

PROPOSALS FOR LADYWELL GREEN INFANTS SCHOOL AND HAFREN C.P. JUNIOR SCHOOL

Consultation Document

Consultation dates: 26th September to 7th November 2019





Consultation on proposals for Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

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This document is also available on the Council's website via https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7476/Ladywell-Green-Infants-School-and-Hafren-Junior-School.

If you require a copy of the document in a different format, please contact the School Transformation Team on 01597 826618, or e-mail school.modernisation@powys.gov.uk.

Consultation on proposals for Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

OVERVIEW

1. The Proposal

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School in order to establish a new primary school for pupils aged 4-11 in Newtown.

The proposals are as follows:

- To close Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
- To establish a new English-medium primary school for pupils aged 4-11 on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

The current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2021, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2021.

2. How to respond to the consultation

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

https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7476/Ladywell-Green-Infants-School-and-Hafren-Junior-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 **7**th **November 2019**.

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

Hafren C.P. Junior School, 14th October 2019, 3:00 – 6:00pm Ladywell Green Infants School, 16th October 2019, 3:00 – 6:00pm

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 Phone: 01597 826618 / E-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

4. What will happen next

Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be produced which will outline the feedback received. The consultation report will list all issues raised during the consultation period, and will also provide the Council's response to these issues.

The Council's Cabinet will consider the consultation report and will consider whether or not they wish to proceed with either of the options outlined in the consultation document. This is expected to happen early in 2020.

If the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice 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.

PART A - THE CASE FOR CHANGE

Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposals:

- To close Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
- To establish a new primary school for pupils aged 4-11 on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

The current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2021, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2021.

1. BACKGROUND

Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School are two Englishmedium schools located in the centre of Newtown in North Powys. They mainly serve pupils living within the town of Newtown. The two schools are located on the same site in the centre of Newtown.

The following table provides general information about the two schools:

School name and location	School Category	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity
Ladywell Green Infants School, Park Lane, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1EG	Community Primary (Infant) School building owned by Powys County Council.	English	48	150
Hafren C.P. Junior School, Park Lane, Newtown, Powys, SY16 1EG	Community Primary (Junior) School building owned by Powys County Council.	English	52	210

Current pupil numbers¹ at the two schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ladywell Green Infants School	26	39	29	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	94

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¹ Teacher Centre, 4th September 2019

Hafren C.P. Junior School	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	34	37	46	145
Total	26	39	29	28	34	37	46	239

In the summer of 2017, the Council identified its priorities for Band B of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools Programme. This identified the need for investment in a number of projects in Newtown and the surrounding area. Since early 2018, the Council has been working with schools in Newtown to develop future plans for the schools infrastructure in Newtown. The early stages of this work included the following steps:

- April 2018 Initial meetings with Headteachers of all Newtown schools
- June 2018 Establishment of a Stakeholder Group, including Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all Newtown schools, and local Councillors. A number of meetings were held between June 2018 and April 2019.

This initial work, which included consideration of data on Newtown schools (e.g. current, historical and projected pupil numbers, building condition, surplus places), identified the need for one new school to replace the current Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School. This is in line with the Council's School Organisation Policy, which sets out the Council's aim to 'Remove infant / junior split by creating 'all-through' primary schools'.

In order to share information on the developments with the Ladywell Green and Hafren school communites, early engagement has been ongoing since May 2019. This has included the following:

- Joint meetings with the two governing bodies
- Distribution of a letter and FAQ document to parents of pupils attending the two schools
- An initial engagement meeting with staff
- Informal drop-in events for parents at both schools

The proposal to carry out consultation on amalgamating Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School was considered by the School Transformation Board on the 13th August 2019, and was subsequently considered by the Council's Cabinet on the 17th September 2019.

The recommendation agreed by Cabinet was as follows:

'To carry out consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Organisation Code on the amalgamation of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School, by closing Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School and opening a new primary school for pupils aged 4-11 operating from the current school buildings.'

2. THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In March 2018, the Council's Cabinet approved a new School Organisation Policy, which set out the Council's aspirations for the schools infrastructure in Powys. The policy was subsequently amended slightly in April 2018 and in August 2019.

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 schools² 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

² 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

- 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:

- Identify areas were 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 current proposals in respect of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School are in line with these priorities.

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED

Ladywell Green and Hafren School are both good schools. The most recent categorisation of the two schools in accordance with the National School Categorisation System categorised both schools as being in the Green support category³, and Ladywell Green Infants School has recently had a successful Estyn inspection. However, similarly to other schools across Powys, there are a number of challenges facing them.

The key challenges facing Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School are explored below.

3.1 Building condition

The current building condition of the two schools is as follows⁴:

	Condition
Ladywell Green Infants School	C/D
Hafren C.P. Junior School	С

There are issues with building condition in both schools, in particular Ladywell Green Infants School which has been assessed as Condition C/D.

⁴ Building condition categories are defined as follows:

Category A	Good
Category B	Satisfactory
Category C	Poor
Category D	Bad

³ As determined by the National School Categorisation System. Further information is available at: https://gov.wales/school-categorisation-system

This does not meet the Council's aspiration for Powys schools as outlined in the School Organisation Policy, which states that 'The Council aims to have an educational model which...has high quality learning environments, with the long term aim that all schools will be assessed as condition A or B.'

3.2 Financial pressures

Similarly to many other schools across Powys and Wales, both schools are facing budget pressures.

The following table provides an overview of the expected budget position of both schools at the end of each financial year up until 2021/22⁵:

	2018/19 Actual Cumulative Outturn	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Ladywell Green Infants School	£63,925	£16,669	(£18,648)	(£73,828)
Hafren C.P. Junior School	£48,896	£73,718	£23,045	(£39,087)

This shows that Ladywell Green Infants School are projected to be in a deficit budget position by the end of the 2020/21 financial year, and Hafren C.P. Junior School are also projected to be in a deficit budget position by the end of the 2021/22 financial year, unless action is taken by the schools.

3.3 Decreasing pupil numbers

Total pupil numbers at the two schools over the last few years have been as follows:

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019
Ladywell Green Infants School	154	138	127	113	96	96
Hafren C.P. Junior School	148	142	158	157	160	169
TOTAL	302	280	285	270	256	265

This shows that total pupil numbers across the two schools have decreased by nearly 40 since January 2014. Whilst there has been an increase in pupil numbers at Hafren C.P. Junior School, there has been a substantial reduction in pupil numbers at Ladywell Green Infants School. This is primarily due to the Council's decision to change the age of admission to primary schools in September 2018.

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⁵ As of 1st May submittal by full governing body

Whilst this change has not impacted Hafren C.P. Junior School, it has had a significant impact on pupil numbers at Ladywell Green Infants School, and has also impacted on the number of surplus places.

Projected pupil numbers up until 2024 are as follows⁶:

	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023	January 2024
Ladywell Green Infants School	106	106	107	106	108
Hafren C.P. Junior School	147	131	129	130	128
TOTAL	253	237	236	236	236

This suggests that, whilst pupil number at Ladywell Green Infants School are expected to stabilise, they will remain significantly lower than they were in 2014. In addition, pupil numbers at Hafren C.P. Junior School are projected to decrease. Overall pupil numbers at the two schools are projected to continue to decrease.

3.4 Transition arrangements

Whilst the two schools work closely together to minimise disruption for pupils on transition from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 in order to ensure that they can effectively move from one school to the other, the current arrangement does mean that there is an additional transition for pupils during their educational careers, which can cause disruption to pupils and their families.

3.5 Staff development opportunities

The current arrangement provides the opportunity for staff to specialise in a particular educational phase – either Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2. However, this does mean that it is more difficult for them to gain experience across the primary age range.

4. LINKS TO OTHER PROJECTS

This proposal links to the North Powys Well-being Programme, which is being led by the Powys Regional Partnership Board. The Programme is developing ambitious plans to improve health and social care provision in North Powys, and is designing a new model of care for the area. Alongside this, there is a vision to establish a Multi-agency Well-being Campus in Newtown, bringing together a range of services to include education, health and social services, to create an intergenerational wellbeing campus.

An early Proof of Concept report has been produced outlining the plans to establish a Multi-agenda Well-being Campus. Following consideration of a number of sites in

⁶ Schools Service projections based on PLASC January 2019 and live birth information.

Newtown, this work identified a site adjacent to Park Street Newtown as the preferred site for the proposed campus. This site is currently occupied by the Park Day Centre, Newtown Integrated Family Centre (formerly Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd), health services and Hafren and Ladywell Green schools. The site assessment work carried out included the provision of a new primary school on the site, as part of the multi-agency well-being campus, to be built in accordance with Building Bulleting guidance, and the intention is that this new building would replace the buildings currently occupied by Ladywell Green and Hafren Schools.

The plans for a new building and the wider plans for the site are at a very early stage, and there will be numerous opportunities for the school and the wider school community to contribute to this work as it moves forward. However, the Council is keen to consider the best way forward in order to amalgamate the two schools, to prepare for a move to a new building in the future.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Having identified the need to establish one new school to replace Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School, the Council has considered the following options as possible ways of moving forward:

Option	Description
1	Status quo – infant and junior school continue to operate independently
2	Federation – infant and junior school federate to create a federated primary school
3	New primary school – infant and junior school amalgamate to create a new primary school

These options are considered further below.

5.1 Advantages and disadvantages of available options

SWOT analyses for each of these three options are provided below:

Option 1: Status Quo – Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School continue to operate independently

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Good relationships between the schools Leadership, teaching and learning is strong at both schools No disruption to pupils and parents 	 Lack of opportunities for older pupils to nurture younger pupils Poor buildings Cost of maintaining current buildings

	 Would not lead to any financial efficiencies Duplication of management tasks Lack of suitable parking for parents, staff and visitors Does not align with the Council's aspirations for Powys schools as outlined in the School Organisation Policy
Opportunities	Threats
- Opportunities for collaboration	- Falling pupil numbers

Option 2: Federation – Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School federate to create a federated all-through primary school

Strengths	Weaknesses
 Each school would retain its own character, ethos and identity Improved opportunities for sharing staff expertise and good practice Improved transition links between the two schools Potential to run more efficiently through shared staffing and resources One governing body which would have strategic overview of the two schools Would be easier to dissolve a federation if the change was not working Opportunities to build on the good relationships that exist between each school Strong leadership at both schools Potential for one headteacher across the two schools in the future Teaching and Learning is strong at both schools 	 Would remain as two separate schools therefore there could be some tensions between the two schools Federation is a less robust model than amalgamation Parents would still have to apply to admit their children to the junior phase

Opportunities	Threats		
 Opportunity for collaboration between the two schools Opportunity to run more efficiently 	Falling pupil numbersBudget pressuresUnsuitable accommodation and building condition		

Option 3: New primary school – Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School amalgamate to create a new primary school

Strengths	Weaknesses			
 In line with the School Organisation Policy More flexibility for staff and opportunities for personal development Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary experience Parents would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase One governing body and one leadership team More attractive for prospective pupils More efficient model of governance and leadership Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 	 Impact on staff as management of change process would need to take place leading to potential job losses Loss of individual school identity 			
Opportunities	Threats			
 Opportunity to access 21st Century Schools funding Opportunities for staff personal development being part of a larger team Opportunity to collaborate on curriculum development spanning the two phases 	 Potential reduction in outdoor space available in the event of a new building Job losses 			

6. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS

Based on the SWOT analyses carried out, the preferred option is to proceed with Option 3 – to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School to create a new primary school.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- To improve transition arrangements for pupils between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2
- To provide improved opportunities for staff as a result of being part of a larger team with opportunities to work with pupils across the primary age range
- To provide a more efficient operating model one staffing and governance structure rather than two
- The option is in line with the Council's School Organisation Policy
- In the longer term, to provide access to 21st Century Schools funding in order to improve building condition and running costs

This is the basis for the current proposal on which the Council is consulting. This option is explored further in the following section.

PART B - THE PROPOSAL

7. OVERVIEW

Powys County Council is consulting on a proposal to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School in order to establish a new primary school for pupils aged 4-11 in Newtown.

The proposals are as follows:

- To close Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
- To establish a new English-medium primary school for pupils aged 4-11 on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

The current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2021, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2021.

If the proposal was implemented, the following table provides details about the proposed new school:

Name	The name of the new school would be proposed by the temporary governing body, and approved by the Portfolio Holder for Education.
Proposed Admission	The new admission number would be 48.
number and admissions arrangements	Pupils attending the current Hafren and Ladywell Green Schools would automatically be allocated a place in the new school.
	Future pupils would apply for a place in accordance with the usual admission arrangements.
Age range	4 – 11
Pupil places capacity	The capacity would reflect the combined capacities of the two current schools. The capacity of the new primary school would be 342.
Location	The new school would operate from the existing sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
Category	Community School
Language category	English medium

Details of proposed accommodation	The accommodation would remain the same as the current accommodation.
Home to school transport arrangements	Home to school transport would continue to be provided in accordance with the Council's transport policy.

8. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

The Council is proposing to establish a new primary school in Newtown for the following reasons:

- To improve transition arrangements for pupils between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2
- To provide improved opportunities for staff as a result of being part of a larger team with opportunities to work with pupils across the primary age range
- To provide a more efficient operating model one staffing and governance structure rather than two
- The option is in line with the Council's School Organisation Policy
- In the longer term, to provide access to 21st Century Schools funding in order to improve building condition and running costs.

9. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The advantages and disadvantages of the current proposal in respect of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School are summarised below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
 More flexibility for staff and opportunities for personal development Would enable staff expertise and good practice to be shared across the entire primary experience Parents would not have to re-apply for admission to junior phase from infant phase One governing body and one leadership team can be a more efficient model of governance Improved transition arrangements between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 Opportunities to access 21st Century Schools funding 	 Impact on staff as management of change process would need to take place leading to potential job losses Loss of individual school identity Potential reduction in outdoor space available in the event of a new building

10. RISKS

As with all school reorganisation proposals, there are some risks associated with the proposal to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School.

These are outlined below, along with suggested mitigating actions:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
Parents don't want their children to attend the new school, so move to them to alternative schools	Low	Low	Engagement with parents to take place throughout the process. Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, opportunities to be provided to parents to contribute to the process of establishing the new school.
Period of uncertainty for the two affected schools whilst the statutory process is being carried out and implemented may have a negative impact on standards at the two schools	Medium	Medium	Support to be provided during the transition period.
Uncertainty for staff during the transition period, may result in some staff leaving	Low	Low	Process to be concluded as quickly as possible in order to minimise the period of uncertainty for staff.
Changes resulting from new council initiatives e.g. ALN transformation	Medium	Medium	Support to be provided to the two schools during the transition period.

11. POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION TIMESCALE

Should Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, potential implementation timescales are as follows:

Formal Consultation	26 th September 2019 to 7 th November 2019
Consultation Report to be published, and considered by Full Council and Cabinet	January/February 2020
If Cabinet decide to proceed:	-1
Publish Statutory Notice (28 days objection period)	March/April 2020
Objection Report to be published and considered by Cabinet	May/June 2020
If Cabinet approves implementation:	
Establish temporary governing body	September 2020
Appoint headteacher	By end of 2020
Develop and appoint to a new staffing structure	Spring 2021
Current schools close	31 st August 2021
New school opens	1 st September 2021

PART C - LIKELY IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL

The Welsh Government's School Organisation Code outlines factors to be considered when developing school organisation proposals. Consideration is given below to the impact of the preferred option, to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, on the factors outlined in the Code.

12. IMPACT ON PUPILS

i) Pupils currently attending Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

As implementation of the proposal would see the continuation of Englishmedium primary in the centre of Newtown, on the current sites of the two schools, it is anticipated that there would be very little change to pupils currently attending the two schools.

It is anticipated that pupils would continue to be educated in their current building – pupils up to year 2 would be educated on the current site of Ladywell Green Infants School, whilst pupils from year 3 onwards would be educated on the current site of Hafren C.P. Junior School. However, there would be improved opportunities for pupils to access facilities on both sites as appropriate.

Implementation of the proposal would also provide improved opportunities for pupils in all key stages to benefit from staff specialisms throughout their time at the school, and to provide continuity in the support provided to vulnerable pupils throughout their time at the school. There would also be improved opportunities for more able and talented pupils.

It is also expected that implementation of the proposal would result in improved transition between the infant and junior education phases, which should have a positive impact on the pupil well-being, and on their educational performance.

As education would continue to be provided on the current sites, it is not anticipated that there would be any additional home to school transport required for any pupils. Transport would continue to be provided in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

ii) Pupils attending other schools

It is not anticipated that the proposal would impact on any pupils attending other schools.

13. IMPACT ON QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

i) Standards, wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

Standards of education and progress at both schools are currently good.

The Council would expect amalgamating the schools to further strengthen the current standards. It would enable pupil progression to be monitored throughout pupils' time in primary school, from age 4 to age 11, ensuring continuity in delivery and approach, and it is anticipated that this would have an overall positive impact on standards and progress overall.

This would also apply in respect of pupils belonging to specific groups, such as pupils eligible for Free School Meals, pupils for whom English is an Additional Language, Looked after Children and pupils with Additional Learning Needs. Amalgamating the two schools would ensure that their progress could be monitored, supported and tracked over a longer period of time, and throughout their time in primary school.

It is also anticipated that amalgamating the two schools would have a positive impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT, through improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources across the primary phase, and through improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

Wellbeing and attitudes to learning are currently strong in both schools, and amalgamating the two schools would provide an opportunity to strengthen this, by providing continuity in progression and approach throughout the primary phase. It is anticipated that this would have a positive impact, particularly with regard to pupils' emotional health.

ii) Teaching and learning experiences

Quality of teaching

Quality of teaching is currently good in both schools. It is anticipated that amalgamating the two schools would provide an opportunity to enhance this, by providing flexibility to share good practice and teaching experiences across the primary phase. For example, there would be enhanced opportunities to share Foundation Phase pedagogy with Key Stage 2 classes, which would enhance teaching approaches across the school, and vice versa.

Amalgamating the two schools would also ease transition from Year 2 to Year 3, which would have positive benefits for staff and pupils.

The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Amalgamating the two schools would provide the opportunity to further strengthen the curriculum offered, and would help to facilitate continuous progress across the primary phase. The school would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.

The provision of skills

The provision of skills is strong in both schools now, however, amalgamating the two schools would provide an opportunity to strengthen this. Progression would be smoother in terms of skills as there would be no need for transition to a new school in year 3.

iii) Care support and guidance

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

These elements are already strong in the two schools, however amalgamating the two schools would provide an opportunity to further develop this. It is anticipated that amalgamating the two schools would have a positive impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support as the school would know the child for longer, and would monitor their development from 4 years old to 11 years old. For those children that need additional support, this continuity of approach would be beneficial.

Personal development is strong at both schools, however amalgamating the two schools would provide an opportunity to strengthen this, as the new school would be working with each child for a longer period. Amalgamating the two schools would also provide the opportunity for the same approaches to be used across the primary phase.

The site currently occupied by the two schools is challenging in terms of safeguarding. The schools are located on an open site in the centre of town, which requires managing in terms of safeguarding. Amalgamating the two schools in their current accommodation would not impact on this – there would still be a requirement to manage the site to ensure that safeguarding arrangements are in place, however it is not anticipated that there would be a negative impact in terms of safeguarding.

In the longer term, the Council intends to invest in a new building to replace the current accommodation as part of Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme, which would improve the position with regard to safeguarding. The intention is that the new building would be part of a multi-agency wellbeing development, and safeguarding arrangements would be a key consideration when planning the site design, and when designing the new school building. The Council is confident that the safeguarding arrangements would be enhanced compared with the current accommodation.

iv) Leadership and management

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

Leadership is good at both schools. Amalgamating the two schools would provide an opportunity to further enhance this, and would increase the capacity for leadership, and sharing of good practice between the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2.

The new school would be a larger school, which would provide the opportunity for a non-teaching headteacher and would enable increased focus on leadership. Amalgamating the two schools would also provide enhanced opportunities to develop leadership across the school, and would provide enhanced leadership opportunities for staff.

Amalgamating the two schools would provide enhanced opportunities to develop self-evaluation processes across the primary phase, enabling processes to be extended across the school, enabling the school to see each pupil's full development across the primary age range.

In addition, there would be enhanced opportunities for improvement planning across the primary phase. Pupils would attend the new school for longer, therefore the school would be better informed about the pupils, which would enable more effective target setting and improvement planning.

Professional learning

Amalgamating the two schools would provide improved professional learning opportunities for staff through greater opportunities for cross phase working, opportunities to develop leaders more effectively and more opportunities to develop middle leaders. In addition, there would be improved opportunities to see the progression of learning across the primary age range and improved opportunities to apply the principles of the new curriculum.

Use of resources

Should the two schools amalgamate to create one new school, the school would be funded as one school, with one budget, and would be run by one headteacher, one leadership team, and one governing body. This would enable the school to operate more efficiently compared with the current arrangements, and should result in some efficiencies through shared staffing and sharing of other resources.

The proposal is to establish the new school in the accommodation currently occupied by the two schools. The building capacity would remain the same, and there would be no impact on surplus places. Whilst this means that there would be a need to maintain both buildings in the short term, there are longer term plans to provide a new building to replace the current accommodation, which would enable the school to operate even more efficiently, and would provide an opportunity to reduce surplus places.

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

Whilst the two schools currently deliver a full Foundation Phase or Key Stage 2 curriculum to pupils, amalgamating the schools would enable the provision of a full curriculum to pupils across the primary age range. This would enable the further enhancement of the current provision by enabling further development of the curriculum across the primary age range.

vi) Impact on other schools

It is not anticipated that implementation of this option would impact on any pupils currently attending other schools.

14. FINANCIAL IMPACT

i) Revenue funding

Based on the Council's current funding formula for schools, the funding that would be provided to Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School during 21/22 is as follows (based on **estimated** pupil numbers for both schools in September 2020):

Estimated funding for both schools 21/21	£1,025,302
Estimated funding for one school 20/21	£893,466
Estimated saving / (Cost)	£131,885

It is estimated that implementation of the proposal would result in annual revenue savings to the Council based on the 21/22 funding estimates of £131,885. This will be reviewed as pupil numbers change and any changes to the funding formula are known.

As the proposal is to establish a new school in the accommodation currently occupied by Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School, there would be no impact on transport costs, and there would be no capital costs.

If the proposal is implemented, the existing schools would only receive formula funding for the proportion of the financial year for which it is open, e.g. if a school closes on 31st August, it will only be resourced for the first 5 months of the financial year (5/12 of the formula allocation). When the school(s) close, any balance (surplus or deficit) will revert to the Council. This position will be managed in line with the scheme for the financing schools.

It is currently estimated that there would be a net deficit position of approximately £44,482 for both schools by September 2022, prior to any action being taken by the governing bodies. This figure is based on the 1st of May 2019 balance report to Cabinet.

The Council provides funding to support schools during transition to new governance models to support the additional work that is required when developing new staffing structures, curriculum planning, etc. Should the Council proceed with the proposal, the amount of transitional funding to be provided would be agreed with the temporary governing body.

ii) Capital funding

No capital funding would be required in order to implement the proposal. The new school would be located on the current sites of the two schools. The current accommodation can accommodate current and projected pupil numbers, therefore no capital expenditure would be required. Implementation of the proposal would not lead to any capital receipts.

There are longer term plans for a new building to replace the current accommodation as part of the Council's plans for Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme, which is linked to the aspiration to develop a Multi—Agency Well-being Campus as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme. This would improve the quality of accommodation for pupils in the longer term. This would require capital funding, however as the plans for a new building remain at a very early stage, the costs are currently unknown.

15. IMPACT ON STAFF

Should the proposal be implemented, Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School would close, and a new school would be opened with a new governing body. Following a final decision to proceed with the proposal, a temporary governing body would be appointed for an interim period, until the new school were to open. The temporary governing body would be made up of current members of the two governing bodies.

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.

Should the proposal be implemented, all cleaning and catering staff that are currently employed centrally by the Council would be supported by the relevant HR policies for Council employees.

16. LAND AND BUILDINGS

i) Impact on quality of accommodation for pupils

As the proposal is to establish a new school in the current accommodation of the two schools, there would be no impact on the quality of accommodation for pupils.

There are longer term plans for a new building to replace the current accommodation as part of the Council's plans for Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme, which is linked to the aspiration to develop a Multi—Agency Well-being Campus as part of the North Powys Well-being Programme. This would improve the quality of accommodation for pupils in the longer term.

ii) Impact on buildings

Should the proposal be implemented, the new school would be located on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School. There would be no requirement for transfer or disposal of land.

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

All current pupils can be accommodated within the current accommodation. No building work would be necessary to be able to proceed with the proposal.

17. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

i) Impact on pupils' journeys to school

The proposal is to establish a new school on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren Junior School, therefore there would be no change in terms of journey times.

ii) Impact on school transport costs

Should the proposal be implemented, home to school transport arrangements would continue to be in accordance with the Council's Home

to School Transport Policy and the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The Council's current Home to School Transport Policy is available on-line at https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/3879/Apply-for-school-transport.

Should the proposal be implemented, primary provision would continue to be provided at the same location. No additional home to school transport would be required, therefore there would be no impact on school transport costs.

iii) Walking routes to school

Should the proposal be implemented, walking routes to the new school would be the same as the current walking routes to Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School.

18. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Admissions for the two current schools are administered by the Council. Should the proposal be implemented, admissions for the new school would continue to be administered by the Council in accordance with the Council's Admissions Policy, which is available on-line at: https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place.

Should the proposal be implemented, pupils currently attending the schools would be allocated places in the new primary school. New pupils wishing to attend the school would need to apply for a place in accordance with the Council's admissions arrangements.

19. IMPACT ON GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Implementation of the proposal would result in the establishment of a new primary school for pupils aged 4-11 on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School. A single governing body would be responsible for the school, which would replace the two existing governing bodies. A new Instrument of Government would be developed in accordance with The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005. This is likely to include the following number of governors:

Category of governor	Number
Parent Governor	4 or 5
LEA Governor	3 or 4
Teacher Governor	1 or 2
Staff Governor	1
Community Governors	3 or 4
Headteacher	1

Should the proposal to establish a new primary school be approved by the Council's Cabinet, a temporary governing body would initially be established to oversee the strategic and operational transition to the new school. The composition of the temporary governing body would be as per the table above.

The temporary governing body would be appointed from the current members of the two governing bodies. The temporary governing body would be responsible for appointing a Headteacher for the new school, and for developing a new staffing structure for the school in conjunction with the Headteacher.

A permanent governing body would be established upon the formal opening of the new school, based on the Instrument of Government outlined above.

The Welsh Government consulted on new regulations for the composition of governing bodies during 2017. Should any new regulations come into effect in the future, it is likely that changes would be required to the composition of the governing body.

20. WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP)

The proposal is to amalgamate two English-medium schools in order to establish one new English-medium primary school. The proposal is not linked to the targets in the Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

The proposal would not expand or reduce the availability of Welsh language provision.

21. IMPACT ON EARLY YEARS PROVISION

Implementation of the proposal would result in the establishment of a new primary school for pupils aged 4-11 on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School.

Early years provision is currently available on the Ladywell Green site. This is delivered by a private provider. The current proposal to amalgamate Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School would not affect this provision, which would continue as per the existing contract in the same accommodation.

22. EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Draft impact assessments have been carried out in respect of the proposal. These will be updated following the consultation period to reflect any additional issues raised. The full assessments are available on the Council's website: https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7476/Ladywell-Green-Infants-School-and-Hafren-Junior-School

A summary of the assessments are provided below:

i) Equalities Impact Assessment

The proposal would impact on a number of pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that currently attend Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School. In particular, the % of pupils eligible for free school meals at both schools is higher than the Powys average, and the % of pupils with ALN attending the two schools is relatively high – the % of pupils with ALN attending Hafren C.P. Junior School is higher than the Powys average. In addition, there are a proportion of pupils belonging to ethnic groups other than White British at both schools, as well as a proportion of EAL pupils and a small number of Looked after Children.

The proposal would retain primary provision on the current site, and the aim is to improve the educational opportunities offered to pupils currently attending the two schools, including any pupils that belong to the protected characteristic groups.

ii) Impact on the Community

As the proposal would see the retention of primary provision in the buildings currently occupied by Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School, it is not anticipated that the proposal would have a significant impact on the community.

PART D - CONSULTATION DETAILS

23. WHO WILL WE CONSULT WITH?

The Council will consult with a range of stakeholders as required by the School Organisation Code (2018), which include the following:

- Parents, governors and staff of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
- Pupils at Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
- The Church in Wales and Roman Catholic Diocesan Authorities
- The Welsh Minister for Education
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- 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
- Nursery providers in the local area
- The Powys Children and Young People's Partnership

Consultation with pupils will take place in accordance with the children and young people's participation standards for Wales⁷.

24. THE CONSULTATION PERIOD

The consultation period will commence on the 26th September 2019 and will end on the 7th November 2019.

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

Hafren C.P. Junior School, 14th October 2019, 3:00 – 6:00pm Ladywell Green Infants School, 16th October 2019, 3:00 – 6:00pm

25. THE STATUTORY PROCESS

Consultation on this proposal will follow the guidelines set out by the Welsh Government in the revised School Organisation Code which became operational on the 1st November 2018. The process is summarised below:

⁷ https://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/children-and-young-people/rights/ParticipationforChildrenandYoungPeople/?lang=en

i) Consultation

Consultation will start on the 26th September 2019 and will end on the 7th November 2019. Once the consultation period has ended, a consultation report will be published, which will outline the feedback received. The consultation report will list all issues raised during the consultation period, and will also provide the Council's response to these issues.

As part of the Council's approach to 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 proposal, to make changes to the proposal, or to not proceed with the proposal. If the Cabinet decides not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal.

It is anticipated that the Consultation Report will be considered by Full Council and the Cabinet in Spring 2020.

ii) Statutory Notice

If the Cabinet decides to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice 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.

The objection report would be considered by the Council's Cabinet, who would decide whether or not to approve the proposal.

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.

26. 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://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7476/Ladywell-Green-Infants-School-and-Hafren-Junior-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 **7**th **November 2019**.

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) 826618.

27. HOW WE WILL USE YOUR DATA

The Council is committed to keeping your personal information safe and secure and keeping you informed about how we use your information.

To learn about how the Council protects your personal information, please see the Council's privacy notice, which is available via the following link: https://en.powys.gov.uk/privacy.

For information on how the School Transformation Team protects and uses personal information collected during consultation processes, please see the School Transformation privacy notice, which is available via the following link: https://en.powys.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation

APPENDIX A - KEY DATA

Key data about Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School is provided below:

General information

School Name	School Category	Language Category	Admission Number	Capacity
Ladywell Green Infants School	Community Primary (Infant) School building owned by Powys County Council.	English	48	150
Hafren C.P. Junior School	Community Primary (Junior) School building owned by Powys County Council.	English	52	210

Pupil numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁸

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Ladywell Green Infants School	26	39	29	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	94
Hafren C.P. Junior School	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	34	37	46	145
Total	26	39	29	28	34	37	46	239

ii) Historical pupil numbers9

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019
Ladywell Green Infants School	154	138	127	113	96	96
Hafren C.P. Junior School	148	142	158	157	160	169
TOTAL	302	280	285	270	256	265

⁸ Teacher Centre, 4th September 2019

32

⁹ PLASC

iii) Projected pupil numbers

	January 2020	January 2021	January 2022	January 2023	January 2024
Ladywell Green Infants School	106	106	107	106	108
Hafren C.P. Junior School	147	131	129	130	128
TOTAL	253	237	236	236	236

Building Capacity and Condition

The following table provides information about the capacity and condition of the two schools¹⁰:

	Capacity	Condition	Suitability
Ladywell Green Infants School	150	C/D	В
Hafren C.P. Junior School	210	С	В

Quality and standards of education

i) Estyn

The following tables summarise the last Estyn inspections of the two schools. The Estyn inspection framework changed in September 2017. Whilst Ladywell Green Infants School were inspected under the current inspection framework in June 2019, Hafren C.P. Junior School's last inspection was under the previous inspection framework. The findings for each school reflect the inspection framework which was in use at the time of the inspection.

¹⁰ Building condition categories are defined as follows:

Category A	Good
Category B	Satisfactory
Category C	Poor
Category D	Bad

	Hafren C.P. Junior School
Date of Inspection	December 2015
School's Current Performance	Adequate
Prospects for Improvement	Adequate
Follow Up Activity	Estyn Monitoring
	Estyn Monitoring visit March 2017 – the school was judged to have made good progress, and was removed from the list of schools requiring Estyn monitoring

	Ladywell Green Infants School
Date of Inspection	June 2019
Standards	Good
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Follow up activity	The school will prepare an action plan to address the recommendations.

ii) School Categorisation

The latest categorisations of the two schools in accordance with the National School Categorisation System¹¹ for 2018 are as follows:

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Ladywell Green Infants School	N/A	А	Green
Hafren C.P. Junior School	N/A	А	Green

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¹¹ As determined by the National School Categorisation System. Further information is available at: https://gov.wales/school-categorisation-system

Budgetary position¹²

	2018/19 Actual Cumulative Outturn	2019/20 Budget	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Ladywell Green Infants School	£63,925	£16,669	(£18,648)	(£73,828)
Hafren C.P. Junior School	£48,896	£73,718	£23,045	(£39,087)

Equalities information¹³

i) Ethnic Group

(Pupils aged 5 or over according to PLASC)

	% White British	% Other known ethnicity	% Not obtained / refused	Total pupils
Ladywell Green Infants School	88.5%	11.5%	0%	96
Hafren C.P. Junior School	91.1%	7.7%	1.2%	168

ii) English as an Additional Language

	% EAL pupils
Ladywell Green Infants School	7.3%
Hafren C.P. Junior School	4.2%

iii) Free School Meals

	% of pupils eligible for FSM
Ladywell Green Infants School	27.4%
Hafren C.P. Junior School	22.0%

¹² As of 1st May submittal by full governing body

35

¹³ PLASC January 2019

iv) Pupils in care

	% of pupils in care
Ladywell Green Infants School	3.1%
Hafren C.P. Junior School	0.6%

v) Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

	% SEN (All Stages)
Ladywell Green Infants School	16.7%
Hafren C.P. Junior School	26.2%

APPENDIX B - RESPONSE FORM

LADYWELL GREEN INFANTS SCHOOL AND HAFREN C.P. JUNIOR SCHOOL

Powys County Council is consulting on the following proposals relating to Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School:

- To close Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School
- To establish a new English-medium primary school for pupils aged 4-11 on the current sites of Ladywell Green Infants School and Hafren C.P. Junior School

The current target date is to close the two schools on the 31st August 2021, with the new school opening on the 1st September 2021.

A consultation document which provides more information about the proposals is available on the Council's website at https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/7476/Ladywell-Green-Infants-School-and-Hafren-Junior-School.

This consultation response form gives you the opportunity to let us know your view on the Council's proposal. 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 **7**th **November 2019.** All responses must be received by this date.

The Council is committed to keeping your personal information safe and secure and keeping you informed about how we use your information. To learn about how we protect and use your personal information, please see the Council's privacy notice which is available here: https://en.powys.gov.uk/privacy and the School Transformation privacy notice which is available here: https://en.powys.gov.uk/schoolmodernisation.

Part 1 - About You

Please indicate how you are ass	sociated with	n the schools affected by this	s consultation:
Parent, carer or guardian		Member of staff	
Prospective parent, carer or guardian		Member of the community	
Governor		No association	
Other (Please specify)			
2. Please specify which school you	ı are associ	ated with:	
Ladywell Green Hafren G Infants School School	C.P. Junior	No associat either school	
Please provide your postcode			

Part 2 – Consultation Response

Please indicate your responses to the questions below.

Yes	No		Don't know	
Please provide any ad	ditional comr	ments:		
	·			

Yes	No	Don't know	
Please provide any ad the Council should be	ditional comments, include considering:	ding a description of the	option(s) yo
comments			
	ner comments in the spac	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
Please provide any oth	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	
	ner comments in the space	ce below:	

	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:							
D. 10		41		N				
Part 3	– Equali	ties Inform	ation (O	ptional)				
reques					he community in our c able us to identify whe			
		•	•		ke all responses into der or not this information			
8.	Can you understand, speak or write Welsh?							
	Yes		No		Don't want to say			
9.	If you ha	ave school-a	iged chil	dren, are they	entitled to receive fre	e school meals'	?	
	Yes		No		Don't want to say			
10.	If you ha	ave school-a	iged chil	dren, do they	have any additional le	arning needs?		
	Yes		No		Don't want to say			
11.	Do you	consider you	urself to l	be disabled?				
	Yes		No		Don't want to say			
12.	What is	your ethnic	group?					
	White			Mixe	d or multiple ethnic gro	oups		
	Asian or British Asian		ın	Black, African, Caribbean or Black British				
	Any other ethnic group			Don't want to say				
Tha	ank you fo	or completin	g this qu	estionnaire. C	Completed questionnai	ires should be s	ent to the	

At the end of the Consultation Period, the Council will publish a Consultation Report,

7.

School Transformation Team, Powys County Council, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG or by e-mail: school.consultation@powys.gov.uk

following address, to arrive no later than the 7th November 2019: