



POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

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

Consultation dates: 24th September 2018 – 5th November 2018

Consultation on proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School

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Most of the pupil related data used in this document is based on the latest PLASC data available to the Council, which reflects pupils attending the schools in January 2018.

This document and an online version of the consultation response form is also available on the Council's website via the following link: <https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School>

If you require a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the School Transformation Team on 01597 826265, or e-mail school.modernisation@powys.gov.uk.

Consultation on proposals relating to Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School

Overview of the Consultation

1. The Proposals

Powys County Council is consulting 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 current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2020, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2020.

2. How to respond

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

<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School>.

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

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

All responses must be received by the **5th November 2018**.

Two 'drop in' consultation events will also be held during the consultation period. These will be held on the following dates:

Drop in session for parents of pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and other stakeholders associated with the school:

Thursday, 4th October, 3 – 7pm, Llanerfyl Village Hall

Drop in session for parents of pupils attending Banw C.P. School and other stakeholders associated with the school:

Monday, 15th October, 3 – 7pm, Banw Community Hall

3. Contact details

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

Phone: 01597 826265

4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report, and will consider how they wish to proceed in respect of the proposals outlined above. This is expected to happen early in 2019.

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

It is anticipated that a final decision will be made by the end of the 2018/19 academic year at the latest.

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposals:

- **To close Banw Community Primary (C.P.) School and Llanerfyl Church in Wales (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 current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2020, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2020.

1. BACKGROUND

Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School are two small Welsh-medium primary schools situated approximately 2.5 miles apart in the Banw Valley in North Powys. The two schools serve the villages of Llanerfyl, Llangadfan and Y Foel, along with the surrounding rural area.

The following table provides general information about the two schools:

School name and location	School Category	Language Category	Admission Number
Banw C.P. School, Llangadfan, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0NW	Community Primary School building owned by PCC with a community centre attached to the school. PCC responsible for admissions.	Welsh-medium	8
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, Llanerfyl, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 0HZ	Foundation Church in Wales School building owned by the Pricilla Foster Trust. School responsible for its own admissions.	Welsh-medium	7

Current pupil numbers¹ at the two schools are as follows:

¹ Teacher Centre, 18th September 2018

	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Banw C.P. School	N/A ²	2	2	2	1	7	4	4	22
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	3	3	3	4	6	1	4	5	29
TOTAL	3	5	5	6	7	8	8	9	51

Pupil numbers in the area have reduced over recent years, and in the summer of 2017, Banw C.P. School contacted the Council, to express concern about the current and projected numbers at their school, and to request the Council to facilitate a dialogue between the two schools in the area, to safeguard the provision of education in the Banw Valley.

The Council has subsequently carried out a review of the two primary schools, which has included the following steps:

- Discussions with the governing bodies – this has included individual meetings as well as joint meetings with both governing bodies
- Initial engagement with parents – a questionnaire was distributed to parents of pupils currently attending the two schools and the local Cylch Meithrin
- An options appraisal
- Information presented to the Council’s Learning and Skills Programme Board
- Recommendation ratified by members of the Learning and Skills Programme Board
- Recommendation presented to Cabinet
- Recommendation amended and approved by Cabinet

A paper in respect of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School was considered by the Council’s Cabinet on the 18th July. Whilst a preferred option was presented in the paper considered by Cabinet, the recommendation changed in the Cabinet meeting.

The recommendation approved by Cabinet on the 18th July was as follows:

‘To close Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. Foundation School and to open a new Welsh-medium Church in Wales Voluntary Aided School on **either** the Banw site or the Llanerfyl site, with a target date of closing the two schools on the 31st August 2020 and opening the new school on the 1st September 2020.’

The proposal to close the two current schools and to open a new school, and the two options in terms of the location of any new school, are considered in more detail in the following sections.

² In September 2017, the Council raised the age of admission for pupils into maintained schools to 5 years old, therefore Banw C.P. School does not have an N2 class. Llanerfyl C. in W. School is a Foundation school and is therefore responsible for its own admissions, and has continued to admit nursery aged pupils.

2. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In March 2018, Cabinet approved a new School Organisation Policy, which set out the Council's aspirations for the schools infrastructure in Powys. The policy states that:

'The Council aims to have an educational model which fulfils the following:

- Provides all learners with the opportunity to achieve their potential
- Has high quality, resilient leadership and management
- Has high quality learning environments, with the long term aim that all schools will be assessed as condition A or B
- Has a greater focus on collaboration and partnership working, in order to enable schools to provide the best possible opportunities for learners
- Enables schools to operate effectively and efficiently within the funding available
- Increases demand for Welsh-medium provision and provides access to provision which will enable pupils to become confident Welsh speakers
- Develops our schools into establishments that are central to community activity
- Has a high quality ICT infrastructure that will enable all schools to provide enhanced opportunities for learners
- Provides access to high quality early years provision
- Provides support for learners with additional learning needs which aligns with the requirements of the new Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act
- Provides access to high quality post-16 provision in schools, which is attractive to learners, financially sustainable and minimises learner travel'

The policy also states that a Delivery Plan will be produced which sets out the Council's priorities:

'In order to move towards a more efficient schools network, a new Delivery Plan will be implemented with a greater focus on working in partnership with schools and the communities they serve, and on alternative models of delivering education, such as collaboration models, federation, multi-site schools and all-through schools.

The Council's Delivery Plan will focus on delivering the following priorities:

- Secondary schools to become 'all-through schools', or part of multi-sited arrangements
- Small primary schools³ to be part of formal collaborations / federations / amalgamations
- Remove infant / junior split by creating 'all-through' primary schools
- New Welsh-medium provision to be established
- Improvements to the Powys schools estate, either as part of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme or as part of the Council's Asset Management Programme
- A new model for delivering post-16 provision to be implemented
- Transforming the delivery of support for pupils with additional learning needs

In addition to the above priorities, the Council will encourage all schools to:

³ The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school that contains fewer than 91 registered pupils in the Education (Small Schools) (Wales) Order 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/1133/made>

- Identify areas where staff and / or services can be shared across more than one school in order to improve efficiency
- Develop the use of ICT links between school sites to provide distance learning opportunities'

The review of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School has been carried out in line with this policy.

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN THE BANW VALLEY

The current challenges in respect of the provision of education in the Banw Valley are as follows:

3.1 Low pupil numbers at both schools

Current pupil numbers⁴ at the two schools are as follows:

	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Banw C.P. School	N/A ⁵	2	2	2	1	7	4	4	22
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	3	3	3	4	6	1	4	5	29
TOTAL	3	5	5	6	7	8	8	9	51

The Welsh Government defines a 'small school' as a school with less than 91 pupils, however the total number of pupils at Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School is less than this.

As well as the low overall total number of pupils, the numbers of pupils per year group in each school is very small.

3.2 Decreasing pupil numbers

Pupil numbers across the two schools have fallen significantly over the last few years, as illustrated in the following table⁶:

⁴ Teacher Centre, 18th September 2018

⁵ In September 2017, the Council raised the age of admission for pupils into maintained schools to 5 years old, therefore Banw C.P. School does not have an N2 class. Llanerfyl C. in W. School is a Foundation school and is therefore responsible for its own admissions, and has continued to admit nursery aged pupils.

⁶ PLASC

	Jan. 2011	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018
Banw C.P. School	45	50	46	38	35	33	28	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	47	51	42	41	38	37	35	32
TOTAL	92	101	88	79	73	70	63	58

The latest projected pupil numbers⁷ for the two schools (R-Yr6) suggest that numbers are expected to continue to decrease over the next few years, as indicated in the following table:

	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023
Banw C.P. School	22	18	17	13	15
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School (R-Yr6)	28	30	29	31	28
TOTAL	50	48	36	44	43

3.3 Financial challenges

Similarly to many other schools across Powys and Wales, both Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School are currently facing a difficult financial position. As illustrated in the table below, both schools are currently projecting a deficit budget position by the 2019/20 financial year⁸:

	2017/18 Actual Cumulative Outturn	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget
Banw C.P. School	£28,525	£15,582	(£1,576)	(£23,536)
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	£19,422	(£969)	(£25,852)	(£50,624)

⁷ These projected pupil numbers are based on a combination of the latest PLASC figures available, live birth information and information held by the Council's Finance team, which is supplied by the schools themselves. However, it is acknowledged that projected pupil numbers are subject to change

⁸ Current budgetary position, as of 1st May submittal by full governing body

3.4 Building condition / suitability

In the Spring of 2018, the Council commissioned Heart of Wales Property Services (HOWPS) to carry out updated condition and suitability assessments of the two schools.

Detailed reports have been provided for two schools, however the overall assessments are as follows:

	Condition	Suitability
Banw C.P. School	C Generally poor	B Generally satisfactory
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	B Generally satisfactory	C/D Poor to bad This assessment is based on the perceived limitation of having no hall, and the significant limitations due to conversion and extension of the original property

These assessments suggest that there are issues with both current buildings.

3.5 Welsh-medium education

Both schools provide access to good quality education through the medium of Welsh, and therefore support the recently launched Welsh Government strategy to achieve a million Welsh speakers by the year 2050⁹.

Whilst Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School make an important contribution to implementation of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, in terms of providing access to Welsh-medium provision, there is evidence that the current provision in the Banw Valley is not attracting all prospective pupils who live in the area. Currently, 26 pupils are accessing home to school transport to access English-medium provision in Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School.

3.6 Need to maintain quality of provision

Quality of provision at the two schools, as indicated by their most recent Estyn inspections, and the most recent School Categorisation exercise carried out during the 2017-18 academic year, is outlined below:

⁹ <https://gov.wales/topics/welshlanguage/welsh-language-strategy-and-policies/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy/?lang=en>

i) Estyn

	Banw C.P. School	Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School
Date of Inspection	September 2016	November 2014
School's Current Performance	Good	Adequate
Prospects for Improvement	Good	Adequate
Follow Up Activity	No follow up activity	Estyn Monitoring Estyn Monitoring visit January 2016 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring

ii) School Categorisation

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Banw C.P. School	N/A	A	Green
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	N/A	C	Yellow

Whilst the two schools have historically provided good quality education to pupils in the Banw Valley, the decreasing pupil numbers in the area and the financial pressures faced by both schools are a threat to their ability to sustain this in the future. One of the two schools has been unable to secure permanent leadership arrangements, and the small number of pupils in each year group at the two schools, which are projected to decrease further in the coming years, is a further threat.

4. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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.

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.

The following options have been considered:

- 1 Establish a new school operating across the two current sites
- 2 Establish a new school operating from the current Dyffryn Banw site
- 3 Establish a new school operating from the current Llanerfyl site
- 4 Establish a new school operating from a new site in the area

These options, as well as the status quo (Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School) are considered in more detail below.

4.1 SWOT analyses of the options

SWOT analyses for each of the four options are provided below. As well as input from officers, these also reflect comments provided by parents during initial engagement work carried out as part of the review process.

Status Quo: Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School to continue to operate as separate schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in both villages - There would be no additional transport costs - Would continue to provide access to Community Primary and Church in Wales provision in the Banw Valley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would still be small numbers of pupils at each school - Pupils would still be taught separately - Would still be running two buildings which would mean twice the cost - Would not reduce surplus places in the area - Would not lead to a financial saving to the council - No early years provision in either school - Would not address the financial pressures faced by the two schools
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for closer collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further decline in pupil numbers expected in the area

Option 1: A new school operating across the two current sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in both villages - Bringing the two schools together under a new name and one headteacher would bring the communities and the pupils together - Benefits in terms of leadership and management - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional transport costs - Possibly the most straightforward option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would still be small numbers of pupils on each site - Pupils would still be taught separately - Would still be running two buildings which would mean twice the cost - Would not reduce surplus places in the area - Would not lead to a financial saving to the council
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility that the schools could separate again if numbers were to increase - Opportunity to include Cylch Meithrin / Tia Fi on one of the sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the future, it's possible that parents would opt for one site over the other - Possible conflict between church school and community school

Option 2: A new school operating from the current Banw site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the larger site of the two and could accommodate all current pupils in the area - There are more facilities on this site e.g indoor hall, dining hall, large playground and playing fields, plenty of parking - All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them - Would reduce surplus places in the area - Would lead to a financial saving to the council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no provision in Llanerfyl - Not having primary provision in the village would impact on the Llanerfyl community - Additional transport would be required for Llanerfyl pupils - Would be more difficult for Llanerfyl pupils to access after school activities - The council would not benefit from any sale of the Llanerfyl site as it isn't owned by the council - Some investment would be needed in the Dyffryn Banw building - There are no safe walking / cycling routes to the school - Would be less convenient for Llanerfyl parents, many of whom work in the opposite direction - Current pupil projections are lower for Dyffryn Banw than Llanerfyl
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient space to accommodate any growth in pupil numbers in the future - Opportunity to accommodate early years provision on the site - Opportunity to bring the two communities together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some Llanerfyl parents may choose for their children to attend a different school - Concern that Llanerfyl pupils would not travel up the valley to Banw

Option 3: A new school operating from the current Llanerfyl site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current numbers at Llanerfyl are higher than Banw, therefore this would be a more convenient location for the majority - Current pupil projections at Llanerfyl are higher than Dyffryn Banw - Building is currently in a better condition than Banw - All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them - Would reduce surplus places in the area - Would lead to a financial saving to the council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no provision in Llangadfan - Not having primary provision in the village would impact on the Llangadfan community - Concern about the impact on Banw Community Hall if there was no school located on the site - Sale of the Banw site could be difficult due to the co-location of the community centre - Additional transport would be required for Llangadfan pupils - Would be more difficult for Llangadfan pupils to access after school activities - Capacity of the building is lower than Dyffryn Banw's - No separate dining area / canteen - No access to a hall on the school site – pupils have to walk up the road - Access to the school is down a narrow lane – this could be problematic if there were more pupils attending the school - Limited parking on the site - Capital investment would be required to provide additional facilities - Currently there is nowhere to accommodate Cylch Meithrin / early years provision on the site
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity for capital receipts from the sale of the Banw site - Llanerfyl is more central in the area which means that it could attract Welsh-medium pupils from Llanfair and the area - There is land nearby which could be purchased to extend the car park and buildings - Opportunity to bring the two communities together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some Banw parents may choose for their children to attend alternative schools

Option 4: A new school operating from a new site in the area

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would be a fresh start for the area - Could be located in a central location which would be equally accessible to the two communities - All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them - Would reduce surplus places in the area - Could lead to a financial saving to the council - Any new building would include all required facilities, disabled access, early years provision, a hall, playing fields etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are already two buildings in the area that can accommodate current pupil numbers - Would need to purchase land, which would add to the expense - No guarantee that Welsh Government would provide funding as the new school would be very small - Would not provide good value for money based on potential investment per pupil
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to access 21st Century Schools funding from the Welsh Government - Could attract pupils from further afield 	

4.2 Financial Assessment

A financial assessment of each of the options has also been carried out. The estimated savings/costs of each of the options is outlined below. The Council is currently reviewing its Fair Funding Formula for schools. It is expected that a new formula will be introduced during the 2019/20 financial year. The estimates provided below are based on the current funding formula, however these may change depending on the new Fair Funding Formula agreed.

Option 1: A new school operating across the two current sites

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Total	£308,423
Revised Estimated Funding/Costs	
1 school across 2 sites	£321,577
Management saving	£4,679
Total	£316,898
Saving / (Cost)	(£8,475)
Estimated Saving / (Costs)	(£8,475)

Option 2: A new school operating from the current Dyffryn Banw site

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Current Catering Costs	£27,596
Total	£336,019
Revised Estimated Funding/Costs	
1 school 1 site (Dyffryn Banw)	£227,265
Catering costs	£24,572
Total	£251,837
Saving / (Cost)	£84,182
Estimated Additional Transport Costs	£34,956
Estimated Saving / (Costs)	£49,226

Option 3: A new school operating from the current Llanerfyl site

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Current Catering Costs	£27,596
Total	£336,019
Revised Estimated Funding/Costs	
1 school 1 site (Llanerfyl)	£213,065
Catering costs	£24,572
Total	£237,637
Saving / (Cost)	£98,382
Estimated Additional Transport Costs	£34,956
Estimated Saving / (Costs)	£63,426

Option 4: A new school operating from a new site in the area

It is not possible to estimate the cost of this option at this stage as it would be dependent on the size / location of the new school.

Should this option be taken forward, a detailed financial appraisal would need to be carried out as part of a business case process.

4.3 Conclusion

Based on the SWOT analyses and the financial estimates, the Status Quo, Option 1 and Option 4 have been discounted.

The Status Quo has been discounted because of the following reasons:

- There would still be small numbers of pupils at each school
- Pupils would still be taught separately
- Would still be running two buildings which would mean twice the cost

- Would not reduce surplus places in the area
- Would not lead to a financial saving to the council
- No early years provision in either school
- Would not address the financial pressures faced by the two schools
- Further decline is expected in pupil numbers in the area

Option 1 (A new school operating across the two current sites) has been discounted because of the following reasons:

- There would still be small numbers of pupils on each site
- Pupils would still be taught separately
- Would still be running two buildings which would mean twice the cost
- Would not reduce surplus places in the area
- Would not lead to a financial saving to the council

Option 4 (A new school operating from a new site in the area) has been discounted because of the following reasons:

- There are already two buildings in the area that can accommodate current pupil numbers
- Would need to purchase land, which would add to the expense
- No guarantee that Welsh Government would provide funding as the new school would be very small
- Would not provide good value for money based on potential investment per pupil

The preferred option is to amalgamate the two schools by closing the two current schools and establishing one new school in the area, with two options in terms of the location of any new school – either the current site of Banw C.P. School or the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. These two options are considered in more detail in the following sections.

PART B OPTION TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHOOL ON THE CURRENT SITE OF BANW C.P. SCHOOL

This section considers the impact of option (a), to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School.

This would mean that Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School would close, and a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School would be established on the site currently occupied by Banw C.P. School.

5. OVERVIEW

Should this option be implemented, the details of the new school would be as follows:

Proposed admission number and admission arrangements	10 As the proposed new school would be a Voluntary Aided school, the school would be responsible for its own admissions arrangements. The school's Governing Body would determine the school's Admissions Policy, and would be the Admitting Authority for the school. Prospective parents wishing their child/children to attend the school would be required to contact the school directly for further information and an application form.
Age range	5-11
Pupil places capacity and/or number of nursery places	72 + 10 Nursery
Location	Current site of Banw C.P. School, Llangadfan, Powys, SY21 0NW
Category	Voluntary Aided Church in Wales
Language Category	Welsh-medium
Details of the proposed accommodation	The school would be located in the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School. The facilities would be the same as those currently available at Banw C.P. School.
Home to school transport arrangements	Home to school transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy. Should this option be implemented, Welsh-medium education would continue to be accessible to all pupils in the Banw Valley area. Home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils to enable them to access this provision.

6. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The reasons for this option 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

7. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the option to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School are as follows:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is the larger site of the two and could easily accommodate all current pupils in the area - There are more facilities on this site e.g. indoor hall, dining hall, large playground and playing fields, plenty of parking - All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them - Would reduce surplus places in the area - Would lead to a financial saving to the council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no provision in Llanerfyl - Not having primary provision in the village would impact on the Llanerfyl community - Additional transport would be required for Llanerfyl pupils - Would be more difficult for Llanerfyl pupils to access after school activities - The Council would not benefit from any sale of the Llanerfyl site as it isn't owned by the Council - Some investment would be needed in the Banw building - There are no safe walking / cycling routes to the school - Would be less convenient for Llanerfyl parents, many of whom work in the opposite direction - Current pupil projections are lower for Dyffryn Banw than Llanerfyl

8. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there would be risks associated with a proposal to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School. These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Based on current pupil projections, there is likely to be less than 50 pupils in the school in a few years time	High	Medium	Ensure that pupil numbers are monitored closely
Pupils might transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers	Medium	Medium	Move forward with the process as swiftly as possible in order to limit the period of uncertainty for the community. Should the option be implemented, work with the two school communities to shape the new school
As the new school would be a small Welsh-medium school in a rural area, it may not attract a headteacher	Medium	High	Ensure that there is a proactive recruitment campaign that is widespread

9. LIKELY IMPACT OF THIS OPTION

9.1 Impact on pupils

i) **Impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School**

Implementation of this option would mean that there would be no provision in Llanerfyl, therefore all pupils currently attending the two schools would transfer to the new school, to be located on the current site of Banw C.P. School.

Whilst this may have an impact on pupil well-being in the short term, in the longer term pupils would benefit from being part of a larger cohort of pupils. It is likely that there would be more impact on pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School as they would be attending school in a new location, however there would also be some changes for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School.

The current site of Banw C.P. School has been assessed to be more suitable than the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. In particular, there is access to a hall on site, as well as more extensive facilities than those available at

Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. Implementation of this option would mean that all pupils in the Banw Valley would be able to benefit from these facilities.

Additional home to school transport would also be required for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School. Whilst this could have an impact in terms of pupil well-being, the additional travel that would be required is not significant, therefore it is unlikely that this would have a significant impact on pupils.

ii) Impact on pupils with additional learning needs

All schools in Powys are responsible for meeting a child's additional learning needs, in accordance with the Council's ALN Strategy and Operational Guidance. The new school would be expected to adhere to the same guidance. Funding from the Council is delegated to individual schools to support pupils with additional learning needs, and this funding would be allocated to the new school, ensuring that needs continue to be met. The Council would work in partnership with pupils with additional learning needs, parents and the schools to support an effective transition.

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

iii) Impact on pupils currently attending other schools

It is not anticipated that implementation of this option would impact on any pupils currently attending other schools. Should the proposal be implemented, it is possible that some pupils could transfer to alternative schools instead of the proposed new school, however the numbers involved would be very small.

9.2 Impact on quality and standards in education

The likely impact on quality and standards in education of a proposal to establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School is outlined below:

i) Impact on outcomes

Standards

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the valley.

The most recent inspections of the two current schools, and the most recent school categorisation exercise, suggest that the quality of education is better at Banw C.P. School compared with Llanerfyl C. in W. School. In addition, permanent leadership arrangements are in place at Banw C.P. School, whereas this is not the case at Llanerfyl C. in W. School. Permanent leadership also has a positive impact on standards, as a strong permanent head would be better placed to implement education reforms, e.g. the new curriculum.

Amalgamation of the two current schools would provide an opportunity to build on the strengths of the two current schools, to impact positively on outcomes, ensuring that excellent educational opportunities are provided for pupils. It is expected that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on the quality of education currently provided to pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, and that the quality of education for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School would be at least equivalent to that currently provided.

Well-being

Whilst the process of establishing the new school could have a negative impact on pupil well-being in the short term, in the longer term there would be improved opportunities available to pupils from being part of a larger cohort of pupils. Should this option be implemented, there would be an additional travel requirement for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, however the additional distance would be minimal, and is not expected to have a significant impact on pupil well-being. There is more physical space in the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School compared with the building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, which could also have a positive impact on pupil well-being with a designated canteen, and a designated hall for PE and assembly.

ii) Impact on provision

Learning experiences

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the area. This would also mean that pupils would be part of larger cohorts of pupils, which could have a positive impact on the collaborative learning experiences and activities which can be offered to them.

The proposal is that the new school would be a Church in Wales school, as part of the St Asaph Diocese. This would be a change for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. However, Church in Wales schools teach the same agreed Religious Education syllabus as community schools, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a significant difference in terms of the learning experiences offered to pupils. As with community schools, parents of children attending church schools have the right to opt out of collective worship and Religious Education.

Teaching

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley. Although the new school would remain a small school, pupils would be part of larger cohorts of pupils, which would have a positive impact for teachers and for the pupils themselves. It is likely that teaching staff would be part of a slightly larger team of staff, which could provide additional opportunities for staff development, and to develop expertise in particular areas. There would also be increased opportunities to utilise staff expertise more effectively across the new school. However, it must be noted that any new school would remain a small school, therefore these benefits would be limited.

Care, support and guidance

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley. It is likely that there would be a slightly larger team of staff in the new school, which would provide improved opportunities for all pupils in the Banw Valley to benefit from any staff expertise in specific areas.

Learning environment

Implementation of this option would mean that the school would be located on the current site of Banw C.P. School. Whilst some issues have been identified with the current condition of the building, the building's suitability has been assessed as B. The building has a wide range of facilities available which would enable the school to provide an extensive range of educational experiences to pupils.

For pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School, there would be no change compared with the facilities currently available to them. However, the suitability of the current Llanerfyl building has been assessed as C/D – this building does not have the same facilities as the current Banw building, therefore it is expected that implementation of this option would result in improved facilities for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

iii) Impact on leadership and management

Leadership and management

Currently, there are permanent leadership arrangements in place in Banw C.P. School, however the leadership arrangements at Llanerfyl C. in W. School are not permanent. Should this option be implemented, the leadership and management at the new school would be expected to be at least as good as the current arrangements for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School, and would be expected to be improved for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

However, 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.

Should the proposal be implemented, a temporary governing body would be established. The membership would be from the existing governing bodies of the two current schools. The temporary governing body would be responsible for appointing staff to the new school, including a headteacher. All headteacher vacancies are required to be advertised nationally.

Improving quality

Historically, both Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School have provided good quality Welsh-medium education for pupils in the Banw Valley. However, decreasing pupil numbers and financial pressures are a threat to this. Implementation of this option would lead to the establishment of a new, larger school, which would be better placed to continue to provide high quality Welsh-medium education for pupils in the area in the future.

Partnership working

All Powys schools are expected to work in partnership. Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School currently work in partnership with each other and with other schools. Should this option be implemented, the new school would remain a relatively small school, therefore the school would be expected to continue to work in partnership with other schools in order to provide additional opportunities to pupils and to enable the school to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Resource management

Both current schools are projected to be in a deficit budget position within the next few years. Implementation of this option would be expected to have a positive impact in terms of resource management as the new school would be larger, therefore there would be more resources available to it.

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

Implementation of the proposal would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley. It is expected that this would improve the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education, as there would be larger numbers of pupils in each year group. The proposal to establish one new school would also enable education in the area to be delivered more efficiently, ensuring that teaching resources can be shared, which would support the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage.

This option would result in the new school being located in the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School. The facilities available on this site would enable the successful delivery of all key stages of education to the current number of pupils attending the two schools. Pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School would continue to attend the same site, therefore there would be no impact on them. For pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, it is likely that implementation of this option would provide improved opportunities for delivery of the full curriculum in each key stage.

v) Impact on other schools

Should this option be implemented, it is possible that some pupils would choose to transfer to alternative schools instead of the proposed new school. However, the numbers involved would be very small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would impact on quality and standards in education at these schools, to include outcomes (standards and wellbeing), provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment) and leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management), nor on their ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education.

9.3 Financial impact

i) Revenue funding

Based on the Council's current Fair Funding Formula, it is estimated that implementation of this option would lead to an annual revenue saving of £49,226. This calculation is as follows:

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Current Catering Costs	£27,596
Total	£336,019
Revised Estimated Funding/Costs	
1 school 1 site (Dyffryn Banw)	£227,265
Catering costs	£24,572
Total	£251,837
Saving / (Cost)	£84,182
Estimated Additional Transport Costs	£34,956
Estimated Saving / (Costs)	£49,226

This calculation does not take into account any redundancy costs which would be associated with the establishment of the new school, however these would be one-off costs.

Based on this estimate, the proposed new school's cost per pupil would be £4,208.61.

Should the Council proceed with this option, the savings as outlined above would be identified as an efficiency to the Schools Service budget.

ii) Capital funding

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.

9.4 Impact on staff

Should this option be implemented, Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would close, and a new school would be opened with a new staffing structure.

Should the option be implemented, a temporary governing body would be appointed for an interim period, until the new school were to open. The temporary governing body would be responsible for appointing a headteacher for the new school, and would then work with the headteacher to develop the leadership, management and staffing structures for the new school.

Implementation of the new staffing structure would be in accordance with the relevant HR Policies for teaching and support staff. As part of this process, there would be an opportunity for the temporary governing body to 'ringfence' all teaching and associated staff posts to staff currently employed within the existing schools in the first instance.

If the option is implemented, all cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council will be supported via the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

9.5 Land and buildings

i) Impact on quality of accommodation for pupils

The Council commissioned Heart of Wales Property Services (HOWPS) to carry out updated condition assessments of Banw C.P. School's building. This assessment identified that the condition of Banw C.P. School was condition C – generally poor.

Should a new school be established on the Banw site, there would be no impact on the quality of accommodation for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. However, Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School's current building has been assessed as condition B – generally satisfactory. Therefore, based on the current assessed condition of Banw C.P. School's building, this option would result in pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School attending a school where the quality of accommodation is not as good.

Should the Council proceed with the option to establish a new school on the Banw site, the following steps would be taken to address any issues relating to the building, in order to ensure that the quality of accommodation is at least as good as the current provision:

- Commission HOWPS to carry out further work to identify the scope of the work required
- Dependent on the scale of the work required, the Council will consider what would be the appropriate funding source for this work. This could either be the Council's capital programme or the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme
- Undertake the necessary processes in order to secure funding
- Further to identification of a funding stream and approval of funding, the work would be commissioned.

ii) Impact on buildings

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.

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.

iii) Any building work necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated

All current pupils attending the two schools can be accommodated within the current accommodation on the Banw site.

9.6 Travel and transport

i) Impact on pupils' journeys to school

Average Travel Distance

The average travel distance for pupils¹⁰ attending Banw C.P. School is 4.01 miles.

The average travel distance for pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is 1.79 miles.

If there was no school in Llanerfyl, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Banw would be 3.57 miles.

Furthest Travel Distance

Of the pupils attending Banw C.P. School, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Banw C.P. School is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 8.48 miles.

Of the pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 4.71 miles.

Should the option to establish a new school in the current Banw C.P. School building be implemented, there would be no impact on travel distance for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. There would be an increase in travel distance for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. The furthest distance to the provision at Banw for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School would be 5.85 miles.

ii) Impact on school transport costs

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.

iii) Available walking routes

Pupils living in Llanerfyl are able to walk to the current Llanerfyl building. Should the option to establish a new school in the current Banw C.P. School building be implemented, these pupils would no longer be able to walk to school.

There are currently no walking routes to the Banw C.P. School site.

¹⁰ Pupils attending the two schools in the 2017-18 academic year. Includes all pupils attending the school at this time, including pupils for whom Banw C.P. School or Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is not their closest provider of Welsh-medium education.

9.7 School Admissions

As the proposed new school would be a Voluntary Aided school, the school would be responsible for its own admissions arrangements. The school's Governing Body would determine the school's Admissions Policy, and would be the Admitting Authority for the school.

Any new parents wishing their child/children to attend the school would be required to contact the school directly for further information and an application form.

Should this option be implemented, pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would be allocated places in the new school, or they would need to apply for a place in another chosen school in accordance with the authority's admissions process, if this was the parents' preference.

9.8 Equality, community and Welsh language impact assessments

Draft equality, community and Welsh language impact assessments have been carried out in respect of this option. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. A summary of the assessments carried out is provided below.

The full assessments are available on the Council's website:

<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School>.

i) Equalities impact assessment

The findings of the equalities impact assessment on this option are summarised below:

Should the proposal be implemented, a new Welsh-medium 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.

The option 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, however it is acknowledged that there would also be an impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School.

Additional Learning Needs – A total of 14 pupils with additional learning needs currently attend 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.

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.

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.

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

ii) Impact on the community

The findings of the community impact assessment carried out on this option are summarised below:

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, however 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.

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.

iii) Impact on the Welsh language

The findings of the Welsh language impact assessment carried out on this option are summarised below:

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.

9.9 Impact on access to denominational provision

Implementation of the proposal would result in the establishment of a new Church in Wales school. This would ensure continued access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision for pupils currently accessing this type of provision at Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

Non-Church in Wales Welsh-medium provision is also available at neighbouring schools, at Pontrobert C.P. School and Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School. Any pupils not wishing to access denominational provision could apply for a place at either of these community primary schools.

9.10 Impact on governance arrangements

Implementation of this option would result in the establishment of a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School on the current site of Banw C.P. School. This would be a change from the current category of the two schools.

The governing body of a Voluntary Aided school is a corporate body with exempt charitable status. In a Voluntary Aided School, the school holds its own premises, employs the staff and deals with admission arrangements. The local authority via the school budget share provides revenue funding. The governing body would include foundation governors. These would hold a majority of the places on the governing body. As it is proposed that the new school is a Church in Wales school, foundation governors would be expected to preserve and develop the school's religious character.

Should the Council proceed with the establishment of a new school, an Instrument of Government would be developed in accordance with regulations.

9.11 Potential implementation timescale

Potential implementation timescale for this option are as follows:

Formal Consultation	24 th September – 5 th November 2018
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Full Council and Cabinet	January/February 2019
If Cabinet decide to proceed with this Option:	
Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	February/March 2019
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	May/June 2019
If Cabinet approves implementation of this Option:	
Establish temporary governing body	September 2019
Recruit headteacher	By end of 2019
Develop and appoint to a new staffing structure	Spring 2020
Current schools close	31 st August 2020
New school opens on Banw site	1 st September 2020

PART C OPTION TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHOOL ON THE CURRENT SITE OF LLANERFYL C. IN W. SCHOOL

This section considers the impact of option (b), to establish a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. School.

This would mean that Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School would close, and a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School would be established on the site currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

10. OVERVIEW

Should this option be implemented, the details of the new school would be as follows:

Proposed admission number and admission arrangements	9 As the proposed new school would be a Voluntary Aided school, the school would be responsible for its own admissions arrangements. The school's Governing Body would determine the school's Admissions Policy, and would be the Admitting Authority for the school. Prospective parents wishing their child/children to attend the school would be required to contact the school directly for further information and an application form.
Age range	5-11
Pupil places capacity and/or number of nursery places	59 + 5 Nursery ¹¹
Location	Current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, Llanerfyl, Powys, SY21 0HZ
Category	Voluntary Aided Church in Wales
Language Category	Welsh-medium
Details of the proposed accommodation	The school would be located in the building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. The facilities at the school would be the same as those currently available at Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.
Home to school transport arrangements	Home to school transport would be provided in accordance with the Council's home to school transport policy. Should this option be implemented, Welsh-medium education would continue to be accessible to all pupils in the Banw Valley area. Home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils to enable them to access this provision.

¹¹ This capacity has been calculated in accordance with Welsh Government Circular 21/2011 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales' based on including the Art room as a class base.

11. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The reasons for this option 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
- Pupils numbers are slightly higher in Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School than in Banw C.P. School and are projected to remain higher
- The building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School has been assessed to be in a better condition than the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School
- Potential capital receipt to the authority from sale of the Banw C.P. School building

12. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the option to establish a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School are as follows:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current numbers at Llanerfyl are higher than Banw, therefore this would be a more convenient location for the majority - Current pupil projections at Llanerfyl are higher than Dyffryn Banw - Building is currently in a better condition than Banw - All pupils would be together in the same place which would have a positive impact on the opportunities which could be offered to them - Would reduce surplus places in the area - Would lead to a financial saving to the council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be no provision in Llangadfan - Not having primary provision in the village would impact on the Llangadfan community - Concern about the impact on Banw Community Hall if there was no school located on the site - Sale of the Banw site could be difficult due to the co-location of the community centre - Additional transport would be required for Llangadfan pupils - Would be more difficult for Llangadfan pupils to access after school activities - Capacity of the building is lower than Dyffryn Banw's - No separate dining area / canteen - No access to a hall on the school site – pupils have to walk up the road - Access to the school is down a narrow lane – this could be problematic if there were more pupils attending the school

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited parking on the site - Capital investment would be required to provide additional facilities - Currently there is nowhere to accommodate Cylch Meithrin / early years provision on the site
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13. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there would be risks associated with a proposal to establish a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Based on current pupil projections, there is likely to be less than 50 pupils in the school in a few years time	High	Medium	Ensure that pupil numbers are closely monitored.
Pupils might transfer to other schools instead of the proposed new school, which would impact on pupil numbers	Medium	Medium	Move forward with the process as swiftly as possible in order to limit the period of uncertainty for the community. Should the option be implemented, work with the two school communities to shape the new school
As the new school would be a small Welsh-medium school in a rural area, it may not attract a headteacher	Medium	High	Ensure that there is a proactive recruitment campaign that is widespread
The current configuration of the school at Llanerfyl may cause challenges for the new school in relation to curriculum delivery following the introduction of the new curriculum	Medium	High	Consideration to be given to opportunities for capital investment in the building. The new school would continue to use the Llanerfyl village hall where access to a hall was required.

14. LIKELY IMPACT OF THIS OPTION

14.1 Impact on pupils

i) Impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. School

Implementation of this option would mean that there would be no provision in Banw, therefore all pupils currently attending the two schools would transfer to the new school, to be located on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

Whilst this may have an impact on pupil well-being in the short term, in the longer term pupils would benefit from being part of a larger cohort of pupils. It is likely that there would be more impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School as they would be attending school in a new location, however there would also be some changes for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

In particular, the building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is smaller than the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School, therefore the impact of more pupils attending a school on this site would be greater.

The current Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School building has been assessed to be in better condition than the current Banw C.P. School building, therefore all pupils in the area would benefit from attending the building assessed to be in the best condition. However, there are less facilities at Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, therefore pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School would lose the ability to access these facilities, most notably access to a hall on site and a separate dining area.

Additional home to school transport would also be required for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. A number of pupils that currently attend Banw C.P. School already access home to school transport, therefore the additional distance is likely to have a minimal impact.

ii) Impact on pupils with additional learning needs

All schools in Powys are responsible for meeting a child's additional learning needs, in accordance with the Council's ALN Strategy and Operational Guidance. The new school would be expected to adhere to the same guidance. Funding from the Council is delegated to individual schools to support pupils with additional learning needs, and this funding would be allocated to the new school, ensuring that needs continue to be met. The Council would work in partnership with pupils with additional learning needs, parents and the schools to support an effective transition.

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

iii) **Impact on pupils currently attending other schools**

It is not anticipated that implementation of this option would impact on any pupils currently attending other schools. Should the proposal be implemented, it is possible that some pupils could transfer to alternative schools instead of the proposed new school, however the numbers involved would be very small.

14.2 **Impact on quality and standards in education**

The likely impact on quality and standards in education of a proposal to establish a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is outlined below:

i) **Impact on outcomes**

Standards

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the valley.

The most recent inspections of the two current schools, and the most recent school categorisation exercise, suggest that the quality of education is better at Banw C.P. School compared with Llanerfyl C. in W. School. In addition, permanent leadership arrangements are in place at Banw C.P. School, whereas this is not the case at Llanerfyl C. in W. School. Permanent leadership also has a positive impact on standards, as a strong permanent head would be better placed to implement education reforms, e.g. the new curriculum.

Amalgamation of the two current schools would provide an opportunity to build on the strengths of the two current schools, to impact positively on outcomes, ensuring that excellent educational opportunities are provided for pupils. It is expected that implementation of the proposal would have a positive impact on the quality of education currently provided to pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, and that the quality of education for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School would be at least equivalent to that currently provided.

Well-being

Whilst the process of establishing the new school could have a negative impact on pupil well-being in the short term, in the longer term there would be improved opportunities available to pupils, from being part of a larger cohort of pupils. Should this option be implemented, there would be an additional travel requirement for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. However a significant number of pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School already access home to school transport. The additional travel distance would be minimal, and is not expected to have a significant impact on pupil well-being. There is less physical space in the building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School compared with the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School. This could have a negative impact on pupil well-being. In particular, there is no designated canteen, nor a hall on site for PE and assembly.

ii) Impact on provision

Learning experiences

Implementation of the proposal would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley to replace the two current small schools, which would ensure more sustainable provision in the valley. This would also mean that pupils would be part of larger cohorts of pupils, which could have a positive impact on the collaborative learning experiences and activities which could be offered to them.

The proposal is that the new school would be a Church in Wales school, as part of the St Asaph Diocese. This would be a change for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. However, Church in Wales schools teach the same agreed Religious Education syllabus as community schools, therefore it is not anticipated that there would be a significant difference in terms of the learning experiences offered to pupils. As with community schools, parents of children attending church schools have the right to opt out of collective worship and Religious Education.

Teaching

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley. Although the new school would remain a small school, pupils would be part of a larger cohort of pupils, which would have a positive impact for teachers and for the pupils themselves. It is likely that teaching staff would be part of a slightly larger team of staff, which could provide additional opportunities for staff development, and to develop expertise in particular areas. There would also be increased opportunities to utilise staff expertise more effectively across the new school. However, it must be noted that any new school would remain a small school, therefore these benefits would be limited.

Care, support and guidance

Implementation of this option would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley. It is likely that there would be a slightly larger team of staff in the new school, which would provide improved opportunities for all pupils in the Banw Valley to benefit from any staff expertise in specific areas.

Learning environment

Implementation of this option would mean that the school would be located on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. The building's suitability has been assessed as condition C/D. This is mainly due to the absence of some key facilities which would be expected in a modern school, such as a hall and a dining area. 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 Llanerfyl building is a smaller than the Banw building, and this, coupled with the reduced facilities available, could impact negatively on the new school's ability to provide appropriate learning experiences for pupils, particularly given the requirements of the new curriculum. Should the Council proceed with implementation of this option, there would be a negative impact on the facilities available to pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. Whilst pupils currently

attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School would continue to attend the same building, there would be more pupils in the building, therefore it is likely that this option would also have a negative impact on the learning environment available to these pupils.

iii) Impact on leadership and management

Leadership and management

Currently, there are permanent leadership arrangements in place at Banw C.P. School, however the leadership arrangements at Llanerfyl C. in W. School are not permanent. Should this option be implemented, the leadership and management at the new school would be expected to be at least as good as the current arrangements for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School, and would be expected to be improved for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

However, 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.

Should the proposal be implemented, a temporary governing body would be established. The membership would be from the existing governing bodies of the two current schools. The temporary governing body would be responsible for appointing staff to the new school, including a headteacher. All headteacher vacancies are required to be advertised nationally.

Improving quality

Historically, both Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School have provided good quality Welsh-medium education for pupils in the Banw Valley. However, decreasing pupil numbers and financial pressures are a threat to this. Implementation of this option would lead to the establishment of a new, larger school, which would be better placed to continue to provide high quality Welsh-medium education for pupils in the area in the future.

Partnership working

All Powys schools are expected to work in partnership. Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School currently work in partnership with each other and with other schools. Should this option be implemented, the new school would remain a relatively small school, therefore the school would be expected to continue to work in partnership with other schools in order to provide additional opportunities to pupils and to enable the school to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Resource management

Both current schools are projected to be in a deficit budget position within the next few years. Implementation of this option would be expected to have a positive impact in terms of resource management as the new school would be larger, therefore there would be more resources available to it.

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

Implementation of the proposal would result in one larger school in the Banw Valley. It is expected that this would improve the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage of education, as there would be larger numbers of pupils in each year group. The proposal to establish one new school would also enable education in the area to be delivered more efficiently, ensuring that teaching resources can be shared, which would support the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage.

This option would result in the new school being located in the building currently occupied by Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. This building is smaller than the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School, and this, coupled with the reduced facilities available, could impact on the new school's ability to provide appropriate learning experiences for pupils, particularly given the requirements of the new curriculum. Should the Council proceed with implementation of this option, there would be a negative impact on the facilities available to pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. Whilst pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. School would continue to attend the same building, there would be more pupils in the building, therefore it is likely that this option would also have a negative impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum in each key stage to these pupils, particularly given the requirements of the new curriculum.

v) Impact on other schools

Should this option be implemented, it is possible that some pupils would choose to transfer to alternative schools instead of the proposed new school. However, the numbers involved would be very small, therefore it is not anticipated that this would impact on quality and standards in education at these schools, to include outcomes (standards and wellbeing), provision (learning experiences, teaching, care support and guidance, and learning environment) and leadership and management (leadership, improving quality, partnership working and resource management), nor on their ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education.

14.3 Financial Impact

i) Revenue funding

Based on the Council's current Fair Funding Formula, it is estimated that implementation of this option would lead to an annual revenue saving of £63,426. This is calculated as follows:

Current Estimated funding 18/19 – 2 schools	£308,423
Current Catering Costs	£27,596
Total	£336,019
Revised Estimated Funding/Costs	
1 school 1 site (Llanerfyl)	£213,065
Catering costs	£24,572
Total	£237,637
Saving / (Cost)	£98,382
Estimated Additional Transport Costs	£34,956
Estimated Saving / (Costs)	£63,426

This calculation does not take into account any redundancy costs which would be associated with the establishment of the new school, however these would be one-off costs.

Based on this estimate, the cost per pupil would be £3,945.65.

Should the Council proceed with this option, the savings as outlined above would be identified as an efficiency to the Schools Service budget.

ii) Capital funding requirements

No capital funding is required to achieve this option. Whilst the current capacity of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, as calculated using Welsh Government Circular 21/2011, 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales' would not be sufficient to accommodate all pupils currently attending the two schools, the capacity has been re-calculated with the inclusion of the school's Art Room as a teaching base. This calculation provides sufficient capacity to accommodate current and projected pupil numbers at the two schools.

14.4 Impact on Staff

Should this option be implemented, Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would close, and a new school would be opened with a new staffing structure.

Should the option be implemented, a temporary governing body would be appointed for an interim period, until the new school were to open. The temporary governing body would be responsible for appointing a headteacher for the new school, and would then work with the headteacher to develop the leadership, management and staffing structures for the new school.

Implementation of the new staffing structure would be in accordance with the relevant HR policies for teaching and support staff. As part of this process, there would be an opportunity for the temporary governing body to 'ringfence' all teaching and associated staff posts to staff currently employed within the existing schools in the first instance.

If the option is implemented, all cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council will be supported via the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

14.5 Land and buildings

i) Impact on quality of accommodation for pupils

The Council commissioned Heart of Wales Property Services (HOWPS) to carry out updated condition assessments of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School's building. This assessment identified that the condition of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is condition B – generally satisfactory.

Should a new school be established on the Llanerfyl site, pupils currently attending this school would continue to access accommodation of the same quality. However, the Llanerfyl building is smaller than the Banw building, therefore the increased number of pupils attending the site could have a negative impact on the quality of accommodation available for these pupils. Banw C.P. School's current building has been assessed as condition C – generally poor, therefore there would be an improvement in the quality of accommodation for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School.

However, the suitability assessment for the Llanerfyl building (C/D) is lower than the suitability assessment for the Banw building (B). Should the Council proceed with this option, the reduced facilities at the Llanerfyl site could have a negative impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School.

Should the Council proceed with the option to establish a new school on the Llanerfyl site, the following steps would be taken to address any issues relating to the building's suitability, in order to ensure that the quality of accommodation is at least as good as the current provision:

- Commission HOWPS to carry out further work to identify the scope of the work required
- Dependent on the scale of the work required, the Council will consider what would be the appropriate funding source for this work. As the building is not owned by the Council, discussions would need to take place with the Priscilla Foster Trust

ii) Impact on buildings

Should a new school be established on the Llanerfyl site, this would mean that the Banw building would be surplus to requirements for the delivery of education.

The Banw site is owned by the Council, therefore should the building no longer be required for the delivery of education, it would be declared surplus to requirements and would be disposed of in accordance with the Council's asset management procedures, with the potential that a capital receipt could be realised. However, the school shares a site with a community hall. This could cause difficulties with any possible sale of the site.

Should there be a capital receipt from any sale of the site, this would be re-invested in the Council's estate, which includes schools, in accordance with the Council's Capital Strategy.

iii) Any building work necessary to ensure that transferred children can be accommodated

Based on the Council's calculation of the maximum number of pupils that could be accommodated in the current Llanerfyl building, the school is able to accommodate all current and projected pupils attending the two schools.

14.6 Travel and Transport

i) Impact on pupils' journeys to school

Average Travel Distance

The average travel distance for pupils¹² attending Banw C.P. School is 4.01 miles.

The average travel distance for pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is 1.79 miles.

If there was no school in Banw, the average travel distance for pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Llanerfyl would be 3.31 miles.

Furthest Travel Distance

Of the pupils that currently attend Banw C.P. School, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Banw C.P. School is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 8.48 miles.

Of the pupils that currently attend Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 4.71 miles.

Should the option to establish a new school in the current Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School building be implemented, there would be no impact on travel distance for pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. There would be an increase in travel distance for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School. The furthest distance to the provision at Llanerfyl for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School would be 10.01 miles.

ii) Impact on school transport costs

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.

¹² Pupils attending the two schools in the 2017/18 academic year. Includes all pupils attending the school at this time, including pupils for whom Banw C.P. School or Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is not their closest provider of Welsh-medium education.

iii) Available walking routes

Pupils living in Llanerfyl are able to walk to the current Llanerfyl building. Should the option to establish a new school in the current Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School building be implemented, these pupils would still be able to walk to school.

Pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School would be unable to walk to school. However, there are currently no walking routes to Banw C.P. School, therefore this would not be a change from the current position.

14.7 School Admissions

As the proposed new school would be a Voluntary Aided school, the school would be responsible for its own admissions arrangements. The school's Governing Body would determine the school's Admissions Policy, and would be the Admitting Authority for the school.

Any new parents wishing their child/children to attend the school would be required to contact the school directly for further information and an application form.

Should this option be implemented, pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would be allocated places in the new school, or they would need to apply for a place in another chosen school in accordance with the authority's admissions process, if this was the parents' preference.

14.8 Equality, community and Welsh language impact assessments

Draft equality, community and Welsh language impact assessments have been carried out in respect of this option. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. A summary of the assessments carried out is provided below.

The full assessments are available on the Council's website:

<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School>.

i) Equalities impact assessment

The findings of the equalities impact assessment on this option were as follows:

Should the proposal be implemented, a new Welsh-medium 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.

The option to locate a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would have a greater impact on pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School, however it is acknowledged that they would also be an impact on pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

Additional Learning Needs – A total of 14 pupils with additional learning needs currently attend the two schools. Whilst the proposal to locate a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) 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.

Ethnic Group – The proposal to locate a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would impact on pupils currently attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School that belong to an ethnic group other than White British. However, these pupils would continue to attend the same school site, therefore the impact on them would be minimal. The aim of the proposal is to improve the educational opportunities available to all pupils, regardless of their ethnic group.

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 Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would impact on these pupils, there is no reason to believe that the newly established school would be unable to meet their needs. However there would be an additional travel implication. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided for the pupils to enable them to access the new school, there would be an additional travel implication for their parents to access any activities at the school.

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

ii) Impact on the community

The findings of the community impact assessment carried out on this option are summarised below:

Should a new school be established on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, there would be no primary provision in the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School. This could impact on the area of the Banw Valley currently served by this school, through involvement in school activities and links with the community, however 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 the current Banw C.P. School building, the Council would need to determine how to use the building in the future. The Banw Community Hall is co-located with the school, therefore whilst the current proposal is not proposing any changes to the community hall, it is possible that removal of primary provision from the Banw site could impact on the community hall in the future. This could mean that this facility would not be available for the community. However school provision and a village hall would remain in the village of Llanerfyl.

Should a new school be located on the current Llanerfyl site, there would be an additional travel requirement for pupils currently attending Banw C.P. School and other stakeholders to access a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. School. However, this additional travel would be minimal.

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.

iii) Impact on the Welsh language

The findings of the Welsh language impact assessment carried out in respect of this option are summarised below:

The Banw Valley 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.

This option would mean that there would be no provision in the building currently occupied by Banw C.P. School. However, there would be provision in Llanerfyl. This would be a larger school, which would be more sustainable for the future. A number of pupils from the Banw Valley area currently travel to Llanfair Caereinion to access English-medium provision. It is possible that the provision of a larger school could 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.

14.9 Impact on access to denominational provision

Implementation of this option would result in the establishment of a new Church in Wales school. This would ensure continued access to Welsh-medium Church in Wales provision for pupils currently accessing this type of provision at Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School.

Non-Church in Wales Welsh-medium provision is also available at neighbouring schools, at Pontrobert C.P. School and Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School. Any pupils not wishing to access denominational provision could apply for a place at either of these community primary schools.

14.10 Impact on governance arrangements

Implementation of this option would result in the establishment of a new Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. This would be a change from the current category of the two schools.

The governing body of a Voluntary Aided school is a corporate body with exempt charitable status. In a Voluntary Aided School, the school holds its own premises, employs the staff and deals with admission arrangements. The local authority via the school budget share provides revenue funding. The governing body would include foundation governors. These would hold a majority of the places on the governing body. As it is proposed that the new school is a Church in Wales school, foundation governors would be expected to preserve and develop the school's religious character.

Should the Council proceed with the establishment of a new school an Instrument of Government would be developed in accordance with regulations.

14.11 Potential implementation timescale

Potential implementation timescale for this option are as follows:

Formal Consultation	24 th September – 5 th November 2018
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Full Council and Cabinet	January/February 2019
If Cabinet decide to proceed with this Option:	
Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	February/March 2019
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	May/June 2019
If Cabinet approves implementation of this Option:	
Establish temporary governing body	September 2019
Recruit headteacher	By end of 2019
Develop and appoint to a new staffing structure	Spring 2020
Current schools close	31 st August 2020
New school opens on Llanerfyl site	1 st September 2020

PART D CONSULTATION DETAILS

15.1 Who will we consult with?

The authority will consult with the pupils, parents, governors and staff of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. A copy of the consultation document will also be provided to all those required in accordance with the School Organisation Code 2013, which includes the following:

- The Governing Bodies of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School
- Parents, carers, guardians and staff of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School
- Pupils of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School
- Cylch Meithrin / Ti a Fi Dyffryn Banw
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Priscilla Foster Trust
- The Welsh Minister for Education & Skills
- Local Powys Councillors
- Town and Community Councils in the local area
- The AM for Montgomeryshire and regional AMs for the area
- The MP for Montgomeryshire
- Estyn
- Teaching and staff trade unions
- ERW
- The Police & Crime Commissioner
- The Regional Transport Consortium
- Nursery providers in the local area
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

15.2 The consultation period

The consultation period will commence on the 24th September 2018 and will end on the 5th November 2018.

Two 'drop in' consultation events will also be held during the consultation period. These will be held on the following dates:

Drop in session for parents of pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School and other stakeholders associated with the school:

Thursday, 4th October, 3 – 7pm, Llanerfyl Village Hall

Drop in session for parents of pupils attending Banw C.P. School and other stakeholders associated with the school:

Monday, 15th October, 3 – 7pm, Banw Community Hall

15.3 The statutory process

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the School Organisation Code (2013). The process is summarised below:

i) Consultation

Consultation will start on the 24th September 2018 and will end on the 5th November 2018. Feedback from the consultation will be collated and summarised, and a consultation report will be produced and shared with stakeholders.

As part of the Council's approach towards school reorganisation proposals, all consultation reports are considered by the full Council prior to consideration by Cabinet. Therefore, the Consultation Report in respect of this consultation will need to be considered by the Full Council.

After the report is considered by the full Council, the Council's Cabinet will consider the report and the feedback received during the consultation period, and will decide whether to proceed with the proposals, to make changes to the proposals or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by full Council and the Cabinet early in 2019.

ii) Statutory notice

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

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

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

It is anticipated that a final decision would be made by the end of the 2018/19 academic year at the latest.

iii) Implementation

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

15.4 How to respond to the consultation

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

<https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School>

Alternatively, you can respond in writing.

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

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

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

All correspondence should be received by the **5th November 2018**.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, you can contact the School Transformation Team using the above contact details, or by phoning (01597) 826265.

APPENDIX A – KEY DATA

1. Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School

Key data about the two schools is provided below.

General information

School Name	School Category	Language Category	Admission Number
Banw C.P. School	Community Primary School building owned by PCC with a community centre attached to the school.	Welsh-medium (WM)	8
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	Foundation Church in Wales School building owned by the Pricilla Foster Trust. School responsible for its own admissions.	Welsh-medium (WM)	7

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹³

	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Banw C.P. School	0	2	2	2	1	7	4	4	22
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	3	3	3	4	6	1	4	5	29
TOTAL	3	5	5	6	7	8	8	9	51

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹⁴

	Jan. 2011	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018
Banw C.P. School	45	50	46	38	35	33	28	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	47	51	42	41	38	37	35	32
TOTAL	92	101	88	79	73	70	63	58

¹³ Teacher Centre, 18 Medi 2018

¹⁴ PLASC

iii) **Projected pupil numbers**

	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023
Banw C.P. School	22	18	17	13	15
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School (R-Yr6)	28	30	29	31	28
TOTAL	50	48	36	44	43

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

The following table provides information about the current capacities of the two schools:

	Current Capacity¹⁵
Banw C.P. School	72 + 10 nursery
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	44 + 5 nursery

ii) **Building Condition**

In the Spring of 2018, the Council commissioned Heart of Wales Property Services (HOWPS) to carry out updated condition and suitability assessments of the two schools.

Detailed reports have been provided for two schools, however the overall assessments are as follows:

	Condition	Suitability
Banw C.P. School	C Generally poor	B Generally satisfactory
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	B Generally satisfactory	C/D Poor to bad This assessment is based on the perceived limitation of having no hall, and the significant limitations due to conversion and extension of the original property

¹⁵ Based on Welsh Government Circular 21/2011 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'

Quality and standards of education

i) Estyn

The following table summarises the last Estyn inspections of the two schools:

	Banw C.P. School	Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School
Date of Inspection	September 2016	November 2014
School's Current Performance	Good	Adequate
Prospects for Improvement	Good	Adequate
Follow Up Activity	No follow up activity	Estyn Monitoring Estyn Monitoring visit January 2016 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring

ii) School Categorisation

The latest categorisations of the two schools in accordance with the National School Categorisation System for 2017 are as follows:

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Banw C.P. School	N/A	A	Green
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	N/A	C	Yellow

Financial information

i) Cost per pupil (2018/19)

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Banw C.P. School	£156,330	£6,013	£5,493	£6,025
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	£152,093	£5,432	£7,105	£6,020
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£3,752	N/A	N/A

ii) Current budgetary position (as of 1st May submittal by full governing body)

	2017/18 Actual Cumulative Outturn	2018/19 Budget	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget
Banw C.P. School	£28,525	£15,582	(£1,576)	(£23,536)
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	£19,422	(£969)	(£25,852)	(£50,624)

Home to school travel

i) Closest School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the pupils that were attending the two schools in the 2017-18 academic year. The closest Welsh-medium provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Banw C.P. School	Pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	Total
Banw C.P. 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

ii) Average Travel Distance

The average travel distance for pupils attending Banw C.P. School is 4.01 miles.

The average travel distance for pupils attending Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is 1.79 miles.

If there was no school in Banw, the average travel distance for pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Llanerfyl would be 3.31 miles.

If there was no school in Llanerfyl, the average travel distance for pupils attending the two schools to attend provision in Banw would be 3.57 miles.

(Note: in this section, 'all pupils' includes pupils for whom Banw C.P. School or Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is not their closest provider of Welsh-medium education)

iii) Furthest Travel Distance

Of the pupils that attend Banw C.P. School, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Banw C.P. School is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 8.48 miles. If there was no school in Banw, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision at Llanerfyl would be 10.01 miles.

Of the pupils that attend Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, the furthest travel distance to the school for those pupils for whom Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School is the closest Welsh-medium provider is 4.71 miles. Should there be no school in Llanerfyl, the furthest distance to the nearest alternative provision at Banw would be 5.85 miles.

Equalities information¹⁶

i) National identity

(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2017)

	British	English	Irish	Scottish	Welsh	Other	Not supplied	Refused	Total pupils
Banw C.P. School	13	1	0	0	12	0	0	0	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	14	3	0	0	15	0	0	0	32

¹⁶ PLASC January 2018

ii) Ethnic Group
(Pupils aged 5 or over on the 31st August 2017)

	White British	Other known ethnicity	Information not yet obtained	Total pupils
Banw C.P. School	26	0	0	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	30	0	2	32

iii) English as an Additional Language

	EAL pupils
Banw C.P. School	0
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	0

iv) Free School Meals

	Not eligible for FSM	Eligible for FSM	Total pupils	% Eligible for FSM
Banw C.P. School	22	3	25	12%
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	29	0	29	0%

v) Looked after children

	Looked after children
Banw C.P. School	0
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	0

vi) SEN

	None	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement	Total Pupils	% SEN
Banw C.P. School	21	5	0	0	26	19.2%
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	23	5	4	0	32	28.1%

vii) Welsh at Home

	Does not speak Welsh at home	Does speak Welsh at home	Not applicable	Total pupils
Banw C.P. School	22	3	1	26
Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	6	24	2	32

Early Years Provision

One early years provider (Cylch Meithrin Dyffryn Banw) serves pupils from the whole area. This setting meets in Llanerfyl village hall. The setting receives 3+ funding from the Council.

2. Other schools pupils may choose to transfer to

Should one of the options outlined within this document be implemented, it is possible that some parents could choose for their children to attend an alternative school, instead of the proposed new school.

Information about neighbouring schools that pupils may wish to transfer to instead of the proposed new school is provided below:

General information

School Name	School Category	Language Category	Admission Number
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	Community Primary	Dual stream (DS)	27
Ysgol Pontrobert	Community Primary	Welsh-medium (WM)	7

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers¹⁷

	N2	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	N/A	15	24	24	26	26	28	25	168
Ysgol Pontrobert	N/A	7	4	6	2	2	3	7	31

ii) Historical pupil numbers¹⁸

	Jan. 2011	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	189	188	195	202	209	195	185	174
Ysgol Pontrobert	31	37	35	35	29	37	35	28

¹⁷ Teacher Centre, 18 September 2018

¹⁸ PLASC

iii) **Projected pupil numbers**

	January 2019	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	169	164	160	156	154
Ysgol Pontrobert	29	26	28	30	32

Building Capacity and Condition

i) **Capacity**

	Current Capacity ¹⁹
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	167 + 23 nursery
Ysgol Pontrobert	58 + 8 nursery

ii) **Building Condition**

	Condition	Suitability
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	C	B
Ysgol Pontrobert	B	B

Quality and standards of education

i) **Estyn**

The following table summarises the last Estyn inspections of the two schools:

	Ysgol Pontrobert
Date of Inspection	December 2014
School's Current Performance	Good
Prospects for Improvement	Good
Follow Up Activity	No follow up activity

¹⁹ Based on Welsh Government Circular 21/2011 'Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales'

Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School was inspected under Estyn's new inspection framework, which was introduced in September 2017. The outcome of the inspection was as follows:

Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	
Date of Inspection	January 2018
Inspection area:	
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good

ii) School Categorisation

The latest categorisations of the two schools in accordance with the National School Categorisation System for 2017 are as follows:

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	N/A	B	Yellow
Ysgol Pontrobert	N/A	A	Green

APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

BANW C.P. SCHOOL AND LLANERFYL C. IN W. (FOUNDATION) SCHOOL

Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposals relating to primary education in the Banw Valley:

- 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

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals and the two options, as well as an online version of this consultation response form, is available on the Council's website at <https://customer.powys.gov.uk/article/4465/Banw-C.P.-School-and-Llanerfyl-C.-in-W.-Foundation-School>.

This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposal and the two options. The response form can also be completed online – a link to the online form is available by following the link above.

The closing date for this consultation is the **5th November 2018**. All responses must be received by this date.

All information received via this survey will be administered under the rules of the General Data Protection Regulation Act. For full details of how Powys County Council works to these rules, visit <http://www.powys.gov.uk/en/information-mangement/data-protection-and-privacy/>

Part 1 – About You

1. Please indicate how you are associated with Banw C.P. School and/or Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School:

Parent, carer or guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prospective parent, carer or guardian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the community	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	No association with either school	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

2. Please specify which school you are associated with:

Banw C.P. School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither school	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Please provide your postcode _____

Part 2 – Consultation Response

Please indicate your responses to the questions below.

Proposal to establish one new school in the Banw Valley area

4. Given the current and projected pupil numbers in Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School, do you agree that the most suitable way forward is for the two existing schools to merge in order to establish one new, larger school in the area?

Yes No Don't know

Please provide any additional comments:

5. The current proposal is to establish a new Welsh-medium Voluntary Aided Church in Wales School.

If the Council were to proceed with merging the two existing schools to create one new school, do you agree that 'Voluntary Aided Church in Wales' would be a suitable category for a new school?

Yes No Don't know

Please provide any additional comments:

Option A – Establish a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School

6. If the Council were to proceed with merging the two existing schools to create one new school, do you agree that establishing a new school on the current site of Banw C.P. School would be a suitable way forward in order to safeguard the provision of Welsh-medium education in the Banw Valley?

Yes No Don't know

Please provide any additional comments:

Option B – Establish a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School

7. If the Council were to proceed with merging the two existing schools to create one new school, do you agree that establishing a new school on the current site of Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School would be a suitable way forward in order to safeguard the provision of Welsh-medium education in the Banw Valley?

Yes No Don't know

Please provide any additional comments:

Other options

8. A number of options have been considered in respect of Banw C.P. School and Llanerfyl C. in W. (Foundation) School. These are outlined on pages 11 – 16 of the consultation document. Option 1 (Establish a new school operating across the two sites) and Option 4 (Establish a new school operating from a new site in the area) have been discounted as the Council does not think that either of these are the most appropriate way forward at the current time.

a) Do you agree with the Council that Options 1 and 4 should be discounted?

Yes No Don't know

b) Do you think the Council should proceed with one of the discounted options instead of the current options?

Yes No Don't know

Please provide any additional comments, including which (if any) of the discounted options you think the Council should be considering:

9. Are there any other options which you think the Council should consider which aren't outlined in the consultation document?

Other comments

10. Please provide any other comments in the space below:

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

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

Yes No

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

Part 3 – Equalities Information (Optional)

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

However, these questions are optional. We will take all responses into consideration when determining how to proceed, regardless of whether or not this information has been provided.

12. Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?

Yes No Don’t want to say

13. If you have school-aged children, are they entitled to receive free school meals?

Yes No Don’t want to say

14. If you have school-aged children, do they have any additional learning needs?

Yes No Don’t want to say

15. Do you consider yourself to be disabled?

Yes No Don't want to say

16. What is your ethnic group?

White Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

Asian or British Asian Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

Any other ethnic group Don't want to say

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

Completed questionnaires should be sent to the following address, to arrive **no later than the 5th November 2018**:

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

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