updated following the consultation exercise and following the objection period. A number of concerns were raised during the consultation about the impact of the proposal on pupils with ALN. The Council proposes to mitigate this by ensuring that any pupil with SEN/ALN who requires targeted support through the medium of English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen is provided with this support as part of the agreed alternative learning provision under the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018.

Having considered the issues raised during the consultation period and during the objection period, it is judged that the impact of the proposal remains positive overall. The proposal would eventually provide a more sustainable model for delivering education in Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, ensuring that all pupils are fully bilingual in Welsh and English when they leave school. The proposal is to change the school's language category over time, which minimises the impact on pupils currently attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, but would also ensure that, eventually, all pupils would be taught through the medium of Welsh, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English. This would lead to enhanced opportunities to promote the Welsh language within the school and within the community and would provide those pupils with bilingual skills to take into the workplace.

11. Is there additional evidence to support the Impact Assessment (IA)?

What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Consultation Report, Objection Report

12. On-going monitoring arrangements?

What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?

The Transforming Education Programme Board will continue to monitor impact over time.

Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.

This impact assessment will be reviewed at each stage of the process

13. Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Impact Assessment Lead:	Sarah Astley		
Head of Service:	Lynette Lovell / Emma Palmer		

Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Phyl Davies		
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14. Governance

Decision to be made by	Cabinet	Date required	XXXX
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3. Equality Impact Assessment

Powys County Council

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)



Proposal	To change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
Service Area	Schools Service
Date of Assessment	Initial Assessment November 2020 Updated Assessment April 2021 Updated September 2021
Lead Person undertaking the assessment	RW / SA
Relevant Head of Service who has agreed this assessment	Lynette Lovell

The Equality Act 2010, requires that public sector organisations in the exercise of their functions, pay due regard to the following 'general duty':

- (a) Eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;**
- (b) Advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;**
- (c) Fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.**

The protected characteristics include: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, sex and sexual orientation. This assessment also includes a consideration of impact upon people and communities whose language of choice is Welsh.

The specific regulations for Wales [Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011] require public sector bodies to monitor relevant policy and practises and then assess and report on the impact based upon an analysis of relevant data and evidence.

1. AIM or PURPOSE

Briefly describe the aim or purpose of the change proposal being assessed.
Powys County Council has consulted and subsequently published a statutory notice on a proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. The proposal is as follows:

- To make a regulated alteration to alter the medium of instruction at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium.
- This would be introduced on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

2. OBJECTIVES

Please state the current business objectives of the change proposal.

The Council is proposing to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen for the following reasons:

- To improve educational outcomes
 - Children would no longer be taught in mixed language classes in the secondary phase
 - Children would no longer be taught in mixed age classes in the primary phase
 - There will be more pupils who are fluent and confident in using the Welsh and English language equally
- To improve educational provision
 - Opportunities to develop a broader curriculum to meet the needs of pupils
 - Having one language stream would make it easier to track and target the progress of pupils and their well-being
- To improve leadership and management
 - The school's management team could work more efficiently
- To improve efficiency in the delivery of education
 - Potential for the school to operate more efficiently through more efficient deployment of staff and resources
- To increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium education

- More pupils would be fluent in both Welsh and English, therefore contributing to the Welsh Government's aim to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.

3. BENEFITS and OUTCOMES

i) What are the intended benefits or outcomes from the change proposal?

The benefits of the proposal are:

- Minimal impact on pupils currently accessing English-medium education at the school – the provision would continue until they left school
- In the long term, would enable the school to operate more efficiently
- Would enable school leadership to make more effective use of human resources
- Would allow staff to focus on one linguistic delivery model
- Would allow time for any necessary staff development and professional learning
- More opportunities could be offered through the medium of Welsh
- Increase in pupils studying through the medium of Welsh
- Meets the Council's Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys
- Potential financial saving to the authority

4. CORPORATE RELEVANCE

How does this change proposal relate to Vision 2025?

Learning and Skills is one of the four priorities outlined in Corporate Improvement Plan 2020-25: Vision 2025. Within this priority, the Plan includes a commitment to increasing the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh.

5. DATA USED

5.1. What data has been used to conduct this assessment?

Tick/shade boxes as appropriate.

Profiling of service users, providing a breakdown of who uses the service by the protected characteristics.	✓
Service user satisfaction rates, broken down by the protected characteristics.	
Qualitative data (analysed against the protected characteristics) which provides evidence about current services users experience accessing the service.	
Qualitative data gathered from those that are not currently using the service.	
Complaints monitoring against the protected characteristics.	
Wider research reports and findings.	
Relevant service based Equality Impact Assessment.	

5.2. Are there any gaps in the data?

Yes No

Please state the gaps:

- No qualitative data is currently available

How will the gaps be addressed going forward?

- Qualitative data will be collected as part of the forthcoming consultation process.

6. DATA ANALYSIS

<p><u>6.1 Quantitative</u> Summarise the key quantitative data analysis results, providing key headline statistics. Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. statistics generated from a consultation questionnaire.</p>	<p><u>PLASC January 2020</u></p> <p><u>Ysgol Bro Hyddgen</u></p> <p>Based on the information provided in the school's PLASC return in January 2020, the following pupils belong to the protected characteristic groups:</p>
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<p>Key questions:</p> <p>i) Are certain groups currently underrepresented in service user figures? Will a change affect this?</p> <p>ii) How do satisfaction levels compare across the protected characteristic groups? How will a change affect this?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free school meals: 13.5% of pupils are eligible for Free School Meals - ALN: 17.1% of pupils at the school have special educational needs. Of these, 50 pupils are on School Action, 28 pupils are on School Action Plus and 3 pupils have statements - ALN: The % of pupils at the school that have special educational needs can be broken down further by phase. 26.0% of primary pupils and 12.0% of secondary pupils have special educational needs. - Disabilities: 17.1% of pupils have additional learning needs - English as an Additional Language: 0.4% of pupils are identified as EAL pupils. - Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 91.4% of pupils at the school is White British. 3.2% of pupils belong to ethnic groups other than White British. - Looked after Children: 1.1% of pupils are looked after. <p>This information shows that a proportion of pupils that belong to the protected characteristic groups will be affected by this proposal. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 13.5% of pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are eligible for Free School Meals. - 26.0% of primary pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have additional learning needs. This is higher than the Powys average for primary schools (18.8%) <p>The proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would not impact pupils currently attending the school, as the change in the school's language category would be phased in on a year-by-year basis. However, over time, pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would be affected, including those pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities for all pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups.</p>
<p>6.2 Qualitative Summarise the key qualitative data analysis, providing key themes or patterns.</p>	<p>Concerns were raised during the consultation about the impact of the proposal on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups. These are listed in full in the consultation report produced in respect of this proposal, however they include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern about the impact on pupils with disabilities, in particular pupils with ALN

<p>Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. protected characteristics focus group on the proposal.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <p>i) Do certain groups have a different service user experience? How will a change affect this?</p> <p>ii) Have any areas for improvement been communicated by particular groups? Will a change have an impact upon these views?</p> <p>iii) What are the reasons behind some groups not using the service? How will a change affect this position?</p> <p>iv) What has consultation on your proposals revealed about impact on the protected characteristics?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern about the impact on looked after children - Concern about the impact on pupils from socio-economically deprived backgrounds / low income families <p>In addition, a number of comments were also received which expressed a view that the proposal would not have a negative impact on pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups. These are also listed in the consultation report.</p> <p>The Council subsequently published a Statutory Notice formally proposing the change to the school's language category. A number of objections were received, and some of these expressed further concern about the proposal's impact on protected characteristic groups, in particular pupils with ALN. These are listed in full in the objection report produced in respect of this proposal, however they include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General concern about the impact on pupils with Additional Learning Needs - Queries about the support that will be provided to support pupils with ALN.
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7. EqIA RESULT

Based on an analysis of the available qualitative and quantitative data, please tick/shade the appropriate box opposite to provide the EqIA assessment result.

<p>The proposal does not present any adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 10]</p>	
<p>The proposal presents some adverse impact on equality. [Proceed to question 8]</p>	✓
<p>The proposal presents significant impact on equality [Proceed to question 8]</p>	

8. AREAS for IMPROVEMENT

<p>Please provide detail of weak or sensitive areas of the proposal identified by the assessment.</p> <p>i) Which protected characteristic groups are particularly affected?</p> <p>ii) Will people on low incomes be affected?</p> <p>iii) Will Welsh speakers be affected?</p>	<p>i) The proposal could impact on pupils with additional learning needs, pupils that belong to ethnic groups other than White British, have English as an Additional Language or are Looked After Children. 26.0% of primary pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen have special educational needs.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised about the impact of the proposal to change the school's language category on any pupils with disabilities, including additional learning needs, attending the school in the future, therefore the protected characteristic group that would potentially be most affected would be pupils with disabilities.</p> <p>ii) 13.5% of pupils attending Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>iii) The proposal is to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen from dual stream to Welsh-medium, therefore the proposal would affect Welsh speakers, however it is not anticipated that there would be a negative impact on Welsh speakers. As required by the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, a separate Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be carried out.</p>
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9. EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT

<p>9.1 Having identified problematic aspects to the proposal, how will this now be addressed?</p> <p><i>i.e. Are you able to involve (in some capacity) people from protected characteristic groups, Welsh Speakers, people on low incomes, to assist you in this process?</i></p> <p>i) Can the impact be mitigated, and how will this be done?</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, the medium of instruction of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen would change to Welsh-medium. This would be phased in, year on year, starting with Reception pupils. There would be no impact on existing pupils.</p> <p>The proposal aims to improve the educational opportunities offered to all pupils in the Machynlleth catchment, including pupils that belong to the protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>It is noted that there could be concern about the impact of the proposal to change the school's language category to Welsh-medium on any pupils with additional learning needs attending the school in the future. To mitigate this concern, the school would need to provide enhanced support to pupils with ALN as needed in order to meet their needs. The authority's mitigation is as follows:</p>
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<p>ii) Does the proposal require modification to reduce or remove this impact?</p> <p>iii) Should the proposal be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have?</p>	<p>Across Wales there are children with SEN/ALN who are educated successfully in Welsh-medium schools, whether they are from Welsh-speaking homes, English-speaking homes or homes where other languages are spoken. Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, along with other schools, can benefit from learning from best practice.</p> <p>The Powys SEN/ALN strategy, agreed by Cabinet in November 2021, is committed to improving the provision for all pupils with SEN/ALN, whatever their first language. This includes pupils who can be educated in mainstream classes as well as pupils who require specialist provision.</p> <p>As part of the strategy, the local authority is developing and improving its range of specialist provision, including specialist centres and satellites of special schools, in order to make sure that the needs of all pupils in Powys can be met effectively. The design of the new building planned for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen includes significantly improved facilities for pupils with SEN/ALN which will enable them to receive high quality support.</p> <p>The school will not change from Welsh medium to English medium over night. There will be a transition period for those pupils already in the school. During this transition period, pupils with SEN/ALN who are currently attending the English stream at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to receive their education through the medium of English as outlined in the proposal. Pupils who attend the specialist centre at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will continue to attend the centre, whatever their first language – English, Welsh or other.</p> <p>If the proposal goes ahead, pupils with SEN/ALN will be taught through the medium of Welsh. A key part of the strategy is that pupils with SEN/ALN have the right to be educated in mainstream schools alongside their peers.</p> <p>Under the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018, pupils with ALN will have individual development plans (IDPs) which will set out their needs and the support that they will receive. This could include support from school staff as well as specialist support from the local authority. Where appropriate, interventions may take place through the medium of English. This will be determined in line with the needs of the individual pupil. Similarly, if a pupil arrives at the school with no English, a level of support may be provided in their own language.</p>
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	<p>It is not considered that the proposal requires modification to reduce or remove the impact.</p> <p>It is not considered that the proposal should be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have.</p>
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9.2 Will the management of the impact as outlined in 9.1, be included in the Service Improvement Plan?

<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Date added.....</p> <p>Reference.....</p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please explain why not:</p> <p>Need was not identified at time of writing Service Strategy</p>
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4. Community Impact Assessment

4.1 Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

i) Information on the proportion of pupils from the catchment area and outside the catchment area that attend the school

Welsh-medium Secondary

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	89.2%
Llanidloes High School	3.8%
Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion	2.8%
Ysgol Bro Idris, Dolgellau	1.9%
Ysgol Penweddig, Aberystwyth	1.4%
Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn, Y Bala	0.9%

This suggests that 89.2% of pupils attending the school's secondary Welsh-medium stream were attending their closest Welsh-medium provider, whilst 10.8% of pupils attending the school's secondary Welsh-medium stream live closer to other Welsh-medium providers.

English-medium Secondary

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	93.2%
Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth	4.5%
Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn	2.3%

This suggests that 93.2% of pupils attending the school's secondary English-medium stream were attending their closest English-medium provider, whilst 6.8% of pupils attending the school's secondary English-medium stream live closer to other English-medium providers.

Welsh-medium Primary

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	93.5%
Ysgol Glantwymyn	4.9%
Ysgol Gynradd Carno	0.8%
Ysgol Henry Richard, Tregaron	0.8%

This suggests that 93.5% of pupils attending the school's primary Welsh-medium stream were attending their closest Welsh-medium provider, whilst 6.5% of pupils attending the school's primary Welsh-medium stream live closer to other Welsh-medium providers.

English-medium Primary

School	% of Pupils
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	91.6%
Caersws Community Primary School	6.3%
Ysgol Dyffryn Trannon, Trefeglwys	2.1%

This suggests that 91.6% of pupils attending the school's primary English-medium stream were attending their closest English-medium provider, whilst 8.4% of pupils attending the school's primary English-medium stream live closer to other English-medium providers.

ii) **After-school clubs and extra-curricular activities provided by the school**

The school provides the following after-school clubs and extra-curricular activities:

- Urdd
- Sports clubs – rugby, football, athletic, cross country, netball, hockey clubs
- Computer Club

iii) **Any other facilities or services the school accommodates or services the school provides**

The school accommodates or provides the following other facilities or services:

- Karate and Yoga lessons for the benefit of the community
- Computer lessons for the benefit of the community
- Welsh lessons for adults
- Sporting facilities for Machynlleth Hurricanes junior football team
- Sporting facilities for adult football and rugby

iv) Other use by the community of the school building

The following have made use of the school building:

- Annual Merched y Wawr conference in May
- Machynlleth Comedy Festival
- Local car rally
- Cymdeithas Carafanwyr Cymru

v) Other links between the school and the community

The school has links with the following community groups:

- Y Cylch Meithrin
- MCCP
- St Peter's Church
- Gerddi Bro Ddyfi Gardens
- Mach Maethlon
- Siop Pen'rallt
- Save the Children shop
- CREDU
- Transport for Wales
- Tuffins
- Co-op
- Town library
- Y Tabernacl
- Owain Glyndŵr Centre
- Ynys-hir Nature Reserve
- Centre for Alternative Technology
- Dulas Engineering
- New Dyfi Players
- Aberystwyth Arts Centre

vi) If accommodation, facilities or services are provided by a school, where would they be provided in the event of closure?

The proposal will not close or affect in any way any accommodation, facilities or services provided by Ysgol Bro Hyddgen.

vii) Distance and travelling time involved in attending an alternative school of the same language category

Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no impact on distance and travelling time for current pupils at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. All pupils currently receiving English-medium education at the school would be able to continue to access this provision until they leave the school.

In the future, pupils wishing to access English-medium education would need to travel to alternative provision. In respect of primary provision, the nearest alternative schools would be as follows:

School name	Distance from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
Ysgol Comins Coch (Ceredigion)	16 miles
St Padarn Primary School (Ceredigion)	17.8 miles
Plascrug Primary School (Ceredigion)	18.1 miles
Llwyn yr Eos Primary School (Ceredigion)	18.2 miles
Caersws C.P. School	23.2 miles
Llanidloes C.P. School	26.6 miles

In respect of secondary provision, the nearest alternative schools would be as follows:

School name	Distance from Ysgol Bro Hyddgen
Ysgol Penglais, Aberystwyth	17 miles
Llanidloes High School	26.7 miles

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

Should the proposal be implemented, all current pupils would be able to continue to receive education through the medium of Welsh or English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen throughout their time in the school, therefore there

would be no change in terms of parents' and pupils' engagement with the school.

ix) Any wider implications e.g. impact on public transport provision, wider community safety issues

The implementation of the proposal would not impact on public transport provision or community safety.

4.2 Issues raised during the consultation period

A number of comments were received during the consultation period which related to the proposal's impact on the community. Some of the comments suggested that the proposal would have a positive impact on the community, whilst others suggested that the proposal would have a negative impact on the community.

The comments received are listed in full in the consultation report produced in respect of this proposal along with the Council's response to the points raised, and are also summarised below:

Positive impact on the community

- The proposal would improve community cohesion
- There would be positive impact on the Welsh language in the community

Negative impact on the community

- Concern that the proposal would lead to community division
- The area would not be attractive to people looking to move in / new businesses

4.3 Issues raised during the objection period

A number of comments were received during the objection period which expressed concerns about the proposal's potential impact on the community. These comments are listed in full in the objection report produced in respect of this proposal along with the Council's response to the points raised, and are also summarised below:

Concerns about the impact on the community

- The proposal is causing division within the community
- Concern about the impact on community activities
- The proposal will mean that people will be pushed out of Machynlleth
- The area would not be attractive to people looking to move in

Comments about the impact on local employment and business

- Concern about the impact on businesses
- It would be more difficult to recruit to positions in the area

4.4 Conclusion

As the proposal only relates to changing the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, it is anticipated that the proposal's impact on the community would be minimal. Primary and secondary provision would continue to be available in Machynlleth, and community facilities associated with the school would continue to be available, and would be enhanced following the planned new building.

It is acknowledged that the proposal would eventually lead to additional travel for pupils wishing to access English-medium education, however by phasing in the change in language category over a number of years, the intention is that all pupils living in the catchment area would have the Welsh language skills needed to continue to study through the medium of Welsh throughout their time in school. Therefore the number of pupils travelling to access English-medium education should be small.

5. Welsh Language Impact Assessment

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment should be read in conjunction with the Integrated Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment earlier on in this document.

5.1 Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

Ysgol Bro Hyddgen

i) Standards in the Welsh language

Language, literacy and communication skills in Welsh (LCW)

Foundation Phase

	Number of Year 2 pupils	No. Outcome 5+	% Outcome 5+	No. Outcome 6+	% Outcome 6+
2017	14	14	100.0%	6	42.9%
2018	26	26	100.0%	8	30.8%
2019	16	16	100.0%	5	31.3%

No Teacher Assessment in 2020 due to Covid-19

Welsh First Language

Key Stage 2

	Number of Year 6 pupils	No. Level 4+	% Level 4+	No. Level 5+	% Level 5+
2017	15	14	93.3%	7	46.7%
2018	19	18	94.7%	6	31.6%
2019	19	19	100.0%	7	36.8%

No Teacher Assessment in 2020 due to Covid-19

End of Key Stage 3

	Number of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh 1 st lang	No. Level 5+	% Level 5+	No. Level 6+	% Level 6+
2017	33	31	93.9%	19	57.6%

2018	26	25	96.2%	23	88.5%
2019	34	32	94.1%	23	67.6%

No data in 2020 due to Covid-19

End of Key Stage 4

	Total number of GCSE Welsh 1 st lang. entries	Number of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	% of pupils that achieved grades A* - C
2017	34	27	79.4%
2018	76	38	50.0%
2019	32	20	62.5%

No data in 2020 due to Covid-19

Welsh Second Language

Key Stage 2

	Number of Year 6 pupils	No. Level 4+	% Level 4+	No. Level 5+	% Level 5+
2017	13	12	92.3%	8	61.5%
2018	11	10	90.9%	4	36.4%
2019	16	11	68.8%	8	50.0%

No Teacher Assessment in 2020 due to Covid-19

End of Key Stage 3

	Number of Year 9 pupils assessed in Welsh 2 nd lang	No. Level 5+	% Level 5+	No. Level 6+	% Level 6+
2017	6	2	33.3%	2	33.3%
2018	10	10	100.0%	4	40.0%
2019	16	11	68.8%	8	50.0%

No data in 2020 due to Covid-19

End of Key Stage 4

	Total number of GCSE Welsh 2nd lang. entries	Number of pupils that achieved grades A* - C	% of pupils that achieved grades A* - C
2017	25	24	96.0%
2018	25	24	96.0%
2019	24	20	83.3%

No data in 2020 due to Covid-19

ii) After school / extra-curricular activities which provide additional opportunities for pupils to use Welsh

All of the after-school clubs provided by the school provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh, either as a first or second language. These include the following:

- Urdd – various activities, but includes practising for the Urdd Eisteddfod and attending the Urdd camps at Llangrannog and Glanllyn
- Rugby, football, athletic, cross country, netball, hockey clubs
- Computer Club

The school also provides various extra-curricular activities which provide additional opportunities for pupils to use Welsh and these include visits to or from various organisations such as the Centre of Alternative Technology, Eco Dyfi, Ynys Hir Nature Reserve, Aberystwyth University.

iii) Opportunities provided by the school for members of the community to learn Welsh, or undertake activities through the medium of Welsh

The school does not provide opportunities for members of the community to learn Welsh. However, the secondary campus has been used for Welsh learning classes provided by outside providers.

The school also regularly communicates information to parents and guardians as to opportunities to learn Welsh and the support available.

iv) Other links between the school and the Welsh language community

The school has strong links with the following Welsh language organisations and individuals:

- Cylch Meithrin
- Ennyn Cymru
- Sioeau *Mewn Cymeriad*
- Cyngor Llyfrau Cymru
- Merched y Wawr
- Participation in Urdd Eisteddfodau at a local and regional level
- Authors, artists and poets as needed e.g. Elin Crowley, Ruth Jên, y *Welsh Whisperer*, Eurig Salsbury, Candelas, Aneurin Karadog, Mererid Hopwood, Anni Llŷn

5.2 Other considerations

i) **Whether it might be appropriate to provide additional after school facilities at any alternative school to further secure standards in the Welsh language**

Should the proposal be implemented, the use of the Welsh language would increase and there would be enhanced opportunities for pupils across all age ranges to take part in Welsh language activities, including after school activities.

There is therefore no need to consider providing additional after school facilities at any alternative school in order to further secure standards in the Welsh language.

ii) **How parents' and pupils' engagement with any alternative school and any specific language enhancement it offers could be supported**

Should the proposal be implemented, all current pupils would be able to continue to receive education through the medium of Welsh or English at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen throughout their time in the school, therefore there would be no change in terms of parents' and pupils' engagement with the school.

iii) **Observations provided by the local authority's Welsh medium Education Forum**

The following is a summary of observations provided by the local authority's Welsh medium Education Forum at a meeting held on 20th November 2020:

"The Welsh-medium Education Forum fully supports the proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to Welsh-medium, on a phased basis, year-by-year, starting with Reception in September 2022.

The proposal supports the Council's strategy to improve access to Welsh-medium-education in the county, and it is sensible and natural that consideration is given to the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen. This is especially so, bearing in mind the Welsh language nature of the catchment, and that the three other primary schools that feed Ysgol Bro Hyddgen are Welsh-medium.

The Forum's view is that the proposal will improve educational provision. It will provide the opportunity for pupils to be educated in more appropriately sized classes, without the need to mix age groups in the primary phase of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, and in classes where there is no need to duplicate language provision in the secondary phase.

Alongside the consultation, the Forum recommends that the Council should also share information about the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh-medium education, and that the Council includes responses to questions that are being asked in the local area in respect of the proposal.

The Forum also recommends that the Council works in partnership with those providing early years provision in Welsh or English in the catchment, including cylchoedd meithrin and any other providers.

If the proposal is implemented, the Welsh-medium Education Forum would be happy to work with Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, to support the school to move along the language continuum, to ensure that the best possible opportunities are offered to Powys pupils by providing Welsh-medium provision which will create bilingual citizens."

iv) How does the proposal fit with the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

The Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2017-20 sets out the Council's aim to provide equality of provision for Welsh-medium learners in Powys, and includes a specific objective to 'Support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth to move along the language continuum.' The WESP goes on to state that 'The authority will support Ysgol Bro Hyddgen to move along the language continuum in order to provide a more viable model of delivery for the school, and to ensure that all pupils in the catchment area are fully bilingual by the time they leave school.'

Since the Council's WESP for 2017-20 was developed, the Council has agreed a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030. This Strategy includes a strategic aim to 'improve access to

Welsh-medium provision across all key stage' and a strategic objective to 'move schools along the language continuum'. The proposal for Ysgol Bro Hyddgen aligns with this.

v) Any future actions that will be needed in consequence of the change to continue to comply with the scheme or meet targets in the scheme.

The proposal to change the language category of Ysgol Bro Hyddgen will have a positive effect on the Welsh language. It is not therefore anticipated that any future action will be needed in order to continue to comply with the scheme or its targets.

However, the Council recognises that if the proposal is implemented, it will need to actively monitor progress of the implementation of the change of language category at Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, especially as it is happening on a year-by-year basis, in order to ensure its success.

5.3 Issues raised during the consultation period

A number of comments were received during the consultation period which related to the proposal's impact on the Welsh language.

The comments received are listed in full in the consultation report produced in respect of this proposal along with the Council's response to the points raised, and are also summarised below:

- Comments relating to the positive impact of Welsh-medium education on pupils
- Additional support would be needed to support the change of language category e.g. immersion provision, additional Welsh language support for parents / families, the need to promote Welsh-medium education / the Welsh language
- The proposal would have a positive impact on the Welsh language in the community
- The proposal would lead to increased use of the Welsh language
- Reference to the benefits of bilingualism
- Reference to the Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' strategy

5.4 Issues raised during the objection period

A number of comments were received during the objection period which related to the Welsh language. These comments are listed in full in the objection report produced in respect of this proposal along with the Council's response to the points raised, and are also summarised below:

- Comments about the bilingual nature of the community
- Referenced to the number or proportion of Welsh speakers in Machynlleth
- Other comments about the Welsh language

5.5 Conclusion

Implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on the Welsh language, as in time, it would ensure that all pupils in the Machynlleth catchment would access Welsh-medium education, and would become fully bilingual in Welsh and English, leading to an increase in the number of pupils able to use the Welsh language confidently, and contributing to the Welsh Government's Strategy to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwriadol

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**CABINET EXECUTIVE
12 October 2021**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander
Portfolio Holder for Communications & Engagement

REPORT TITLE: Performance Feedback Ongoing Engagement Proposal

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 An ongoing engagement exercise is proposed to gather views from the local community which will be reported on quarterly and included as part of the council's performance self-assessment work.

2. Background

2.1 Welsh Government requires councils to keep under review the extent to which they are fulfilling the 'performance requirements', that is, the extent to which:

- they are exercising its functions effectively
- they are using resources economically, efficiently, and effectively
- the governance is effective for securing the above.

2.2 To fulfil this requirement an ongoing engagement exercise is proposed to gather views from the local community which will be reported on quarterly and included as part of the council's self-assessment work.

2.3 In line with Welsh Government requirements, we must consider the views of the following:

- local people
- other persons carrying on a business in the council's area
- the staff of the council
- every trade union which is recognised (within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (c.52)) by the council.

3. Advice

3.1 It is important that the engagement project reaches as many as possible in the target groups identified above. A variety of channels could be used including:

- **Online** - Engagement HQ project, promoted online with a link through to the survey via social media, press release, emailed to all staff, councillors, trade union reps, Powys People's Panel and Junior StartWell Board members, etc. Survey questions could also potentially be sent as an automated Direct Message on social media following conversations through Facebook Messenger.
- **By phone** - Customer Service team to ask for responses at the end of incoming calls and log responses through Engagement HQ.
- **Hard-copy** - Printed copies to be posted out on request by the Customer Services team, copies in libraries with a 'returns' box.

3.2 We would look to make the most of the tools available to use on the Engagement HQ site to encourage two-way conversation and facilitate ongoing engagement:

3.3 **Open Environment Ideas Tool** - (Allows participants to engage with each other. Comments, images, and ideas are visible to the public).

Proposed questions/topics for idea generation is as follows:

- What are the top three areas of improvement that we should be focussing on right now?
- If you could only pick one - which council service are you most satisfied with?

3.4 **Mixed Environment Question Tool** - (Participants can see other participant contributions. However, there is little peer-to-peer interaction. Some data may be visible to the community while some data is accessible only by the administrator). The proposed question is as follows:

- Do you have a question for us? Is there a burning question you have always wanted to ask us? Perhaps you'd like to know something about the way we run our services, or how we spend your Council Tax? Ask us below and we will answer as many as we can.

3.5 **Closed Environment Survey Tool** - To help boost engagement it is proposed that the survey is no more than five questions in length and a mixture of question styles to provide quantitative and qualitative responses. The proposed survey questions are as follows:

Q1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[Strongly agree - Agree - Neutral - Disagree - Strongly disagree]

- We are open about our decision-making, how we're managed, and council staff are open with the public.
- We make sure that the community can engage effectively with decision-making processes and council actions.
- We are honest and objective, put the public good before personal benefit and manage public money responsibly.
- We make sure that council staff and councillors are responsible for their decisions and actions and are open to appropriate external scrutiny.
- We use our resources carefully and lawfully, and in the interests of the community we serve.
- We are spending money in the right places/on the services that are most important.

- We are flexible and responsive to new demands and open to new ways of providing services.

Q2. How satisfied are you with...?

[Very satisfied - Satisfied - Neutral - Unsatisfied - Very unsatisfied]

- The helpfulness of/support provided by our staff
- The way we run things
- The online services we provide
- The ability to interact with us in the way that you prefer, e.g. phone, email, website, language of choice
- The opportunities given to you to have your say and participate in our decision-making processes

Q3. Which of the following statements comes closest to how you feel...?

- I speak positively of the council without being asked
- I speak positively of the council if I am asked about it
- I have no views one way or another
- I speak negatively about the council if I am asked about it
- I speak negatively about the council without being asked

Q4. Do you have any other comments or feedback for us?

[Open comment box]

4. Resource Implications

4.1 There are no additional resource implications, and the cost of the exercise can be delivered within existing service budgets.

4.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the above and can support the recommendation on that basis.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Legal : The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: " I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Data Protection

6.1 N/A - All questions are anonymous

7. Comment from local member(s)

7.1 N/A

8. Impact Assessment

8.1 N/A

9. Recommendation

Recommendation for an ongoing engagement exercise to gather views from the local community which will be reported on quarterly and included as part of the council's performance self-assessment work.

Contact Officer: Lowri Shepstone
Tel: 01597 826312
Email: lowri.shepstone@powys.gov.uk

Head of Service: Emma Palmer, Head of Transformation & Communications

9 September	Portfolio Holder for Education and Property	Approved the appointment of school governors.
10 September	Portfolio Holder for Environment	Initiated the Traffic Regulation Order consultation procedure in accordance with The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 for the Glasbury parking review. Authorised that consultation procedures be initiated and if no substantive objections are received the proposal be implemented.
5 October	Portfolio Holder for Education and Property	Approved the appointment of school governors.

Mae'r dudalen hon wedi'i gadael yn wag yn fwiadol

Cabinet / Delegated Decision Date	Cabinet/EM TDate	Title	Portfolio Holder	Lead	Decision Maker
12/10/21	28/09/21	Public Engagement Process	Councillor Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
12/10/21	28/09/21	Package Deal Policy Guide for Affordable Housing	Councillor Iain McIntosh	Andy Thompson	Cabinet
12/10/21	28/09/21	Ysgol Bro Hyddgen	Councillor Phyl Davies	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
02/11/21	19/10/21	Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Update	Councillor Aled Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
02/11/21	28/09/21	Asylum Seeker Accommodation	Councillor Iain McIntosh	Nina Davies	Cabinet
09/11/21	19/10/21	Mount Street and Cradoc Schools	Councillor Phyl Davies	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
09/11/21	19/10/21	Churchstoke CP School	Councillor Phyl Davies	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
09/11/21	12/10/21	Llanbedr CiW School	Councillor Phyl Davies	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
19/11/21		Homes in Powys Policy Update	Councillor Iain McIntosh	Nina Davies	Portfolio Holder
23/11/21	09/11/21	Castle Caereinion Objection report	Councillor Phyl Davies	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
23/11/21	09/11/21	Quarter 2 Performance Report	Councillor Beverley Baynham	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
23/11/21	09/11/21	Quarter 2 Strategic Risk Register	Councillor Aled Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
23/11/21	09/11/21	Council Tax Base	Councillor Aled Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
23/11/21	09/11/21	Treasury Management Quarter 2 Update	Councillor Aled Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
23/11/21	09/11/21	ACRF		Alison Bulman	Cabinet
14/12/21	30/11/21	Delegated Schools Budget Formula Review	Councillor Phyl Davies	Mari Thomas	Cabinet
18/01/22	04/01/22	Draft WESP	Councillor Phyl Davies	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
18/01/22	04/01/22	Budget 2022/23	Councillor Aled Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
18/01/22	04/01/22	CIP Update	Councillor Rosemarie Harris	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
08/02/22	25/01/22	Quarter 3 Performance Report	Councillor Beverley Baynham	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
08/02/22	01/02/22	Quarter 3 Strategic Risk Register	Councillor Aled Davies	Jane Thomas	Cabinet
22/02/22	15/02/22	Population and Well Being Assessment	Councillor Rosemarie Harris	Emma Palmer	Cabinet
08/03/22	15/02/22	Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan	Councillor Heulwen Hulme	Sian Barnes	Cabinet
08/03/22	15/02/22	Housing Support Programme Strategy	Councillor Myfanwy Catherine Alexander	Dylan Owen	Cabinet

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