

# Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus

## Cabinet

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

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Dyddiad y Cyfarfod  
**Dydd Mawrth, 3 Medi 2019**

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Amser y Cyfarfod  
**12.30 pm**

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Neuadd Y Sir  
Llandrindod  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â  
**Stephen Boyd**  
01597 826374  
steve.boyd@powys.gov.uk

28/8/19

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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

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## AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>YMDDIHEURIADAU</b>
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Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DATGANIADAU O DDIDDORDEB</b>
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Derbyn unrhyw ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb gan Aelodau mewn perthynas ag eitemau sydd i'w trafod ar yr agenda.

<b>3.</b>	<b>YSGOL GYNRADD DYFFRYN BANW AC YSGOL (SEFYDLEDIG) YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU LLANERFYL</b>
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I ystyried adroddiad gan y Cynghorydd Aled Davies, Aelod Portffolio ar faterion Cyllid, Cefn Gwlad a Thrafnidiaeth.

(Tudalennau 1 - 126)

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

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

### CABINET EXECUTIVE

3 September 2019

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Aled Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

**SUBJECT:** Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation)  
School

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Council published a Statutory Notice proposing to close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided primary school on the current site of Banw C.P. School from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
- 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 the proposal to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.
- 1.4 The report is supported by the following appendices:
  - **Appendix A** – Statutory Notice
  - **Appendix B** – Objection Report
  - **Appendix C** – Updated Impact Assessments

#### 2. Proposal

##### Background

##### The Consultation Period

- 2.1 Consultation on a proposal to close the two schools and establish one new school on one of the two sites commenced on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and ended on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
- 2.2 A Consultation Report listing the issues raised during the consultation and the authority's response to them was published. This was discussed by Full Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019, and was considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

- 2.3 At the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process to establish a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School through the publication of a Statutory Notice.

#### Statutory Notice

- 2.4 Further to the decision made by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the Council and the Diocese of St. Asaph published a Statutory Notice proposing the following:

***'From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020:***

*Establish a new Welsh Medium, Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary school for boys and girls aged 4-11 years old, that will operate on the current site of Banw C.P. School, Llangadfan, Welshpool, Powys. The proposed will new school will have a religious character of Church in Wales and will be maintained by Powys County Council.*

and

***'From 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020:***

*Discontinue the following two schools:*

- *Banw C.P. School, Llangadfan, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0NW;*
- *Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0HZ'*

- 2.5 The Statutory Notice was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 2019 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.
- 2.6 The objection period ended on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

#### Objections

- 2.7 15 objections were received during the statutory objection period. The issues raised in these objections and response to these issues are listed in the Objection Report, which is attached as Appendix B.

#### The Proposal

- 2.8 Having considered the issues raised in the objections received, as outlined in the Objection Report (Appendix B), it is recommended that the Council proceeds with implementation of the proposal to close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Primary School on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, as outlined in the Statutory Notice (Appendix A).

2.9 It is estimated that implementation of the proposal would lead to annual savings to the Council of £53,820.

2.10 In order to ensure effective stewardship of the resources available to schools, particularly those that are subject to closure, Powys' Scheme for Financing of schools makes provision for this under Section 3.7.2, where it states that:

'The Authority may impose additional restrictions, including but not limited to:

- restriction of expenditure to agreed plans
- removal of powers of virement'

2.11 It is therefore proposed that:-

- spend at the schools is restricted to that included in their approved budget plan and no virement of funds between budget headings is permitted unless approved by the Authority;
- any staffing changes are subject to approval by the Authority;
- any contracts awarded for the supply of goods or services are subject to approval by the Authority.

This will ensure that expenditure is limited to that which is absolutely necessary to protect council resources.

### **3. Options Considered / Available**

3.1 N/A

### **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

4.1 As outlined in section 2 above, 15 objections were received during the Statutory Objection period.

4.2 Having considered the issues raised in this objection, the preferred option is to proceed with closing Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School as outlined in the Statutory Notice (Appendix A), and to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School.

4.3 The reasons for this are as follows:

- Would provide one larger school in the Dyffryn Banw area which would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium education
- Would provide improved opportunities for pupils in the Dyffryn Banw area by being part of a larger school
- Would provide a more efficient model of delivering primary education in the Dyffryn Banw area

- Would minimise surplus places in the Dyffryn Banw area
- Closing the two schools and establishing one new school would ensure that all staff currently employed at the two schools would have an equal opportunity to secure a position in the new school
- The proposal to establish a new Church in Wales school would ensure continued access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision
- The Banw building is larger, so would provide an opportunity to co-locate pre-school provision on the site
- The Banw building has been assessed as being more suitable for curriculum delivery purposes
- There is access to a hall on site
- This outcome of the consultation carried out suggests that this is the preferred option
- The number of objections received was relatively small, and the issues raised in the objections do not warrant not proceeding with the proposal.

## **5. Impact Assessment**

5.1 Is an impact assessment required?            Yes

5.2 If yes is it attached?                        Yes

A range of draft impact assessments were produced as part of the consultation documentation. These included a Single Integrated Impact Assessment, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Community Impact Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

These impact assessments were updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and updated versions were attached to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The impact assessments have been updated again to reflect issues raised during the statutory objection period. Updated versions are attached as Appendix C.

## **6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

6.1 Learning and Skills is one of the four priorities outlined in Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-23. Within this priority, the Plan includes a commitment to 'Improve our schools infrastructure'. In order to achieve this, 'we will implement our new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan to develop a more efficient schools network, with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve.'

## **7. Local Member(s)**

**8. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council?                      Yes

**9. Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report?      Yes

Have they made a comment? 'The report is of public interest and requires use of proactive news release and social media to publicise the recommendation.'

**10. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

10.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.

10.2 Finance: Finance confirm the estimated savings within the report and fully support the recommendation to use powers of intervention as stated within the Scheme for Financing Schools to ensure effective stewardship. Llanerfyl School is currently working with the authority to minimise the current projected deficit forecasted on closure.

10.3 HR: 'The Schools HR Team will continue to work with headteachers, employees, Governors and trade union representatives to ensure that Powys County Council's policies and procedures are followed in consulting upon and implementing proposed changes.'

**11. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised?                      No

**12. Statutory Officers**

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

12.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments of Finance and supports the proposal to use the powers of intervention as outlined in sections 2.10 and 2.11 of the report, as per recommendation (iii).

**13. Members' Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
i) To receive the Objection Report in respect of the proposals for Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	To understand the issues raised during the objection period.
ii) To approve the proposal to amalgamate Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Closing Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020</li> <li>- Establishing a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Primary School on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020</li> </ul>	To ensure the continued provision of Welsh-medium education in the Banwy Valley through the establishment of one larger school.
iii) In line with Section 3.7.2 of the Scheme for Financing schools, it is proposed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spend at the schools is restricted to that included in their approved budget plan and no virement of funds between budget headings is permitted unless approved by the Authority;</li> <li>- any staffing changes have to be approved by the Authority;</li> <li>- any contracts awarded for the supply of goods or services have to be approved by the Authority</li> </ul>	To ensure effective stewardship of the resources available to schools and to limit expenditure to that which is essential.

<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	School Organisation Policy		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>Cllr Myfanwy Alexander</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Marianne Evans</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>September 2020</b>

Contact Officer: Sarah Astley
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Tel:	01597 826265
Email:	<a href="mailto:sarah.astley@powys.gov.uk">sarah.astley@powys.gov.uk</a>

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

CABINET REPORT TEMPLATE VERSION 5

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

## CYNGOR SIR POWYS ac ESGOBAETH LLANELWY

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

Rhoddir rhybudd trwy hyn yn unol ag adrannau 41 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013 (y Ddeddf) a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion bod Esgobaeth Llanellwy, Swyddfa'r Esgobaeth, Stryd Fawr, Llanellwy, Sir Ddinbych LL17 0RD (yr Esgobaeth) wedi iddynt ymgynghori â'r unigolion gofynnol, yn cynnig:-

- **O 1 Medi 2020:**  
Sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg Newydd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru (Gwirfoddol a Gynorthwyir) i fechgyn a merched o 4 i 11 oed a fydd yn gweithredu ar safle presennol Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Banw, Llangadfan, Y Trallwng, Powys. Bydd gan yr Ysgol Newydd arfaethedig gymeriad crefyddol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru a bydd yn cael ei chynnal a'i chadw gan Gyngor Sir Powys.

Mae'r cynnig hwn yn gysylltiedig â'r cynigion isod i derfynu Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol y Banw ac Ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru (Sefydledig) Llanerfyl.

Rhoddir rhybudd trwy hyn yn unol ag Adran 43 Deddf Safonau a Threfniadaeth Ysgolion 2013 (y Ddeddf) a'r Cod Trefniadaeth Ysgolion bod Cyngor Sir Powys, Neuadd y Sir, Llandrindod, Powys LD1 5LG (y Cyngor), wedi iddo ymgynghori â'r unigolion gofynnol, yn cynnig:

- **O 31 Awst 2020:**  
Derfynu'r ddwy ysgol ganlynol:
  - Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Banw, Llangadfan, Y Trallwng, Powys, SY21 0NW;
  - Ysgol yr Eglwys yng Nghymru (Sefydledig) Llanerfyl, Llanerfyl, Y Trallwng, Powys, SY21 0HZ.

Mae'r ddwy Ysgol yn cael eu cynnal a'u cadw yn gyfredol gan Gyngor Sir Powys.

Mae'r cynigion hyn yn gysylltiedig â'r cynnig uchod i sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru (Gwirfoddol a Gynorthwyir) yn Llangadfan, Y Trallwng, Powys.

Gan fod y cynigion uchod yn gysylltiedig â'i gilydd, ni fydd yr un cynnig yn mynd yn ei flaen oni bai fod yr holl gynigion yn cael eu derbyn.

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

<https://cy.powys.gov.uk/article/4468/Ysgol-Gynradd-Dyffryn-Banw-ac-Ysgol-Sefydledig-yr-Eglwys-yng-Nghymru-Llanerfyl> neu <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/st-asaph-diocese-church-schools/>

#### **Derbyniadau**

Corff Llywodraethu'r ysgol newydd fydd yn gyfrifol am drefniadau derbyn yr ysgol newydd.

Nifer y derbyniadau i'r rhai sy'n cael eu derbyn i'r ysgol am y tro cyntaf yn ystod y flwyddyn gyntaf wedi i'r cynigion gael eu gweithredu fydd 10.

Bydd derbyniadau i'r ysgol newydd trwy drosglwyddiad awtomatig yn achos disgyblion amser llawn ar y gofrestr ar yr adeg y bydd Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol y Banw ac Ysgol (Sefydledig) yr Eglwys yng Nghymru yn cau.

O 1 Medi 2020:

- Bydd disgyblion sydd wedi'u cofrestru yn Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol y Banw ac Ysgol Sefydledig yr Eglwys yng Nghymru, Llanerfyl ar 31 Awst yn cael lle yn yr ysgol newydd;
- Bydd pob derbyniad arall trwy drefniadau derbyn y Corff Llywodraethu, nad ydynt yn ystyried rhyw, tueddiadau na gallu'r plentyn.

Gall rhieni fynegi dewis i fynd i ysgol arall, a bydd y Cyngor yn cydymffurfio ag unrhyw ddewis o'r fath a fynegir yn amodol ar Ddeddf Safonau a Fframwaith Ysgolion 1998, Adran 86(3).

### **Categori Iaith**

Yn unol â diffiniad Dogfen Wybodaeth rhif 023/2007 Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru, "Diffinio Ysgolion yn ôl y Ddarpariaeth Cyfrwng Cymraeg", Categori 1 – Ysgol Gynradd Cyfrwng-Cymraeg fydd categori iaith yr ysgol newydd arfaethedig

### **Capasiti'r Ysgol**

O 1 Medi 2020, bydd capasiti 'r Ysgol Newydd yn 72 + 10 o leoedd meithrin.

### **Cludiant**

Bydd y trefniadau cludiant yn unol â Pholisi Cludiant y Cyngor rhwng y Cartref a'r Ysgol.

### **Gweithredu**

Bydd y cynigion yn cael eu gweithredu gan Gyngor Sir Powys ac Esgobaeth Llanelwy.

### **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 29 Mai 2019.

Dylid anfon gwrthwynebiadau at Dr Caroline Turner, Prif Weithredwr, Cyngor Sir Powys, Neuadd Sir Powys, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG neu i [education@powys.gov.uk](mailto: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 y cyfnod a nodir yn "y Cod".

**Dr Caroline Turner**  
**Prif Weithredwr**  
**Ar ran Cyngor Sir Powys**

**Mrs Rosalind Williams**  
**Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes**  
**Ar ran Esgobaeth Llanelwy**

Dyddiedig y diwrnod hwn 1 Mai 2019

### **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 Ddeddf yn rhoi'r pŵer i'r Cyngor i gau ysgol gymunedol; sefydledig neu wirfoddol a'r pŵer i agor ysgol gymunedol neu wirfoddol. Mae'r Ddeddf hefyd yn rhoi'r pŵer i agor ysgol wirfoddol. Mae'r Cyngor a'r Esgobaeth felly wedi gweithredu ar y cyd ar y cynnig, a byddant yn cydweithio i roi hyn ar waith os mai dyma fydd yn cael ei benderfynu.

- Bwriad y Cyngor yw cau Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol y Banw ac Ysgol (Sefydledig) yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Llanerfyl ar 31 Awst 2020.
- Mae'r Esgobaeth yn bwriadu Sefydlu Ysgol Gynradd Cyfrwng Cymraeg Newydd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru (gwirfoddol a gynorthwyr) a fydd yn gweithredu ar safle Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Banw, Llangadfan, Y Trallwng, Powys o 1 Medi 2020.
- Ni fydd hyn yn effeithio ar hawl rhieni i fynegi eu dewis o ysgolion eraill.
- Bydd trefniadau cludiant yn cael eu gwneud ar gyfer disgyblion cymwys dan bolisi cludiant ysgol y Cyngor.
- Manylwyd ar sail resymegol y cynnig hwn mewn dogfen ymgynghori a ddosbarthwyd fis Medi 2018.
- Sefydlir Corff Llywodraethu Dros Dro yr ysgol newydd cyn y dyddiad gweithredu, a hwn fydd yn gyfrifol am: penodi Pennaeth, enwi'r ysgol newydd, sefydlu gweledigaeth ac ethos, gwneud trefniadau gan gynnwys y cwricwlwm, derbyniadau a dyrannu lle, a bod yn gyfrifol am agor yr ysgol newydd hyd nes y bydd y corff llywodraethu newydd ar waith.

## POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL and THE DIOCESE OF ST. ASAPH

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

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 41 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) and the School Organisation Code that The Diocese of St Asaph, Diocesan Office, High Street, St Asaph, LL17 0RD (the Diocese), having consulted such persons as required, propose to:

- **From 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020:**  
Establish a new Welsh Medium, Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary school for boys and girls aged 4-11 years old, that will operate on the current site of Banw C.P. School, Llangadfan, Welshpool, Powys. The proposed new school will have a religious character of Church in Wales and will be maintained by Powys County Council.

This proposal is linked to the proposals below to discontinue Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl Church in Wales (Foundation) School.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 43 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act) and the School Organisation Code that Powys County Council of County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LG (the Council), having consulted such persons as required, propose to:

- **From 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020:**  
Discontinue the following two schools:
  - Banw C.P. School, Llangadfan, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0NW;
  - Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0HZ.

Both Schools are currently maintained by Powys County Council.

These proposals are linked to the proposal above to establish a new Welsh Medium, Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School at Llangadfan, Welshpool, Powys.

As the proposals above are linked, no proposal will be taken forward unless all proposals proceed.

The Council and the Diocese undertook a period of consultation before deciding to publish these proposals. A Consultation Report containing a summary of the issues raised by consultees, the responses of the Council and the Diocese and the views of Estyn is available on the Powys County Council website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School> or <https://dioceseofstasaph.org.uk/st-asaph-diocese-church-schools/>

#### **Admissions**

The Governing Body of the new school will be the admissions authority and will be responsible for the school's admissions arrangements.

The admission number for first time admission to the school in the first year in which the proposals have been implemented is 10.

Admission to the new school will be via automatic transfer for full time pupils on roll at the point of closure at Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl Church in Wales (Foundation) School.

From 1 September 2020:

- Pupils registered at Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, as at the 31 August 2020, will be allocated places at the New School;
- All other admissions will be via the Governing Body's admission arrangements, which do not take account of the sex, aptitude or ability of the child.

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

### **Language Category**

The language category of the proposed new school, as defined by "Defining schools according to Welsh medium provision" Welsh Assembly Government Information document No: 023/2007 is Category 1 – Welsh-medium Primary School

### **School Capacity**

From 1 September 2020, the New School's pupil capacity will be 72 + 10 nursery places.

### **Transport**

Transport arrangements will be in accordance with the Council's Home-to-School Transport Policy.

### **Implementation**

The proposals will be implemented by Powys County Council and the Diocese of St. Asaph.

### **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 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 any person may object to the proposals.

Objections should be sent to Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council, Powys County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG or by email to [education@powys.gov.uk](mailto: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 and Diocese's observations thereon, within the period set out in "the Code".

**Dr Caroline Turner**  
**Chief Executive**  
**For Powys County Council**

**Mrs Rosalind Williams**  
**Director of Education and Lifelong Learning**  
**For the Diocese of St Asaph**

Dated this day 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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

- The Act gives the Council the power to close a community, foundation or voluntary school and the power to open a community or voluntary school. The Act also give the Diocese the power to open a voluntary school. Accordingly, the Council and the Diocese have worked jointly on the proposal and will work together to implement it should it be determined.
- The intention of the Council is to close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School on the 31 August 2020.
- The Diocese intends to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School that will operate from the current site of Banw C.P. School from the 1 September 2020.

- This will not affect the right of parents to express a preference for other schools.
- Transport arrangements will be made for pupils who qualify under the Council's school transport policy.
- The rationale for this proposal was set out in a consultation document circulated in September 2018.
- The Temporary Governing Body of the new school will be established prior to the implementation date and will be responsible for; the appointment of Headteacher, naming of the new school, establishing the vision and ethos, making organisational arrangements including curriculum, admissions and accommodation and have the responsibility for the opening of the new school until such time as the new governing body is in place.



## PROPOSALS RELATING TO BANW C.P. SCHOOL AND LLANERFYL C. IN W. (FOUNDATION) SCHOOL

### OBJECTION REPORT

#### 1. Introduction

Powys County Council consulted on the following proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School:

- To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School
- To establish the new school either
  - a. on the current site of Banw C.P. School **or**
  - b. on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School

The consultation took place from the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed with a proposal to close the two schools, and to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School. Statutory Notices were published from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 to the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

#### 2. Objections received

15 objections were received during the statutory objection period. The issues raised in the objection are outlined on the following pages, along with the Council's response.

In addition, one letter was received during the objection period which expressed support for the proposal.

### 3. Issues raised in Objections

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1. Welsh Language		
Issue	Points raised	Council response
<b>1.1 The Welsh language is stronger in Llanerfyl</b>		
1.1.1	80% of Llanerfyl pupils come from homes where more than one parent speaks Welsh.	<p>It is noted that a higher proportion of Llanerfyl pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken. This information was provided on page 56 of the consultation document issued as part of this process, and has been acknowledged throughout the process. A Welsh language impact assessment has also been prepared, which has been updated throughout the process to take account of issues raised.</p> <p>Should the Council proceed with implementation of the proposal, a new Welsh-medium primary school would be established to serve the whole Banw Valley, including Llanerfyl. The Council would hope that all pupils attending the two current primary schools in the area would transfer to that new school, ensuring continued access to Welsh-medium education in a Welsh-medium school. However, all parents are entitled to apply for a place for their child in whichever school they choose, and these applications will be accommodated in accordance with the Council's admissions policy.</p> <p>The Council's aim is to increase the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh, in order to contribute to the Welsh Government aspiration to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. Attracting pupils from non Welsh speaking homes to Welsh-medium education will be key in order to achieve this.</p> <p>Implementation of this proposal would result in the establishment of one new, larger school in the Banw Valley area, and the Council's view is that this would contribute towards the Welsh Government's aspiration. This was supported by Estyn in their response to the consultation exercise carried out: 'Both option a and b would contribute to realising</p>
1.1.2	Over 75% of children in Llanerfyl speak Welsh at home compared with 15% of Banw children. Llanerfyl is the stronghold of the Welsh language and this should have been considered as well as the financial savings before making such an important decision.	
1.1.3	Disappointed that the Council has decided to close a school where Welsh is the first language of the majority of children	
1.1.4	A decision to close a school where Welsh is the natural language of the community to a village where only 12% of children speak Welsh in their homes suggests that Powys County Council is not concerned about the Welsh language, and therefore it will not be possible to increase the number of Welsh speakers in the future.	

		the Welsh Government's strategy of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.'
<b>1.1.5</b>	In Llanerfyl, the governors, the community council and the majority of the village hall committee speak Welsh.	The Council notes this comment regarding use of the Welsh language in Llanerfyl. The aim of the proposal is to establish one new Welsh-medium school to serve the whole Banw Valley area, with the aim of strengthening the Welsh language in the area. The Council does not believe that this would have a detrimental impact on the Welsh language in Llanerfyl.
<b>1.2 Lack of consideration of the Welsh language</b>		
<b>1.2.1</b>	Oppose the proposal based on lack of consideration of the Welsh language	The proposal's impact on the Welsh language has been considered throughout the process. An initial Welsh language impact assessment was prepared, and published with the consultation documentation. This has been updated throughout the process to reflect issues raised.
<b>1.2.2</b>	What is the Council's policy towards maintaining, developing and increasing the numbers speaking Welsh in the Banw Valley?	The Council is proposing to establish one new Welsh-medium school in the Banw Valley in order to safeguard and strengthen the provision of Welsh-medium education in the area.
<b>1.3 Reference to pupils from the area accessing English-medium education</b>		
<b>1.3.1</b>	Transport is being provided free of charge to transport 27 pupils out of the catchment area of the two schools as their children do not wish them to receive Welsh-medium education – how does this accord with Powys' intention to support the Welsh Government's plan for a million Welsh speakers.	Home to school transport is provided to pupils living in the Banw Valley area who choose to attend English-medium provision. This is in accordance with the Council's current Home to School Transport Policy, which states:  'In the primary sector, transport will be provided to the catchment or nearest suitable provision providing education through the medium of either English or Welsh. In order to qualify learners must meet the standard qualifying criteria (see 2.3).'
		The provision of education is deemed to be equal whether the school is an English-medium or Welsh-medium school or delivers both languages through a dual stream arrangement.

<b>1.3.2</b>	Some pupils who began their education in Welsh will now move to the English stream in Llanfair to gain free transport. Not only will you lose more potential Welsh speakers (which will not help to achieve 2050 Welsh targets), it will also cost Powys more money in transport costs	Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish one new Welsh-medium school to serve the area, the Council would hope that all pupils attending the two current primary schools in the area would transfer to that new school, ensuring continued access to Welsh-medium education in a Welsh-medium school. However, all parents are entitled to apply for a place for their child in whichever school they choose, and these applications will be accommodated in accordance with the Council's admissions policy. School transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy for eligible pupils.
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<b>2. Impact on the Community</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>2.1 Impact on the village of Llanerfyl</b>		
<b>2.1.1</b>	Closure of the school would have a significant effect on village life in Llanerfyl	The Council notes these comments regarding the impact of not having a school in Llanerfyl on the Llanerfyl community. The Council acknowledges that closure of any school will impact on the community in which it is located, however the Council's priority is to ensure the best possible educational provision for pupils in the Banw Valley for the future.  A draft Community Impact Assessment was published with the consultation documentation, and was updated to take account of issues raised during the consultation period. This will be updated again to reflect issues raised during the objection period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
<b>2.1.2</b>	Concern about impact on the parish of Llanerfyl	
<b>2.1.3</b>	The school plays a vital part in the community with its strong links to the Church, Cylch Meithrin and wider community	
<b>2.1.4</b>	The school serves as a central focus point for families, who gather for many village events, to celebrate, to raise funds and to maintain relationships with all members of the community	
<b>2.1.5</b>	School events involve the whole community, which is important in rural communities where social isolation can be such a problem, especially for the elderly.	
<b>2.1.6</b>	The school has an important role in the wellbeing of all members of the community	

2.1.7	Closure of the Llanerfyl site would have a greater impact on the Llanerfyl community as there is no shops/tea rooms or public house for local people to engage and interact, unlike the village of Llangadfan.	
2.1.8	Children and young people of Llanerfyl will lose the yard and the football pitch, where they often walk or cycle on quiet roads to meet and socialize with each other. Loss of these facilities will have a negative impact on their mental and physical wellbeing as the nearest leisure facilities are a car journey away. There are two football pitches in Llangadfan.	The Council notes these comments regarding the potential loss of facilities in Llanerfyl. The current Llanerfyl school site is owned by the Priscilla Foster Trust. Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, the Trust would need to determine the future use of the site and associated facilities.
<b>2.2 Impact on Llanerfyl Village Hall</b>		
2.2.1	Llanerfyl Village Hall is under real threat – would lose the extensive use by Ysgol Llanerfyl and the income involved. Also concern that Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw, who have been using the Village Hall since its establishment over forty years ago, would move to Ysgol Banw as a result of the decision.	The Council notes these concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposal on Llanerfyl Village Hall. The potential impact on Llanerfyl Village Hall was raised as a concern during the consultation period, and was reflected in the consultation report. However, the reason for this proposal is to ensure that Welsh medium primary education continues to be provided in the area.
2.2.2	The Cylch Meithrin has been established in the Llanerfyl village hall for 45+ years. Siting a new school on the Banw site may threaten the future of pre-school education in Llanerfyl, which may place the village hall in financial difficulty	A draft Community Impact Assessment was published with the consultation documentation, and was updated to take account of issues raised during the consultation period. This will be updated again to reflect issues raised during the objection period, and will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.
2.2.3	Should have been more concern shown towards the village hall in Llanerfyl – will be under significant financial difficulties as the Playgroup which holds sessions there 4 days a week is likely to move to Banw. Will also lose regular activities held by the school and its associated income. Likely that the main activities held in Llanerfyl village hall from now on will be funeral teas.	Any decisions about the location of the Cylch Meithrin would be a decision for the Cylch's management committee.

### 3. Criticism of the Council

Issue	Points raised	Council response
<b>3.1 Criticism of the council allowing pupils to move schools</b>		
3.1.1	Criticism of the Council for allowing 9 pupils to move from Ysgol Llanerfyl during the week in the middle of term and against Powys' education policy only hours after a discussion in the chamber was unforgivable, especially as there was never an official complaint to the school from any of the parents of these nine pupils.	<p>The Council notes these concerns regarding the decision to allow 9 pupils to move from Ysgol Llanerfyl to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw.</p> <p>A number of parents applied to the authority to transfer pupils from Llanerfyl to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw with immediate effect. The parents expressed very clearly that their children would not be attending Ysgol Llanerfyl from that day onwards. The authority has a duty to ensure that all children are educated and if a parent expresses a preference for a specific school, then the authority is legally obliged to provide a place for that child if there is room in the year group. In this case, there was room for all 9 children at Ysgol Dyffryn Banw.</p> <p>Usually, the authority tries to ensure that in-year transfers take place at the start of term, but on this occasion the parents were requesting an immediate move to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw.</p>
3.1.2	No consideration given to the impact of allowing pupils to move from Llanerfyl to Banw on the children, nor on the school's experienced and conscientious staff. This action undermined the confidence, development and mental health of the children and the staff.	
3.1.3	For the sake of education in the Valley in the long term, why did the Council, the Headteacher of Ysgol Banw and the governors of Ysgol Banw allow pupils to move from Llanerfyl to Banw?	
3.1.4	The sudden movement of pupils caused a major rift in the community, and potentially ruined the chance of any working together going forward.	
3.1.5	Powys have been very weak in dealing with the issue of pupils moving schools overnight, with no investigation or enquiry into the welfare of the children left behind.	
3.1.6	The level of ill-feeling in the area was increased by the sudden removal of nine pupils from Llanerfyl. Many of the families remaining in Llanerfyl will not now under any circumstances send their children to Banw, meaning that Banw will remain unsustainably small.	

<b>3.1.7</b>	Allowing 9 pupils to leave the school after the Cabinet meeting made things very difficult for all children and staff – after this, many parents have said that they won't transfer their children to Banw, so there will be a higher % of surplus places at the new school.	
<b>3.1.8</b>	Allowing 9 pupils to move from Llanerfyl to Banw overnight goes against the Council's admissions policy.	
<b>3.1.9</b>	Parents of Llanerfyl pupils were contacted to 'move their children' immediately, with disregard to the remaining children and the teachers at Llanerfyl – it is no wonder the situation has become difficult.	The requests to the Council for children to move from Llanerfyl C. in W. School to Banw C.P. School came the parents of these children.
<b>3.2 General criticism of the Council</b>		
<b>3.2.1</b>	In who's best interest is it to disrupt the majority? When did Powys last close a school with a higher number of pupils?	The Council is proposing to close the two schools, and to establish one new school to serve the whole area, in order to ensure continued provision of high quality Welsh-medium education for pupils in the area in the future.
<b>3.2.2</b>	The process is based on lies, personal connections and misconduct within the council at all levels.	The process has not been based on lies, personal connections and misconduct within the council at all levels. The process has been carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code (2013).
<b>3.2.3</b>	It's essential that the council acts with transparency – if there were evidence to prove bias following an investigation, then it could be argued that individuals within the council must remove themselves from the process.	Comment noted. The Council has acted with transparency and without bias throughout this process.
<b>4. Criticism of Councillors</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>4.1 Criticism of Cllr Aled Davies</b>		

4.1.1	There are suggestions that the decision has been triggered by lies and a close personal relationship between individuals who are supportive of Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and Councillor Aled Davies	There is no substantive evidence to support these claims.
4.1.2	It is well known that Cllr Davies is a close friend of the Chair of Banw governors – his decision was made on this basis, rather than hard facts.	
4.1.3	There are clear suggestions that Cllr Aled Davies has turned his back on principles, morals and policy in order to please and favour influential individuals that are associated with Ysgol Dyffryn Banw. Such behaviour is unacceptable. Personal associations should not be the basis for a decision which will have far reaching effects in our valley.	
<b>4.2 General criticism of the Cabinet</b>		
4.2.1	The Cabinet seem more concerned about appearing to show a united front on camera in the chamber than showing true character and making a decision based on facts.	The Cabinet's decision to proceed with establishing a new school on the Banw site was based on the findings of the consultation carried out in the autumn term. A statutory notice was subsequently published in accordance with this decision, and Cabinet will be required to make a further decision on whether or not to proceed with this proposal, having considered the issues raised during the objection period, as outlined in this report.
4.2.2	Cabinet has favoured Banw school whose staff has actively encouraged parents to move their children from Llanerfyl School mid term without opposition by the school's management and against Powys policy and been allowed to do so by Powys education authority	
4.2.3	Why has the Cabinet chosen an option that is worse for the environment as it forces children to go to school by bus or by car, and which will require heating a large building which will be half empty and in worse condition?	
4.2.4	Surely Cabinet has a duty to make the correct decision for all residents of Powys, by choosing the most financially viable option which would still provide excellent learning opportunities.	

	<p>The way the Cabinet reached its decision was undemocratic, especially given the debate in the chamber involving all councillors where the majority who spoke did so in favour of siting the new school in Llanerfyl, with some calling the decision a no brainer.</p>	<p>On the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the County Council debated a motion proposing that Full Council should meet to discuss recommendations relating to Primary and Secondary School proposals prior to a decision being taken by Cabinet, and resolved the following:</p> <p>‘That Full Council meets to discuss recommendations relating to Primary and Secondary School proposals that are affected by the Council’s Transformation Policy and Schools Reorganisation Policy 2015, to inform the Cabinet of Council’s views prior to any decision being taken by Cabinet.’</p> <p>A discussion on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School took place during a meeting of the Full Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The minutes of the discussion were included with the papers considered by Cabinet at their meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, when they agreed to proceed with the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site.</p>
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<b>5. Criticism of Officers</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
5.1	<p>Questions are being asked in the local community regarding the professionalism of Powys County Council’s Schools Transformation Team. There are suggestions that they have misled Llanerfyl School, and that they sided with Ysgol Dyffryn Banw – this suggests that the Council’s officers have been biased since the start of the process.</p>	<p>These statements are untrue.</p> <p>The initial report presented by Cabinet in July 2018, included an officer recommendation that a new school should be established on the Llanerfyl site, based on an options appraisal carried out by officers.</p> <p>However, there was little to choose between the two sites, and therefore, as stated in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting: ‘The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport presented the report and advised that he was proposing an amendment to the recommendation in the report so the consultation would not be specific on which site the new school would be on.’</p>
5.2	<p>The process has been unfair – lack of honesty from the schools transformation team from the start.</p>	

		<p>This is part of the democratic process – Cabinet can either accept the recommendations presented to them, amend them or throw them out altogether. There are other occasions where recommendations have been amended at the Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>In accordance with the Cabinet decision, consultation was carried out on the two site options, and the consultation document issued provided information on the two site options, as required by the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The findings of the consultation exercised were outlined in a Consultation Report. Comments relating to both schools were included in this Report, and were treated in exactly the same way. The Cabinet decision to proceed with establishing a new school on the Banw site was made based on the findings of the consultation exercise.</p>
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<b>6. Issues relating to the Process</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>6.1 Reference to report considered by Cabinet in July 2018</b>		
<b>6.1.1</b>	Why were the results of the Council's options appraisal carried out in July 2018, which showed that Llanerfyl was the best site in terms of location, potential to succeed and value for money, disregarded?	The options appraisal report presented to Cabinet in July included an officer recommendation that the new school should be established on the Llanerfyl site, based on an options appraisal carried out by officers.
<b>6.1.2</b>	The first paper to Cabinet on this matter recommended the school site to be Llanerfyl. This decision was based on ascertainable facts, such as the condition of the building and costs of the school. Immediately before this Cabinet meeting, the recommendation was changed without explanation and it was resolved to go out to consultation on both sites.	However, there was little to choose between the two sites, and therefore, as stated in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting: 'The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport presented the report and advised that he was proposing an amendment to the recommendation in the report so the consultation would not be specific on which site the new school would be on.'

	The July 2018 Cabinet report shows that the Llanerfyl site is the most strategic location, and provides the best value for money.	This is part of the democratic process – Cabinet can either accept the recommendations presented to them, amend them or throw them out altogether. There are other occasions where recommendations have been amended at the Cabinet meeting.
<b>6.1.3</b>	The Council's options appraisal report of July 2018 showed that the Llanerfyl site was the best in terms of strategic location, potential achievability and value for money. No factors have changed from what that report recommended – what happened during this period to change the decision?	In accordance with the Cabinet decision, consultation was carried out on the two site options. The findings of the consultation exercise were subsequently considered by the Council's Cabinet, and based on these findings, the Cabinet decided to proceed with a proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site.
<b>6.1.4</b>	How much did the report considered by the Cabinet in July 2018 cost the Council, only to be disregarded and ignored?	As the report was prepared by officers, there was no additional cost to the Council.
<b>6.2 Reference to 'Drop-in' events</b>		
<b>6.2.1</b>	The education officers should have judged the process better, especially during the drop in sessions, where local residents were allowed to write negative comments in public, creating tension between both parties. Surely common sense should prevail and they should have realised that this was never going to help the process.	An informal drop in session for parents was held in February 2018. The aim of this session was to give parents of pupils attending both schools to give their views on the most suitable way forward.  It is acknowledged that this process has been difficult for the two communities involved, however the feedback received during the consultation period suggests that the majority of people that responded to the consultation feel that merging the two schools is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure the continuation of Welsh-medium provision in the area going forward.
<b>6.2.2</b>	Following the first 'drop in' involving parents, it became clear from the hostility evidenced that the vision of two communities moving together to create a unified school was not going to happen. The nature of some of the remarks made it abundantly clear that a considerable number of residents wanted nothing to do with this partnership. At this point, the project of uniting the schools should at least have been paused, to allow potentially less divisive solutions to the pupil number problem in Banw to be examined. Instead, despite being fully aware that hostility was running high and the review was characterised by both communities as a battle, the authority pressed on regardless.	

<b>6.2.3</b>	The education officers deny that any derogatory comments were made, even though most which attended the open day read them! People from Llanerfyl feel very angry with regard to this – why would the education officers choose to deny this when clearly comments had been made?	As explained in the Consultation Report published in respect of this proposal, the feedback collated after the engagement event does not include any evidence of comments such as those quoted in consultation responses, nor any racist comments. However, it is acknowledged that some comments were made regarding staff.
<b>6.3 Reference to Consultation Response Form</b>		
<b>6.3.1</b>	Aled Davies' final decision is based on a questionnaire undertaken where only 27% were parents and prospective parents, with a large proportion made up of 'others' and 'no association with either school'. Cllr Aled Davies stated that the community had clearly decided on the Banw site, but who are these others and people with no association with either school?	This was a public consultation exercise, and anyone who wished to respond was able to do so. The survey was carried out in the same way as other surveys.  The findings reflect an earlier survey of parents of pupils attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin carried out as part of the early engagement work in early 2018, where a higher number of parents identified the Dyffryn Banw as their preferred site option. As outlined in the report produced outlining the findings of this earlier survey:
<b>6.3.2</b>	No safeguarding of data control was present with the online questionnaire, allowing anyone to post multiple questionnaires in their favour – how can this ever be democratic and achieve the correct results – surely a decision like this can't be decided on who can fill in the greatest number of online questionnaires?	- 'However, the order is different if we consider the number of times each option was ranked '1', the preferred option. On this basis, the order in terms of preference is as follows:
<b>6.3.3</b>	Statistics from the consultation report do not reflect the thoughts of parents/prospective parents as the survey parents/prospective parents carried out in March 2018 showed that 24 out of 28 were very likely/likely to attend Llanerfyl, 17 out of 28 to Banw and 10 out of 28 unlikely or very unlikely to attend Banw.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building – 12</li> <li>○ 2 A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building – 11</li> <li>○ =3 A new school dual sited school operating across the two current buildings – 2</li> <li>○ =3 A new school built on a new site in the area – 2'</li> </ul>
<b>6.3.4</b>	The Consultation Report identified that only 27% of respondents were parents with 33% being classed as either 'other' or 'no connection with either school'. The opinion of these unconnected individuals appears to over-ride the outcome of the consultation amongst the parents which had been held previously.	The report goes on to state on page 12 that:  - 'Whilst 16 questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Llanerfyl, only 11 questionnaires ranked the option of 'A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building' as their preferred option. In contrast, only 8

		<p>questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, however 12 questionnaires ranked 'A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building' as the preferred option.'</p> <p>The findings of the survey are only one element to be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed – a large number of written responses were also received, and these have also been taken into consideration in making the recommendation.</p>
6.3.5	<p>The decision to recommend Banw as the site appears to be based solely on this consultation exercise, with greater significance being placed on it than on economic factors, convenience of parents, vacant places or the wishes of parents as stated in the previous survey. The factors which led to the decision of officers to recommend Llanerfyl did not disappear but were ignored.</p>	<p>It is not true that the factors which led to the decision of officers to recommend Llanerfyl were ignored.</p> <p>The options appraisal report presented to Cabinet in July included an officer recommendation that the new school should be established on the Llanerfyl site, based on an options appraisal carried out by officers.</p> <p>However, there was little to choose between the two sites, and therefore, as stated in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting: 'The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport presented the report and advised that he was proposing an amendment to the recommendation in the report so the consultation would not be specific on which site the new school would be on.'</p> <p>This is part of the democratic process – Cabinet can either accept the recommendations presented to them, amend them or throw them out altogether. There are other occasions where recommendations have been amended at the Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>In accordance with the Cabinet decision, consultation was carried out on the two site options.</p> <p>A consultation report was produced which included the findings of the survey as well as a large number of other written responses. All issues raised during the consultation period were included in the Consultation Report. This included issues relating to Banw School and issues relating to Llanerfyl School.</p>

		The decision to proceed with a proposal to establish a new school on the current site of Banw School was made based on consideration of the findings of the consultation exercise, as outlined in the Consultation Report. This included the findings of the survey, as well as the written comments received.
<b>6.4 Reference to negative impact of the consultation process on the area</b>		
<b>6.4.1</b>	The consultation process has had a detrimental effect on the area and has split the valley.	The Council acknowledges that any school reorganisation proposal has an impact on the affected communities, and is keen to conclude this process as quickly as possible, in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for the communities involved.
<b>6.4.2</b>	The process has had a negative impact on the mental health of children, parents staff and adults of all ages in the area.	
<b>6.4.3</b>	Cllr Aled Davies has expressed throughout that the consultation process has been a positive one – his thoughts are completely different to the residents of both schools where many are experiencing low self-esteem and are completely disillusioned with the process.	Cllr Aled Davies has expressed throughout that the consultation process has been thorough – this is not the same as saying that the process has been a positive one. The Council acknowledges that this process has been difficult for the communities involved.
<b>6.5 Reference to Full Council discussion 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>		
<b>6.5.1</b>	At the Full Council meeting held on the 7 <sup>th</sup> March, the unanimous view expressed by councillors was that the recommendation to site the new school on the Banw site was the incorrect recommendation – a number of points were made by Councillors to support this view.	On the 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2016, the County Council debated a motion proposing that Full Council should meet to discuss recommendations relating to Primary and Secondary School proposals prior to a decision being taken by Cabinet, and resolved the following:  'That Full Council meets to discuss recommendations relating to Primary and Secondary School proposals that are affected by the Council's Transformation Policy and Schools Reorganisation Policy 2015, to inform the Cabinet of Council's views prior to any decision being taken by Cabinet.'
<b>6.5.2</b>	None of the issues raised during the Full Council meeting on the 7 <sup>th</sup> March have been considered or evaluated fully – this makes me question the purpose of gathering all councillors to the chamber to discuss, if the comments raised are not fully considered and explored.	A discussion on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School took place during a meeting of the Full Council on the 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2019. The minutes of the discussion, as well as officer

		responses to the issues raised by Councillors during the Full Council discussion, were included with the papers considered by Cabinet at their meeting on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019, when they agreed to proceed with the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site.
<b>6.5.3</b>	The issues raised by the councillors on the 7 <sup>th</sup> March are issues governors and parents of Ysgol Llanerfyl have raised throughout the process, however these seem to have been disregarded and no 'hard factual' reasons have been given to counteract the points of view.	<p>The issues raised by governors and parents of Ysgol Llanerfyl have not been disregarded. All issues raised during the consultation period, including issues relating to both Llanerfyl and Banw schools, and a range of other issues, were outlined in the Consultation Report produced, as well as the Council's response to those issues.</p> <p>The issues raised by councillors in the discussion on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, as well as an officer response to those issues, were listed in Appendix E which was attached to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April</p>
<b>6.5.4</b>	Responses have been given to the issues raised by councillors in the Full Council discussion, however these responses are very opinionated and not factual.	The Council's view is that the responses provided to the issues raised are appropriate.
<b>6.5.6</b>	When the issue was discussed in Full Council, many members spoke up against the proposal, both because it was financially unsustainable and lacked strategic coherence. No vote was taken, but from the tone of the interventions by members, it seems clear that the proposal would have been heavily defeated. At the next meeting of Full Council when, once again, a non-binding debate was held with regard to a development proposal in Abermule, a vote was taken – this is a blatant lack of equity. Either votes should be allowed for all such advisory debates or for none.	Comment noted.
<b>6.6 Reference to 30<sup>th</sup> April Cabinet meeting</b>		
<b>6.6.1</b>	Request clarification in terms of the basis on which the Cabinet decision on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April was made	The Cabinet decision on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April was made based on the findings of the consultation exercise carried out, as summarised in the consultation report and the associated impact assessments.

6.6.2	The Council's solicitors noted on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April during the Cabinet meeting that letters should be read out in public to ensure transparency – why then, were only letters from Llanerfyl read, when correspondence was also sent from individuals associated with Ysgol Dyffryn Banw? Does this again show the council's bias?	At the meeting held on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April, all letters / correspondence received in the days before the meeting was read out. This included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A letter from Rosalind Williams, Director of Education, Diocese of St Asaph</li> <li>- A letter from the Chair of Governors at Ysgol Llanerfyl</li> <li>- A letter from Councillor David Jones</li> <li>- An e-mail from Banw Community Council</li> </ul>
6.6.3	The weakness of process, the lack of solid evidence and the widespread inconsistency make the decision of April 30 <sup>th</sup> unsustainable.	The Council does not agree with this statement.
6.6.4	<p>30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, Cabinet waved through the decision with no discussion or explanation. The Ombudsman's Guide on the Conduct of Members states:</p> <p>'you are required always to make your decisions on the basis of the facts in front of you, and not to have made your mind up in advance to such an extent that you are entirely unprepared to consider all of the evidence and advice you receive.'</p> <p>From the record of the Cabinet meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, difficult to show that any consideration has been given, for example to the letter from Cllr David Jones. No discussion or explanation was to be provided, and two hundred years of educational tradition in an area where the Welsh language and culture are strong were to be dismissed without even the semblance of consideration.</p>	<p>The Cabinet decision to proceed with a proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site was made based on the findings of the consultation exercise carried out.</p> <p>The letter received from Cllr David Jones was read out during the Cabinet meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, as well as other correspondence received. Having considered these items, the Cabinet decided to approve the recommendation as outlined in the Cabinet paper.</p>
<b>6.7 The Process has been Unfair</b>		
6.7.1	Ysgol Llanerfyl were brought into the discussion after Banw school contacted the Council due to falling pupil numbers at their school.	The Council notes these comments.

6.7.2	Parish of Llanerfyl feel that the decision is unfair.	<p>As outlined on page 6 of the Consultation Document, the review of primary provision in the Banw Valley was instigated following initial contact from Banw C.P. School, and has involved a number of steps as outlined in the Consultation Document. The review has been carried out in accordance with the Council's School Organisation Policy (2018).</p> <p>Pupil numbers across the Banw Valley have decreased over recent years, and are not projected to increase over the next few years. The Council is proposing to close the two schools and to establish one new school in the area, in order to ensure continued provision of high quality Welsh-medium education for pupils in the area.</p>
6.7.3	Highly unjust way the council has conducted this process and the decision making methodology seems to be based more on who's back you scratch rather than true facts.	<p>This is untrue.</p> <p>The consultation documentation produced was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013), and included factual information as required by the Code. The findings of the consultation exercise were summarised in the consultation report produced, and the Cabinet decision to proceed with establishing a new school on the Banw site was made based on these findings.</p>
6.7.4	Children and parents at Ysgol Llanerfyl were made to feel inferior during this process due to the unfair attention given to the lack of facilities.	<p>It is not true that 'unfair attention' has been given to the lack of facilities at Ysgol Llanerfyl. During the consultation period, a number of concerns were raised regarding the facilities at Ysgol Llanerfyl, and concerns were also raised regarding the condition of Ysgol Dyffryn Banw. All of these issues were reflected in the consultation report, and were taken into consideration when determining how to proceed.</p>
6.7.5	Too much emphasis has been put on the Banw community hall during this process with some inaccuracies stated e.g. the football club would fold without the school in Banw – this is not true	<p>A number of comments were received during the consultation period which referred to the community hall and the potential impact on a range of organisations that use the hall should any closure of the school impact on the hall. The council is required to outline all issues raised during the consultation period in the consultation report, and to provide a response to these issues.</p>

6.7.6	Ysgol Dyffryn Banw and the school's supporters have sent complaints and lies to the Council about Llanerfyl School – complaints about bullying, threats and pupil welfare. These complaints are fake, however the council has believed them.	Views from both communities were received during the consultation period. All issues raised are outlined in the consultation report, as well as the Council's response to these issues.  No complaints have been received during this process.
6.7.7	Decision to change the site to Banw was very one sided – a cabinet member making comments that were not relevant to the process e.g. better management in one school than the other. Should never have said such a thing as a new school will have a new head.	Following the consultation exercise which was carried out on the two site options, the decision to proceed with a proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site was made following consideration of the findings of the consultation exercise carried out, as outlined in the consultation report.
<b>6.8 The governing body of Llanerfyl School did not consent to closure of the school</b>		
6.8.1	<p>The entire process was predicated on the notion that both governing bodies had consented to the closure of their school – this was not the case.</p> <p>At the first meeting between the two governing bodies, the governors of Llanerfyl offered support to Banw School in its difficulties and agreed to the general point that education should remain in the valley, but at no time did they agree to the closure of their school.</p> <p>At the next joint meeting held in Banw, there was an atmosphere which was far from conducive to open debate. Here the governors of Banw School stated their readiness to accept closure of their school if necessary whilst Llanerfyl governors remained silent. Silence cannot be construed as consent, particularly when the governors of Llanerfyl School subsequently wrote to the authority, making it clear beyond all doubt that they were not authorised by the parents to offer up their school for closure.</p> <p>The consultation processes and subsequent reports to Cabinet continued on the basis of this absent consent and no matter how many times and in what form it was stated that</p>	<p>As explained on page 124 of the Consultation Report:</p> <p>'Separate meetings were held with the two governing bodies, as well as two joint meetings. The minutes of the second of these joint meetings, held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, state that:</p> <p>'Officers asked whether the two governing bodies agreed that closing the two schools and opening a new school would be the most appropriate way to move forward. Some governors commented that they thought that this was the most appropriate way forward.</p> <p>Neither governing body indicated that they disagreed that this was the most appropriate way forward.'</p> <p>However, following the meeting, it is acknowledged that correspondence was received from the governing body of Ysgol Llanerfyl, stating that they had not agreed to close Ysgol Llanerfyl.'</p> <p>Consent to proceed from one or other governing bodies is not the reason why the Council has proceeded with these proposals relating to education in the Banw Valley. 'Why change is needed in the Banw Valley' is outlined on pages 8-11 of the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal, and the specific reasons for the proposal to</p>

	the governors of Llanerfyl School did not assent, this was ignored.	close the two schools and to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School are listed on page 19 of the Consultation Document.
<b>6.8.2</b>	The governors of a Voluntary Aided School are unable to act, under legislation, to do anything other than promote the wellbeing and standards within that school. Had Llanerfyl governors assented to the closure of their school in pursuit of some abstract end such as ‘the continuance of Welsh-medium education in the Valley’, they would have been acting ultra vires and any such assent would have been void.	
<b>6.9 Claims of predetermination</b>		
<b>6.9.1</b>	<p>It would appear that throughout the entire process, Cllr Aled Davies made it clear to all that he had made up his mind on the matter before any of the data gathering or processes had begun, let alone completed. All facts which supported Llanerfyl were ignored. When the difference in the condition of the two buildings was mentioned at the drop in session, Cllr Davies did not seem to place any particular significance on this.</p> <p>Ombudsman for Wales’s Code of Conduct for Members – on page 19, under the heading Compromising the impartiality of Officers of the Authority, it is noted that:</p> <p>‘Although you can robustly question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.’</p> <p>The same document describes pre-determination as follows on page 28:</p>	<p>Cllr Aled Davies had not made up his mind on the matter before any of the data gathering or processes had begun.</p> <p>As stated in the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in July, when it was agreed to carry out consultation on the two site options: ‘The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport presented the report and advised that he was proposing an amendment to the recommendation in the report so the consultation would not be specific on which site the new school would be on.’</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport did not propose that consultation should be carried out on the Banw site – the recommendation was to carry out consultation on the two site options.</p> <p>In accordance with the Cabinet decision, consultation was carried out on the two site options. Cllr Davies’ recommendation to proceed with establishing a new school on the Banw site was based on the findings of the consultation exercise.</p>

	<p>'Having a completely closed mind is known as pre-determination. You are entitled to hold a preliminary view about a particular matter in advance of a meeting (pre-disposition) as long as you keep an open mind and are prepared to consider the merits of all the arguments and points made about the matter under consideration before reaching your decision. Pre-determination on the other hand would be where you have clearly decided on a course of action in advance of a meeting and are totally unwilling to consider the evidence and arguments presented on that matter during the meeting. Pre-determination could not only invalidate the decision, it would also amount to a breach of the Code.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that Cllr Davies has shown predetermination prior to the decision being made by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> April, therefore rendering the decision invalid and all statutory actions stemming therefrom are null and void.</p>	
<p><b>6.10 Claims of rebuttable presumptions, mere assertions and errors</b></p>		
<p><b>6.10.1</b></p>	<p>Many statements have been made which were not ascertainably true. Some were rebuttable presumptions, such as that the equal formal language category of the two schools meant that they were in reality schools where the Welsh language was used equally. The data to demonstrate the inaccuracy of this presumption was readily available but never allowed to enter into the discussion.</p>	<p>Both Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School are Welsh-medium schools. However, it is acknowledged there are differences in the linguistic background of pupils attending the two schools, and that a higher proportion of pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School come from homes where Welsh is spoken – this information was included in the Consultation Document issued.</p> <p>The proposal is to establish one new larger Welsh-medium school, in order to continue to provide access to Welsh-medium provision in this Welsh speaking area. The Council's view is that this would contribute towards the Welsh Government aspiration to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. This is supported by Estyn in their response to this consultation, which states that: 'Both option a and b would contribute to realising the Welsh Government's strategy of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.'</p>

<p><b>6.10.2</b></p>	<p>Generalised assertions were treated as fact: 'Children have richer educational experiences when their school is physically attached to a village hall' tells us nothing about the experiences of children in the schools in Banw and Llanerfyl. When attempts were made to provide evidence which contradict this assertion by, for example, pointing to the outstanding sporting record of Llanerfyl pupils, this refutation was simply not admitted. These category errors, when presumptions and assertions are treated as fact, undermine the decision.</p>	<p>The Council has not stated that 'Children have richer educational experiences when their school is physically attached to a village hall.'</p> <p>However, as stated on page 23 of the Consultation Document in respect of the option to establish a new school on the Banw site: 'The (Banw) building has a wide range (of) facilities available which would enable the school to provide an extensive range of educational experiences to pupils.'</p> <p>During the consultation period, a number of comments were received which related to the differences which expressed concern that there is no hall attached to the Llanerfyl building, and referred to the benefits of the provision at Banw, which does provide access to a hall. The Council is required to include all issues raised during the consultation period in the consultation report, and to provide the Council's response to these issues.</p>
<p><b>6.10.3</b></p>	<p>Reference has previously been made to the logical absurdity of it not costing Powys County Council more to transport children who previously walked to school, but this was far from the only factual error to be included in the debate. Detailed transport costings for both options were repeatedly promised by officers and never forthcoming.</p>	<p>Estimated transport costs were included in the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal. As outlined in the Consultation Document, the estimate 'takes into account the impact of this option on the total cost of home to school transport in the Banw Valley, which includes transport to Caereinion High School and NPTC College.'</p> <p>Based on this assessment, it is estimated that implementation of either option 'would result in an increase in the daily cost of home to school transport from the current cost of £546.02 per day to approximately £730 per day.'</p> <p>The Council provided a further explanation of the position regarding home to school transport costs in Appendix F which was attached to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April. The explanation provided was as follows:</p> <p>The transport provider in the Banw / Llanerfyl area was asked to estimate the impact of implementation of either option on overall transport costs before Cabinet agreed to carry out consultation on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School.</p>

		<p>The response received indicated that the additional cost would be the same, whether the new school was located on the Banw site or on the Llanerfyl site.</p> <p>As indicated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>‘An estimate of the impact of implementation of this option on school transport costs has been received. This takes into account the impact of this option on the total cost of home to school transport in the Banw Valley, which includes transport to Caereinion High School and NPTC College.</p> <p>It is estimated that implementation of this option would result in an increase in the daily cost of home to school transport from the current cost of £546.02 per day to approximately £730 per day.’</p> <p>Home to school is already provided in the Banw Valley area. This includes transport from the area to Caereinion High School and NPTC college in Newtown, and link transport to both Llangadfan and Llanerfyl to provide access to transport to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion. Therefore, it is likely that no additional vehicles would be needed to achieve either option – home to school transport would be provided by transporting pupils on the routes already running, or by amending the routes already running to transport pupils to the new schools. This is why the increase in the daily cost is estimated to be the same for both sites.</p>
<b>6.10.4</b>	In a letter to the Cabinet, it was stated that there were many plots of land available in the area for affordable and local needs housing: these sites do not exist.	The decision to proceed with the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site was not made based on the availability of land in the area for affordable and local needs housing.
<b>6.10.5</b>	It has been stated that: ‘there will be no repair costs for Powys County Council to meet on the Banw site because the Church will sell the school in Llanerfyl and invest the proceeds of the sale on the Banw site.’ Not possible to imagine a more inflammatory and unhelpful statement, but	The Council has not stated that ‘there will be no repair costs for Powys County Council to meet on the Banw site because the Church will sell the school in Llanerfyl and invest the proceeds of the sale on the Banw site.’

	aside from that, the statement is based on error: the school in Llanerfyl is not owned by the Church but by a local charitable trust whose trustees would be bound by the terms of the original bequest. These are examples of a process riddled with inaccuracy and bias.	The Council has been clear throughout the process that the Llanerfyl building is owned by the Priscilla Foster Trust, and any decision on its future use would be a matter for the Trust.
<b>6.11 General comments regarding the consultation process</b>		
<b>6.11.1</b>	Many of the points raised during the process, such as surplus places / capital spend / capital receipts / over capacity / transport costs are factual and not opinions – the responses to those points should be based on fact not opinion.	The Council's view is that the responses provided to the issues raised are appropriate.
<b>6.11.2</b>	The councillors raised their concerns about the work of the officers and the validity of the survey results.	<p>As explained in response to the concerns raised by councillors in 'Appendix E' of the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019:</p> <p>'This was a public consultation exercise, and anyone who wished to respond was able to do so. The survey was carried out in the same way as other surveys.</p> <p>The findings reflect an earlier survey of parents of pupils attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin carried out as part of the early engagement work in early 2018, where a higher number of parents identified the Dyffryn Banw as their preferred site option. As outlined in the report produced outlining the findings of this earlier survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'However, the order is different if we consider the number of times each option was ranked '1', the preferred option. On this basis, the order in terms of preference is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 1 A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building – 12</li> <li>o 2 A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building – 11</li> <li>o =3 A new school dual sited school operating across the two current buildings – 2</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ =3 A new school built on a new site in the area – 2’</li> </ul> <p>The report goes on to state on page 12 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ‘Whilst 16 questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Llanerfyl, only 11 questionnaires ranked the option of ‘A new school operating in the current Llanerfyl building’ as their preferred option. In contrast, only 8 questionnaires were received from families that currently have children attending Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, however 12 questionnaires ranked ‘A new school operating in the current Dyffryn Banw building’ as the preferred option.’</li> </ul> <p>The findings of the survey are only one element to be taken into consideration when determining how to proceed – a large number of written responses were also received, and these have also been taken into consideration in making the recommendation.’</p>
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<b>7. Alleged non-compliance with policies, procedures and other legislation</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>7.1 Council policies</b>		
<b>7.1.1 Vision 2025</b>		
<b>7.1.1.1</b>	<p>In Vision 2025, the Council declares that it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with communities, residents and businesses</li> <li>- Willing to look at new ways of working and delivering services</li> <li>- Focussing on solutions rather than problems</li> </ul> <p>All of these aspirations have been breached:</p>	<p>a) The Council does not agree with these statements. There have been numerous attempts to work with the residents / community of Llanerfyl throughout this process, both as part of the statutory process and prior to this.</p> <p>It is not true that concerns and anxieties have been waved aside. All issues and concerns raised during the consultation process were included in the consultation report produced, which also includes the Council’s response to each issue.</p>

	<p>a) No attempt was made to work with the residents or community of Llanerfyl, their concerns and anxieties were consistently waved aside and disregarded.</p> <p>b) The developing partnership between Llanerfyl School and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, an innovative plan to reduce costs, strengthen management, raise standards, reduce problems at transition and prepare for the new curriculum was ignored in favour of a 'business as before' model.</p>	<p>It is acknowledged that this process has been difficult for the communities involved, however the overwhelming feedback from the consultation and the initial engagement carried out before starting the statutory process is that merging the two schools to establish one new school on one of the current sites is the most suitable way forward.</p> <p>b) Throughout the process, numerous opportunities have been provided for stakeholders to suggest alternative options. The option of Llanerfyl School working more closely with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion was not suggested during these processes.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges the potential benefits of an 'all-through' solution, and this is a model which is being developed across Powys. With regard to Llanerfyl School and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, there are a number of reasons why a partnership between these two schools would not be a long term solution. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Welsh-medium school whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a dual stream school.</li> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Church in Wales Foundation School, whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a community secondary school.</li> </ul>
<b>7.1.1.2</b>	<p>The Cabinet decision of 30<sup>th</sup> April does not deliver on the Cabinet's priorities as stated in Vision 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No evidence that devoting more of the Council's scarce resources to maintaining a building in poor condition will strengthen the economy in any way</li> </ul>	<p>The Council's view is that implementation of the proposal to merge Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and to establish a new school on the Banw site will not impact on the economy – this is reflected in the Impact Assessment carried out in respect of this proposal.</p>
<b>7.1.1.3</b>	<p>The Cabinet decision of 30<sup>th</sup> April does not deliver on the Cabinet's priorities as stated in Vision 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Far from supporting the health of the community, the actions of PCC have opened rifts so deep that they</li> </ul>	<p>The Council notes these comments, and acknowledges that this process has been difficult for the communities involved. The Council is required to follow the process as required by the Welsh Government. The Council has endeavoured to engage with the communities involved throughout this process. Unfortunately, there are historic rifts between</p>

	<p>have placed in peril the mental health of some residents. Staff, children, parents and members of the wider community have reported anxiety, stress and depression, which has led to individuals seeking professional help resulting from the way the process has been handled</p>	<p>the two communities following a previous attempt to merge the two schools, which has led to a reluctance from some members of the communities to engage effectively.</p> <p>However, 83% of stakeholders that filled in the consultation response form published as part of this proposal agreed that given the current and projected pupil numbers in the two schools, the most suitable way forward is for the two existing schools to merge in order to establish one new, larger school in the area.</p>
<b>7.1.1.4</b>	<p>The Cabinet decision of 30<sup>th</sup> April does not deliver on the Cabinet's priorities as stated in Vision 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How will the closure of Llanerfyl School improve standards of teaching or learning?</li> </ul>	<p>The impact of the two site options on quality and standards in education was considered in the Consultation Document produced as part of this proposal. 'Impact on quality and standards in education' of the option to establish a new school on the Banw site was considered on pages 21-24 of the document.</p> <p>In addition, the impact of the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site has been considered in the Impact Assessment carried out. As indicated in the Updated Impact Assessment, which was included with the papers considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April:</p> <p>'This option would result in one larger school in the Banwy Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the valley, and would have a positive impact on the quality of education provided to pupils. The Banw building provides access to more facilities than the Llanerfyl building – in particular, there is access to a hall on site. Should this option be implemented, all pupils in the area would be able to access these facilities.'</p>
<b>7.1.1.5</b>	<p>The Cabinet decision of 30<sup>th</sup> April does not deliver on the Cabinet's priorities as stated in Vision 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By choosing to close a school in the heart of a Welsh-speaking community, the Cabinet have failed in their fourth objective. In what way can the decision of April 30<sup>th</sup> be described as 'supporting' the residents and community of Llanerfyl?</li> </ul>	<p>The Council fully acknowledges that the proposal to establish one new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would impact on the community of Llanerfyl. As identified in respect of 'Residents and Communities' in the updated impact assessment which was considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019:</p> <p>'The proposal would mean that there would be no provision in the village of Llanerfyl. However, there is a separate village hall in Llanerfyl,</p>

		<p>which would continue to be available. The building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. School is not owned by the Council – should the building no longer be required for the provision of education, the Trust would determine its future use.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period reflected concerns that implementation of this option would have a negative impact on the community of Llanerfyl through not having a school in the village, and also potentially a negative impact on the village hall through loss of use by the school.’</p>
<b>7.1.2 School Organisation Policy</b>		
<b>7.1.2.1</b>	The decision made by Cabinet on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April is in variance with the Council’s School Organisation Policy.	The Council’s view is that the decision made by Cabinet on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April is in accordance with the Council’s School Organisation Policy.
<b>7.1.2.2</b>	<p>Page 1 of the School Organisation Policy states:</p> <p>‘We wish to work with schools and communities to develop a positive and innovative network of schools, with school, families, communities and business working together to create a system that is accessible, integrated and responsive, initially focussing on new models of delivering education which would see the retention of provision in rural areas. This does not mean that there will be no school closures in Powys, however the case for closure would need to be strong and not taken until a range of alternative models have been fully explored.’</p> <p>However, the ‘range of alternative models’ explored with regard to Banw and Llanerfyl were limited to federation or a school on two sites, or a new school on a site yet to be determined, none of which would have addressed the key problem of sustainability. At no point were wider or more innovative solutions explored. Schools sharing similar characteristics and problems with the schools in the Banw Valley were excluded from all discussions though members</p>	<p>Numerous opportunities have been provided throughout the process for stakeholders to give their views on ‘alternative models’, from the initial engagement which took place with parents before the commencement of the formal process and throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>Alternative options suggested during the consultation period are outlined in the consultation report, as well as the Council’s response.</p> <p>The overwhelming view expressed throughout the consultation period was that merging the two schools in order to establish one new school to serve the area was the most suitable way forward.</p> <p>Whilst a small number of respondents to the consultation suggested that a wider review of education in the area would be a suitable alternative option, no reference was made during the consultation period to the possibility of closer working with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion.</p>

	of Full Council and the Cabinet had insisted that it be considered at the same time. Links with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, even when worked up into a concrete proposal, were ignored.	
<b>7.1.2.3</b>	<p>Page 7 of the School Organisation Policy states in section 4.2:</p> <p>‘The current School Organisation Code recognises that the prime purpose of schools is the provision of education, and any case for closure should be robust and in the best interests of education provision in the area. However, the Code also recognises that in rural areas a school may also be the main focal point for community activity, and its closure could have implications beyond the issue of the provision of education, particularly if the school buildings are used as a place to provide services to the local community. Any proposals for the closure of provision will only be taken after all alternatives to closure have been conscientiously considered.’</p> <p>The impact on the community of Llanerfyl has been dismissed. The village of Llangadfan has a café, a village shop and a pub, Llanerfyl has only a garage. The school in Llanerfyl is used to provide services to the local community, hosting events which draw in a wide cross-section of residents, providing a focus in a village lacking in amenities. Do not agree that all alternatives to the closure of Llanerfyl School have been conscientiously considered.</p> <p>With the further threat of the removal of the Cylch Meithrin to the Banw site, undermining financial stability of the village hall, facilities in Llanerfyl will be further depleted.</p>	<p>The impact on the community of Llanerfyl has been considered throughout the process. Draft community impact assessments were published with the consultation documentation, which considered the impact of the two site options on the two communities.</p> <p>These were updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and the updated versions were considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p> <p>The Council acknowledges that closure of any school will impact on the community in which it is located, however the Council’s priority is to ensure the best possible educational provision for pupils in the Banw Valley for the future. The potential impact on the village of Llanerfyl is noted, and the potential threat to the village hall.</p> <p>Throughout this process, numerous opportunities have been provided for the communities involved to suggest alternative options to the proposal, however the overwhelming view expressed during the process is that merging the two schools to create one new school to serve the whole area is the most suitable way forward.</p>
<b>7.1.2.4</b>	Page 10 of the School Organisation Policy, under ‘Development of Proposals’ states as follows:	The proposal’s impact on leadership and management was considered in the Consultation Document.

	<p>'6.2 Leadership and Management Many areas of Powys have experienced difficulties in recruiting headteachers, and shared headteacher arrangements have been introduced in many schools in order to overcome these issues. Whilst these arrangements can bring many benefits for the schools involved, it is acknowledged that these arrangements can also place additional pressure on headteachers. In addition, the current informal arrangements which are often put in place do not always provide certainty and resilience for the schools. When developing School Organisation proposals, the Council will consider the impact on the quality of leadership, taking into consideration whether the proposed model would provide resilience in terms of leadership, but also considering the impact on the workload of the headteacher and other leaders, including the governing body.'</p> <p>The 30<sup>th</sup> April decision makes no provision for sustainable leadership, merely creates a new small school with the same management costs as before and all the pressures suffered by leaders in small schools. Broader, more imaginative options, which would have allowed school leadership to be supported by a wider team have been rejected in favour of the 'business as usual' model which is widely understood to create considerable and enduring problems.</p>	<p>In respect of the option to establish a new school on the Banw site, it is acknowledged on page 23 that 'Whilst the newly established school would be larger than the two current schools, the school would still be a relatively small, Welsh-medium school, which could lead to challenges in attracting a suitable candidate for the headteacher position.'</p> <p>There were numerous opportunities throughout this process for stakeholders to suggest alternative options, however school leadership being supported by a wider team was not an option that was suggested during the consultation period.</p>
7.1.2.5	<p>Page 11 of the School Organisation Policy, under 'Geography', states as follows:</p> <p>'6.4: When developing proposals, the Council will give full consideration to the impact on home to school transport, including the nature of journeys to alternative provision and the resulting journey times for pupils and the cost of any additional home to school transport required.'</p> <p>Transport costs have been the subject of much discussion. Members of the Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 expressed</p>	<p>The Council has not stated that new transport provision for children currently not requiring transport at no additional cost. The Council has been clear throughout that merging the two schools and establishing one new school on either site would lead to an increase in school transport costs. However, as indicated throughout, the expectation is that the increase in transport costs would be the same, regardless of the site chose.</p> <p>Cabinet members asked for further clarification on the issue of Transport costs before making a decision on whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of this proposal. The</p>

	<p>the opinion that closing a school to which most children currently walked or cycled would create additional cost for the Council, however this logic has been repeatedly denied. The proposal agreed by Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup> is predicated on the fact that it is possible to create new transport provision for children currently not requiring transport at no additional cost – this is factually wrong.</p>	<p>explanation provided, which was included in Appendix F of the papers considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, is as follows:</p> <p>‘The transport provider in the Banw / Llanerfyl area was asked to estimate the impact of implementation of either option on overall transport costs before Cabinet agreed to carry out consultation on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School.</p> <p>The response received indicated that the additional cost would be the same, whether the new school was located on the Banw site or on the Llanerfyl site.</p> <p>As indicated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>‘An estimate of the impact of implementation of this option on school transport costs has been received. This takes into account the impact of this option on the total cost of home to school transport in the Banw Valley, which includes transport to Caereinion High School and NPTC College.</p> <p>It is estimated that implementation of this option would result in an increase in the daily cost of home to school transport from the current cost of £546.02 per day to approximately £730 per day.’</p> <p>Home to school is already provided in the Banw Valley area. This includes transport from the area to Caereinion High School and NPTC college in Newtown, and link transport to both Llangadfan and Llanerfyl to provide access to transport to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion. Therefore, it is likely that no additional vehicles would be needed to achieve either option – home to school transport would be provided by transporting pupils on the routes already running, or by amending the routes already running to transport pupils to the new schools. This is why the increase in the daily cost is estimated to be the same for both sites.’</p>
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<p><b>7.1.2.6</b></p>	<p>Page 11 of the School Organisation Code, under ‘Use of Financial Resources’, states as follows:</p> <p>‘Powys County Council, like many other local authorities, is currently facing significant financial pressure, which is unlikely to improve in the coming years. This pressure is affecting all council services, including schools. In order to continue to provide high quality services in this challenging financial climate, the authority needs to work towards a more efficient model of delivering education, whilst also retaining access to provision in rural communities.’</p> <p>The school transformation project in the Banw valley as ratified by Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup> proposes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain the site with higher running costs</li> <li>• Retain the site with higher maintenance cost</li> <li>• Increased transport costs by preventing pupils from walking to school</li> <li>• Reject shared leadership models which would reduce cost</li> </ul> <p>Every aspect of this decision demonstrates a profligate attitude towards public money, placing no value on fiscal prudence. Specifically, cost per pupil was disregarded, despite the impact of this on other schools. As stated: ‘When developing proposals, the Council will consider the impact on the distribution of funding between mainstream schools within the local authority’s area, the cost of proposals, any additional transport costs and the scale of any projected net savings.’</p> <p>There is no evidence that in the case of the decision of April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Council considered the impact of the above and its financial sustainability on the funding of other schools.</p>	<p>As indicated on page 114 of the Consultation Report issued in respect of this proposal in response to queries about why the Council was proceeding with the most expensive option:</p> <p>‘It is true that the estimated costings provided in the Consultation Document suggest that there would be a greater saving to the Council should the new school be established in Llanerfyl, however, establishing a new school on the Banw site would still result in an estimated saving to the Council of £49,226.</p> <p>Whilst financial impact is one element to be considered with regard to school reorganisation proposals, this is only one of a number of considerations. The Council’s priority is to ensure the best possible education for pupils.’</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal would not impact on the distribution of funding between mainstreams schools – as indicated on page 25 of the Consultation Document, ‘Should the Council proceed with this option, the savings as outlined above would be identified as an efficiency to the Schools Service budget.’</p>
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<p><b>7.1.2.7</b></p>	<p>Page 12 of the School Organisation Policy, under ‘Welsh language’, states as follows:</p> <p>‘6.6 In July 2017, the Welsh Government launched Cymraeg 2050, an ambitious new Welsh language strategy which sets out the vision to reach one million Welsh speakers by 2050. This strategy acknowledges the role of education in the achievement of the aim, and also states that ‘Welsh-medium immersion education is our principal method for ensuring that children can develop their Welsh language skills, and for creating new speakers’. Powys County Council acknowledges the key role that Welsh-medium education will play in achieving the Welsh Government’s aim to increase the number of Welsh speakers. The impact on access to Welsh-medium provision will be a key consideration when developing proposals which impact on Welsh-medium provision, and in these cases, a Welsh language impact assessment will be carried out. In addition, the authority will consider whether there is a need to introduce Welsh-medium provision in areas where there is currently no access to Welsh-medium provision.’</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Though Ysgol Llanerfyl and Ysgol Dyffryn Banw share the same theoretical language status, both being described as Welsh medium, the demographics of the schools are very different. It was raised on a number of occasions with officers and elected members of PCC that the nature of Llanerfyl school, where an overwhelming number of children speak Welsh at home, created an ethos which reaches beyond the classroom and into all aspects of school life</li> <li>• Question whether officers fully considered whether the two schools were linguistically equivalent – for example, use of Welsh by pupils as recorded by Siartr Iaith, retention in Welsh medium education after 11 and language of governors meetings</li> </ul>	<p>It is noted that a higher proportion of Llanerfyl pupils come from homes where Welsh is spoken. This information was provided on page 56 of the consultation document issued as part of this process, and has been acknowledged throughout the process. A Welsh language impact assessment has also been prepared, which has been updated throughout the process to take account of issues raised.</p> <p>The Council’s aim is to increase the number of pupils educated through the medium of Welsh, in order to contribute to the Welsh Government aspiration to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. Attracting pupils from non Welsh speaking homes to Welsh-medium education will be key in order to achieve this.</p> <p>Implementation of this proposal would result in the establishment of one new, larger school in the Banw Valley area, and the Council’s view is that this would contribute towards the Welsh Government’s aspiration. This was supported by Estyn in their response to the consultation exercise carried out: ‘Both option a and b would contribute to realising the Welsh Government’s strategy of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.’</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Llanerfyl is a school where Welsh is the natural language of everyday communication.</li> </ul>	
	<p>The School Organisation Policy states the following in relation to 'Impact on the Community':</p> <p>'The Council acknowledges the role of Powys schools within their local communities, particularly in the case of schools in rural locations. Many schools are used extensively by their communities, and make an important contribution to community life. The Council aspires to maximise this, and to further develop the role of all schools in their community, with the aim of co-locating Council services and other services on school sites, in particular as part of new build projects. The Council will assess the impact of proposals on the community when developing any School Organisation proposals, and will fully explore alternative models of delivering education which would see the retention of provision in local communities.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This states that PCC will fully explore alternative models which retain provision in local communities, but in the case of the decision made on April 30<sup>th</sup>, this has not been done.</li> <li>In the letter read to Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup>, Cllr David Jones explained the ongoing discussions between Caereinion and the schools in the cluster with its potential for sustainable and efficient provision: this was dismissed without consideration, in total contradiction to para 6.7 of the policy.</li> <li>Schools Organisation Policy is the document on which all changes to educational provision should be based. This document is recent and has been reviewed by the PCC Scrutiny processes and the Welsh Audit Office. It is fully operational and should be followed. For a school transformation decision to break, ignore or over-ride the policy in 7 distinct areas renders the decision unsafe, ultra vires and liable to challenge</li> </ul>	<p>The Council has considered a range of options throughout this process, and opportunities have been provided for stakeholder to give their views on these options.</p> <p>Numerous opportunities have also been provided throughout the process for stakeholders to suggest alternative options. However, the overwhelming view expressed during the consultation period was that establishing one new school in the Banw valley is the community's preferred option.</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site would impact on the facilities available in Llanerfyl, the Council is proposing to establish one new school to serve the whole Banw Valley area, therefore retaining primary provision in this area, in a building where there is more scope for co-location of other services.</p>

<b>7.1.3 School Organisation Policy Delivery Plan</b>		
<b>7.1.3.1</b>	<p>Delivery Plan has exactly the same status as the Policy document and all decisions should accord with it.</p> <p>Page 1 of the Delivery Plan states that it is a priority for 'Small primary schools to be part of formal collaborations / federations / amalgamations'. However, the decision ratified by Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup> creates an isolated, numerically small and costly primary school in a large building which is far more expensive to maintain, and is in breach of this policy. This priority is repeated on page 9 of the same document.</p>	<p>The current proposal relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is to amalgamate the two schools, by closing the two schools and establishing one new school to serve the area.</p>
<b>7.1.4 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan</b>		
<b>7.1.4.1</b>	<p>Page 15 – 'Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school'.</p> <p>This is a target for which PCC will be held to account by regulators, yet the decision of April 30<sup>th</sup> ensures that the school which had significantly higher retention levels in the Welsh stream at Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is to close, with the loss of its natural ethos. Though the numbers are small, the trends are clear – in the WESP, the figures for 2017 show 75% of Llanerfyl children going to the Welsh stream, as compared to 63% from Banw. More recent figures are more stark and yet were considered irrelevant for this school organisation process. More children from Llanerfyl transfer to Welsh medium secondary provision and therefore this decision is acting against the target set out in Outcome 2 of the WESP.</p>	<p>The Council notes the differences in the percentages of pupils from Llanerfyl School and Banw School transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision. However it must be noted that the numbers involved are small, therefore this must be taken into consideration.</p> <p>The Council is proposing to establish one new Welsh-medium school to serve the whole area. Should a new school be established, the Council would monitor transition rates to Welsh-medium secondary provision, and should there be an issue, this would be addressed with the school.</p>
<b>7.1.4.2</b>	<p>Page 16 refers to be steps to be taken to remedy the problem of pupils not transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision.</p>	

	<p>Ysgol Llanerfyl proposed to strengthen their links with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion in exactly the manner suggested, reducing the already low number of Year 6 pupils who do not continue their education through the medium of Welsh. Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup> refused to consider this arrangement which was made in accordance with the plan set out in the WESP.</p>	
<b>7.1.4.3</b>	<p>Outcome 5 refers to increasing the number of pupils with advanced skills in Welsh, and sets out steps to promote the use of Welsh.</p> <p>A key aspect of the Welsh Language Charter is its diagnostic use, allowing the management of the school to understand the pupils use of Welsh in a wider context. Identified areas on which schools may build and provides data on the ways learners use Welsh. Given the different demographic context of Ysgol Llanerfyl and Ysgol Dyffryn Banw, the Language Charter data should have been presented to the Cabinet as part of their decision making process. The actions of the officers in this decision have demonstrated that the Language Charter is neither respected nor validated in PCC, despite the protestations of the WESP.</p>	<p>Information on the demographic context of the two schools was included in the Consultation Documentation, which was included as an attachment to the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.</p> <p>The Consultation Document also referred to the Welsh Language Charter, as it stated that:</p> <p>'Both schools offer a wide range of Welsh language extra-curricular activities and have achieved the Welsh Language Charter bronze award and are now working towards the silver award.'</p> <p>Subsequently, Banw C.P. School achieved the Welsh Language Charter silver award in June 2019. Llanerfyl C. in W. School has not yet achieved the silver award.</p>
<b>7.1.5 School Admissions Policy</b>		
<b>7.1.5.1</b>	<p>When pupils are moved during a school year, they are subject to the rules for In-Year Transfers, detailed below:</p> <p>'In-year transfers – If you wish to transfer your child to a different school at any time (except due to moving house), you should discuss this with the Headteacher of your current school. Then you should approach the Headteacher of your chosen school and discuss the possibility of admission, explaining why you want to change schools. You will then need to complete an 'In-Year Transfer form'. If your</p>	<p>A number of parents applied to the authority to transfer pupils from Llanerfyl to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw with immediate effect. The parents expressed very clearly that their children would not be attending Ysgol Llanerfyl from that day onwards. The authority has a duty to ensure that all children are educated and if a parent expresses a preference for a specific school, then the authority is legally obliged to provide a place for that child if there is room in the year group. In this case, there was room for all 9 children at Ysgol Dyffryn Banw.</p>

	<p>application for application for transfer is approved, your child will change schools at the beginning of a term or half term. The transfer will normally be approved, as long as it doesn't affect the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources and is in line with any admission procedures the school has agreed with the council.'</p> <p>On the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019, children were moved mid term from Llanerfyl School, which goes against the In-year transfer policy described above. No notice was given, staff had no time to prepare the children and they had no time to complete statutory moderation assessment. No contact was made at the time by the council to ascertain the welfare of pupils and staff left behind. Children were then admitted to Banw School in breach of Powys County Council's admission regulations – this should not have been permitted.</p>	<p>Usually, the authority tries to ensure that in-year transfers take place at the start of term, but on this occasion the parents were requesting an immediate move to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw.</p>
<p><b>7.2 Welsh Government documentation / legislation</b></p>		
<p><b>7.2.1 School Organisation Code</b></p>		
<p><b>7.2.1.1</b></p>	<p>Page 7, 1.4 states that:</p> <p>'Proposals should ensure that the balance of school provision reflects the balance of demand. This means that where school provision is being reduced or removed, alternative school provision of the same nature (language category or, if relevant, religious character), wherever possible, should remain available and accessible to pupil in the local area. However in some areas it may not be compatible with the cost effective provision of education to continue to maintain access to schools of the same nature.'</p> <p>The balance of demand is unchanged, with more children living in the Llanerfyl area. Parents travel more frequently west to east 'down' the valley for work, than east to west. This paragraph clearly states that provision should meet the</p>	<p>The proposal is to establish a new Welsh-medium Church in Wales school in the Banw Valley to replace the two current schools. The proposal would provide continued access to Welsh-medium provision in the area, and would also ensure continued access to Church in Wales provision.</p> <p>The proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site supports the findings of the consultation exercise carried out, including the findings of the survey carried out as part of the consultation exercise and the written responses received. Therefore, the Council's view is that the proposal does reflect the balance of demand.</p> <p>Pupil numbers at the two schools have changed since the Consultation Documentation was published. As noted in the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, pupil numbers in the school at that time were as follows:</p>

	<p>pattern of demand, closing Llanerfyl is in breach of this stipulation.</p> <p>The only caveat to this stipulation regards cost which means that a proposal to move children from a high demand, lower cost provision to a lower demand, high cost provision is in clear breach of paragraph 1.4. Therefore, the proposal accepted by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> April re Banw and Llanerfyl is in breach of paragraph 1.4 of the Welsh Government School Organisation Code.</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="1167 188 2098 293"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>N2</b></th> <th><b>R</b></th> <th><b>1</b></th> <th><b>2</b></th> <th><b>3</b></th> <th><b>4</b></th> <th><b>5</b></th> <th><b>6</b></th> <th><b>Total</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Banw</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Llanerfyl</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Therefore, the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site does reflect the balance of demand.</p> <p>Whilst it is acknowledged that the estimated savings to the Council are higher should a new school be established on the Llanerfyl site, the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site is expected to result in annual savings to the Council of £53,820, which would enable education in the Banw Valley to be provided more efficiently than it is currently provided.</p>		<b>N2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>	Banw	N/A	5	2	4	4	8	5	4	32	Llanerfyl	3	1	3	2	3	0	3	5	20
	<b>N2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>																							
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Llanerfyl	3	1	3	2	3	0	3	5	20																							
7.2.1.2	<p>Resourcing of education and other financial considerations:</p> <p>The code states that any proposal must take into account surplus places and details levels of surplus places which should cause concern. It has been a key tenet of Llanerfyl's argument throughout that the building at Banw is too large for any foreseeable number of pupils, but this has constantly been disregarded by officers of Powys County Council. The choice made by Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup> will clearly maximise the number of surplus places in the area, breaking the Welsh Government Code.</p>	<p>The Council has taken surplus places into consideration when developing this proposal.</p> <p>As indicated on page 58 of the Consultation Report:</p> <p>'The Council acknowledges that a number of surplus place would remain in Banw C.P. School should a new school be established here, however there would be a significant overall reduction in the number of surplus places across the Banw Valley area.'</p>																														
7.2.1.3	<p>Paragraph 1.4 states that proposals should take into account 'the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and whether the necessary recurrent funding is available'.</p> <p>Running costs of the Banw site are higher, when compared with Llanerfyl, even before the proposed shared management with Caereinion was considered. PCC is facing serious economic difficulties and is yet proposing to write a five year 'blank cheque' to the Banw site, maintaining the provision</p>	<p>The Council is proposing to close the two current school and establish one new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School. This is expected to result in an annual estimated saving of £49,226.</p> <p>The Council is not proposing to write a five year 'blank cheque' to the Banw site. Should a new school be established, a budget would be provided in accordance with the Council's Scheme for Financing Schools, and the new governing body would be expected to ensure that the school's budget was managed in accordance with the Council's requirements.</p>																														

	<p>however unaffordable it should be. The proposal agreed by Cabinet flies in the face of these recommendations and is in breach of the code.</p>	
<p><b>7.2.1.4</b></p>	<p>Transport costs are also covered in paragraph 1.4 – ‘additional transport costs incurred as a result of proposals; Proposers should take into account the requirements on local authorities to provide free transport provision under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and should seek the advice of the relevant local authority transport department in relation to the impact the proposal might have on associated transport costs and their affordability.’ Any proposal which suggests new transport provision for children currently walking to school will cost more. This extra cost is unjustified and therefore the decision is in breach of the code.</p>	<p>The Council has considered additional transport costs, and has sought the advice of the Council’s transport department in order to estimate the impact of the two site options on transport costs. The Council has been clear throughout that merging the two schools and establishing one new school on either site would lead to an increase in school transport costs. However, as indicated throughout, the expectation is that the increase in transport costs would be the same, regardless of the site chosen.</p> <p>Cabinet members asked for further clarification on the issue of Transport costs before making a decision on whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of this proposal. The explanation provided, which was included in Appendix F of the papers considered by Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, is as follows:</p> <p>‘The transport provider in the Banw / Llanerfyl area was asked to estimate the impact of implementation of either option on overall transport costs before Cabinet agreed to carry out consultation on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School.</p> <p>The response received indicated that the additional cost would be the same, whether the new school was located on the Banw site or on the Llanerfyl site.</p> <p>As indicated in the Consultation Document:</p> <p>‘An estimate of the impact of implementation of this option on school transport costs has been received. This takes into account the impact of this option on the total cost of home to school transport in the Banw Valley, which includes transport to Caereinion High School and NPTC College.</p>

		<p>It is estimated that implementation of this option would result in an increase in the daily cost of home to school transport from the current cost of £546.02 per day to approximately £730 per day.'</p> <p>Home to school is already provided in the Banw Valley area. This includes transport from the area to Caereinion High School and NPTC college in Newtown, and link transport to both Llangadfan and Llanerfyl to provide access to transport to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion. Therefore, it is likely that no additional vehicles would be needed to achieve either option – home to school transport would be provided by transporting pupils on the routes already running, or by amending the routes already running to transport pupils to the new schools. This is why the increase in the daily cost is estimated to be the same for both sites.'</p>
<b>7.2.1.5</b>	<p>Savings are also covered in paragraph 1.4 – ‘the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs); In relation to proposals where substantial upfront capital investment is required (for example to support a substantial remodelling, refurbishment or a new build project), the costs and savings of the proposals should be calculated over the lifespan of the relevant building, and compared against the costs and savings associated with the maintenance of the status quo.’ – Authorities are obliged to bring forward proposals which represent best value for money. The proposal agreed by Cabinet on April 30<sup>th</sup> does not maximise savings and is therefore in breach of the Code.</p>	<p>‘Resourcing of education and other financial implications’ is covered in section 1.5 of the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>The Council has considered the scale of projected net savings associated with the two site options, and has considered school revenue and transport costs. Estimated savings information for both site options was included in the Consultation Document.</p> <p>The Consultation Document also referred to the capital funding required to implement the two site options. As indicated on page 25 in respect of the Banw option: ‘No capital funding is required to achieve this option. There is sufficient capacity within the current building to accommodate the current and forecasted pupils at the two schools.’</p>
<b>7.2.1.6</b>	<p>Capital receipts must be considered: ‘whether the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites are to be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places.’ – Powys County Council is in possession of only one of the school sites under consideration and therefore can only realise one asset. Choosing to ignore this is in breach of the Code.</p>	<p>It is not true that the Council has ‘ignored’ the fact that only one of the school sites is owned by the Council.</p> <p>It has been acknowledged throughout that the Llanerfyl building is owned by the Priscilla Foster Trust – as indicated on page 26 of the Consultation Document:</p>

		<p>'Should a new school be established on the Banw site, this would mean that the Llanerfyl building would be surplus to requirements for the delivery of education. However, the Llanerfyl building is not owned by the Council – it is owned by the Priscilla Foster Trust.</p> <p>Should the building not be required for the delivery of education, it would be returned to the Trust who would need to determine its future use. The Council would not receive a capital receipt.'</p> <p>It was also identified on page 19 of the Consultation Document as a disadvantage of a proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site that 'The Council would not benefit from any sale of the Llanerfyl site as it isn't owned by the Council.'</p>
<b>7.2.1.7</b>	Rural Schools are protected by the Code – a number of detailed steps need to be fulfilled in order to rebut the presumption of retention. These steps have not been taken, especially with regard to consideration of options. The proposal to work with the High School was summarily dismissed in breach of the Code.	<p>It is true that the new School Organisation Code, which was introduced in November 2018, includes a 'Presumption against the closure of Rural Schools', and outlines additional steps which need to be taken when closing rural schools.</p> <p>The Council carried out consultation on this proposal from the 24<sup>th</sup> September to the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018, which was before the new School Organisation Code was introduced, therefore, as indicated on page 48 of the Consultation Document: 'Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code (2013).'</p>
<b>7.2.1.8</b>	Determination of proposals is discussed in paragraph 1.15. States that the determining body 'must consider whether there are any other related proposals'. On April 30 <sup>th</sup> , Cabinet refused to consider the alternative proposal for co-operation with the High School, this decision is in breach of the Code.	<p>This proposal has been taken forward based on the 2013 version of the School Organisation Code, where this requirement is included in paragraph 1.14, not paragraph 1.15.</p> <p>The suggestion that Ysgol Llanerfyl co-operate with Caereinion High School is not a proposal – it is an idea which was being explored by the two schools.</p> <p>There are a number of reasons why a more formal arrangement between between Ysgol Llanerfyl and Caereinion High School, through</p>

		<p>the publication of proposals, would not be a long term solution. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Welsh-medium school whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a dual stream school.</li> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Church in Wales Foundation School, whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a community secondary school.</li> </ul>
<b>7.2.1.9</b>	<p>Paragraph 1.15 – the determining body ‘must not approve change of category proposals where a variation in the trust deed is necessary but has not yet taken place’. No evidence to confirm that contact has taken place between the Priscilla Foster Trustees (which own Llanerfyl School) and Powys County Council – this condition has clearly been breached.</p>	<p>During the pre-consultation phase, communication relating to the proposal was shared with the Diocese of St Asaph to be shared with the Trust.</p> <p>A pre-consultation response was received on behalf of the Trustees, and subsequent correspondence relating to the proposal was sent directly to a representative of the Trust.</p>
<b>7.2.1.10</b>	<p>Section 1.5 – It is important that funding for education is cost effective</p> <p>The proposal put forward does not consider cost efficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be 44% surplus places at the school, whereas if the school was based at Llanerfyl the surplus would only be 28%.</li> <li>• There are less maintenance costs at Llanerfyl – according to the Council’s surveyor’s report a school on the Llanerfyl site would mean £210,000 less maintenance costs over a 5 year period.</li> <li>• There would be an annual saving of £14,200 from having the school on the Llanerfyl site as opposed to Banw</li> <li>• The Council has failed to consider the impact of retaining an expensive and unsustainable school on the funding of other schools in the county</li> <li>• The Council proposes to keep open the building in a worse state of repair.</li> </ul>	<p>The proposal does consider cost efficiency. The proposal to establish one new school on the Banw site would be more efficient than the current situation.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal would result in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An overall reduction in surplus places in the Banw Valley</li> <li>- A reduction in maintenance costs as there would only be one building</li> <li>- An estimated annual saving of £53,820</li> </ul> <p>Whilst it is true that the Llanerfyl building has been assessed to be in better condition than the Banw building, the Banw building has been assessed to be more suitable than the Llanerfyl building.</p>

7.2.1.11	<p>Sections 1.7 and 1.8 of the Code encourage proposers to look at other options available to them and their schools, for example clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools to increase the school's viability or making use of the existing buildings as a community resource.</p> <p>The Council has failed to listen to alternative proposals put forward, including more sustainable options such as working with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion.</p>	<p>A number of options have been considered when developing the current proposal. As explained on page 11 of the consultation document:</p> <p>'Discussions with the governing bodies of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School on the future of the two schools took place during the 2017-18 academic year. The outcome of these discussions was an agreement that there should be one school in the area instead of two.</p>
7.2.1.12	<p>1.8 Presumption against the closure of rural schools – It is important to ensure that all reasonable alternatives identified are properly explored before the proposer decides to proceed to consult on closure.</p> <p>The Code establishes a procedural presumption against the closure of rural schools. Ysgol Llanerfyl is identified as a rural school. Powys County Council has dismissed other suggestions of sustaining education in the valley such as cluster working.</p>	<p>Subsequently, the Council has considered a number of options which would result in the establishment of a single primary school in the area. Clustering and collaboration have not been considered as options at this stage as they would not result in the creation of a single school. Federation has not been considered as it is not possible for the two schools to federate due to the fact that one is a Community Primary school and the other is a Church in Wales Foundation school.'</p> <p>There have been numerous options for stakeholders to give their views on the options considered and to provide alternative options during the process, however the overwhelming view expressed was that merging the two schools in order to establish one new school in the area is the most suitable way forward.</p> <p>Working in partnership with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is not an option which was suggested during the consultation period.</p>
7.2.1.13	<p>The Code refers to alternatives to closure that might merit consideration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clustering, collaboration with other schools (taking account of the scope for use of ICT links between school sites)</li> <li>- Using the school as a 'community hub' to accommodate and support provision of a range of community services, e.g. health, childcare facilities,</li> </ul>	<p>As indicated in the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal:</p> <p>'Discussions with the governing bodies of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School on the future of the two schools took place during the 2017-18 academic year. The outcome of these discussions was an agreement that there should be one school in the area instead of two.</p>

	<p>family and adult learning, community education, sport, recreation, social activity etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whether it would be feasible and economical to co-locate local services within the school to offset the costs of maintain the school.</li> </ul> <p>Powys County Council has failed to consider any of these alternatives or more innovative solutions.</p>	<p>Subsequently, the Council has considered a number of options which would result in the establishment of a single primary school in the area. Clustering and collaboration have not been considered as options at this stage as they would not result in the creation of a single school.'</p> <p>Significant engagement and consultation has taken place as part of this process, and the overwhelming view expressed throughout was that one school to serve the whole area would be the most appropriate solution.</p>
<b>7.2.1.14</b>	<p>Once the proposer has identified all the reasonable alternatives, the proposer must assess for each alternative its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Likely impact on Quality and Standards in Education;</li> <li>- Likely impact on the community; and</li> <li>- Likely effect of different travelling arrangements</li> </ul> <p>Powys County Council has not given full and fair consideration to the community impact on the village of Llanerfyl.</p>	<p>These requirements are outlined within section 1.8 – 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' of the School Organisation Code (2018). As consultation on this proposal took place before the new version of the Code was introduced in 2018, the process has been carried out under the earlier (2013) version of the Code, which does not include the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools'.</p> <p>The impact on the village of Llanerfyl has been considered throughout the process, through impact assessments which have been updated throughout to take account of feedback received. The impact assessment will be updated again to take account of issues raised in the objections, and an updated impact assessment will be considered by Cabinet when determining whether to proceed with the proposal.</p>
<b>7.2.1.15</b>	<p>'3.2 Attention to detail – It is essential that proposers seek and achieve high standards both in the information that underpins school consultations and in the consultation documents that are published.'</p> <p>The standard of the consultation documents and the process were not up to the expected standards, with a number of valid points being disregarded in the reports. Powys County Council failed to use key pieces of evidence in their report and dismissed people's genuine concerns without exploration. Data collection methods were uncontrolled and unverified and decisions were based on hearsay, opinions and not facts.</p>	<p>The consultation document was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.</p> <p>It is not true that the Council dismissed concerns without exploration – the Council is required to respond to issues raised during the consultation period and the Council did this in the Consultation Report.</p> <p>This was a public consultation exercise, and anyone that wished to do so was entitled to respond. Data collection methods were in line with methods used for other similar exercises.</p> <p>The Council notes the comments regarding the initial engagement carried out with parents. The overwhelming view expressed during this</p>

	<p>Following the first 'drop-in' consultation involving parents, it was clear that there was a great deal of hostility surrounding the proposal of co-working. Stakeholders expressed concerns on several occasions about this. Despite being fully aware of this hostility, the Council pressed on regardless, providing another example where it refused to listen.</p> <p>The outcome of a formal complaint lodged to Powys County Council about certain aspects of the consultation process identified lessons to be learned, which included being more mindful of their processes.</p> <p>This failure to provide accurate, high quality consultation information and poorly executed process resulted in the process taking much longer than expected and causing major rifts in both communities that will take generations to heal.</p> <p>There was a total disregard by Powys County Council to listen to the views of stakeholders and the language used in interactions was at times dismissive and condescending.</p>	<p>early engagement and during the consultation period was that the most suitable way forward was for the two schools to merge. The Council does not agree that it 'pressed on regardless, providing another example where it refused to listen.'</p> <p>The complaint received has been addressed in accordance with the Council's complaints process.</p> <p>It is not true that the Council failed 'to provide accurate, high quality consultation information', or that the process was 'poorly executed', nor that the Council disregarded the views of stakeholders – the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site is based on the findings of the consultation exercise. There is no evidence that language used by members or officers during the consultation was dismissive or condescending,</p>
7.2.1.16	<p>Failure to serve notice on other schools which the proposers consider are likely to be affected by the proposals – It was identified within the consultation documents as a risk that school closure (in particular on the Llanerfyl site) would result in children not attending the new school at the Dyffryn Banw site and seeking alternative placements. To this end, a statutory notice should also have been served on Llanfair Caereinion and Pontrobert schools as this would have an impact on the neighbouring schools.</p>	<p>The School Organisation Code (2013) states on page 35 that:</p> <p>'The proposals <b>must</b> be published:</p> <p>ii. by being posted at or near the main entrance to any existing school which is the subject of the proposal, or, if there is more than one main entrance, all of them;'</p> <p>Llanfair Caereinion and Pontrobert schools are not the subject of the proposal, therefore there is no requirement for the notice to be displayed at these two schools.</p>
7.2.2 Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008		

7.2.2.1	<p>Under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, local authorities in Wales are required to promote sustainable modes of travel, with this being defined, at 11.2 as:</p> <p>‘Sustainable modes of travel’ are modes of travel which the authority or the Welsh Ministers (as the case may be) consider may improve either or both of the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The physical well-being of those who use them;</li> <li>(b) The environmental well-being of- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The whole or part of the local authority’s area, in the case of an authority, or</li> <li>ii) The whole or part of Wales, in the case of Welsh Ministers’</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The proposal ratified by Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> April would force the majority of pupils currently walking or cycling to school to travel by bus, in breach of the authority’s duty to promote sustainable travel. This will not only have an impact on the carbon footprint of the authority but on the physical well-being of the pupils.</p>	<p>The Council has acknowledged throughout that the establishment of one new school in the area would have an impact on travel, and that in the case of the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site, this would mean that pupils who can currently walk or cycle to school in Llanerfyl would not be able to do so. This has been acknowledged throughout the process, both in the consultation documentation produced and in the associated impact assessments.</p>
<b>7.2.3 Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015</b>		
7.2.3.1	<p>This Act requires all public decisions to be judged against the Seven Well-being Goals. These goals have not been met by the decision of Cabinet on the 30<sup>th</sup> April in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Prosperous Wales will not be served by a decision which wastes public funds, maximises vacant places and fails to realise an asset which is far too large to provide appropriate education for such a dispersed population</li> <li>- A Resilient Wales will not be served by the retention of an over-large building</li> </ul>	<p>These concerns are noted.</p> <p>The proposal has been judged against the Well-being Goals outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the Impact Assessments carried out as part of the process.</p> <p>The impact assessments have been updated throughout the process to reflect issues raised during each stage, and will be updated again to reflect issues raised in the objections.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Healthier Wales will not be promoted by forcing children who currently walk or cycle to school to use a bus which will be filling the air they breathe with diesel particulates. The mental health of several members of the community has been badly affected by this process which should have been called off at an early stage.</li> <li>- A Wales of Cohesive Communities is hardly likely to be furthered by a local authority ignoring the needs of one group in order to further those of the other</li> <li>- A Globally Responsible Wales would be served by a detailed carbon analysis of this decision. Walking children must now use a bus – is this bus to run on fossil fuels? A compact and easy to heat building the condition of which has been assessed as a B rating by PCC Surveyors will be closed, in favour of a much larger building with higher maintenance costs which received a C rating for its condition by the same surveyors</li> </ul>	
<b>7.2.4 Wales Audit Office Annual Improvement Report to Powys County Council</b>		
<b>7.2.4.1</b>	<p>In October 2018, the Welsh Audit Office issued Powys County Council with their Annual Improvement Report.</p> <p>Statutory Recommendation 1 states:          ‘In setting a balanced budget, the Council must ensure that all savings plans are sufficiently well developed for inclusion in the annual budget. The Council must also act immediately to update its Medium Term Financial Strategy to enable the Council to live within its means going forward, and design and implement actions to address the weaknesses identified and reported by me in respect of its corporate and financial arrangements.’</p> <p>It is clear to regulators that Powys County Council needs to improve its reputation for fiscal probity. In this case, the</p>	<p>Whilst financial impact is one element to be taken into consideration in relation to school reorganisation proposals, the Council’s priority is to ensure the best possible education for pupils in the future.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposal to establish one new school on the Banw site is estimated to result in an estimated annual saving to the Council of £53,820.</p>

	choice of fiscal prudence has been rejected for the option of keeping a very small number of pupils in an expensive building with costly management. If in such a clear case, the Cabinet Member for Finance discards all notions of 'living within its means', what faith can regulators have about future budget decisions?	
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<b>8. Reference to Priscilla Foster Trust</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>8.1</b>	Llanerfyl School has delivered excellent education to the children of the parish for three centuries thanks to the generosity of Priscilla Foster, who bequeathed in her will a legacy to establish a school in the parish. In accordance with the terms of the will, the Priscilla Foster Trust was formed, the trustees comprising of the current Rector and Church Wardens of the Parish. This link is strongly maintained to this day.	Comment noted.
<b>8.2</b>	What discussions have taken place with the trustees of the Priscilla Foster Trust? Know of the involvement of the Diocese, but understand that the trustees of the Priscilla Foster Trust are separate entities.	During the pre-consultation phase, communication relating to the proposal was shared with the Diocese of St Asaph to be shared with the Trust. A pre-consultation response was received on behalf of the Trustees, and subsequent correspondence relating to the proposal was sent directly to a representative of the Trust.
<b>8.3</b>	Priscilla Foster left a legacy for Ysgol Llanerfyl and its pupils. The Church Warden at Llanerfyl has not been approached at any time during these consultations.	During the pre-consultation phase, communication relating to the proposal was shared with the Diocese of St Asaph to be shared with the Trust. A pre-consultation response was received on behalf of the Trustees, and subsequent correspondence relating to the proposal was sent directly to a representative of the Trust.

<b>9. Financial issues</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>

9.1 The Banw option is more expensive		
9.1.1	Powys County Council is experiencing a budget crisis, so why has the Cabinet decided to waste money on the most expensive option?	The Council's priority is to provide the best provision for pupils in the area in the future. Whilst finance is one consideration, this is not the only consideration.
9.1.2	Fail to understand in the current financial crisis how Powys Council has decided to retain the site that is more expensive to run, has higher maintenance costs and higher pupil cost per head.	The proposal to merge the two schools and establish one new school on the Banw site would result in a saving to the Council.  In the Consultation Document, it was estimated that this would be an annual saving of £49,226, however this was revised to take account of the new funding formula, and as outlined in the paper considered by Cabinet on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April, the latest estimate is that the proposal would result in an annual saving of £53,820.
9.1.3	Unbelievable that the Council has decided to opt for the most expensive option and has ignored other robust options that offer better value for money e.g. working with the high school – this is unfair to all Powys residents who would benefit from these financial savings	
9.1.4	Running costs and future maintenance costs higher on the Banw site	
9.1.5	The Council would save £63,426 per year from having the school on the Llanerfyl site rather than the Banw site – a saving of over £14,200 a year compared with the Banw site option.	
9.1.6	£63,426 annual saving having the school in Llanerfyl - £14,200 more saving per annum than if the school was in Banw. This saving would be considerably more than the cost of maintaining the library in Llanfair Caereinion.	
9.1.7	The cost per head is less in Llanerfyl – £3945.65 vs £4200.61 at Banw	
9.1.8	Llanerfyl is a smaller building, so the maintenance costs are lower – over £210,000 less spending is needed on maintenance and repair in Llanerfyl over 5 years	

<b>9.1.9</b>	The annual saving from siting the school in Llanerfyl would pay for an extra full time classroom assistant without even considering the extra maintenance cost associated with Banw school. Given the number of Powys children who are growing up in poverty, this is shameful.	
<b>9.1.10</b>	As public figures, you have a responsibility to spend the taxpayer's money responsibly and transparently – it is no secret that PCC are in a dire financial situation with asset selling throughout the county, and a 9.5% increase in council tax. With this in mind, how can you ever justify the decision to select the Banw site rather than the Llanerfyl site?	
<b>9.1.11</b>	Large cost savings are achievable by selecting the Llanerfyl site, and further annual savings are possible going forward from lower maintenance costs and from collaboration with Caereinion High School – do not dismiss this by saying that money comes from a different pot / department – public money is public money whichever pot it comes from.	
<b>9.2 Reference to potential capital receipts</b>		
<b>9.2.1</b>	The Council could sell/rent the Banw building and receive additional income. As the Church owns the Llanerfyl building, the Council won't receive any profit from closing the school.	The Council has acknowledged throughout the process that the Banw building is owned by the Council whilst the Llanerfyl building is not, therefore there is a potential that the Council could achieve a capital receipt from sale of the Banw building whilst this would not be the case in respect of the Llanerfyl building.
<b>9.2.2</b>	Powys do not own the Llanerfyl site therefore there would be no financial gain to the Council	
<b>9.2.3</b>	The Council don't own the Llanerfyl site therefore there would be no capital receipt to the Council	
<b>9.3 General comments regarding financial implications</b>		
<b>9.3.1</b>	Reference to endemic child poverty – this is a national issue not a regional problem. How can you justify selecting a site	The proposal to merge the two schools and establish a new school on the Banw site would result in a saving to the Council.

	where the financial costs are greater, with higher cost per pupil, higher capital spend, higher maintenance and surplus capacity when there is endemic child poverty? Shouldn't we be ensuring a leaner more cost effective solution by selecting the smaller school with less surplus capacity, less capital costs and less cost per pupil?	
<b>9.3.2</b>	The Council acknowledged that the Llanerfyl site can mitigate the potential of not all pupils attending the new school with being 'leaner' with less surplus place, less capital cost and lower annual cost per pupil.	It is acknowledged that there would be benefits associated with a proposal to establish a new school on the Llanerfyl site, however the Council's view is that the benefits associated with establishing a new school on the Banw site outweigh these.

<b>10. Issues relating to buildings</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>10.1 Building condition</b>		
<b>10.1.1</b>	The Llanerfyl building is in better condition	It is true that the HoWPS report carried out in 2018 assessed the condition of the Llanerfyl building as 'B – Generally satisfactory', whilst the condition of the Banw building was assessed to be 'C – Generally poor'.
<b>10.1.2</b>	The Llanerfyl building is category "B", whilst the Banw building is category "C".	
<b>10.2 Maintenance costs</b>		
<b>10.2.1</b>	Maintenance costs of the building are lower in Llanerfyl - £210,000 less to spend.	It is true that the Llanerfyl building has been assessed to be in better condition than the Banw building, and the estimated maintenance costs identified for the Llanerfyl building are lower than the costs estimated for the Banw building.  However, the Banw building is larger than the Llanerfyl building, therefore higher maintenance costs are to be expected. In addition, the Banw building has been assessed to be more suitable than the Llanerfyl building.
<b>10.2.2</b>	According to the Council's building reports, the Llanerfyl building is smaller and there are less maintenance costs – More than £210,000 more expenditure is needed on the Banw building compared with Llanerfyl over the next 5 years.	
<b>10.3 Size of the building</b>		

<b>10.3.1</b>	The Llanerfyl building is smaller and in better condition, so would place less strain on the council budget	It is true that the Llanerfyl building is smaller and has been assessed to be in better condition. However, the Banw building has been assessed to be more suitable.  The feedback received during the consultation period suggested that the community's view was that the Banw site was more suitable than the Llanerfyl site as a location for the new school.
<b>10.3.2</b>	The Llanerfyl building is smaller and more suitable to accommodate the number of children that will be attending the school in the future	
<b>10.3.3</b>	A large building is not required in this geographical location – a smaller fit for purpose building can be leaner, more cost effective and achieve potentially better long-term sustainability, which is an objective that all parties are striving for.	
<b>10.4 Building ownership</b>		
<b>10.4.1</b>	PCC are not the owners of the Llanerfyl building – what will happen to it?	The Llanerfyl building is in the ownership of the Priscilla Foster Trust. Should the Council proceed with establishing a new school on the Banw site, the Priscilla Foster Trust would need to determine what to do with the site.
<b>10.4.2</b>	Implications on the ownership of the two sites – the fate of the building and location of Ysgol Dyffryn Banw is in the hands of Powys County Council as it is in their ownership, whilst the building and location of Llanerfyl School is in the ownership of the Priscilla Foster Trust, which was responsible for building the school on its land in 1870.	
<b>10.5 Reference to facilities</b>		
<b>10.5.1 Reference to Hall</b>		
<b>10.5.1.1</b>	The lack of a hall on the Llanerfyl site has never been a problem for the Council's education officers in the past, so why is so much being made of it during this process? The hall is bricks and mortar which can be erected, demolished or adapted as needed.	The Council has not made 'so much' of the lack of a hall on the Llanerfyl site – the Council has acknowledged throughout the process that pupils attending Llanerfyl School do have access to the village hall in Llanerfyl – as stated on page 37 of the consultation document issued as part of this process:

		<p>'Whilst there is no access to a hall on the current Llanerfyl site, there is a village hall in Llanerfyl, which is located a short distance away from the school, and which is used by the school.'</p> <p>However, concerns regarding access to the hall were raised during the consultation period, and the Council has a duty to respond to these concerns.</p> <p>In response to comments made regarding the provision of a hall on site, the Council acknowledged on numerous occasions in the consultation report that there are other schools in Powys that don't have a hall immediately adjoining the school.</p>
<b>10.5.1.2</b>	Long term sustainability for ensuring long term Welsh education in the valley cannot be achieved by making a hall and canteen a mandatory asset for school survival.	The Council has not stated that a hall and canteen are a mandatory asset for school survival. Concerns were raised during the consultation period regarding the lack of a hall on site and the lack of a separate dining area in the Llanerfyl building, and the Council has a duty to respond to these concerns. In responding to these concerns, the Council acknowledged on numerous occasions in the consultation report that there are other schools in Powys that don't have a hall immediately adjoining the school, and that don't have a separate dining area.
<b>10.5.1.3</b>	Llanerfyl hall, which is used on numerous occasions by Llanerfyl pupils, is 0.25 miles away, with a public paved footpath from school gate to the Hall. Takes an average child 5 minutes to walk. The 'pay as you use' agreement with the hall committee achieves value for money by not being responsible for a building's maintenance and upkeep, helping to ensure school budgets are maintained.	Comment noted.
<b>10.5.1.4</b>	Much has been made of the perceived inadequacies of the facilities at Llanerfyl, in particular the lack of a hall or a canteen, however much of the comments were based on easily rebuttable presumptions, such as the lack of experiences for pupils.	<p>The Council notes the recent success of Ysgol Llanerfyl in the All Wales 5 a side football competition.</p> <p>Many comments relating to the differing facilities at the two sites were received during the consultation period, and concerns were expressed</p>

	On the 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2019, Llanerfyl were second in the All Wales 5 a side football competition. This was thanks to the skill and commitment of those training them, not whether or not they were contiguous to a village hall.	about the impact of this on the pupils' experience, particularly given the requirements of the new curriculum.  The Council is required to include all issues raised during the consultation period in the consultation report, therefore these issues are included in this document, as well as the Council's response.
<b>10.5.1.5</b>	Many schools in Powys do not have halls and use local community facilities. Some are attached, some not and it is a widely recognised model which allows benefits to accrue to both school and community.	It is true that there are other schools in Powys which don't have an adjoining hall and therefore use local community facilities. This is also the case at Banw C.P. School.
<b>10.5.1.6</b>	There is no Powys policy stating the acceptable distance between school building and community hall, however in the course of this discussion, officers of the authority have acted as if such a policy existed.	This statement is untrue. The Council has not stated that there is an acceptable distance between school building and community hall. Throughout the process, the Council has acknowledged that pupils attending Llanerfyl School can access the village hall – as stated on page 37 of the consultation document:  'Whilst there is no access to a hall on the current Llanerfyl site, there is a village hall in Llanerfyl, which is located a short distance away from the school, and which is used by the school.'  The Council has acknowledged on several occasions in the consultation report that there are other schools in Powys which don't have a hall immediately adjoining the school.
<b>10.5.1.7</b>	If the fact Llanerfyl did not have a hall and possession of a hall is so essential, why did Powys County Council never bring forward a suggestion of a capital programme to provide one?	As stated on page 58 of the consultation report in response to a similar issue:  'Whilst it would be desirable for all schools to have a hall on site, it is acknowledged that there are other schools in Powys which don't have a hall immediately adjoining the school.'
<b>10.5.1.8</b>	A hall is either essential or not essential: it cannot be both.	Both schools have access to a hall.

<b>10.5.1.9</b>	Given that there were at one point 56 pupils in Llanerfyl, seems a gross neglect of their welfare that no plan to build a hall was developed, if a hall is so necessary.	<p>In respect of Llanerfyl School, the Council has stated throughout the process that ‘Whilst there is no access to a hall on the current Llanerfyl site, there is a village hall in Llanerfyl, which is located a short distance away from the school, and which is used by the school.’</p> <p>The Council has also stated in the consultation report that ‘Whilst it would be desirable for all schools to have a hall on site, it is acknowledged that there are other schools in Powys which don’t have a hall immediately adjoining the school.’</p>
<b>10.5.2 Reference to kitchen / dining area</b>		
<b>10.5.2.1</b>	Llanerfyl school has been cooking and supplying meals to both schools for nearly two years – a smaller kitchen is more than capable to meet this purpose, there is no need for such a large and expensive kitchen as they have in Banw	It is noted that Llanerfyl school has been cooking and supplying meals to both schools over the last few years.
<b>10.5.2.2</b>	Reference to refectory. Following the recommendation of a recent Estyn Inspection, another Powys school recently turned its dining hall into a classroom to meet teaching needs. This was not challenged by the local authority. How is it that lack of a separate dining area is hugely deleterious to pupils in Llanerfyl but acceptable in other schools? This inconsistency raises the question of bias and makes a number of the so-called ‘reasons’ for closing Llanerfyl school seem more like excuses than reasons.	<p>The Council notes that another Powys school has recently turned its dining hall into a classroom in order to provide additional teaching space.</p> <p>The Council has not claimed that the ‘lack of a separate dining area is hugely deleterious to pupils in Llanerfyl but acceptable in other schools.’</p> <p>Concerns were raised during the consultation period about the lack of a separate dining area at Llanerfyl School compared with the situation at Banw School. In response to these concerns (outlined on pages 53-4 of the Consultation Report), the Council acknowledged on numerous occasions that Llanerfyl isn’t the only school where pupils eat in the classroom.</p>

<b>11. Reference to school transport / walking to school</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>11.1 Reference to increase in school transport costs</b>		

<b>11.1.1</b>	Query re transport costs – fail to understand how you have come to the conclusions that you have in relation to the transportation of the children i.e. the cost of providing transport to convey children to the upper region of the Banw Valley whilst already providing transport from the Upper Banw Valley, through Llanerfyl to Llanfair Caereinion – can only reach the conclusion that PCC has resolved its previous monetary difficulties.	The Council has considered additional transport costs, and has sought the advice of the Council’s transport department in order to estimate the impact of the two site options on transport costs. The Council has been clear throughout that merging the two schools and establishing one new school on either site would lead to an increase in school transport costs. However, as indicated throughout, the expectation is that the increase in transport costs would be the same, regardless of the site chosen.
<b>11.1.2</b>	Transportation costs – have never been able to obtain concrete transportation costs from officers during the consultation despite several requests.	Cabinet members asked for further clarification on the issue of Transport costs before making a decision on whether or not to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice in respect of this proposal. The explanation provided, which was included in Appendix F of the papers considered by Cabinet on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April, is as follows:
<b>11.1.3</b>	More children live closer to Llanerfyl school, so do not need to be transported to school at a cost of £136,000	‘The transport provider in the Banw / Llanerfyl area was asked to estimate the impact of implementation of either option on overall transport costs before Cabinet agreed to carry out consultation on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School.
<b>11.1.4</b>	Less transport costs at Llanerfyl site.	
<b>11.1.5</b>	Transport costs – more children live in the catchment of Llanerfyl which don’t need to be transported should the school be on the Llanerfyl site.	The response received indicated that the additional cost would be the same, whether the new school was located on the Banw site or on the Llanerfyl site.
<b>11.1.6</b>	The Llanerfyl site is more central and transport costs would be lower as a number of Llanerfyl children can walk or cycle to school.	As indicated in the Consultation Document:  ‘An estimate of the impact of implementation of this option on school transport costs has been received. This takes into account the impact of this option on the total cost of home to school transport in the Banw Valley, which includes transport to Caereinion High School and NPTC College.  It is estimated that implementation of this option would result in an increase in the daily cost of home to school transport from the current cost of £546.02 per day to approximately £730 per day.’

		Home to school is already provided in the Banw Valley area. This includes transport from the area to Caereinion High School and NPTC college in Newtown, and link transport to both Llangadfan and Llanerfyl to provide access to transport to Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion. Therefore, it is likely that no additional vehicles would be needed to achieve either option – home to school transport would be provided by transporting pupils on the routes already running, or by amending the routes already running to transport pupils to the new schools. This is why the increase in the daily cost is estimated to be the same for both sites.’
<b>11.2 Increased travel for families / parents</b>		
<b>11.2.1</b>	Most families favour activities and employment closer to Welshpool, so travelling to the Banw school would generate more travel.	The Council notes these comments regarding the location of the Banw site, and acknowledges that should a new school be established on the Banw site, there would be an impact on parents whose children currently attend Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.
<b>11.2.2</b>	90% of parents travel to the Llanfair area for work, and the Llanerfyl site is much more convenient.	
<b>11.2.3</b>	The site at Banw is inconvenient for most parents who travel to work in the Welshpool direction, and for children who live in Llanerfyl who would have to travel further to attend after-school activities in Llanfair, Newtown, Welshpool and Meifod.	
<b>11.3 Impact on walking to school</b>		
<b>11.3.1</b>	Currently a large number of pupils can walk / cycle to school in Llanerfyl	The Council has identified throughout the process that pupils living in Llanerfyl can currently walk / cycle to school.
<b>11.3.2</b>	Why has the Cabinet chosen an option that means that not many children will be able to walk or cycle to school has they can do to Ysgol Llanerfyl?	The decision to proceed with an option to establish a new school on the Banw site was made based on the findings of the consultation exercise carried out.
<b>11.3.3</b>	During the consultation, education officers responded to comments querying the impact on pupils’ ability to walk / cycle to school by saying that they would look at creating a	The Council has not said that it would look at creating a footpath from Banw school to the Foel.

	<p>footpath from Banw school to the Foel – a footpath of 1.3 miles long along a busy trunk road, which would be too dangerous for children to walk along, supplied by a council facing massive austerity. This is not practical and would not be cost effective.</p>	<p>Some consultation responses were received which raised concerns regarding a lack of safe walking and cycling routes to Banw School. In it's response to these concerns, the Council stated that 'Should a new school be established on this site, the Council would investigate the possibility of establishing safe walking and cycling routes to the school' (p.29 of Consultation Report).</p> <p>Some suggestions were also received in terms of possible routes which could be established – 'From the main village to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw there is a potential to make a cycle track / walking route through the field alongside the river, to provide a car free route to school and the football pitch' (p.39 of Consultation Report).</p> <p>In addition, the following general comment was received relating to improving walking/cycling routes to either site:</p> <p>'Whichever site is chosen, Council spending should be put in place to provide safe walking/cycling routes from the main village centres (including Foel) to the chosen site, reducing car usage and encouraging physical activity both for school children and the wider community.' (p.81 of Consultation Report).</p>
<p><b>11.4 Reference to Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013</b></p>		
<p><b>11.4.1</b></p>	<p>Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – There are more children within walking distance of Llanerfyl than Banw, and close enough not to need transportation. As a result, these pupils who are currently able to walk to school will need to be transported – again this will have a financial implication to the council.</p>	<p>The Council notes this comment regarding the financial implication of additional home to school transport. As indicated elsewhere, the estimates received suggest that the additional cost would be the same whether a new school was established on the Banw site or on the Llanerfyl site.</p>
<p><b>11.4.2</b></p>	<p>Active Travel Wales Act 2013 – local authorities require continuous improvement in facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists. As greater numbers walk/cycle to school in Llanerfyl, Powys are contravening the act above.</p>	<p>Pupils living in the housing estate nearby the Banw site are able to walk / cycle safely to school. It is acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would impact on the ability of pupils currently attending Ysgol Llanerfyl to walk / cycle to school.</p>

<b>11.4.3</b>	Moving the school to the Banw site will contravene the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – only a very limited number of pupils can walk to school from the adjacent housing estate at Llangadfan because of the location of the school on a major trunk road which doesn't allow any other children to safely walk to school.	Some consultation responses were received which raised concerns regarding a lack of safe walking and cycling routes to Banw School. In its response to these concerns, the Council stated that 'Should a new school be established on this site, the Council would investigate the possibility of establishing safe walking and cycling routes to the school' (p.29 of Consultation Report).
<b>11.4.4</b>	The Banw site does not provide safe walking and cycling routes to school as per the requirements of Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.	<p>Some suggestions were also received in terms of possible routes which could be established – 'From the main village to Ysgol Dyffryn Banw there is a potential to make a cycle track / walking route through the field alongside the river, to provide a car free route to school and the football pitch' (p.39 of Consultation Report).</p> <p>In addition, the following general comment was received relating to improving walking/cycling routes to either site:</p> <p>'Whichever site is chosen, Council spending should be put in place to provide safe walking/cycling routes from the main village centres (including Foel) to the chosen site, reducing car usage and encouraging physical activity both for school children and the wider community.'</p> <p>(p.81 of Consultation Report).</p>
<b>11.4.5</b>	Cabinet has opted to site the new school in a building that is more expensive to run, with higher maintenance costs, higher percentage of empty spaces, in a location adjacent to social housing and busy main road with associated increase in pollution exposure, with increased transport costs and denying many who currently walk or cycle to school the opportunity to continue to do so. This goes against Active Travel Act and contributes unnecessarily to global warming.	<p>It is true that there are higher costs associated with the current site of Banw C.P. School, and that there would be a higher percentage of surplus places compared with a school established on the Llanerfyl site, however it was clear from the findings of the consultation exercise that the Banw site is considered to be more suitable for the provision of education.</p> <p>It is also true that, if the proposal were implemented, the new school would be established in the current Banw building which is adjacent to a small housing estate and on the main trunk road. The education of pupils in that school will not be affected by the fact that the school is adjacent to a small housing estate. Regarding the road, safeguarding is a critical factor for any school, and the school will need to ensure the safety of pupils at all time.</p>

		<p>The Council has acknowledged throughout that the establishment of one new school in the area would have an impact on travel, and that in the case of the proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site, this would mean that pupils who can currently walk or cycle to school in Llanerfyl would not be able to do so. This has been acknowledged throughout the process, both in the consultation documentation produced and in the associated impact assessments.</p> <p>It is true that there would be additional transport costs compared with the status quo should the Council proceed with the proposal, however overall, having taken the estimated additional transport costs into consideration, it is estimated that the proposal would result in annual savings to the Council of £53,820.</p>
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<b>12. Pupil numbers / Surplus places</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>12.1 Reference to pupil numbers</b>		
<b>12.1.1</b>	However much money the Council will spend on the building, there will be no point if there aren't enough pupils	<p>The Council notes these comments and acknowledges that should the Council proceed with this proposal, there is uncertainty with regard to the number of pupils that will attend the school.</p> <p>Projected pupil numbers for the two schools are provided in the consultation document, which provide an indication of the number of pupils that would be expected to attend a merged school. However following a decision on the way forward for the provision of primary education in the Banw Valley, parents would need to decide whether they would wish for their children to attend the new school or an alternative school. Should they wish their children to attend an alternative school, it is acknowledged that this would impact on pupil numbers at the new school. This is acknowledged as a risk on pages 20 and 34 of the consultation document.</p>
	In Sept 2020 there would be 46 pupils at the school, based on the assumption that all pupils attend the new school. However, 5 Llanerfyl pupils live nearer Llanfair Caereinion than Banw, and there is every likelihood that a further 6 pupils at least will not attend Banw	
<b>12.1.2</b>	Some parents are unwilling to send their children to Banw due to the threat of another closure, therefore pupil numbers at the new school will be lower.	
<b>12.1.3</b>	The sudden movement of children from Llanerfyl to Banw overnight has changed many parents' views, and as a result	

	they will not send their children to Banw – this will impact on pupil numbers at the new school.	
<b>12.1.4</b>	Recent actions by parents to move their children overnight has caused a major rift in the community. As a result, many Llanerfyl parents don't want to be associated with the new school. The number of pupils attending the new school in January 2021 will realistically be 36 pupils, with 56% surplus places at the Banw site.	
<b>12.1.5</b>	Many parents do not want to go through such a horrible and disgraceful process as this again – many foresee that this will happen again in the new school on the Banw site, with pupil numbers declining annually in a building which is too big, with high capital spend and annual costs for the projected pupil numbers. Not all pupils from Llanerfyl will attend the new school due to the reasons stated above.	
<b>12.1.6</b>	Moving children further away from after school specialist sporting activities results in a shorter school day for the pupil and a shorted working day for their parents. If parents need to pick their children up earlier, it further disrupts their working day. Llanfair is much closer to Welshpool, Newtown and Deeside than Llangadfan. When pupils attend sporting activities 5 days a week, this becomes very important.	
<b>12.1.7</b>	Parents will not travel from Llanfair 9 miles one way to the new school at Banw to drop their children then travel back to Llanfair, then start their commute to work in Welshpool, Newtown and further afield. If parents wanted an alternative school to Llanfair, they would choose Welshpool which is more convenient.	
<b>12.1.8</b>	Moving the site further away from approximately 20% of Llanerfyl's pupils reduces the catchment area. They now have the opportunity to attend Llanfair where a bus will pick them up. Pupils of Llanerfyl have access to other schools	

	nearby, however the pupils of Banw are more limited. With choice, not all will attend the new school, and for the new school to work, the numbers are important.	
<b>12.1.9</b>	Planning laws will not allow major housing developments in Llanerfyl, Llangadfan and Foel because of a new development plan which has changed the housing provision allowed in these small villages – removed the ‘development boundary’ from small villages, which has had a detrimental effect on the ability to approve moderate housing schemes in these areas. – Policy H1 – Housing Provision	The Council notes these comments which express a view that there is unlikely to be any significant increase in population numbers in the area.  Projected pupil numbers for the two schools are provided in the Consultation Document issued in respect of this proposal, these numbers do not anticipate any increase in the local population.
<b>12.1.10</b>	Population numbers in the area will never increase dramatically – there may be sporadic families moving to the area with children, but there are always children leaving for secondary school at the same period.	
<b>12.1.11</b>	No major industries in the Banw Valley to attract an influx of working families – people will not re-locate here, they will simply locate in the nearby town where they work, and save themselves the fuel cost of travelling to work.	
<b>12.1.12</b>	Pupils who began their education in Welsh will move to the English stream in Llanfair to get free transport – Please contact the admissions team at Llanfair Caereinion Primary School and undertake your own investigations if you think we are merely stating these facts to try and disrupt the process.	The Council has acknowledged throughout that there is a risk associated with both options that pupils would choose to attend alternative providers instead of the new school.  However following a decision on the way forward for the provision of primary education in the Banw Valley, parents would need to decide whether they would wish for their children to attend the new school or an alternative school. Should they wish their children to attend an alternative school, it is acknowledged that this would impact on pupil numbers at the new school. This is acknowledged as a risk on pages 20 and 34 of the consultation document. Transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport policy.
<b>12.1.13</b>	Powys policy is to provide free transport to pupils to the nearest school in whichever language medium they choose. If parents have access to free transport, in the majority of cases, they will use this service rather than transport their children at their own cost – therefore it is unlikely that there will be an increase in pupil numbers at a new school on the Banw site.	

<b>12.1.14</b>	I don't understand the logic of closing the stronger school in terms of numbers and Welsh language to support a school that is failing in terms of numbers. When was the last time Powys did this? If you stick to this decision, it's only a matter of time before numbers drop again in Banw and you have to consider closing the school.	The Council is not closing the stronger school in order to support a school that is failing. The Council is proposing to close both schools, and to establish one new school to serve the whole Dyffryn Banw area.
<b>12.1.15</b>	Query regarding sustainability – with falling pupil numbers, the extra capacity at the Banw site may eventually cause inefficiencies which could cause it to need to close	Following a decision on whether or not to proceed with this proposal, parents would need to decide whether they would wish for their children to attend the new school or an alternative school. Should they wish their children to attend an alternative school, it is acknowledged that this would impact on pupil numbers at the new school. This is acknowledged as a risk on pages 20 and 34 of the consultation document.
<b>12.1.16</b>	Long term objective of this consultation is to achieve long term education in the valley. The Council are under pressure to move forward with this situation, however it needs to be the right decision. Long term sustainability will not be achieved by the current decision, you will be opening a new school which is unsustainable from day 1.	The aim of the proposal is to establish one new school in the area to replace the two current schools. Should the Council move forward with this proposal, the provision in the area would be more sustainable than the current level of provision.
<b>12.1.17</b>	A governor at Dyffryn Banw has said that they have a vision that the new school will be a super school, which will attract pupils from far and wide, which will need the large building which is at Banw to accommodate these pupils. This will not be the case – the new school will only have the same standards as pupils can achieve in Llanfair and Welshpool, and in Dinas Mawddwy. The new school will only have 46 in January 2021, and those numbers will decrease further in the future as shown in the consultation report.	The proposal is based on the number of pupils currently attending the two schools in the Banw Valley.
<b>12.1.18</b>	Numbers are already small, why do we need a larger school	The proposal does not propose increasing the size of the school.
<b>12.1.19</b>	Historically, only one pupil has travelled up the valley for education from Llanfair to Llanerfyl in the last 10 years. If they aren't able to come to Llanerfyl where education standards	The Council notes that historically there has not been a tradition of pupils travelling from Llanfair to Llanerfyl. The proposal to establish a

	are high (Estyn reports), then no potentially new pupils will travel further up the valley to Banw for the same standard of education as they would get in Llanfair for example.	new school on the Banw site isn't based on an expectation that pupils will travel from Llanfair.
<b>12.1.20</b>	Under Welsh Government regulations the school at Banw will be a 'new school' – it cannot be subject to closure for five years, however low pupil numbers should fall. The Council's School Transformation programme will grind to a halt as other schools, with numbers higher and costs lower than Banw will be able to oppose their own closure on the grounds that the Council is not acting with equity. The decision made on April 30 <sup>th</sup> will have negative repercussions not only in the Banw Valley but throughout Powys.	Whilst the Council would want to minimise disruption for learners affected by the current proposal, it is untrue that the Council would not be able to take forward proposals relating to the proposed new school for five years.
<b>12.2 Reference to surplus places</b>		
<b>12.2.1</b>	Has the number of surplus places been taken into consideration when making this decision?	Surplus places have been considered during this process. Concerns regarding potential surplus places at a new school on the Banw site were raised during the consultation period and outlined in the consultation report, which was considered by the Cabinet when determining whether or not to proceed with the publication of statutory notices at their meeting on the 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2019.
<b>12.2.2</b>	The fact that the number of surplus places in the new school will be at least 46% does not seem to have been properly considered.	
<b>12.2.3</b>	If all pupils transfer to Banw there will still be surplus place of 44%.	
<b>12.2.4</b>	Concern that there will be lots of empty places at the new school due to the bad feeling the decision has created.	
<b>12.2.5</b>	There would be 44% surplus places if all pupils attend the Banw site. However, with the number of pupils likely to start school there, there will be more like 58% surplus places	
		Whilst it is acknowledged that a number of surplus places would remain in a new school established on the Banw site, there would be a significant overall reduction in the number of surplus places across the Banw Valley area.
		Following a decision on whether or not to proceed with this proposal, parents would need to decide whether they would wish for their children to attend the new school or an alternative school. Should they wish their children to attend an alternative school, it is acknowledged that this would impact on pupil numbers at the new school. This is acknowledged as a risk on pages 20 and 34 of the consultation document.

<b>12.2.6</b>	Llanerfyl has less surplus places therefore more cost effective for Powys.	<p>It is acknowledged that there would be less surplus places should a new school be established on the Llanerfyl site. However, following consideration of feedback received during the consultation period, the proposal is to establish a new school on the Banw site.</p> <p>Although it is likely that a number of surplus places would remain in a new school established on the Banw site, there would be a significant overall reduction in the number of surplus places across the Banw Valley area.</p>
<b>12.2.7</b>	There would be less surplus places at Llanerfyl – 28%, making the school a ‘learner’ more cost-effective solution	
<b>12.2.8</b>	Based on 46 pupils attending Banw there would be 44% surplus places; based on the same number of pupils attending Llanerfyl there would be 28% surplus places.	
<b>12.2.9</b>	If all attended the new school in Banw there would be 44% surplus capacity in Banw and 28% surplus capacity in Llanerfyl, creating an issue for the Welsh Government from a cost perspective	
<b>12.3 Reference to sustainability of the new school</b>		
<b>12.3.1</b>	Urge you to reconsider for the sake of a sustainable long term primary school education in this valley.	The aim of the proposal is to establish one new school in the area, to provide sustainable Welsh-medium provision in the area.
<b>12.3.2</b>	The new school will open with not many more pupils than were at Llanerfyl prior to the start of this consultation, but in a far bigger and more expensive building that has received a “C” grading for its condition from Powys’ own surveyors. Where is the sustainability in this?	<p>Should the Council proceed with the proposal to establish one new school, parents would need to decide whether they would wish for their children to attend the new school or an alternative school. Should they wish their children to attend an alternative school, it is acknowledged that this would impact on pupil numbers at the new school. This is acknowledged as a risk on pages 20 and 34 of the consultation document.</p> <p>Although it is likely that a number of surplus places would remain in a new school established on the Banw site, there would be a significant overall reduction in the number of surplus places across the Banw Valley area.</p> <p>It is also acknowledged that the Banw building has been assessed as condition ‘C’, whilst the Llanerfyl building has been assessed as condition ‘B’. This has been acknowledged throughout the process.</p>

		However, in terms of suitability, the Banw building has been assessed as B whilst the Llanerfyl building has been assessed as C/D.
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<b>13. Location / Accessibility</b>		
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Points raised</b>	<b>Council response</b>
<b>13.1</b>	Why has the Cabinet chosen to locate the new school on the site which is less attractive for children from the eastern side of the area?	The Cabinet agreed to proceed with a proposal to establish a new school on the Banw site having considered the feedback received during the consultation period, which included feedback from survey carried out as well as written feedback received.
<b>13.2</b>	Strategic location – if the school is moved further up the valley, not all will attend, putting the new school in danger.	The Council has acknowledged throughout the process that a new school located on the Banw site could be less attractive for some children currently attending the two schools. The Consultation Document issued as part of this proposal identified on page 19 that one of the disadvantages associated with establishing a new school on the Banw site: ‘Would be less convenient for Llanerfyl parents, many of whom work in the opposite direction’, and on page 20 identified a risk that ‘Pupils might transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers.’
<b>13.3</b>	Geographical location – locating the school further up the valley reduces the catchment area, resulting in fewer pupil numbers. People further down the valley who live between Llanerfyl and Llanfair will decide on education in Llanfair Caereinion.	
<b>13.4</b>	Llanerfyl location is more convenient – work for 90% of parents is towards Llanfair Caereinion and beyond, not up the valley towards Banw.	
<b>13.5</b>	The Llanerfyl site better mitigates the risk of pupils attending other schools.	<p>However, the feedback from the consultation exercise suggested that establishing a new school on the Banw site was the community’s preferred option.</p> <p>There is always some element of risk in relation to school reorganisation proposals that parents will choose for their children to attend an alternative school. Parents are entitled to apply for a place for their child in whichever school they choose, and the Council has a duty to accommodate that choice where there is space available.</p> <p>‘Pupils might transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers’ was identified in the Consultation Document as a risk related to the option to establish a new</p>

		school on the Banw site. However, this is also identified as a risk in respect of the option to establish a new school on the Llanerfyl site.
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14. References to the successes of Ysgol Llanerfyl		
Issue	Points raised	Council response
14.1	Despite the perceived lack of facilities at Ysgol Llanerfyl, the football team were 2 <sup>nd</sup> across Wales in the Urdd sports three weeks ago, and a number of past pupils play for current teams, such as North Wales Rugby under 16, North Wales football under 16, North Wales Hockey under 16 and in the Wales under 15 football squad.	The Council acknowledges the successes of Ysgol Llanerfyl, and acknowledges that the school has delivered high quality education to children in the area for many years.  However, as outlined in the Consultation Document, pupil numbers in the Banw Valley have reduced over recent years, and the Council is keen to identify a solution which will ensure that excellent educational opportunities continue to be provided to pupils in the area in the future.
14.2	Llanerfyl School has consistently delivered excellent education to the children of the parish for three centuries.	

15. References to other options		
Issue	Points raised	Council response
<b>15.1 Closer working with Caereinion High School</b>		
15.1.1	Why wasn't the option to work with the community and in partnership presented to the Cabinet in the 30 <sup>th</sup> April meeting considered?	Throughout the process, numerous opportunities have been provided for stakeholders to suggest alternative options. Alternative options suggested during the consultation period were outlined in the Consultation Report produced. Working in partnership with Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion was not suggested during these processes.  Whilst it is acknowledged that there are some short term benefits to closer working between Ysgol Llanerfyl and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, there are a number of reasons why a partnership between these two schools would not be a suitable long term solution. In particular:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Welsh-medium school whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a dual stream school.</li> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Church in Wales Foundation School, whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a community secondary school.</li> </ul>
<b>15.1.2</b>	Llanerfyl and Llanfair Caereinion High School have decided to collaborate, which will achieve greater value for money and greater opportunities for the pupils. The transition period from year 6 to year 7 will be an easier, smoother process. With strong links to the high school, transition periods will be minimised, allowing a child's education to continue on an upward line rather than there being a dip between leaving primary education and beginning secondary education, something which has been an issue. Many members of both communities saw this move as pioneering – surely more consideration needs to be given to this new system and the advantages both financially and educationally.	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that there are some short term benefits to closer working between Ysgol Llanerfyl and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, there are a number of reasons why a partnership between these two schools would not be a suitable long term solution. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Welsh-medium school whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a dual stream school.</li> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Church in Wales Foundation School, whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a community secondary school.</li> </ul>
<b>15.1.3</b>	With ties formed with Caereinion High School which comply with your own school transformation policy, and a 'leaner more cost effective' site at Llanerfyl, this is the only way to potentially achieve long term sustainability which is vital to avoid visiting the area again to look at the new school with crippling financial burdens.	<p>Whilst it is acknowledged that there are some short term benefits to closer working between Ysgol Llanerfyl and Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion, there are a number of reasons why a partnership between these two schools would not be a suitable long term solution. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Welsh-medium school whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a dual stream school.</li> <li>- Llanerfyl School is a Church in Wales Foundation School, whilst Ysgol Uwchradd Caereinion is a community secondary school.</li> </ul> <p>The Council does not agree that this is the only way to 'potentially achieve long term sustainability.'</p>
<b>15.2 Need to look at the whole catchment</b>		
<b>15.2.1</b>	School position needs to be looked at 'on the whole', not only in a small valley – need to look at a broader radius which includes 7 other primary schools with low numbers.	The aim during this exercise, as agreed with the two governing bodies during the early discussions carried out in respect of these proposals was to retain Welsh-medium provision in the Banw Valley.

15.2.2	As late as 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019, when the Leader of the Council Rosemarie Harris suggested a wider area review, this suggestion was not acted upon, therefore the opportunity to create a stable situation has been lost.	Councillor Rosemarie Harris did not suggested a wider area review at the Cabinet meeting held on the 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019.
<b>15.3 Reference to schools in the community</b>		
15.3.1	Schools in the community is a thinking in the 2018 school's transformation policy and something the councillors highlighted in the 7 <sup>th</sup> March meeting.	<p>The Council's School Organisation Policy (2018) does not refer to 'schools in the community'. The policy acknowledges the role of schools in local communities, and the contribution schools make to rural communities in particular.</p> <p>The aim of this proposal is to merge the two current primary schools in the Banw Valley by establishing one new primary school, which would ensure continued access to a rural Welsh-medium school in to serve the community in the Banw Valley.</p>



**Banw Community Primary School  
and  
Llanerfyl Church in Wales Foundation School**

**Updated Impact Assessments**

**August 2019**

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## **Proposals relating to Banw Community Primary School and Llanerfyl Church in Wales Primary School**

### **1. Introduction**

Powys County Council carried out consultation on the following proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School:

- To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School
- To establish the new school either
  - a. on the current site of Banw C.P. School **or**
  - b. on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School

The Council's Cabinet considered the Consultation Report produced to reflect the findings of the consultation exercise on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, and agreed to proceed with publishing a statutory notice proposing to close the two schools, and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School.

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 (2013) 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.

Draft impact assessments were prepared and published with the consultation documentation. These impact assessments were updated to reflect issues raised during the consultation period, and have been updated further to reflect issues raised in the objections received during the objection period relating to the proposal to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School.

## 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.

<b>Proposal</b>	To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and to open a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School on the current site of Banw C.P. School
<b>Outline Summary / Description of Proposal</b>	
<p>The Council carried out consultation on the following proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School</li> <li>- To establish the new school either             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. on the current site of Banw C.P. School <b>or</b></li> <li>b. on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Following consideration of the Consultation Report produced summarising the findings of the consultation exercise, on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process to establish a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School through the publication of a Statutory Notice.</p> <p>A Statutory Notice was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. The objection period ended on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.</p>	

### 1. Profile of savings delivery (if applicable)

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
£ None	£ None	£31,395	£22,425	£None	£53,820

### 2. Consultation requirements

Consultation Requirement	Consultation deadline	Feedback considered
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Public consultation required	Consultation took place in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and a Statutory Notice was subsequently published which gave the opportunity for people to submit written objections to the proposal.	Yes
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### 3. Version Control (services should consider the impact assessment early in the development process and continually evaluate)

Version	Author	Job Title	Date
1	Sarah Astley	Schools Transformation and Welsh-medium Education Programme Manager	10/07/18
2a	Sarah Astley	Schools Transformation and Welsh-medium Education Programme Manager	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
3a	Sarah Astley	Schools Transformation and Welsh-medium Education Programme Manager	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
4	Sarah Astley	Schools Transformation and Welsh-medium Education Programme Manager	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2019

### 4. Impact on Other Service Areas

Does the proposal have potential to impact on another service area? (Including implication for Health & Safety and Corporate Parenting) PLEASE ENSURE YOU INFORM / ENGAGE ANY AFFECTED SERVICE AREAS AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY	
Should a decision be made to proceed with implementation of the proposal as a result of the statutory process, input from other service areas, such as HR, Property, Legal, Communications and Finance would be required. Representatives of these service areas are invited to attend meetings of the School Reorganisation Project Board, therefore are aware of the recommendation, and will receive regular updates as the statutory process moves forward.	
Service Area informed:	Contact Officer liaised with:
Mitigation	

### 5. How does your proposal impact on the council's strategic vision?

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	IMPACT Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION Please select from drop down box below
The Economy We will develop a vibrant economy	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Council Priority	How does the proposal impact on this priority?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Health and Care</b> We will lead the way in effective, integrated rural health and care	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Learning and skills</b> We will strengthen learning and skills	This option would result in one larger school in the Banwy Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the valley, and would have a positive impact on the quality of education provided to pupils. The Banw building provides access to more facilities than the Llanerfyl building – in particular, there is access to a hall on site. Should this option be implemented, all pupils in the area would be able to access these facilities.	Good		
<b>Residents and Communities</b> We will support our residents and communities	<p>The proposal would mean that there would be no provision in the village of Llanerfyl. However, there is a separate village hall in Llanerfyl, which would continue to be available. The building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. School is not owned by the Council – should the building no longer be required for the provision of education, the Trust would determine its future use.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that implementation of this option would have a negative impact on the community of Llanerfyl through not having a school in the village, and also potentially a negative impact on the village hall through loss of use by the school.</p>	Poor	Priscilla Foster Trust to consider possible future uses of the building.	Poor
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				
Initial engagement with parents, consultation report, objection report				

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

<b>Well-being Goal</b>	<b>How does proposal contribute to this goal?</b>	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	<b>What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A prosperous Wales:</b> 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 would lead to an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School. Whilst the additional distance is minimal, pupils living in Llanerfyl who are currently able to walk / cycle to school would be unable to do so. However, implementation of the proposal would lead to a reduction in the number of school buildings.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that implementation of this option would result in an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl School.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<p><b>A resilient Wales:</b> 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>	<p>The proposal would lead to an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School. Whilst the additional distance is minimal, pupils living in Llanerfyl who are currently able to walk / cycle to school would be unable to do so. However, implementation of the proposal would lead to a reduction in the number of school buildings.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that implementation of this option would result in an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl School.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>A healthier Wales:</b> 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>There is a hall co-located on the current site of Banw C.P. School. Should this option be implemented, all pupils would be able to access this hall for activities when needed. However, this option would mean that pupils living in Llanerfyl who can currently walk / cycle to school would be unable to do so.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that implementation of this option would result in an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl School.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities:</b> Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected Communities.</p>	<p>The proposal would enable the community to work together for the benefit of the whole area, although it is recognised that school reorganisation developments can create tensions locally.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that it would be difficult for the two communities to come together due to historical tensions in the local area, and that should the Council proceed with implementation of this option, a number of pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School were likely to transfer to alternative schools instead of transferring to a new school on the Banw site.</p>	Neutral	Work closely with the two current schools / communities when establishing the new school to ensure that all are involved, with the aim of bringing the two communities together.	Good

Well-being Goal	How does proposal contribute to this goal?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>A globally responsible Wales:</b> 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.	n/a	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language:</b> 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.				
<i>Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourable than the English language</i>	Implementation of the proposal would see the establishment of one larger Welsh-medium school to replace two small Welsh-medium schools.  Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period suggested that implementation of this option could have a negative impact on the Welsh language in Llanerfyl, and could result in pupils choosing to transfer to English-medium provision instead of a new Welsh-medium school on the Banw School.	Good		Choose an item.
<i>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language</i>	Implementation of the proposal would see the establishment of one larger Welsh-medium school to replace two small Welsh-medium schools.  Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period suggested that implementation of this option could have a negative impact on the Welsh language in Llanerfyl.	Good		Choose an item.

<p><i>Welsh Language impact on staff</i></p>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would see the establishment of one larger Welsh-medium school to replace two small Welsh-medium schools. There could be a small reduction in overall staff numbers, potentially being part of a larger group of staff could provide improved opportunities for Welsh speaking staff.</p> <p>Some concerns were raised during the consultation period and during the objection period about the proposal's impact on staff.</p>	<p>Good</p>	<p>Process to be completed as quickly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for staff.</p>	<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><i>People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation.</i></p>	<p>There is a hall co-located on the current site of Banw C.P. School. Should this option be implemented, all pupils would be able to access this hall for activities when needed. The recommendation would result in pupils being part of a larger cohort, which could provide opportunities for them to take part in a wider range of activities. However, there would be no provision in Llanerfyl, therefore pupils who live in Llanerfyl and can currently walk / cycle to school would no longer be able to do so. The additional travel required could also impact on pupils' ability to access after-school activities.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that implementation of this option would result in an increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl School. Comments were also received during the consultation period that implementation of this option would have a positive impact on opportunities for pupils to take part in sports activities due to being part of a larger group of pupils.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>		<p>Choose an item.</p>
<p><b>A more equal Wales:</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>				

<b>Age</b>	The intention of the proposal is to improve provision for primary school aged pupils in the Banwy Valley.	Good		Choose an item.
<b>Disability</b>	<p>A number of pupils at both current schools receive support for ALN. It is expected that this option would result in provision for ALN pupils which is at least equivalent to the provision available now. It is possible that there would be improved provision for pupils with ALN through the greater ability for staff to develop specialisms across the school.</p> <p>Some feedback was received during the consultation period which expressed concern that this option would have a greater impact on pupils with ALN as there are currently more pupils with ALN attending Llanerfyl School compared with Banw School</p>	Neutral	The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities for all pupils, including any pupils with ALN. The Council would work in partnership with pupils with additional learning needs, parents and the schools to support an effective transition.	Choose an item.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Marriage or civil partnership</b>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Race</b>	<p>The proposal would provide improved educational opportunities for all pupils, regardless of their race.</p> <p>Some feedback was received during the consultation period which expressed concern that this option would have a greater impact on pupils from ethnic backgrounds other than White British as there are may be some pupils belonging to ethnic groups other than White British attending Llanerfyl School.</p>	Neutral	The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities available to all pupils, including any pupils belonging to ethnic groups other than White British.	Choose an item.

<b>Religion or belief</b>	Establishment of a new Church in Wales primary school would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision in the Banwy Valley. Should any parents not wish their children to attend Church in Wales provision, Welsh-medium Community Primary provision is available nearby at Ysgol Pontrobert and Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School  Feedback was received during the consultation period which outlined concerns that implementation of this option would have a negative impact on links with the Church.	Neutral	Church in Wales ethos to be maintained regardless of site, through support from the Diocese and the Section 50 inspection process.	Choose an item.
<b>Sex</b>	The proposal would provide improved educational opportunities for girls and boys	Good		Choose an item.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				
PLASC, consultation report, objection report				

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

<b>Principle</b>	<b>How does the proposal impact on this principle?</b>	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	<b>What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Sustainable Development Principle (5 ways of working)</b>				

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 positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Long Term:</b> Looking to the long term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.	Pupil numbers in the Banwy Valley area are declining, placing both schools at risk. By establishing one new larger school, the authority hopes to safeguard the provision of high quality Welsh-medium education in the valley.	Good		Choose an item.
<b>Collaboration:</b> Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.	<p>Discussions with the two governing bodies have taken place whilst developing the proposals, however ultimately a decision will be made by the Council.</p> <p>The two schools already collaborate to some extent as part of a collaboration of three small schools. Should the proposal be implemented the new school would be expected to continue to collaborate with the third school, and other neighbouring schools.</p> <p>Feedback received during the consultation period and during the objection period reflected concerns that it would be difficult for the two communities to come together due to historical tensions in the local area, and that should the Council proceed with implementation of this option, a number of pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School were likely to transfer to alternative schools instead of transferring to a new school on the Banw site.</p>	Neutral		Choose an item.

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 positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<p><b>Involvement (including Communication and Engagement):</b> <i>Involving a diversity of the population in the decisions that affect them.</i></p>	<p>Discussions with the two governing bodies have taken place whilst developing the proposals, however ultimately a decision will be made by the Council.</p> <p>Initial engagement with parents also took place when developing the recommendation, this included an informal session in Llanerfyl, and a questionnaire which was circulated to the parents of pupils currently attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin.</p> <p>Full consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and a consultation report has been produced which outlines the findings of this consultation exercise. The consultation report was taken into consideration by the council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p> <p>A Statutory Notice was subsequently published, and there were 28 days for people to submit written objections to the proposal. An objection report outlining the issues raised in the objections has been produced, and will be considered by the council's Cabinet when determining how to proceed.</p>	Good		Choose an item.
<p><b>Prevention:</b> <i>Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.</i></p>	<p>The authority has identified that pupil numbers in the Banwy Valley are declining, placing both schools at risk. By establishing one new larger school in the area, the council hopes to safeguard education provision in the valley.</p>	Good		Choose an item.

Principle	How does the proposal impact on this principle?	<b>IMPACT</b> Please select from drop down box below	What will be done to better contribute to positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<b>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</b> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Integration:</b> Taking an integrated approach so that public bodies look at all the well-being goals in deciding on their well-being objectives.	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Preventing Poverty:</b> Prevention, including helping people into work and mitigating the impact of poverty.	N/A	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
<b>Unpaid Carers:</b> Ensuring that unpaid carers views are sought and taken into account	Full consultation has been carried out in accordance with the School Organisation Code. All stakeholders had an opportunity to give their views as part of this process, including any unpaid carers in the area.	Neutral		Choose an item.
<b>Safeguarding:</b> Preventing and responding to abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults with health and social care needs who can't protect themselves.	Full consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. This included a meeting with pupils at the two affected schools.  Some concerns were raised during the consultation period about the safeguarding arrangements linked to implementation of this option, due to the co-location of the Banw building with the Community Hall.	Good	There is a Safeguarding Policy in place, and regular Safeguarding Audits are carried out.	Choose an item.

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 positive or mitigate any negative impacts?	<u>IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION</u> Please select from drop down box below
<b>Impact on Powys County Council Workforce</b>	<p>Implementation of the proposal would impact on the current staff at the two schools. Full consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code and supported by the relevant LA teams (eg HR). There was an opportunity for staff to submit their views as part of this process, and in addition, a meeting was held with staff and governors of the two affected schools, which provided an opportunity for staff to raise concerns about the impact on them.</p> <p>Should this option be implemented, a management of change process would take place, and there would be an opportunity for staff to apply for positions in the new school.</p> <p>Some concerns were raised during the consultation period and during the objection period about the proposal's impact on staff.</p>	Neutral	Process to be completed as quickly as possible in order to minimise this period of uncertainty for staff.	Choose an item.
<b>Source of Outline Evidence to support judgements</b>				
PLASC, consultation report, objection period				

8. Achievability of proposal?

Impact on Service / Council	Risk to delivery of the proposal	Inherent Risk
Low	Medium	Medium
<b>Mitigation</b>		

## 9. What are the risks to service delivery or the council following implementation of this proposal?

Risk Identified	Inherent Risk Rating	Mitigation	Residual Risk Rating
Based on current pupil projections, there would still be less than 50 pupils in the school in a few years time	Medium	Ensure that pupil numbers and impact on the school's finances are closely monitored by both the school and the local authority, and actions are taken to address any related issues. Should the numbers fall to a point where the new school is unsustainable, further consideration will be required about the school's future.	Medium
Pupils may transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers	Medium	Move forward with the process as swiftly as possible in order to limit the period of uncertainty for the community. Should the recommendation be implemented, work with the two school communities to shape the new school	Medium
As the new school would be a small Welsh-medium school in a rural area, it may not attract a headteacher	Medium	If the new school is unable to recruit a Headteacher, the authority would need to secure an alternative arrangement with another school e.g. shared headship.	Medium
Welsh Government may not provide capital funding for investment in a school of this size	High	If capital funding via the 21 <sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme is not available for this school, the authority would need to consider alternative sources of funding.	High
<b>Overall judgement (to be included in project risk register)</b>			
<b>Very High Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Medium Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>
		X	

## 10. Indicative timetable for actions to deliver change proposal, if approved

Action	Target Date	Outcome	Decisions made
Statutory consultation in accordance with School Organisation Code	Consultation to commence in September, and to continue until early November.	Consultation report	Whether or not to proceed with the publication of statutory notices
Publication of statutory notices	March 2019 (Statutory notice was published in May 2019)	Objection report	Whether to proceed with implementation of the proposal

Establishment of shadow governing body to take forward the establishment of the new school	September 2019	Shadow governing body established	
<b>Portfolio Holder decision required</b>	No	<b>Date required</b>	
<b>Cabinet decision required</b>	Yes	<b>Date required</b>	Various stages during the process
<b>Council decision required</b>	No	<b>Date required</b>	Whilst no full council decision is needed, there is a need for a full council discussion on the consultation report before a Cabinet decision is made on how to proceed.

## 11. Indicative resource requirements (FTE) – link to Resource Delivery Plan

Support Requirements	2018-19				2019-20				2020-21			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
N/A												

## 12. Overall Summary and Judgement of this Impact Assessment?

<b>Outline Assessment (to be inserted in cabinet report)</b>	<b>Cabinet Report Reference:</b>
N/A	

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

<b>What additional evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?</b>
N/A

## 14. On-going monitoring arrangements?

<b>What arrangements will be put in place to monitor the impact over time?</b>
N/A
<b>Please state when this Impact Assessment will be reviewed.</b>
This impact assessment will be reviewed at each stage of the process.

### 3. Equalities Impact Assessment

## Powys County Council

### Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)



<b>Proposal</b>	To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and to open a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School on the current site of Banw C.P. School	<b>Lead Person undertaking the assessment</b>	Sarah Astley
<b>Service Area</b>	Schools Service	<b>Relevant Head of Service who has agreed this assessment</b>	Joanna Cassey (Aug 2018) Dr Alec Clark (Feb 2019) Lynette Lovell (Aug 2019)
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	August 2018 Updated February 2019 Updated August 2019		

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

<p>Briefly describe the aim or purpose of the change proposal being assessed.</p>	<p>The Council carried out consultation on the following proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School and to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School</li> <li>- To establish the new school either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. on the current site of Banw C.P. School <b>or</b></li> <li>b. on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Following consideration of the Consultation Report produced summarising the findings of the consultation exercise, on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the Council's Cabinet agreed to proceed with the process to establish a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School through the publication of a Statutory Notice.</p> <p>A Statutory Notice was published on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019. The objection period ended on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019.</p>
<b>2. OBJECTIVES</b>	
<p>Please state the current business objectives of the change proposal.</p>	<p>The reasons for establishing a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would provide one larger school in the Dyffryn Banw area which would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium education</li> <li>- Would provide improved opportunities for pupils in the Dyffryn Banw area by being part of a larger school</li> <li>- Would provide a more efficient model of delivering primary education in the Dyffryn Banw area</li> <li>- Would minimise surplus places in the Dyffryn Banw area</li> <li>- Closing the two schools and establishing one new school would ensure that all staff currently employed at the two schools would have an equal opportunity to secure a position in the new school</li> <li>- The proposal to establish a new Church in Wales school would ensure continued access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision</li> <li>- The Banw building is larger, so would provide an opportunity to co-locate pre-school provision on the site</li> <li>- The Banw building has been assessed as being more suitable for curriculum delivery purposes</li> <li>- There is access to a hall on site</li> </ul>

<b>3. BENEFITS and OUTCOMES</b>		
i) What are the intended benefits or outcomes from the change proposal?	<p>The benefits of the proposal are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is the larger site of the two and could easily accommodate all current pupils in the area</li> <li>- There are more facilities on this site e.g. indoor hall, dining hall, large playground and playing fields, plenty of parking</li> <li>- All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them</li> <li>- Would reduce surplus places in the area</li> <li>- Would lead to a financial saving to the council</li> </ul>	
<b>4. CORPORATE RELEVANCE</b>		
How does this change proposal relate to Vision 2025?	<p>Learning and Skills is one of the four priorities outlined in Vision 2025: Our Corporate Improvement Plan 2018-23. Within this priority, the Plan includes a commitment to 'Improve our schools infrastructure'. In order to achieve this, 'we will implement our new School Organisation Policy and Delivery Plan to develop a more efficient schools network, with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve.'</p>	
<b>5. DATA USED</b>		
<b>5.1. What data has been used to conduct this assessment?</b>  <b>Tick/shade boxes as appropriate.</b>	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?	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please state the gaps:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>How will the gaps be addressed going forward?</p> <p>N/A</p>	No <input type="checkbox"/> ✓
<b>6. DATA ANALYSIS</b>		
<p><b>6.1 Quantitative</b></p> <p><b>Summarise the key quantitative data analysis results, providing key headline statistics.</b></p> <p>Include data that relates to existing provision and also data relating to proposal. E.g. statistics generated from a consultation questionnaire.</p> <p><b>Key questions:</b></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>	<p><u>PLASC January 2018</u></p> <p><u>Banw C.P. School</u></p> <p>There are currently 26 pupils at Banw C.P. School. The following pupils belong to the protected characteristic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free school meals: 3 pupils are eligible to receive free school meals</li> <li>- SEN: 5 pupils have special educational needs. Of these, 0 pupils have statements, 5 pupils are on School Action and 0 pupils are on School Action Plus</li> <li>- Disabilities: 5 pupils have additional learning needs. No other pupils have any disabilities</li> <li>- English as an Additional Language – Welsh or English is the first language of all pupils in the school</li> <li>- Ethnicity: The ethnic group of all pupils in the school is White British</li> <li>- Looked after Children: There are no Looked After Children in the school</li> </ul> <p><u>Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</u></p>	

	<p>There are currently 32 pupils in Llanerfyl C. in W. School. The following pupils belong to the protected characteristic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free school meals: No pupils are eligible to receive free school meals</li> <li>- SEN: 9 pupils have special educational needs. Of these, 0 pupils have statements, 5 pupils are on School Action and 4 pupils are on School Action Plus</li> <li>- Disabilities: 9 pupils have additional learning needs. No other pupils have any disabilities</li> <li>- English as an Additional Language – Welsh or English is the first language of all pupils in the school</li> <li>- Ethnicity: The ethnic group of 93.8% of pupils in the school is White British. Information has not been obtained for the remaining 6.2%</li> <li>- Looked after Children: There are no Looked After Children in the school</li> </ul> <p>This information shows that the proportion of pupils that will be affected by this proposal that belong to the protected characteristic groups is small. However, 5 pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School and 9 pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School have additional learning needs. In addition, a small number of pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School are eligible to receive free school meals. Whilst the ethnic group of the vast majority of pupils is White British, information has not been provided for 6.2% of pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. Information received from a parent suggests that these pupils belong to an ethnic group other than White British.</p> <p>The proposal to locate a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would have a greater impact on pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School, as they would need to attend a different site. However, the aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities available for all pupils in the Banw Valley area, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristics group.</p>
<p><b>6.2 Qualitative</b>  <b>Summarise the key qualitative data analysis, providing key themes or patterns.</b>          Include data that relates to existing provision and</p>	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>Consultation has been carried out on the proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, which included consultation with the school councils of the affected schools. The</p>

<p>also data relating to proposal. E.g. protected characteristics focus group on the proposal.</p> <p><b>Key questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Do certain groups have a different service user experience? How will a change affect this?</li> <li>ii) Have any areas for improvement been communicated by particular groups? Will a change have an impact upon these views?</li> <li>iii) What are the reasons behind some groups not using the service? How will a change affect this position?</li> <li>iv) What has consultation on your proposals revealed about impact on the protected characteristics?</li> </ul>	<p>following issues were raised regarding the proposal’s impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups:</p> <p><u>Additional Learning Needs</u> – Comments received during the consultation period reflected general concern about the impact of the proposals on pupils with ALN due to the impact of moving to a bigger school / bigger classes. Comments received also reflected concern that this option would have a greater impact on pupils with ALN, as more pupils with ALN currently attend Llanerfyl C. in W. School.</p> <p><u>Ethnic Group</u> – Comments received during the consultation period reflected concern about the impact of this option on pupils belonging to ethnic groups other than White British, and concerns about discrimination of these pupils, and about the safety of these pupils, should the Council proceed with establishing a new school on the current site of Banw School.</p> <p><u>Religion</u> – Comments received during the consultation period raised concern that a new Church in Wales school established on the current site of Banw School would not have the same ethos as the current Church in Wales school on the Llanerfyl site. Also, whilst some comments were received which supported the potential establishment of a new Church in Wales School to serve the whole area, some comments were also received which raised concerns about this.</p> <p><u>Statutory Notice</u></p> <p>A Statutory Notice was published relating to the proposal. No issues were raised during the objection period which related to the proposal’s impact on pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups.</p>
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**7. EqIA RESULT**

<p><b>Based on an analysis of the available qualitative and quantitative data, please tick/shade the appropriate box</b></p>	<p><b>The proposal does not present any adverse impact on equality.</b> [Proceed to question 10]</p>	
	<p><b>The proposal presents some adverse impact</b></p>	✓

opposite to provide the EqIA assessment result.	on equality. [Proceed to question 8]	
	The proposal presents significant impact on equality [Proceed to question 8]	
<b>8. AREAS for IMPROVEMENT</b>		
<p><b>Please provide detail of weak or sensitive areas of the proposal identified by the assessment.</b></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 will impact on a small number of pupils with additional learning needs, and a small number of pupils belonging to an ethnic group other than White British.</p> <p>ii) A small number of pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School are eligible for Free School Meals.</p> <p>iii) As the proposals relate to the closure of two small Welsh-medium schools in order to establish one new Welsh-medium school, the proposal will affect Welsh speakers. As required by the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code, a separate Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be carried out.</p>	
<b>9. EQUALITY IMPROVEMENT</b>		
<p><b>9.1 Having identified problematic aspects to the proposal, how will this now be addressed?</b></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>ii) Does the proposal require modification to reduce or remove this</p>	<p>Should the proposal be implemented, a new Welsh-medium VA Church in Wales school would be established, and all pupils currently attending the two schools would be able to attend the new school. The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities available to pupils in the Banw Valley area, including any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>Establishing a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would have a greater impact on pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School, however it is acknowledged that there would also be an impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School.</p>	

<p>impact?</p> <p>iii) Should the proposal be considered for removal, owing to the degree of impact it is likely to have?</p>	<p>Additional Learning Needs – Based on PLASC 2018 figures, 14 pupils with additional learning needs were attending the two schools. Whilst the proposal to locate a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would impact on these pupils, there is no reason to believe that the newly established school would be unable to meet the needs of these pupils. The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities available to all pupils, including any pupils with additional learning needs.</p> <p>Ethnic Group – The proposal to locate a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would impact on pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School that belong to an ethnic group other than White British. However, the aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities available to all pupils, regardless of their ethnic group, therefore whilst there may be an impact on these pupils in the short term as they would need to attend school at a different location, the authority’s view is that the proposal would not have a negative impact on them in the longer term.</p> <p>Free School Meals – a small number of pupils that currently attend Banw C.P. School are eligible for Free School Meals. Whilst the proposal to locate a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would have some impact on these pupils, it is unlikely that this impact would be negative. Pupils would continue to access the same school site, therefore there would be no additional travel implication for the pupils or their parents.</p> <p>Religion – the proposal is to establish a new Church in Wales primary school. This would continue to provide access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision in the Banwy Valley. Should any parents not wish their children to attend Church in Wales provision, Welsh-medium Community Primary provision is available nearby at Ysgol Pontrobert and Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School</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?**

Yes

Date added.....

Reference.....

No  ✓

If no, please explain why not:

**Need was not identified at time of writing Service Strategy**

#### 4. Community Impact Assessment

##### 4.1 Banw C.P. School

###### i) Proportion of pupils from within / outside the catchment area that attend the school

The closest Welsh-medium provider for the pupils that were attending Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School during the 2017-18 academic year was as follows:

Closest Welsh-medium school	Pupils attending Banw C.P. School	Pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	Total
Banw CP School	25	1	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	0	29	29
Ysgol Llanbrynmair	0	2	2
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng	1	0	1

This suggests that 25 out of the 26 pupils for whom Banw C.P. School is the closest Welsh-medium school attend this school, whilst one pupil attends Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. In addition, one pupil that lives closer to another Welsh-medium school attends the school.

###### ii) Other facilities or services provided by the school

The school provides a range of after school clubs for all school pupils on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Almost all pupils attend the clubs, and an attendance register is kept weekly. All after school clubs are held through the medium of Welsh, and develop skills learnt in the classroom. Members of the Governing Body and Friends of the School that have a DBS help with running these clubs, and past pupils also volunteer to help.

The following clubs were provided by members of the school's teaching staff, assisted by support staff and members of the Governing Body and Friends of the School:

- Cookery Club
- Coding Club
- Sports Club
- Gardening / Eco Club
- Urdd Club

A range of other extra-curricular activities are provided. These include the following:

- Rich tasks – at least one rich task is organised every term which promotes the Welsh language and provides an opportunity to invite the public and parents to be part of the work e.g. Afternoon Tea
- Brass and woodwind lessons
- Mile a day
- Eisteddfod y Foel, Urdd Eisteddfod, Powys Eisteddfod
- Cycling lessons
- 'Cwis Llyfrau' ('Books Quiz')
- Literary competitions such as Barddas (2018), Ymryson y Beirdd Bach in the Powys Eisteddfod
- Improving language skills – Llangrannog Urdd Camp (annually) and the Cardiff Urdd Camp (2018 and every other year)
- A variety of sports practices and competitions including cross country running, tag rugby, swimming, athletics, football and much more, including Urdd Sports and Dragon Sports
- The area's mobile library
- Visits by the IMPACT schools team to promote Christian values (optional)
- Cinema nights in school

### **iii) Other services accommodated by the school**

A number of other activities take place in the school. These include the following:

- Cwmni Theatr Ieuencid Maldwyn rehearse in the Hall and in the school every Thursday evening during the Autumn and Spring terms. Auditions are also held here during the Summer term.
- Merched y Wawr meetings – the school is used for regional meetings
- Governing Body meetings

- Dyffryn Banw Football Club use the school at weekends (facilities including showers which lead to changing areas within the school)
- The Local Authority hold meetings in the school e.g. regional meetings (Headteachers), governor training
- Harp workshops

**iv) Other use by the community of the school building**

The school is co-located with a community hall, which is used for a wide range of activities. These include the following:

- Funeral teas
- Performances by companies such as Theatr Arad Goch, Bara Caws, Opera Cymru
- Eisteddfod y Foel
- Dyffryn Banw YFC meet in the hall/school weekly
- Powys Eisteddfod will be held in the hall in 2019. Almost all sub-committee meetings are held in the hall
- The local Urdd Eisteddfod was held in the school in 2018 – no other school in the Caereinion cluster would have been able to accommodate this – large car park, two canteens, a stage, a hall, separate toilets for girls/boys/adults, a number of classrooms to hold prelims
- Pupils have arranged Welsh lessons and workshops by well known local people for parents and members of the public, starting in September 2018
- Entertainment evenings (e.g. Wedding Party to raise money for Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw)
- Weddings / birthday parties

**v) Other links between the school and the community**

As above. The community hall which is co-located with the school is used by a number of community organisations in the Dyffryn Banw area, and ensures strong links between the school and the Dyffryn Banw community.

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

The proposal is to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School, therefore the accommodation would continue to be available.

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

The proposal is to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School, therefore there would be no impact on travel distance / time for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School.

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

Should the Council proceed with any proposal relating to primary provision in the Banw Valley, every effort would be made to fully engage parents and pupils in the process of establishing the new school. By proposing to close the two schools and establish one new school, both current schools would have an equal opportunity to be involved in the new school, e.g. through membership of the shadow governing body, and all pupils currently attending the two schools would have an equal opportunity to participate in activities provided at the new school.

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

N/A

**4.2 Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School**

**i) Proportion of pupils from within / outside the catchment area that attend the school**

The closest Welsh-medium provider for the pupils that were attending Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School during the 2017-18 academic year was as follows:

<b>Closest Welsh-medium school</b>	<b>Pupils attending Banw C.P. School</b>	<b>Pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School</b>	<b>Total</b>
Banw CP School	25	1	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	0	29	29
Ysgol	0	2	2

Llanbryn-mair			
Ysgol Gymraeg Y Trallwng	1	0	1

This suggests that all 29 pupils for whom Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is the closest Welsh-medium school attend this school. In addition, 3 pupils who live closer to other Welsh-medium schools attend this school.

**ii) Other facilities or services provided by the school**

The following after-school clubs are provided by the school:

- Sports Clubs
- Gardening Club
- Cookery Club
- ICT Club
- Coding Club
- Urdd Club
- Art Club

A range of other extra-curricular activities are provided. These include the following:

- Instrumental lessons – brass and harp
- Fund raising for charity e.g. Macmillan coffee morning, Children in Need
- Harvest service in the Church, Christmas service in the Chapel
- Christmas party in the village hall
- Competing in the sports competitions – arranged by the local authority, the Urdd, and other local competitions
- Competing in local Eisteddfodau – Foel and the Urdd
- Taking part in ‘Plygain yr ifanc’
- Joint working with Cylch Meithrin held in Llanerfyl Village Hall
- Visits e.g. to Caereinion High School to see Candelas, Mudiad Meithrin Tour in Welshpool, shows in Theatr Hafren

**iii) Other services accommodated by the school**

- Opportunity for high school aged pupils to help with or lead clubs for their Baccalaureate, work experience
- A member of staff that has additional needs regularly comes to school to help in the kitchen

- A member of staff from the Cylch Meithrin helps in the school, which helps with transition between the Cylch and the school.

**iv) Other use by the community of the school building**

- Local children and young people use the schools external facilities regularly e.g. playing field, yard and park to socialise, play football and other sports
- The Cylch Meithrin held their Afternoon Tea on the school site, using the kitchen and playing field
- The school's Easter Bingo is held in the building and is attended by members of the community
- The end of term BBQ arranged by the Friends of the School is held on the school field and is a community event.

**v) Other links between the school and the community**

- The school uses facilities in the village, including the Church, the Chapel and the Hall
- Pupils attend clubs e.g. Dyffryn Banw football club, Llanfair Caereinion hockey club, Dance club, Gymnastics club
- The school provides integration between members of the community which is important as there is no shop, pub or café in the community.
- Friends of the school activities, coffee mornings held in the Village Hall and religious services held by the school in the Church and the Chapel
- The school / pupils support the Llanerfyl Fair every year
- The children receive easter eggs from the community every Easter
- Members of the community bring produce from their gardens to promote the children's education
- Representatives from the church come to the school to speak with the children and to take religious services. Visits from Impact bus
- Money is received annually from the Priscilla Foster Trust which was established to provide education to the children of Llanerfyl
- Links with the Cylch Meithrin which takes places in Lanerfyl – opportunity for Cylch Meithrin children to attend activities such as the Harvest Service, Sports day, Christmas party
- Members of the community come to school to prepare the children to compete at local eisteddfodau
- Over the last year, many members of the community have come to the school to inspire the children e.g. marathon runner Andrew Davies, John and Tom Ellis, craftsman Carwyn Owen, Sian James, Ben Dant, Mari Lovgreen

- Activities arranged by the school bring the community together e.g. Barbecue, Santes Dwynwen Dance, Bingo, Beetle Drive, Halloween Disco

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

- The building occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is not owned by the Council – it is owned by the Priscilla Foster Trust. Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, the Trust would need to determine the building's future use.
- There is a Village Hall in Llanerfyl which is located on a separate site to the school. Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, it is unlikely that this would impact on the Village Hall, therefore the Hall would continue to be available to community activities.
- In addition, should a new school be established on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School, school provision for pupils living in Llanerfyl would be provided at this location, and this facility and the co-located community hall would continue to provide activities for the whole Dyffryn Banw area.

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

Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. Should a new school be located on the current site of Banw C.P. School, additional travel would be required to access this site.

Whilst the distance between Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and Banw C.P. School, and therefore the travel time between the two sites, is considered to be acceptable, many of the pupils that currently attend Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School live within the village of Llanerfyl, and therefore are able to walk or cycle to school. Should any new school be located on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School, these pupils would be unable to walk to school.

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

Should the Council proceed with any proposal relating to primary provision in the Banw Valley, every effort would be made to fully engage parents and pupils in the process of establishing the new school. By proposing to close the two schools and establish one new school, both current schools would have an equal opportunity to be involved in the new school, e.g. through membership of the shadow governing body,

and all pupils currently attending the two schools would have an equal opportunity to participate in activities provided at the new school.

However, it is acknowledged that should a new school be established on the current site of Banw C.P. School, there would be additional travel for pupils / parents living closer to Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, which could impact their ability to access after school activities and other activities arranged by the school.

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

N/A

### **4.3 Issues raised during the consultation period**

Comments received during the consultation period expressed concern about the potential impact of a proposal to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School on the Llanerfyl community. These concerns are listed in full in the consultation report published in respect of these proposals, however a summary is provided below.

i) Impact on pupil travel

- Pupils who currently walk / cycle to Llanerfyl School would be unable to do so
- Increase in travel for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl School

ii) Impact on parents

- Establishing a new school on the Banw site would be inconvenient for parents as work commitments and other after school activities tend to be in the direction of Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Newtown
- Having to take / collect children from school activities would be inconvenient for parents of pupils currently attending Llanerfyl School.

iii) General impact on the village of Llanerfyl

- Losing the school from Llanerfyl would have a negative impact on social activity in Llanerfyl
- Llanerfyl school brings the community together as there is no shop, café or pub in the village
- Activities arranged to support the school take place during the year, and are an opportunity for the community to come together

- The school has strong links to the Church, Cylch Meithrin and the wider community

iv) Impact on Llanerfyl Village Hall

- Concern about financial impact on the village hall following a reduction in use of the Hall
- Llanerfyl School makes regular use of the Village Hall for concerts, coffee mornings and other activities such as discos and beetle drives
- Comments were also received which suggested that closure of Llanerfyl School would not directly affect the Village Hall as the hall is not directly attached to the school.

#### 4.4 Issues raised during the objection period

Comments received during the objection period expressed concern about the potential impact of a proposal to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School on the Llanerfyl community. These concerns are listed in full in the objection report published in respect of these proposals, however a summary is provided below:

i) General impact on the community of Llanerfyl:

- The proposal would have a significant impact on the community of Llanerfyl
- The proposal would result in a loss of facilities in Llanerfyl, which would have a greater impact as there is no shop/tea rooms/public house where local people can engage and interact
- Concern about loss of the school yard and football pitch

ii) Impact on the Llanerfyl village hall

- Concern about the impact on Llanerfyl Village Hall which is used extensively by Ysgol Llanerfyl and therefore would lose this income
- Concern that Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw could move to the new school site in the future, which would result in further loss of income to the hall.

iii) Impact on parents

- The Banw site is inconvenient for parents who travel to work in the Welshpool direction, or whose children attend after school activities in Llanfair, Newtown, Welshpool and Meifod.

iv) Impact on pupil travel

- Concern that pupils living in Llanerfyl would no longer be able to walk/cycle to school

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

Should a new school be established on the current site of Banw C.P. School, there would be no primary provision in the village of Llanerfyl. This could impact on the community of Llanerfyl through the school's involvement in activities in the village and links with the Llanerfyl community, and comments were raised during the consultation period which referred to the importance of Llanerfyl School within the community, particularly as there is no shop, café or pub in the village, and that activities arranged by the school are an opportunity for the community to come together. However, should the Council proceed with this option, the new school would be expected to serve the whole Banw Valley area and to maintain community links across the area.

Should there be no primary provision in Llanerfyl, the building currently occupied by the school would be returned to the Priscilla Foster Trust, who would determine its future use.

There is a Village Hall in Llanerfyl, which is located on a separate site to the school. Should there be no primary provision in the building occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, it is unlikely that this would impact on the Village Hall, therefore this would continue to be available for community activities. However, concerns were raised during the consultation period and during the objection period about the impact on the village hall due to loss of income from the school. These concerns are noted.

There would be an additional travel requirement for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and other stakeholders to access a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School. Whilst the additional distance is minimal, it is acknowledged that this would mean that pupils living in the village of Llanerfyl would no longer be able to walk / cycle to school. In addition, there would be an impact on parents, as the school would be located further away from them. For some parents, the Banw site could be less convenient, particularly if they work or need to transport pupils to activities in the alternative direction (Llanfair Caereinion, Welshpool, Newtown).

A wide range of extra-curricular activities are currently offered by both Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. Any new school established on either site would be encouraged to offer a similar range of activities for pupils.

## 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 Banw C.P. School

#### i) Standards in the Welsh language

The following tables provide information about standards in Welsh at Banw C.P. School. Whilst this is useful as background information, the small number of pupils in each year group mean that it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from this information with regard to standards in Welsh at the school.

#### Foundation Phase

	Number of Year 2 pupils	No. 5+	% 5+	No. 6+	% 6+
2014	7	6	85.7%	2	28.6%
2015	4	4	100%	1	25%
2016	4	4	100%	2	50%
2017	7	7	100%	0	0%
2018	1	1	100%	1	100%

#### Key Stage 2

	Number of Year 6 pupils	No. 4+	% 4+	No. 5+	% 5+
2014	7	7	100%	4	57.1%
2015	2	2	100%	2	100%
2016	8	7	87.5%	4	50%
2017	3	3	100%	1	33.33%
2018	6	6	100%	3	50%

#### Welsh Language Charter

The school achieved the bronze award for the Welsh language Charter at the end of the summer term 2018, and are currently working on their silver scheme.

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

The school provides a range of after school clubs for all school pupils on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. Almost all pupils attend the clubs, and an attendance register is kept weekly. All after school clubs are held through the medium of Welsh, and develop skills learnt in the classroom. Members of the Governing Body and Friends of the School that have a DBS help with running these clubs, and past pupils also volunteer to help.

The following clubs were provided by members of the school's teaching staff, assisted by support staff and members of the Governing Body and Friends of the School:

- Cookery Club
- Coding Club
- Sports Club
- Gardening / Eco Club
- Urdd Club

A range of other extra-curricular activities are provided. These include the following:

- Rich tasks – at least one rich task is organised every term which promotes the Welsh language and provides an opportunity to invite the public and parents to be part of the work e.g. Afternoon Tea
- Brass and woodwind lessons
- Mile a day
- Eisteddfod y Foel, Urdd Eisteddfod, Powys Eisteddfod
- Cycling lessons
- 'Cwis Llyfrau' ('Books Quiz')
- Literary competitions such as Barddas (2018), Ymryson y Beirdd Bach in the Powys Eisteddfod
- Improving language skills – Llangrannog Urdd Camp (annually) and the Cardiff Urdd Camp (2018 and every other year)
- A variety of sports practices and competitions including cross country running, tag rugby, swimming, athletics, football and much more, including Urdd Sports and Dragon Sports
- The area's mobile library
- Visits by the IMPACT schools team to promote Christian values (optional)
- Cinema nights in school

**iii) Other Welsh language activities that take place in the school, including opportunities for members of the community to learn Welsh or undertake activities through the medium of Welsh**

A number of other Welsh language activities take place in the school. These include the following:

- Cwmni Theatr Ieuencid Maldwyn rehearse in the Hall and in the school every Thursday evening during the Autumn and Spring terms. Auditions are also held here during the Summer term.
- Merched y Wawr meetings – the school is used for regional meetings
- Governing Body meetings
- Dyffryn Banw Football Club use the school at weekends (facilities including showers which lead to changing areas within the school)
- The Local Authority hold meetings in the school e.g. regional meetings (Headteachers), governor training
- Harp workshops

The school is co-located with a community hall, which is used for a wide range of activities, many of which are held through the medium of Welsh. These include the following:

- Funeral teas
- Performances by companies such as Theatr Arad Goch, Bara Caws, Opra Cymru
- Eisteddfod y Foel
- Dyffryn Banw YFC meet in the hall/school weekly
- Powys Eisteddfod will be held in the hall in 2019. Almost all sub-committee meetings are held in the hall
- The local Urdd Eisteddfod was held in the school in 2018 – no other school in the Caereinion cluster would have been able to accommodate this – large car park, two canteens, a stage, a hall, separate toilets for girls/boys/adults, a number of classrooms to hold prelims
- Pupils have arranged Welsh lessons and workshops by well known local people for parents and members of the public, starting in September 2018
- Entertainment evenings (e.g. Wedding Party to raise money for Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw)
- Weddings / birthday parties

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

As above. The community hall which is co-located with the school is used by a number of community organisations in the Dyffryn Banw area, and for a range of Welsh language activities serving the Dyffryn

Banw area and beyond, and ensures strong links between the school and the Welsh language community in Dyffryn Banw and beyond.

## 5.2 Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School

### i) Standards in the Welsh language

The following tables provide information about standards in Welsh at Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. Whilst this is useful as background information, the small number of pupils in each year group mean that it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions from this information with regard to standards in Welsh at the school.

#### Foundation Phase

	Number of Year 2 pupils	No. 5+	% 5+	No. 6+	% 6+
2014	6	6	100%	3	50%
2015	4	4	100%	2	50%
2016	4	4	100%	1	25%
2017	1	1	100%	0	0%
2018	7	6	85.7%	1	14.3%

#### Key Stage 2

	Number of Year 6 pupils	No. 4+	% 4+	No. 5+	% 5+
2014	7	7	100%	3	42.9%
2015	5	5	100%	0	0%
2016	8	8	100%	5	62.5%
2017	8	8	100%	2	25%
2018	5	5	100%	2	40%

#### Welsh Language Charter

The school achieved the bronze award for the Welsh language Charter at the end of the summer term 2018, and are currently working on their silver scheme.

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

The school is a Welsh-medium school, therefore all after-school clubs are provided in Welsh. The following after-school clubs are provided by the school:

- Sports Clubs
- Gardening Club
- Cookery Club
- ICT Club
- Coding Club
- Urdd Club
- Art Club

As a Welsh-medium school, extra-curricular activities are provided in Welsh. These include the following:

- Instrumental lessons – brass and harp
- Fund raising for charity e.g. Macmillan coffee morning, Children in Need
- Harvest service in the Church, Christmas service in the Chapel
- Christmas party in the village hall
- Competing in the sports competitions – arranged by the local authority, the Urdd, and other local competitions
- Competing in local Eisteddfodau – Foel and the Urdd
- Urdd activities
- Taking part in 'Plygain yr ifanc'
- Joint working with Cylch Meithrin held in Llanerfyl Village Hall
- Visits e.g. to Caereinion High School to see Candelas, Mudiad Meithrin Tour in Welshpool, shows in Theatr Hafren

As the majority of children come from Welsh speaking homes, Welsh is the natural language of the yard.

**iii) Other Welsh language activities that take place in the school, including opportunities for members of the community to learn Welsh or undertake activities through the medium of Welsh**

- The school provides an opportunity for high school aged pupils to take part in clubs, and to lead clubs as part of their Baccalaureate qualification.
- As part of the Welsh language Charter, it is intended that pupils will arrange for members of the community to receive Welsh lessons within the school building.
- Governors meetings are held in Welsh.

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

- The school is a central part of the community and village of Llanerfyl, which is a stronghold for the Welsh language.
- There are strong links with the Church, the Chapel, the Village Hall, the Cylch Meithrin and the Community Council.

### **5.3 Issues raised during the consultation period**

Comments received during the consultation period referred to the Welsh language impact of a proposal to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School. These comments are listed in full in the consultation report published in respect of these proposals, however a summary of the impact on each community is provided below.

- There would be a greater impact on the Welsh language should there be no school in Llanerfyl
- Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, possible that parents would send their children to alternative, English-medium providers instead of the proposed new school
- Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, possible that Welsh speaking parents of pupils that currently attend Llanerfyl would send their children to alternative schools, which would mean that there would be less pupils from Welsh speaking homes at the school
- Concern that moving the school to Banw would weaken the Welsh language in the area
- The majority of Banw pupils come from homes where no Welsh is spoken

Estyn also referred to the impact of the proposals on the Welsh language in their response to the consultation, which is provided in the consultation report. In their response, Estyn stated that both options outlined in the consultation document 'would contribute to realising Welsh Government's strategy of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.'

### **5.4 Issues raised during the objection period**

Comments received during the objection period expressed concern about the potential Welsh language impact of a proposal to establish a new school on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School on the Llanerfyl community. These concerns are listed in full in the objection report published in respect of these proposals, however a summary is provided below:

- The Welsh language is stronger in Llanerfyl than Banw
- There has been a lack of consideration of the Welsh language

- Providing transport from the area to enable pupils to access English-medium provision does not support the Welsh Government's plan for a million Welsh speakers.
- Some pupils who began their education in Welsh will move to English-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion instead of the new school
- Transport is being provided from the area to enable a number of pupils to access English-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion
- The proposal does not align with the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

## 5.5 Conclusion

The Banw Valley area is traditionally a Welsh speaking area, and the two current primary schools are Welsh-medium schools. The proposal would result in one new Welsh-medium primary to serve the area. This would ensure that the provision continues to provide access to Welsh-medium education and meet the objectives of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, and would also result in a larger school, which would be more sustainable for the future.

Implementation of this option would mean that there would be no provision in the village of Llanerfyl. There is a risk that some pupils would choose to attend alternative provision instead of the new Welsh-medium school, which could include English-medium provision. However a number of pupils from the Banw Valley area already travel to Llanfair Caereinion to access English-medium provision. It is also possible that the provision of a larger school would encourage more pupils to access Welsh-medium provision in the Banw Valley in the future.

There are no concerns about standards in Welsh at both current schools. Both schools offer a wide range of Welsh language extra-curricular activities and have achieved the Welsh Language Charter bronze award and are now working towards the silver award. The Council would expect this to continue to be the case at any new school established in the Banw Valley area.

During the process, concerns have been raised that a higher proportion of Llanerfyl pupils come from Welsh speaking homes compared with Banw, and that closure of the Llanerfyl site would have a greater impact on the Welsh language. However, the proposal is to establish one new Welsh-medium school to serve the whole area, therefore all pupils in the area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium provision in a Welsh-medium school.