



POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

**Brecon High School
Welsh-medium Stream**

Consultation dates: 21st November 2016 – 9th January 2017

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A Welsh language version of this document is available on the council's website – <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/brecon-high-school-welsh-medium-stream/>.

If you require a hard copy of the document, or the document in a different format, please contact the Schools Transformation Team on 01597 826954 or school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

1. Introduction

1.1 The Proposal

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to seek views on the following proposal:

To close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from the 31st August 2017, with Brecon High School becoming an English-medium school from the 1st September 2017.

From the 1st September 2017, there would be no Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School for pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10. However, Welsh-medium provision would continue to be provided at Brecon High School for those pupils who would be entering year 11 in September 2017. This provision would continue until July 2018.

From the 1st September 2017, pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to attend Builth Wells High School or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.

From the 1st September 2018 (without prejudice to the decision of Powys Cabinet in relation to a separate proposal related to Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools), all pupils wishing to access Welsh-medium secondary provision who live in the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream of Brecon High School would be able to access provision at the Builth Wells site of the proposed new dual-sited secondary school in Mid Powys (“the New Mid Powys Secondary School”)¹ or their closest secondary Welsh-medium provision.

From the 1st September 2018, there would be no Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School.

Pupils living in the Sennybridge area would continue to be able to access Welsh-medium provision at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera.

Pupils living in other parts of the catchment area currently served by the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School that live closer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision outside Powys would have the opportunity to transfer to these schools.

¹ On the 18th October 2016, Powys County Council published a Statutory Notice proposing the establishment of a new dual-sited dual-stream school that will operate from the current sites of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools from the 1st September 2018. The Objection Period closes on the 8th December 2016, and the Objection Report will be considered by Cabinet in due course. **All references to the New Mid Powys Secondary School in this consultation document are made without prejudice to Cabinet’s decision following the Objection Period.**

1.2 Who will we consult with?

Consultation will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code 2013 (“the Code”), which can be found on the council’s website².

The council will consult with stakeholders in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, which will include the following:

- Pupils (including School Councils), Parents (and where possible prospective parents), carers and guardians, staff members of any schools likely to be affected by the proposals
- Parents of pupils attending primary schools from which pupils normally transfer to the affected secondary school
- The Governing Body of any school which is the subject of the proposals and of any other schools likely to be affected by the proposals, including those that might receive any displaced pupils
- Any other local authority likely to be affected by the proposal
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authority for the area in which any school likely to be affected is located
- The Welsh Ministers
- Assembly Members (AMs) and Members of Parliament (MPs) representing the area served by any school which is the subject of the proposal
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions representing teachers and other staff at any school which is the subject of the Proposal
- The relevant Regional Education Consortium
- The relevant Regional Transport Consortium
- The Police and Crime Commissioner for the area
- Any community or town council for the area served by any school which is the subject of the Proposal
- Any further education institutions serving the area of the school

1.3 How to respond to the Consultation

Responses to the consultation can be provided in writing, or by attending the consultation meeting in respect of this proposal. Further details are provided below:

1.3.1 Written responses

A feedback form is attached to this document in Appendix A, and is also available on the council’s website. You can also respond in writing.

All responses should be sent to the following address:

School Transformation Team
Powys County Council
County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

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

² <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/plans-for-powys-schools/>

All correspondence should be received by the **9th January 2017**.

1.3.2 Consultation meetings

The following consultation meeting has been arranged for parents and members of the community:

Brecon High School, Thursday 1st December, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

The event will be ticketed to ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.

Tickets are free, and are available online via Powys County Council's website (<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/brecon-high-school-welsh-medium-stream/>), or by phoning 01597 826954.

Separate consultation meetings will be held with governors, staff and pupils.

1.4 What will happen next?

This consultation is part of the statutory process for making changes to school provision, as outlined in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2013). The process is summarised below:

1.4.1 Consultation

Consultation will start on the 21st November 2016 and will end on the 9th January 2017. Feedback from the consultation will be collated, and a Consultation Report will be prepared, which will summarise the issues raised during the consultation and will provide the authority's response to these issues.

Stakeholders will be notified of the publication of the consultation report in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code. If you would like to be notified of the publication of the Consultation Report, or to receive a copy, please ring 01597 826954 or email school.consultation@powys.gov.uk.

The Consultation Report will be presented to the council's Cabinet during the spring term 2017. The Cabinet will consider the report, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, to make changes to the proposal or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal for the foreseeable future.

1.4.2 Statutory Notices

If the Cabinet decides to proceed, a Statutory Notice will be published, which will give a period of 28 days for people to submit written objections.

If there are objections, the council will publish an Objection Report providing a summary of the objections and the authority's response to them. Only written objections submitted during the statutory notice period will be considered in this report. Comments submitted as part of the consultation period will need to be re-submitted in writing during the statutory notice period if they are to be considered as objections.

The Objection Report will be considered by the council's Cabinet, who will determine whether or not to approve the proposal.

1.4.3 Implementation

If the Cabinet approves the proposal, it will be implemented in accordance with the date given in the Statutory Notice or any subsequently modified date.

2. Background and Policy Context

2.1 Background to the Proposal

In January 2015, Powys County Council commenced a Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which intended to transform the secondary and post-16 sector across the county. The main aims of the Programme were:

- Reconfiguration of secondary and post-16 education to create a sustainable infrastructure of schools and sixth forms across Powys, enabling a broader range of subjects to be provided from each school site, whilst minimising the need for inter-school travel and transport
- Reconfiguration of Welsh-medium education with the aim of establishing at least one Welsh-medium secondary school in the county, and the consolidation of other Welsh-medium streams into larger units. This will enable schools to provide the appropriate curriculum offer and progression routes for Welsh-medium learners.

This reflects the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for 2014-17. One of the Strategic Aims stated in the WESP is 'to provide robust linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education'³.

Welsh-medium secondary provision in Powys is currently provided at 6 dual stream schools, where the curriculum is delivered through separate Welsh-medium and English-medium streams.

In South Powys, there are currently 2 Welsh-medium secondary streams:

- The Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School provides Welsh-medium subjects for pupils in years 7 – 11
- The Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School provides Welsh-medium subjects in years 7 – 13

However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils and the Welsh-medium provision available varies significantly between schools.

In some areas of Powys, pupils transfer out of county to receive Welsh-medium secondary provision within another local authority, most notably from the Ystradgynlais area to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, located within Neath Port Talbot County Borough. Although historically it is mainly pupils from the Ystradgynlais catchment area that have transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of pupils from the Welsh-medium stream at Sennybridge C.P. School who have transferred to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera rather than the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, due to parental preference.

³ <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-a-school-place/use-of-the-welsh-language-in-powys-schools/>

In March 2015, the council's Cabinet considered and approved a report which identified four priorities to be taken forward in respect of the Secondary School Reorganisation programme, which were as follows:

- Priority 1 – Beacons Learning Campus
- Priority 2 – To review Secondary Education in Mid Powys
- Priority 3 – To review Post-16 Provision in Ystradgynlais
- Priority 4 – To review Secondary Education in North Powys

The initial recommendation in respect of Priority 1 was to carry out consultation on closure of Brecon and Gwernyfed High Schools, with the opening of a new English-medium school. Formal consultation on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School was carried out in the summer of 2015, and a Consultation Report was produced and received by Cabinet on the 29th September 2015. At this meeting, Cabinet resolved to 'note the content of the consultation report and that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet for decision at a later date'.

The School Organisation Code states that 'Proposals must be published within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses, otherwise the proposals will lapse and a new consultation document must be issued to revive them'. No further report was taken to Cabinet with proposals, and therefore no proposals were published within the 26 week period.

During the consultation period, concerns were raised that the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream could not be considered in isolation to the work that was ongoing in respect of secondary provision in Mid Powys and South Powys (Priorities 1 and 2). Therefore it was agreed to re-consider the future of Welsh-medium secondary provision in the area as part of these reviews.

A business case in respect of Mid and South Powys was considered by Cabinet on the 23rd February 2016, when Cabinet determined:

- To approve the commencement of formal consultation on the closure of Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod High School and to establish a new dual-stream 11-18 secondary school that will operate across the current sites of the two schools
- To approve the commencement of formal consultation on the closure of Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School, and to establish a new English-medium school to operate from the current sites of the two schools initially, before transferring to the new campus in Brecon.

Consultation on these proposals took place later in the year. Consultation reports were published in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code, and were considered by Cabinet on the 27th September 2016. At this meeting, Cabinet determined the following:

- To publish a statutory notice for the closure of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools on the 31st August 2018 and the establishment of a new dual-sites dual-stream 11-18 school that will operate on the current campuses of Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools with effect from 1st September 2018

- To abandon the elements of the proposal with regard to Brecon High School and Gwernyfed High School relating to closure of the two schools and the establishment of a new school, and to re-consult on the closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School from September 2017.

2.2 Policy Context

2.2.1 Powys County Council's aspiration for education

Powys County Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people have an equal opportunity to receive the best possible education. The council aspires to have an educational infrastructure that:

- Provides all learners with opportunities to achieve high standards of achievement and attainment;
- Provides for first class teaching and learning provision reflecting national, regional and local priorities;
- Has high quality resilient leadership and management;
- Provides robust linguistic continuity and progression;
- Improves cost-effectiveness and efficiency;
- Has the right number of schools in the right place for the current and future pupil population of Powys;
- Has school buildings and blocks that are assessed as condition A or B;
- Minimises dependency on temporary accommodation; and
- Reduces overall surplus places in schools.

The council has a duty to ensure that school buildings, teaching resources and pupils' learning experiences are shaped to develop competencies which allow children and young people to engage confidently with the challenges of their future lives. The challenge faced by the council is to ensure that schools provide an appropriate, fit-for-purpose learning environment that will facilitate the delivery of a curriculum, as defined in "Successful Futures"⁴ to ensure children and young people develop as;

- ambitious, capable learners ready to learn throughout their lives;
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work;
- ethical and informed citizens of Wales and the world; and
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

In order to establish an infrastructure of schools that meet the council's aspirations for education, the council will need to consider new models of delivering educational provision in the county. In a rural county as diverse as Powys there is no one size fits all approach to school organisation. Consideration will be given to the specific circumstances of each school and community.

⁴ Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Requirements in Wales. Professor Ian Donaldson February 2015

2.2.2 Welsh-medium Education

In 2010, the Welsh Government published its Welsh-medium Education Strategy⁵, which sets the national strategic direction for Welsh-medium education. This strategy states that *‘Welsh-medium education from the early years, with robust linguistic progression through every phase of education offers the best conditions for developing future bilingual citizens.’* The strategy also states that *‘Where a pupil from a Welsh-speaking background attends a bilingual school, a balanced curriculum through the medium of Welsh and English can be effective in ensuring fluency in both languages...However, where learners’ linguistic skills in Welsh are not reinforced by family or community, they are unlikely to achieve full fluency and confidence in Welsh when learning in a bilingual setting. Bilingual provision, therefore, does not always ensure that an individual becomes a bilingual speaker.’*

Following the publication of this strategy, local authorities were required to prepare Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs), setting out how they would contribute to achieving the outcomes outlined in the strategy. This became a statutory requirement in 2013.

One of the Strategic Aims stated in Powys’ current WESP for 2014-17⁶ is ‘to provide linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education’, to enable all children and young people across Powys to experience the cultural and cognitive benefits of bilingualism. The WESP states the authority’s policy in respect of Welsh-medium secondary education at the time, which was to aim that all dual stream secondary schools became category 2B secondary schools by September 2020, to ensure that pupils would be able to access sufficient Welsh-medium provision to enable them to continue to develop their Welsh-medium skills during their time at secondary school. However, progress towards achieving this aim has been limited, particularly in respect of Key stage 4 provision, and this is compounded by the challenging financial situation faced by the authority, which will make it increasingly difficult to achieve this target by 2020.

The authority is currently working on the production of a new WESP for 2017-20 which will build on the work that has taken place during the period of the current WESP.

The Welsh Government has recently launched an ambitious new strategy to create a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050. The council acknowledges the key role Welsh-medium education will play in the achievement of this aim, and the new WESP will seek to build on the work that has taken place during the period of the current WESP, with the aim of providing equality for Welsh-medium pupils in Powys.

⁵ <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/publications/guidance/welshmededstrat/?lang=en>

⁶ <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-a-school-place/use-of-the-welsh-language-in-powys-schools/>

3. Reasons for the Proposal

The reasons why the authority is proposing to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School are as follows:

- Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School
- Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education

These issues are examined in more detail below.

3.1 Low pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

Pupil numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have decreased significantly in recent years, and the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school is now very small.

The current number of Welsh-medium pupils at Brecon High School is as follows⁷:

Year	Number of pupils
7	2
8	3
9	5
10	3
11	6
Total	19

The following table shows the total number of year 7 – 11 pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School since 2010⁸:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Total
2010/11	12	17	14	12	12	67
2011/12	6	11	19	14	17	67
2012/13	10	7	13	18	15	63
2013/14	19	10	8	13	13	63
2014/15	14	13	9	8	13	57
2015/16	3	7	4	8	8	30
2016/17	2	3	5	3	6	19

This shows that the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has decreased over this period. Pupil numbers have now decreased to such a low level that the provision of a Welsh-medium stream is unviable.

The Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has two feeder primary schools. These are Ysgol y Bannau, a Welsh-medium primary school located in Brecon, and Sennybridge C.P. School, a dual stream school located in the village of Sennybridge.

⁷ Teacher Centre, October 2016

⁸ Information from Welsh-medium returns provided annually by the school

The current number of Welsh-medium pupils in reception to year 6 in the two schools is as follows⁹:

Year	Ysgol y Bannau	Sennybridge C.P. School	Total
R	17	8	25
1	28	6	34
2	18	11	29
3	15	5	20
4	24	5	29
5	10	2	12
6	19	5	24
Total	131	42	173

The following table shows the total number of Welsh-medium pupils in reception to year 6 that have attended the two schools since 2010/11¹⁰.

Year	Ysgol y Bannau	Sennybridge C.P. School	Total
2010/11	141	35	176
2011/12	138	33	171
2012/13	139	32	171
2013/14	141	39	180
2014/15	137	38	175
2015/16	135	42	177

This shows that Welsh-medium pupil numbers in the area have remained fairly stagnant over the last few years. Whilst Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Sennybridge C.P. School have increased slightly, this has not been the case at Ysgol y Bannau. This is in contrast with the two other designated Welsh-medium primary schools in Powys, Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd in Newtown and Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr in the Ystradgynlais area, where pupil numbers have increased over the same period.

Changes in the destinations of Welsh-medium pupils when they transfer to secondary school have also impacted on Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Brecon High school. In July 2016, there were 20 Welsh-medium pupils in year 6 at Ysgol y Bannau and 6 Welsh-medium pupils in year 6 at Sennybridge C.P. School. In September 2017, they transferred to the following schools:

Ysgol y Bannau	Sennybridge C.P.
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⁹ Teacher Centre, October 2016

¹⁰ PLASC data

		School
Total Year 6 Welsh-medium pupils during 2015/16	20	6
Number of pupils transferring to Welsh-medium secondary provision in September 2016	13	4
	Brecon High School – 2 Builth Wells High School – 9 Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera – 2	Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera – 4
Number of pupils transferring to English-medium secondary provision in September 2016	7	2
	Brecon High School – 1 Christ College – 2 Crickhowell High School – 2 Gwernyfed High School – 2	Brecon High School – 2

As is shown in this table, increasing numbers of parents of Welsh-medium pupils in the Brecon catchment area are choosing for their children to transfer to alternative provision, instead of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. This is a pattern that has developed over time, particularly in the case of Welsh-medium pupils attending Sennybridge C.P. School, where parents have chosen for their children to attend Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for their secondary provision, partly due to the greater level of Welsh-medium provision available.

This means that, in reality, Ysgol y Bannau is the only primary school which is now feeding the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School. As the numbers in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School have decreased, parents of pupils that attended Ysgol y Bannau have increasingly chosen for their children to attend alternative providers, such as Builth Wells High School. This has resulted in the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School becoming unviable.

It is acknowledged that it is likely that the uncertainty caused by the two previous consultation exercises on closure of the Welsh-medium stream at the school has contributed to the decrease in Welsh-medium pupil numbers at Brecon High School.

3.2 Need to ensure robust linguistic progression and appropriate curriculum choice for Welsh-medium pupils throughout all key stages of education

One of the Strategic Aims stated in the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-17 is 'to provide robust linguistic continuity of Welsh-medium provision across all key phases of education', to enable all children and young people across Powys to experience the cultural and cognitive benefits of bilingualism. The council aims to ensure that all Powys learners have the opportunity to become confident bilingual citizens.

In its Welsh-medium Education Strategy (2010), the Welsh Government states that 'Bilingual / dual stream settings should aim to provide as much provision through the

medium of Welsh as is necessary for learners to achieve fluency in two languages.’ However, the current small number of pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is making it increasingly difficult for the school to offer an appropriate Welsh-medium curriculum for pupils.

During 2016/17, the following Welsh-medium subjects are provided at Brecon High School¹¹:

Year	Welsh-medium subjects
7	6 – Science, History, Geography, RE, French, IT
8	6 – Science, History, Geography, RE, French, IT
9	6 – Science, History, Geography, RE, French, IT
10	1 – Science
11	2 – Science, History

No post-16 subjects are provided through the medium of Welsh at Brecon High School.

The current small number of pupils accessing the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School will make it increasingly difficult for the school to offer Welsh-medium subjects for pupils, and to provide a level of provision which will enable learners to achieve and maintain fluency in both English and Welsh. This is particularly the case in Key Stage 4.

The alternative schools which pupils currently in the catchment of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would be expected to attend would offer a greater level of Welsh-medium provision compared to that currently available at Brecon High School – there are more Welsh-medium pupils at Builth Wells High School, therefore the school is able to provide a greater number of Welsh-medium subjects, providing a better opportunity for learners to continue to develop their Welsh language skills through their secondary education, whilst Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera is a Welsh-medium school, where all subjects are provided through the medium of Welsh.

¹¹ Information provided by Brecon High School, November 2016

4. Benefits and Risks

4.1 Benefits of the Proposal

The authority's view is that centralising Welsh-medium secondary provision in the Mid and South Powys area will enable the provision available to be further developed, thus meeting the aspiration stated in the council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-17 to provide 'more robust Welsh-medium provision for Welsh-medium learners'. The authority's view is that the improved subject choice available to learners will enable them to become more confident Welsh speakers. These Welsh-medium pupils would continue to live in Brecon and the surrounding area, therefore although they would not be attending secondary school in Brecon, they will still be able to contribute to the development of the Welsh language in this area.

As well as the benefits that are associated with the proposal, the authority acknowledges that there would also be some disadvantages. The advantages and disadvantages of the proposal are listed below:

Advantages

- Creation of a critical mass of Welsh-medium secondary learners in Mid / South Powys
- Additional Welsh-medium opportunities to be provided to Welsh-medium pupils from Brecon through access to a wider range of Welsh-medium subjects
- Would enable the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at post-16
- Social and emotional benefits to Welsh-medium pupils from being part of a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils
- More opportunity for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh
- More financially efficient model of delivery for secondary Welsh-medium provision in Mid and South Powys
- Would enable Brecon High School to run more efficiently as a single stream school
- Welsh-medium pupil numbers could grow to a point where a Welsh-medium secondary school could be considered viable

Disadvantages

- Loss of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon
- May have a negative impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau
- Possible reduction in transfer rates from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils from the Brecon catchment in the short term
- Increased travel times for Welsh-medium learners from the Brecon catchment
- Lack of Welsh-medium provision in new building in Brecon
- Welsh-medium pupils will be unable to access the new building in Brecon

- Powys based provision would still be in a dual stream school, rather than a designated Welsh-medium school

4.2 Risks associated with the Proposal

As with every proposal, the authority acknowledges that there a number of risks associated with the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School.

The risks identified by the authority are listed below, along with measures the authority will take to mitigate the risks.

Risk Ref.	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Measures
1	Pupils choose to attend English-medium secondary provision instead of continuing to access Welsh-medium provision on transfer to secondary school	Medium	Medium	<p>In the short term, the authority would expect there to be some reduction in the proportion of pupils from the Brecon area continuing to access Welsh-medium provision in the secondary sector.</p> <p>However, the current Welsh-medium provision in Brecon High School is very limited, and there is no provision at all at Post-16.</p> <p>Retaining pupils within the Welsh-medium sector is one of the Welsh Government's priorities, and the authority will work with the primary schools concerned to establish transition links with the alternative providers with the aim of reversing any reduction in transfer rates into KS3 in the longer term.</p>

2	Pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau decrease due to the lack of Welsh-medium secondary provision at Brecon	Medium	High	<p>The authority acknowledges that there may be a reduction in pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau in the short term.</p> <p>However, the authority is committed to increasing the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium, and would work with work with Ysgol y Bannau, Menter Brycheiniog and other organisations to promote the benefits of Welsh-medium primary education in the Brecon area. The authority would hope that the greater clarity in relation to secondary arrangements for pupils from the Brecon area and the increased level of provision available would lead to an increase in pupil numbers in the future.</p>
3	The alternative schools are unable to accommodate the additional pupils	Low	High	<p>There is sufficient capacity at the current site of Builth Wells High School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera to accommodate the additional pupils from the Brecon area.</p>
4	Additional travel has an adverse impact on pupil well-being and attainment	Low	High	<p>The council's view is that the current and proposed transport arrangements for these pupils are suitable because the journey would not take an unreasonable amount of time.</p> <p>The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 does not specify a time limit for journeys. However, local authorities are required to assess the individual needs of learners when considering if a journey time is reasonable.</p> <p>However, the old Learner Travel Operational Guidance April 2009 stated that Welsh Ministers considered that normal journey times should</p>

be no more than 60 minutes for secondary school aged pupils. This is reflected in the council's proposed new School Transport Policy.

It is acknowledged that the additional travel may impact on pupils' ability to access extra-curricular activities, particularly those that take place after school. However, the alternative schools pupils would be likely to attend to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve large catchment areas and are experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.

Should the proposal be implemented, the council would work with the relevant schools to ensure that pupils who travel to school on home to school transport are not disadvantaged, and that they are able to access an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities. This could include providing access to activities during lunchtime.

5. Alternative Options

Consideration of the future of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School has taken place over a number of years. The council previously carried out consultation on closure of the stream during the summer of 2015, and a range of possible options were listed in the consultation document issued at this time.

Following the conclusion of that consultation period, a Consultation Report was produced and was received by the council's Cabinet on the 29th September 2015. At the meeting, Cabinet were advised that the statutory procedure in relation to the Welsh-medium stream could not proceed in isolation from the wider review of secondary provision in Mid and South Powys, therefore a further report would be brought back to Cabinet at a later date. However, the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code requires local authorities to publish any proposals within 26 weeks of the end of the period allowed for consultation responses. As no proposal was published within this timeframe, the original consultation exercise in relation to closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School lapsed.

In order to find a potential solution to the issues in relation to secondary provision across Mid and South Powys, including the issues relating to Welsh-medium provision, a number of possible options were evaluated. This included a number of options relating to Welsh-medium provision, including the establishment of a designated Welsh-medium secondary school to serve Mid and South Powys.

The business case concluded that the most appropriate option at the current time is to centralise Welsh-medium secondary provision across the Mid and South Powys region. The authority's view is that this would ensure a larger critical mass of learners, which would improve the level of provision that can be offered to the Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Builth Wells High School and Brecon High School, and would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future.

The authority is currently going through the statutory process to close Builth Wells High School and Llandrindod Wells High School and establish a new secondary school across two sites. The proposal is that the new school will be a dual stream school, with the current dual stream provision being retained on the Builth Wells site. Therefore, the only options now available to the authority in relation to the Welsh-medium provision at Brecon High School is whether or not to retain this provision.

The strengths and weaknesses of these two options are outlined in the following table:

Option	Strengths	Weaknesses
Option 1: Status Quo – retention of Welsh- medium stream in Brecon High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides access to Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon - Limits travel time for Welsh-medium pupils - Reduces transport costs to the authority - Positive impact on the Welsh language skills of English-medium pupils at Brecon High School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not create a larger mass of Welsh-medium secondary pupils in Mid and South Powys - Does not provide more robust linguistic progression for Welsh-medium pupils - Does not provide opportunities to offer enhanced Welsh-medium opportunities at post-16 level - Does not ensure more cost effective delivery of Welsh-medium secondary provision - Does not achieve viable sized option groups due to small number of pupils
Option 2: Closure of Welsh- medium stream at Brecon High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a larger critical mass of Welsh-medium learners in Mid / South Powys - Additional Welsh-medium opportunities to be provided to Welsh-medium pupils from Brecon through access to a wider range of Welsh-medium subjects - Would enable the development of increased Welsh-medium provision at post-16 - A larger group of Welsh-medium pupils will enable the provision in Builth Wells to be further developed - Social and emotional benefits to Welsh-medium pupils from being part of a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils - More opportunity for pupils to take part in extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh - More financially efficient model of delivery for secondary Welsh-medium provision in Mid and South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of Welsh-medium secondary provision in Brecon - May have a negative impact on pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau - Possible reduction in transfer rates from Welsh-medium primary provision to Welsh-medium secondary provision for pupils from the Brecon catchment in the short term - Increased travel times for Welsh-medium learners from the Brecon catchment - Lack of Welsh-medium provision in new building in Brecon - Welsh-medium pupils will be unable to access the new building in Brecon - Powys based provision would still be in a dual stream school, rather than a designated Welsh-medium school - Welsh-medium pupils will continue to be in the minority, especially if the proposal to establish the

	<p>Powys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would enable Brecon High School to run more efficiently as a single stream school - Welsh-medium pupil numbers could grow to a point where a Welsh-medium secondary school could be considered viable 	<p>New Mid Powys Secondary School is implemented</p>
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Having considered the strengths and weaknesses associated with each option, the authority's view is that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is the most suitable way forward in order to ensure that more robust linguistic continuity can be provided to Welsh-medium learners. This would provide a solid base which could be further developed in the future, through the possible establishment of designated Welsh-medium secondary provision to serve the area.

6. Impact on Pupils

The authority acknowledges that the proposal to close the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School will have an impact on pupils, including Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Brecon High School, pupils currently being educated through the medium of Welsh in feeder primary schools in the Brecon catchment, pupils attending schools pupils may choose to transfer to should the proposal be implemented and English-medium pupils at Brecon High School.

The impact on pupils has been a key consideration for the authority in formulating this proposal. The authority's view on the proposal's likely impact on these groups of pupils is outlined below.

6.1 Impact on pupils currently attending Brecon High School

Implementation of the proposal would have the greatest impact on the Welsh-medium pupils currently attending Brecon High School. The authority acknowledges that the proposal would have an impact on Welsh-medium pupils currently in years 7, 8 and 9 at Brecon High School. Should they transfer to alternative Welsh-medium secondary provision, this would result in additional travel time, although free home to school transport would be provided to enable them to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. It is acknowledged that the reliance on home to school transport could make it more difficult for pupils to access extra-curricular activities, particularly when these take place after school. However, the schools pupils are likely to transfer to in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve large catchment areas, and are very experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who travel to school on home to school transport. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the schools the pupils would transfer to in order to ensure that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities are available to all pupils.

The authority also acknowledges that some disruption would be caused to pupils in the short term if they were to move schools, as this could mean that they would be separated from their friends in the English-medium stream. This could have a negative impact on the well-being of these pupils.

Should the proposal be implemented, it is possible that some pupils would transfer to English-medium provision at Brecon High School rather than transferring to an alternative school to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. Whilst this would mitigate the impact of additional travel and separation from friends, this could have a negative impact on pupils' Welsh language skills.

Despite this, the authority's view is that the small number of Welsh-medium pupils and limited Welsh-medium curriculum provision at Brecon High School is not acceptable. The number of pupils and subject choice at the alternative schools pupils would attend in order to access Welsh-medium secondary provision is larger than what is provided at Brecon High School, and would provide greater equality for Welsh-medium pupils.

It is also acknowledged that the proposal could have a negative impact on the Welsh language skills of English-medium pupils attending Brecon High School. However, the school would continue to teach Welsh as a Second Language, and would be expected to continue to provide opportunities for these pupils to use their Welsh outside the classroom.

6.2 Impact on pupils currently attending Welsh-medium primary provision in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School

The authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in travel time for pupils living in the current catchment of Brecon High School to enable them to access Welsh-medium secondary provision, however free home to school transport would be provided to enable them to continue to access Welsh-medium provision. It is acknowledged that the reliance on home to school transport could make it more difficult for pupils to access extra-curricular activities, particularly when these take place after school. However, the schools pupils are likely to transfer to in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision already serve very large catchment areas, and are very experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who travel to school on home to school transport. Should the proposal be implemented, the authority would work with the schools the pupils transfer to in order to ensure that an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities are available to all pupils.

The authority also acknowledges that implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils living in Brecon and the surrounding area would be unable to access Welsh-medium provision at the new building, currently planned to open in Brecon in 2020.

Despite this, the authority's view is that the small number of Welsh-medium pupils and limited Welsh-medium curriculum provision at Brecon High School is not acceptable. The number of pupils and subject choice at the alternative schools pupils would attend in order to continue to access Welsh-medium secondary provision is larger than what is provided at Brecon High School, and would provide greater equality for Welsh-medium pupils.

Should the proposal be implemented, Ysgol y Bannau would become a feeder school for Builth Wells High School, or the New Mid Powys Secondary School should that proposal be implemented, and transition arrangements would be put in place to ensure the well-being of all pupils on transfer to secondary school. Transition arrangements would also be put in place for any pupils transferring to any other Welsh-medium providers.

6.3 Impact on pupils attending other schools to which pupils may wish to transfer

The number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School is small, therefore should the proposal be implemented, and should these pupils transfer to other Welsh-medium secondary providers, the impact on pupils currently attending these schools would be small.

In the case of Builth Wells High School, or the New Mid Powys Secondary School should that proposal be implemented, implementation of the proposal would lead to a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils at the school, which would enable the school to continue to develop the Welsh-medium provision available. In addition, the school would be able to provide an increased number of extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh, which would provide additional opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh outside school.

From September 2018 (dependent on whether Cabinet approve the proposal to establish the New Mid Powys Secondary School), implementation of the proposal would lead to a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils at the Builth Wells site of the new school, which would enable the school to continue to develop the Welsh-medium provision available. In addition, the school would be able to provide an increased number of extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh, which would provide additional opportunities for pupils to use their Welsh outside school.

6.4 Impact on vulnerable pupils, including children with Special Educational Needs or Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

All schools in Powys are responsible for meeting a child's special educational needs, in accordance with the council's ALN Strategy and Operational Guidance, referencing the 1996 Education Act. Funding from the council is delegated to individual schools to support pupils within significant needs. The council will work in partnership with pupils with additional learning needs, parents and the schools to support an effective transition to the new learning environments.

Any change of school and any disruption not of the learner or their family's choosing is going to have some impact on feelings of wellbeing. Mitigation of the negative effects of this, especially for those with additional needs with need to be well planned and allow for individual plans of support to be in place.

Those with difficulties in managing change, many of whom may be on the autistic spectrum, will be of particular concern. However, with careful planning and professional support, the process of change to what will be a new and better environment may be seen as a potential for learning that will enable those young people to cope better with adult life.

The school would be encouraged to conduct person-centred reviews, and planning which will be very helpful in providing the circles of support and hearing the voice of the young people during this period.

7. Impact on Affected Schools

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2013 states that the following information should be included within a consultation document:

'The likely impact of the Proposals on the quality of the following:

- a) *outcomes (standards and wellbeing)*
- b) *provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment)*
- c) *leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management)'*

In addition, the Code requires local authorities to consider *'the ability of the school or schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at...each key stage of education'*.

The authority's view on the likely impact of the proposal on these aspects at Brecon High School and other schools that may be affected by the proposal is outlined below.

7.1 Impact on Brecon High School

7.1.1 Impact on Outcomes

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have a negative impact on outcomes at Brecon High School. There has been a good improvement trajectory of performance in recent years at the school which is expected to be at least maintained. The number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school is very small, therefore it is not anticipated that removal of the Welsh-medium school would impact on this.

In previous consultations, it has been noted that the attainment of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream has been better than pupils in the English-medium stream, and that loss of these pupils would have a negative impact on outcomes at the school. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has reduced significantly. The small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream means that this impact will now be significantly reduced, therefore losing these pupils from the school would not have a significant impact on overall outcomes.

Implementation of the proposal would enable the school to focus solely on delivering through the medium of English, which could have a positive impact in terms of outcomes for English-medium pupils.

7.1.2 Impact on Provision

The proposal would mean that Brecon High School would no longer offer Welsh-medium subjects, which would mean that this provision would no longer be available at the school. Should the proposal be implemented, the school would become an English-medium school, and would be able to focus solely on its English-medium provision. This would lead to increased capacity in terms of English-medium

curriculum time, and greater flexibility in terms of timetabling, which would improve the school's ability to deliver a full English-medium curriculum in all key stages.

Changing the school's language category could reduce the use of the Welsh language in the school. However, the school would continue to teach Welsh as a Second Language, and all schools are expected to provide opportunities for pupils to use Welsh outside the classroom, therefore the school would be expected to maintain a bilingual ethos. The proposals of the 'Successful Futures' curriculum will enhance this.

In earlier consultations, it has been noted that pupils attending the Welsh-medium stream make a significant contribution to extra-curricular activities within the school, and that it would be difficult for these activities to continue without the Welsh-medium pupils. However, the number of Welsh-medium pupils at the school has reduced significantly, and the small number of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream means that this impact will now be reduced.

It is not anticipated that closure of the stream would have a negative impact on the teaching, care, support and guidance available at the school, as the school would continue to provide these to the pupils who remained at the school.

In the short term, the proposal would lead to an improvement in the learning environment for Welsh-medium pupils as the current buildings at Brecon High School are in a poor condition. However, plans are underway for a replacement building for the school, which is expected to open in 2020. It is acknowledged that implementation of the proposal would mean that pupils would be unable to access Welsh-medium provision at the new facility.

7.1.3 Impact on Leadership and Management

The proposal is likely to have an impact on current leadership roles within some departments at Brecon High School, however there will be no impact on the general leadership and management of the whole school. The proposal would enable the school leadership to focus on the delivery of a single stream school, which may have a positive impact on the school's leadership and management.

The current small number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School means that the school's current dual stream delivery model is expensive and financially inefficient. In terms of the school's resource management, the proposal would enable the school to run more efficiently as a single stream school.

The school would no longer have a partnership with Ysgol y Bannau as this school would become a feeder school of Builth Wells High School, or the New Mid Powys School should Cabinet approve that proposal.

7.1.4 Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

The proposal would enable Brecon High School to focus on its English-medium curriculum. As a result of increased capacity in terms of English-medium curriculum time and greater flexibility in terms of timetabling, the proposal would improve the

school's ability to deliver the full curriculum through the medium of English in each key stage.

7.2 Impact on secondary schools that may receive displaced pupils

The main secondary school that may be affected by this proposal is Builth Wells High School. The authority is currently proposing that Builth Wells High School is merged with Llandrindod High School to create the New Mid Powys Secondary School operating as a dual-sited school for 11 – 18 year olds from September 2018. If the proposal is approved by Cabinet, the New Mid Powys Secondary School's Welsh-medium provision would continue to be provided from the Builth Wells site. Whilst the numbers that would be expected to transfer to the school following implementation of the proposal would be small, the proposal would have an impact on the school in the longer term due to the increased number of Welsh-medium pupils that would be expected to attend.

Welsh-medium pupils living in the Sennybridge area that would previously have attended the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore this school would also be affected by the proposal to some extent. However, there has been an increase in the number of pupils from the Sennybridge area attending Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera in recent years, due to parental preference, therefore should the proposal be implemented, there would be no change to the current arrangements.

Should there be no Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, it is possible that some pupils living in the catchment area of Ysgol y Bannau would be closer to other Welsh-medium providers out of county, such as Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. However the number of additional pupils that would attend these two schools would be very small, therefore the authority's view is that this would not impact on the schools.

The proposal's impact on the schools that will be affected by the proposal is outlined below:

7.2.1 Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School (without prejudice to Cabinet's decision following consideration of the Objection Report for the current proposal relating to Builth Wells and Llandrindod High Schools)

i) Impact on Outcomes

Having a larger group of Welsh-medium pupils would enable the school to set pupils for some subjects, which could have a positive impact on outcomes. There is no evidence to suggest that implementation of the proposal would have a detrimental impact on outcomes at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School.

The proposal could have some negative impact on pupil well-being at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School due to the additional pupils that would be reliant on home to school transport.

ii) Impact on Provision

It is expected that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in the number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School. This would enable the school to offer greater choice, flexibility and access to Welsh-medium courses to pupils at all key stages, enhancing the learning experiences of these pupils.

However, pupils living in the Brecon area may find it more difficult to access extra-curricular activities, particularly those that take place after school, due to their reliance on home to school transport. Should the proposal be implemented, the council would work with the school to explore solutions to this problem, e.g. scheduling extra-curricular activities during the school day. Builth Wells High School already serves a large catchment area, and is experienced in meeting the needs of pupils who are reliant on home to school transport.

iii) Impact on Leadership and Management

It is possible that implementation of the proposal may place some additional pressure in terms of leadership and management in the short term, as the school may need to make arrangements to accommodate additional pupils. However, the proposal is not expected to have a negative impact in the longer term.

iv) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

It is expected that implementation of the proposal would lead to an increase in the number of pupils in the Welsh-medium stream at Builth Wells High School / the New Mid Powys Secondary School. This should improve the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum through the medium of Welsh in each key stage of education, and should enable the school to offer a more comprehensive curriculum to Welsh-medium pupils, particularly in key stage 4 and post-16. It is not expected that the proposal would impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum to English-medium pupils in each key stage of education.

7.2.2 Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

i) Impact on Outcomes

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on outcomes at the school.

ii) Impact on Provision

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on provision at the school.

iii) Impact on Leadership and Management

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on leadership and management at the school.

iv) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from Sennybridge C.P. School already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore implementation of the proposal would not have an impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education.

7.3 Impact on Welsh-medium primary providers in the Brecon catchment

The main Welsh-medium primary provider in the Brecon catchment is Ysgol y Bannau, a Welsh-medium primary school located in Brecon. This school serves a large catchment area, and in previous consultations, concern has been expressed that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would have a negative impact on pupils numbers at the school.

However, as illustrated on page 12 pupil numbers at Ysgol y Bannau have remained fairly stagnant in recent years, despite there being access to secondary provision locally at Brecon High School. This is in contrast to other areas of Powys, where pupil numbers in designated Welsh-medium schools have grown. Whilst the authority acknowledges that implementation of the proposal could have an impact on pupil numbers at the school in the short term, the authority would expect pupil numbers to recover and even increase in the longer term, due to the greater clarity in relation to secondary provision and the increased level of Welsh-medium provision available for pupils.

The only other school providing access to Welsh-medium primary provision in the Brecon catchment is Sennybridge C.P. School, a dual stream school located in the village of Sennybridge. The majority of Welsh-medium pupils from this school already transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposal would impact on Welsh-medium pupil numbers at the school.

7.3.1 Ysgol y Bannau and Sennybridge C.P. School

i) Impact on Outcomes

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on outcomes at Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School. The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at either school.

ii) Impact on Provision

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on provision at Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School. The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at either school.

However, it is possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to a change in pupil numbers, therefore the schools would need to be flexible to ensure that it continues to offer appropriate provision to pupils.

iii) Impact on Leadership and Management

The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposal will have any significant impact on leadership and management at either of these schools.

iv) Impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education

It is not anticipated that the proposal would have any significant impact on the ability of Ysgol y Bannau or Sennybridge C.P. School to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education. The proposal does not involve any changes to the way education is delivered at either school. However, it is possible that implementation of the proposal could lead to a change in pupil numbers, therefore the schools would need to be flexible to ensure that it continues to offer appropriate provision to pupils.

8. Other Considerations

8.1 Financial Implications

In accordance with the authority's Funding Formula, dual stream schools receive funding based on the proportion of the curriculum delivered through both the medium of Welsh and English in separate streams.

For the 2016/17 financial year, Brecon High School received £58,475 through the formula to support the additional cost of operating as a dual stream school. Should the Welsh-medium stream close, this funding would not transfer with pupils to their alternative schools or streams, therefore this would be a saving to the authority.

Following previous successful transport appeals, transport is already provided by the authority to Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera for Welsh-medium pupils from the Sennybridge area and to Builth Wells High School for Welsh-medium pupils from the Brecon area. As this transport is already provided, implementation of the proposal would not incur any additional transport costs.

The total saving to the authority should the proposal be implemented is estimated to be £58,475.

8.2 Implications for Staff

If a decision is made to proceed with closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, any implications for changes to staff employment will be taken forward by the school in accordance with the authority's Management of Change procedures.

8.3 School Transport

The authority acknowledges that closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School would lead to an increase in school transport costs and an increase in travel for pupils who live in the current catchment area of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School and who wish to access Welsh-medium secondary provision.

Should the proposal be implemented, home to school transport would be provided in accordance with the council's School Transport Policy and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008¹². The council's current School Transport Policy can be found at <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/schools-students/apply-for-school-transport/>.

Pupils are eligible for free home to school transport if they live more than 3 miles from their nearest school offering provision in the language of their choice. For some pupils, the nearest Welsh-medium provision could be located outside Powys.

8.4 Walking routes to school

¹² <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/learner-travel/?lang=en>

Should the proposal be implemented, there would be no available walking routes to alternative providers of Welsh-medium secondary education for pupils affected by this proposal.

8.5 Admissions

Admissions for Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School are administered by the authority. Should the proposal to establish the New Mid Powys Secondary School be implemented, admissions to this school would also be administered by the authority.

In the event of closure of the Welsh-medium stream at Brecon High School, parents of pupils currently attending the Welsh-medium stream would be allocated places at Builth Wells High School. Alternatively, they would need to apply for a place in another chosen school in accordance with the authority's admissions process, which is as follows:

- i) Parents to complete an application form, which will be provided by the authority
- ii) Admissions forms to be returned to the authority
- iii) authority to inform parents whether admission to the chosen school has been granted

For pupils wishing to transfer to schools located in other authorities, parents would need to follow the same procedure, and would need to apply via their home authority. Whilst it is expected that there would be sufficient capacity for pupils, priority would be given to pupils living in the official catchment area of these schools.

8.6 Impact assessments

The authority has carried out a number of impact assessments in relation to this proposal, in line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code (2013) and the authority's own requirements. These include:

- i) Equality Impact Assessment
- ii) Community Impact Assessment
- iii) Welsh Language Impact Assessment
- iv) Integrated Impact Assessment (which includes consideration of how the proposal impacts on the seven well-being goals outlines in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, along with the council's own objectives.

These assessments are available on the council's website:

<http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/corporate/find-out-about-consultations-in-powys/brecon-high-school-welsh-medium-stream/>

These initial impact assessments have been carried out based on the data and information currently available to the authority and provided by the affected schools. Following the consultation period, they will be updated and finalised, to incorporate

relevant information presented during the consultation period, and the updated versions will be considered by Cabinet when determining how to proceed in relation to this proposal.

9. Key Data

The following section provides data on Brecon High School and other schools which may be affected by the proposal as they may receive displaced pupils.

The data provided is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

9.1 General School Information

School	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity	Pupil numbers PLASC Jan 2016	Age Range
Brecon High School	Community	Dual Stream (Cat. 3)	148	872	556	11-18
Builth Wells High School	Community	Dual Stream (Cat. 2C)	110	659	554	11-18
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	Community	Welsh-medium (Cat. 1)	206	1285	1046	11-18

9.2 Current and Historical Pupil Numbers (including Sixth Form)

School	October 2016 ¹³	January 2016	January 2015	January 2014	January 2013	January 2012
Brecon High School	505	556	647	714	761	767
Builth Wells High School	554	554	546	564	578	585
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	1092	1046	1022	1026	993	996

¹³ Teacher Centre, October 2016

9.3 Projected Pupil Numbers (including Sixth Form)

School	January 2017	January 2018	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022
Brecon High School	538	537	523	528	556	565
Builth Wells High School	550	544	548	564	544	555
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera ¹⁴	1101	1334	1423	1488	1521	1560

9.4 School Building Condition

The Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Survey identified that the quality of accommodation at the affected schools is as follows:

School	Condition	Suitability	Sustainability
Brecon High School	D	B/C	D
Builth Wells High School	B	B	B
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera ¹⁵	D	C	C

9.5 Quality of Education

The information provided in respect of the quality of education at the affected schools is in-line with the requirements of the School Organisation Code.

Brecon High School and Builth Wells High School are both dual stream schools. Official Welsh Government data sets relating to the school's performance relates to all pupils at the school, rather than pupils in the Welsh-medium stream alone. The number of Welsh-medium pupils at each school, particularly Brecon High School, is small, therefore it would not be

¹⁴ Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera will close on the 31st August 2017, as will Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Wern. A new 3-19 school will open in their place. The projected pupil numbers for January 2018 onwards include the projected pupil numbers for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Wern and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. Initially, the school will continue to occupy the current sites of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Wern. In September 2018, primary aged pupils will move onto the Ystalyfera site, and pupils in Years 7 and 8 residing in the south of the county will attend a new campus in Port Talbot.

¹⁵ Capital work is currently being undertaken to improve the quality of accommodation at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. The condition will be reassessed after the first phase of 21st Century Schools investment, when the condition grading will improve.

valid to compare the performance of Welsh-medium pupils in these schools. In addition, 2016 information for Key Stage 4 has not been finalised.

9.5.1 Estyn

	Brecon High School	Builth Wells High School	Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera
Date of Inspection	May 2012	October 2015	March 2013
School's Current Performance	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Good
Prospects for Improvement	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Good
Follow up activity	<p>Following the inspection, the school was placed in the category of 'In need of significant improvement'.</p> <p>A monitoring visit took place in February 2014, which found that the school had made insufficient progress in relation to the action plan, and it was determined that the school was now in need of 'Special Measures'</p>	Special Measures	N/A

9.5.2 National School Categorisation System

The National School Categorisation system gives a clear and fair picture of how well a school is performing compared with other schools across Wales and helps to identify the schools that need the most help, support and guidance to improve.

The system has been developed collectively between regional education consortia and Welsh Government. Its primary function is to identify, across Wales, the schools that need the most support. The colour category of support allocated to a school will trigger a bespoke, tailored support programme.

The system is based on three steps. It is not purely data-driven and takes into account the quality of leadership, teaching and learning in schools.

- **Step one – Standards group:** A range of information is used to make a judgement about the school's standards, resulting in a standards group
- **Step two – Improvement capacity:** An evaluation of the school's capacity to improve further, taking account of the evidence about the standards and the quality of leadership, teaching and learning, resulting in an improvement capacity
- **Step three – Support category:** Bringing the judgement on the standards group and improvement capacity together to decide on the school's support category, colour coded either green, yellow, amber or red, with the schools in the green category needing the least support and those in the red category needing the most intensive support.

The affected schools were categorised as follows during 2015/16:

School	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Category
Brecon High School	3	C	Amber
Builth Wells High School	3	D	Red
Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera	2	B	Yellow

2. Please indicate who you are (e.g. parent, member of staff, governor)

3. Name

4. Address

5. E-mail address

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

Yes No

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 9th January 2017**:

Schools Transformation Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG

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