

Transforming Education in Powys

Options Appraisal

Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, Llanfechain Church in Wales School and Llansantffraid Church in Wales School

Version Control:

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	4
Part A – The Case for Change		6
2.	Strategic Context	6
2.1	Policy context	6
2.2	Why change is needed in Powys	6
3.	Why Change is needed in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain	9
3.1	The Current Situation	9
3.2	Why Change is needed in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain	19
Part B – Options for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School		23
4.	Available options	23
5.	SWOT Analysis of each option	25
6.	Impact of each option	41
7.	Critical Success Factors	53
8.	Emerging preferred option	54
Part C – Llansantffraid C. in W. School		56
9.	The current situation at Llansantffraid C. in W. School	56
Part D – Implementation Options		62
10.	Available implementation options	62
11.	SWOT analysis of each implementation option	62
12.	Impact of each implementation option	66
13.	Critical Success Factors	70
14.	Emerging preferred option	70
15.	Conclusion	71

Part E – Further Consideration of Preferred Option	73
16. Quality and standards in education	73
17. Need for places and impact on accessibility of schools	77
18. Resourcing of education and other financial implications	80
19. Other general factors	83
20. Specific factors in the consideration of school closures	84
21. Conclusion and next steps	85

1. INTRODUCTION

On the 29th September 2020, the Council's Cabinet considered a Programme Business Case (PBC) in respect of primary provision in the Llanfyllin catchment.

The PBC considered by Cabinet identified a preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment, which is as follows:

- A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4 – 18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the current poor condition buildings of Ysgol Llanfyllin – to be built on the current Ysgol Llanfyllin site.
- To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School – this could also potentially include neighbouring schools in the Welshpool catchment as well. Site to be confirmed.
- To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing both Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
- To provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School.
- Possible closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

At the Cabinet meeting on the 29th September, Cabinet approved the submission of the PBC for the Llanfyllin catchment to Welsh Government, and also approved that officers bring back a further report to Cabinet outlining the implementation steps, including consultation, required to achieve the new facilities.

The purpose of this paper is to consider options for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Current pupil numbers¹ at the two schools are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22
Llanfechain C. in W. School	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43
Total	9	4	17	10	5	10	10	65

¹ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

An earlier version of this options appraisal was shared with the Diocese of St Asaph as part of 'pre-consultation' on proposals for the two schools during November / December 2020.

A response was received from the Diocese which raised a number of concerns about the emerging preferred option and, in particular, on access to Church in Wales school places. The options appraisal was updated to take account of this feedback, and a second 'pre-consultation' was carried out with the Diocese of St Asaph on an amended preferred option during February / March 2021. This amended preferred option included the temporary retention of the Llanfechain site until a planned extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School was complete.

A further response was then received from the Diocese on the amended preferred option, which raised concern that some pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School may need to move schools twice in order to continue to access Church in Wales provision, and suggested that both schools could remain open until the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School is complete.

As a result, the options appraisal has been amended again to take account of the response received from the Diocese of St Asaph. In particular, the Council's consideration of implementation options in Section D of this document has been amended, which has led to identifying a different preferred implementation option.

PART A – THE CASE FOR CHANGE

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

Following the inspection of Powys Education Services carried out by Estyn in the summer of 2019, the Council carried out a strategic review of schools during 2019-20, which led to the development of a new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys. The strategy, which was developed following engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, was approved in April 2020.

The strategy sets out a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles which will underpin the Council's work to transform the Powys education system over the coming years. The Vision Statement is as follows:

All children and young people in Powys will experience a high-quality, inspiring education to help develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will enable them to become healthy, personally fulfilled, economically productive, socially responsible and globally engaged citizens of 21st century Wales.

In addition, the strategy outlines a number of aims and objectives, which include an objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision' in order to improve overall learner entitlement and experience in Powys.

To take forward this objective, the Council is reviewing the smallest schools in Powys, with the aim of identifying solutions for these schools which will meet the objective to 'Reconfigure and rationalise primary provision', in order to ensure that education in Powys is delivered through an affordable, resilient infrastructure which provides the best possible opportunities to learners, now and in the future.

2.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN POWYS

Powys is a large, rural authority. Covering a quarter of the landmass of Wales, it contains only 4.2% of the population, making it the most sparsely populated county in Wales. Delivering services across such a large, sparsely populated area is challenging and expensive.

Whilst there has been some reorganisation activity in Powys over recent years, the county's schools' infrastructure largely remains similar to that which was in place 20 years ago.

The Council's new Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys outlines a number of challenges facing education in Powys, which were identified following engagement with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2019 and spring term 2020.

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing the Council:

i) High proportion of small schools

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there were 33 small primary schools in Powys – this is approximately 40% of the primary provision in the county. 21 schools had fewer than 50 pupils, and for those schools the budget share per pupil is generally higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

ii) Decreasing pupil numbers

Pupil numbers have decreased over the past decade, and are expected to decrease further over the next five years. Pupil numbers in the primary sector in Powys are expected to decrease by approximately 4% by 2025.

iii) High number of surplus places

Based on PLASC 2019 figures, there was 18% surplus capacity in Powys primary schools. With pupil numbers across Powys projected to decrease overall over the coming years, the proportion of surplus places across the county will continue to increase.

iv) Building condition

Whilst the Council has invested in its school's estate through the 21st Century Schools Programme and the Asset Management Plan, building condition remains an issue across Powys, with associated maintenance costs.

v) Financial pressures

The Council is currently facing significant financial pressures in general. This is affecting all service areas, including the schools' sector. There are significant variations in the budget share per pupil across Powys schools, ranging from £3,276 to £11,912 in the primary sector.

vi) Inequality in access to Welsh-medium education

In contrast to other areas of Wales, there has been no growth in Welsh-medium pupil numbers in Powys over recent years. Significant changes are needed to the Welsh-medium offer in Powys to reverse the trend of the

last few years and ensure that all Powys learners can access comprehensive Welsh-medium provision throughout their educational careers.

vii) Limited post-14 and post-16 offer

In September 2019, the Council's Cabinet considered a report on post-16 provision, which outlined a number of challenges facing the sector, including decreasing learner numbers, financial challenges and sustainability of the curriculum offer, including Welsh-medium provision.

viii) Inequality in access to SEN provision

Within Powys, pupils with special education needs (SEN) attend a range of settings, including special schools, specialist centres, the pupil referral unit (PRU) as well as mainstream schools.

Currently, not all pupils are educated in the setting that meets their needs best, and depending on where pupils live, they have access to a different quality and type of provision.

ix) Historical lack of political decision making

Although there have been some developments in terms of the schools' infrastructure over recent years, the Council's failure to implement a number of high-profile proposals in the last few years has left a legacy in Powys, and there has been a reluctance to embark on large scale reorganisation of education provision since then.

3. WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN LLANGEDWYN & LLANFECHAIN

3.1 THE CURRENT SITUATION

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are located in the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys. Since October 2018 the two schools have operated as part of a federation, Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon, meaning that they operate under one governing body and one headteacher.

The following primary schools are located within approximately 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School:

School	Distance from Llangedwyn C. in W. School by road (miles)	Distance from Llanfechain C. in W. School by road (miles)
Ysgol Llanfyllin	4.8 miles	3.5 miles
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4.5 miles	2.3 miles
Ysgol Meifod	9.5 miles	6.2 miles
Ysgol Pontrobert	10.4 miles	8.4 miles
Ysgol Pennant	6.5 miles	8.1 miles
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3.6 miles	7.0 miles
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	N/A	4.4 miles
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	3.7 miles	6.7 miles
Trefonen CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	6.0 miles	7.5 miles
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.0 miles	6.6 miles
Ardleen C.P. School	9.1 miles	6.9 miles
Carreghofa C.P. School	7.8 miles	5.6 miles
Guilsfield C.P. School	12.0 miles	8.7 miles

Llandysilio C. in W. School	8.2 miles	6.0 miles
Llanfechain C. in W. School	4.4 miles	N/A
Ysgol Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog (Wrexham)	8.4 miles	12.7 miles
Woodside Primary School (Shropshire)	8.7 miles	12.0 miles
Selattyn CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.9 miles	12.1 miles

The following is a summary of key data relating to Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. Schools

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ²	Rural School? ³
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled Primary Church in Wales School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	6	Yes
Llanfechain C. in W. School	Voluntary Controlled Church in Wales School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English-medium	6	Yes

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers⁴

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22

² Powys County Council 'Admissions Information and Arrangements 2021-22'

³ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>)

includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

⁴ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

Llanfechain C. in W. School	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43
Total	9	4	17	10	5	10	10	65

ii) **Historical pupil numbers⁵**

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	32	30	31	26	28	31	18
Llanfechain C. in W. School	30	35	40	44	39	39	44
Total	62	65	71	70	67	70	62

iii) **Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)⁶**

	Jan. 2021⁷	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	20	17	18	21	21
Llanfechain C. in W. School	43	48	53	50	45
Total	63	65	71	71	66

iv) **Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)⁸**

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	22	20	20	N/A	N/A
Llanfechain C. in W. School	43	44	43	N/A	N/A

⁵ PLASC 2020

⁶ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates, R-Yr6

⁷ These are the projected figures based on PLASC 2020 information, therefore include a projection for January 2021. PLASC 2021 information and projected pupil numbers based on PLASC 2021 are not yet available.

⁸ Powys Finance Projections – January 2021

Total	65	64	63	N/A	N/A
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Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

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

	Current Capacity⁹	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	47	22 (47%)	25 (53%)
Llanfechain C. in W. School	47	43 (91%)	4 (9%)

ii) Building condition¹⁰

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of both schools.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site	Estimated backlog maintenance
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	B Good	B Good	No	£84,291
Llanfechain C. in W. School	C Poor	B Good	Yes	£431,250

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Llangedwyn C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	January 2020

⁹ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

¹⁰ Premises Data Return to Welsh Government – 2020

Standards	Adequate and needs improvement
Wellbeing and attitudes to learning	Good
Teaching and learning experiences	Adequate and needs improvement
Care, support and guidance	Good
Leadership and management	Adequate and needs improvement
Follow up activity	School will draw up an action plan and Estyn will review the school's progress.

	Llanfechain C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	April 2015
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Adequate
Learning experiences	Good
Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning environment	Good
Leadership	Adequate
Improving quality	Adequate
Partnership working	Good
Resource management	Adequate
Follow Up	School to draw up action plan. Estyn to monitor progress.

ii) **School Categorisation¹¹**

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	N/A	B	Yellow
Llanfechain C. in W. School	N/A	B	Yellow

Financial information

i) **Cost per pupil¹² (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)**

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	£191,000	£11,912	£21,000	£7,000
Llanfechain C. in W. School	£239,000	£5,427	£15,000	£3,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

Home to school travel

i) **Current pupil travel patterns**

Llangedwyn C. in W. School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 18 pupils that were attending Llangedwyn in January 2020. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School
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¹¹ 2019. Categorisations were not carried out in 2020 due to Covid-19.

¹² Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/21

Llangedwyn C. in W. School	7
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochant C.P. School	4
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	3
Ysgol Llanfyllin	2
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	1

Based on this information, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the closest school for 7 (39%) of the current pupils.

If there was no school in Llangedwyn, the closest school for all of the current pupils would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llangedwyn
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	7
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant C.P. School	5
Llanfechain C. in W. School	2
Ysgol Llanfyllin	2
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1

Llanfechain C. in W. School

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 44 pupils that were attending Llanfechain in January 2020. The closest provider for all of these pupils is as follows:

	Pupils attending Llanfechain C. in W. School
Llanfechain C. in W. School	17

Ysgol Llanfyllin	11
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	4
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Ysgol Meifod	2
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Guilsfield C.P. School	1
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	1
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	1

Based on this information, Llanfechain C. in W. School is the closest school for 17 (39%) of the current pupils.

If there was no school in Llanfechain, the closest school for all of the current pupils would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llanfechain C.I.W
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	17
Ysgol Llanfyllin	15
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4
Ysgol Meifod	2
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	1
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	1
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	1
Guilsfield C.P. School	1

Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School

If there was no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn, the closest school for all of the current pupils currently attending the two schools would be as follows:

	Pupils' closest school should there be no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn
Ysgol Llanfyllin	20
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	19
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	8
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant C.P. School	6
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	2
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2
Ysgol Meifod	2
Guilsfield C.P. School	1
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	1
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Shropshire)	1

ii) Average travel distance

Llangedwyn C. in W. School

The current average travel distance for pupils attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2020 is 3.8 miles.

If there was no school in Llangedwyn, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2020 to attend their nearest alternative provision would be 2 miles.

Llanfechain C. in W. School

The current average travel distance for pupils attending Llanfechain C. in W. School in January 2020 is 3.2 miles.

If there was no school in Llanfechain, the average travel distance for all pupils attending the school in January 2020 to attend their nearest alternative provision would be 2.0 miles.

Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School

The current average travel distance for all pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School is 3.44 miles.

If there was no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn, the average travel distance for all current pupils to attend their nearest alternative provision would be 2.02 miles.

iii) Furthest travel distance

Llangedwyn C. in W. School

Of the pupils that currently attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School, the furthest travel distance to school for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is the closest provider is 1.7 miles.

If there was no school in Llangedwyn, the furthest travel distance to school for pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school would be 3.5 miles.

Llanfechain C. in W. School

Of the pupils that currently attend Llanfechain C. in W. School, the furthest travel distance to school for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is the closest provider is 1.4 miles.

If there was no school in Llanfechain, the furthest travel distance to school for pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school would be 3.1 miles.

Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llangedwyn C. in W. School

If there was no school in Llanfechain or Llangedwyn, the furthest travel distance to school to pupils' nearest school would be 4.0 miles.

Equalities Information

i) Free School Meals¹³

	% of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	22.2%

¹³ PLASC 2020

Llanfechain C. in W. School	20.5%
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ii) Pupils in care¹⁴

	% of pupils in care
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	5.6%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0%

iii) SEN/ALN¹⁵

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	11.1%	5.6%	0%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0%	11.4%	0%

Early Years

School run setting on both the school sites.

3.2 WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED IN LLANGEDWYN AND LLANFECHAIN

3.2.1 LLANGEDWYN C. IN W. SCHOOL

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llangedwyn C. in W. School:

i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers¹⁶ at Llangedwyn C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	3	1	7	3	0	3	5	22

¹⁴ Teacher Centre June 2020.

¹⁵ PLASC 2020

¹⁶ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with fewer than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

The school’s low pupil numbers have also resulted in a high number of surplus places at the school. Based on current pupil numbers, there is currently 53% surplus capacity at the school.

ii) High budget per pupil

Based on the Council’s Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school’s budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £11,912. This is significantly higher than the Powys average of £4,264. Llangedwyn is ranked the highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.¹⁷

iii) Issues with the building

Despite the findings of the Welsh Government’s condition survey carried out in 2009, which found that the condition of the building was ‘B – Good’ and its suitability was ‘B – Good’, there are still concerns about the school’s condition and suitability, in particular its suitability to deliver the new curriculum.

The school was built at the end of the 19th Century and the design and configuration reflects the nature of school buildings at that time. There is limited access for seamless outdoor learning, which is a particular issue in respect of the foundation phase curriculum, as well as no access to a hall on site. In addition, there is poor office and staffroom provision. The backlog maintenance cost is estimated to be approximately £84k.

The current accommodation at Llangedwyn constrains the school’s ability to fully meet the requirements of the new curriculum, and does not meet the Council’s vision statement for education, as outlined in the Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys.

iv) Leadership arrangements

Current leadership arrangements at the school are temporary, with an acting headteacher working across Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

Whilst the school’s recent Estyn inspection notes that ‘The acting headteacher has managed a period of significant change competently...’, the report also identified concerns regarding leadership arrangements, and includes a recommendation to ‘Put in place clear arrangements to cover leadership in the absence of the headteacher.’

¹⁷ Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

The inspection report also includes a recommendation in respect of the governing body, which is to ‘Ensure that the governing body hold the school to account for standards and progress of pupils.’

v) Need to improve quality of provision

Whilst Estyn’s inspection of Llangedwyn C. in W. School in January 2020 identified a number of positives in respect of the school’s provision, a number of areas were identified which require improvement. In particular, Estyn’s overall judgement on Standards was ‘Adequate and needs improvement’, and the inspection report includes recommendations to ‘improve standards of reading in the foundation phase’ and to ‘improve provision to develop pupils’ information and communication technology (ICT) skills’.

vi) High proportion of pupils are from other catchment areas

Of the 18 pupils attending the school in January 2020, Llangedwyn C. in W. School is only the closest school for 7 of them. This means that 61% of pupils attending the school do not live in the school’s natural catchment area.

3.2.2 LLANFECHAIN C. IN W. SCHOOL

The following is a summary of the main challenges facing Llanfechain C. in W. School:

i) Low pupil numbers

Current pupil numbers¹⁸ at Llanfechain C. in W. School are as follows:

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Llanfechain C. in W. School	6	3	10	7	5	7	5	43

The Welsh Government defines a ‘small school’ as a school with less than 91 pupils. Pupil numbers are significantly lower than this, and are projected to remain fairly stable over the coming years.

ii) High budget per pupil

Based on the Council’s Section 52 Budget Statement for 2020-21, the school’s budget share per pupil during 2020-21 was £5,427. This is significantly higher than

¹⁸ Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

the Powys average of £4,264. Llanfechain is ranked the 15th highest school in Powys by budget share per pupil.¹⁹

iii) Building condition and suitability

The Welsh Government's survey of school buildings carried out in 2009 identified issues with the building condition of the Llanfechain building, with the building being assessed to be condition C – Poor. The school is a mid-20th century school and estimated backlog maintenance costs are approximately £431k.

iv) Leadership

Current leadership arrangements at the school are temporary, with an acting headteacher working across Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

¹⁹ Section 52 Budget Statement 2020/2021

PART B – OPTIONS FOR LLANGEDWYN C. IN W. SCHOOL AND LLANFECHAIN C. IN W. SCHOOL

4. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The following options have been identified which could potentially provide a solution.

Option	Description
1	Status quo – continue with the current federation between Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School
2	Expand federation – expand the current federation to include Llansantffraid Church in Wales School
<u>3 – Two sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</u>	
3a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on two sites
3b	Close Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain Church in Wales School
3c	Close Llanfechain Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llangedwyn Church in Wales School
<u>4 – One sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School</u>	
4a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on the Llangedwyn site
4b	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on the Llanfechain site
<u>5 – Three sited school option – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</u>	
5	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on three sites

6 – Two sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School

6a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.
6b	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn.
6c	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.

7 – One sited school options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School

7a	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llangedwyn.
7b	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llanfechain.
7c	Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid.

8 – Closure options

8a	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
8b	Close Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools
8c	Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

SWOT analyses for each of the four options are provided below.

Option 1: Status quo – continue with the current federation between Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - No requirement for a reorganisation process - No change for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at both schools would continue to be low - Pupils at the two schools would still be taught separately - Would still be running two buildings - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not lead to a financial saving - Would not address issues with the building condition - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not address the high budget per pupil - Would not improve quality of provision
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration between the two schools to provide increased opportunities for pupils - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunities to address leadership arrangements by utilising staff over both sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site

Option 2: Expand federation – expand the current federation to include Llansantffraid Church in Wales School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional home to school transport costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain would continue to be low - Pupils at the three schools would still be taught separately

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would still be required to maintain the three buildings - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with building condition - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not address the high budget per pupil - Possible additional transport costs to enable pupils to take part in joint activities during the school day - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school - May not be attractive / acceptable to Llansantffraid C in W. School - Would need to restructure leadership across all of the schools. Currently permanent leadership in Llansantffraid and acting headship arrangement across Llangedwyn and Llanfechain. - Possible impact on staff at all three schools
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site - The three schools have worked together in the past with a shared headship – they may not want to enter this arrangement again. - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.

Option 3a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on two sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in both locations - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Pupils at both schools would continue to attend school at the location they currently attend - There would be no additional transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - The two schools already work together as part of a federation, with one federated governing body responsible for both schools. Merging the two schools would be a natural next step. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on both sites - Pupils would still be taught separately - Would still be running two buildings - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn school building - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not address the high budget per pupil - Possible additional transport costs to enable pupils to take part in joint activities during the school day - Would affect staff at both schools
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site

Option 3b: Close Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain Church in Wales School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in both locations - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on both sites - Pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the two buildings - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with building condition

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The two schools already work together as part of a federation, with one federated governing body responsible for both schools. Merging the two schools would be a natural next step. - Llanfechain is the larger of the two schools therefore may be more acceptable to retain the Llanfechain school name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Llangedwyn School would lose its own identity - May not be attractive to the Llangedwyn community - Possible greater impact on Llangedwyn staff - Need to address the issues around leadership
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum

Option 3c: Close Llanfechain Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llangedwyn Church in Wales School

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in both locations - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - There would be no additional transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - The two schools already work together as part of a federation, with one federated governing body responsible for both schools. Merging the two schools would be a natural next step. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain on both sites - Pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain the two buildings - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not reduce surplus places - Would not address issues with building condition - Llanfechain School would lose its own identity - May not be attractive to the Llanfechain community - Possible greater impact on Llanfechain staff - Need to address the issues around leadership - Llangedwyn is the smaller of the two schools therefore it may be less acceptable to retain the Llangedwyn school name

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum

Option 4a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llangedwyn site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Would ensure a larger number of pupils in Llangedwyn - Pupils would all be taught in one location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Llangedwyn is not the nearest alternative school for most current Llanfechain pupils - More inconvenient for a higher number of pupils - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School would have to transfer to a new location - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain would be expected to transfer to a building with inferior facilities - Would not address the issues with the Llangedwyn building - No access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Loss of provision from Llanfechain - Impact on the Llanfechain community - Would impact on staff at both Llangedwyn and Llanfechain - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Unlikely that the Llangedwyn building would be suitable to provide opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum
Opportunities	Threats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unlikely that the Llangedwyn building would be able to accommodate the additional pupils. - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain would be expected to transfer to a building with inferior facilities
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Option 4b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llanfechain site

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More opportunities could be provided to the pupils - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - Would reduce surplus places - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Would ensure a larger number of pupils in Llanfechain - Pupils would all be taught in one location - Would address the issues with the Llangedwyn school building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Additional transport costs - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School would have to transfer to a new location - Loss of provision from Llangedwyn - Impact on the Llangedwyn community - Would impact on Llanfechain staff as well as Llangedwyn staff - Potential reduction in staffing requirements - Current capacity of Llanfechain school would not accommodate all Llangedwyn pupils - Llanfechain is not the nearest school for most current Llangedwyn pupils
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunity to reorganise teaching provision within Llanfechain to increase school capacity - Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would need to review the capacity of the current Llanfechain C. in W. School – additional capacity may be required

Option 5: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on three sites

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain - Pupils at all three schools would continue to attend school on their current site - More opportunities could be provided to pupils at all current schools - There would be no additional home to school transport costs - Could provide a financial saving to the Council - All staff would have the opportunity to apply for positions at the new school - Improved opportunities for staff from working in a larger school - Would continue to provide access to Church in Wales provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small numbers would remain at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain - Llangedwyn and Llanfechain pupils would still be taught separately - Would still need to maintain three buildings - Would not address building condition issues - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not reduce surplus places - All schools would lose their identities - Possible additional transport costs during the school day to enable pupils to access joint activities - Would impact on staff at all three current schools - Possible reduction in job opportunities - The new school would have two very small sites - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school - May not be attractive / acceptable to Llansantffraid C in W. School - Need to restructure leadership across all of the schools. Currently permanent leadership in Llansantffraid and acting headship arrangement across Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities for further collaboration across the sites - More opportunities for networking and sharing good practice between staff - Opportunities to address leadership issues identified by Estyn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of the new curriculum – would be difficult to provide educational opportunities which meet the requirements of the new curriculum on the Llangedwyn site - The three schools have worked together in the past with a shared headship – they may not want to enter this arrangement again. - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out

	previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.
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Option 6a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Revenue saving to the Council - The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision - All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from Llangedwyn community - Impact on the Llangedwyn community - Would impact on staff at all 3 schools - Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process - Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.

Option 6b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn.

Strengths	Weaknesses
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llanfechain building - Revenue saving to the Council - The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - The new school operating over two sites would be a larger school, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision - All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain School would have to transfer to a different location - Loss of provision from the Llanfechain community - Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - May not be sufficient capacity at Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn to accommodate all pupils - Impact on the Llanfechain community - Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process - Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school
Opportunities	Threats
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.

Option 6c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llansantffraid building - Revenue saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llansantffraid C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llansantffraid School would have to transfer to a different location

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision - All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of provision from the Llansantffraid community - Impact on the Llansantffraid community - Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not be sufficient capacity at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain to accommodate all pupils - Significant capital investment would be required to accommodate all pupils - Unlikely to be acceptable to the Llansantffraid community - Would be less convenient for the majority of pupils - Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process - Would destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school
Opportunities	Threats
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.

Option 7a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llangedwyn.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid buildings - Revenue saving to the Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School are currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would increase pupil numbers at Llangedwyn - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision - All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school 	<p>Llansantffraid C. in W. School would have to transfer to a different location</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of provision from the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid communities - Impact on the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid communities - Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Would not be sufficient capacity at Llangedwyn to accommodate all pupils - Significant capital investment would be needed - Less convenient for the majority of pupils - Llangedwyn is currently the smallest of the three schools, therefore this option would result in significant disruption for pupils and their families - Would be a significant reduction in church school places in the area - Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W School would be part of a restructure process - Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional capacity would be required at Llangedwyn to ensure sufficient church school places are available - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.

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Option 7b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llanfechain.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council’s overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid buildings - Would remove the issues with the Llangedwyn building - Revenue saving to the Council - Would increase pupil numbers at Llanfechain - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision - All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School are currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School would have to transfer to a different location - Loss of provision from the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid communities - Impact on the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid communities - Would not be sufficient capacity at Llanfechain to accommodate all pupils - Significant capital investment would be needed - Less convenient for the majority of pupils - Would be a significant reduction in church school places in the area - Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process - Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional capacity would be required at Llanfechain to ensure sufficient church school places are available

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.
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Option 7c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llansantffraid.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings - Would remove the issues with the Llangedwyn building - Revenue saving to the Council - Would increase pupil numbers at Llansantffraid - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales provision - All staff at the three schools would have an opportunity to secure positions in the new school - Llansantffraid is the larger of the three schools therefore this option would be most convenient for the majority of pupils currently attending the three schools - Minimal disruption for pupils / families currently attending Llansantffraid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would have to transfer to a different location - Loss of provision from the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities - Impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities - Some capital investment may be needed to increase capacity at Llansantffraid - Reduction in church school places in the area - Would have a significant impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - All staff at Llansantffraid C. in W. School would be part of a restructure process - Could destabilise Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Complexities due to different school categories – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain are VC schools whilst Llansantffraid is a VA school
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional capacity would be required at Llangedwyn to ensure

	<p>sufficient church school places are available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese - Consultation on a 3-school federation has been carried out previously, this was rejected by the governing bodies.
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Option 8a: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn building - Revenue saving to the Council - Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation - Minimal impact on any other schools - Potential reduction in travel for pupils if they transfer to their closest school - Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from Llangedwyn community - Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn C. in W. School - Impact on the Llangedwyn community - Pupils may not continue to attend C. in W. provision
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be sufficient available capacity in nearby schools - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese

Option 8b: Close Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llanfechain - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llanfechain building - Revenue saving to the Council - Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Minimal impact on any other schools - Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain School would have to transfer to alternative provision - Loss of provision from the Llanfechain community - Impact on the current staff of Llanfechain C. in W. School - Impact on the Llanfechain community - Pupils may not continue to attend C. in W. provision
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be sufficient available capacity in nearby schools - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese

Option 8c: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain - Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools - The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional travel for those pupils for whom Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is currently the closest school - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revenue saving to the Council - Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum - Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities - Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation - Minimal impact on any other schools - Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school - Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School 	<p>have to transfer to alternative provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of provision from the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities - Impact on the current staff of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools - Impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities - Reduction in C. in W. places in the area - Pupils may not continue to attend C. in W. provision
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May not be sufficient available capacity in nearby schools - Possibility of referral of the decision to WG by the Diocese

6. IMPACT OF EACH OPTION

The likely impact of each option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements is considered below:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
Option 1: Status quo – continue with the current federation between Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School	There would be no impact on quality and standards – the current provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, with the two schools continuing to operate as part of a federation.	There would be no impact on the community – provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.
Option 2: Expand federation – expand the current federation to include Llansantffraid Church in Wales School	The impact on quality and standards would be minimal – the current federation would be expanded to include Llansantffraid, which could result in some additional opportunities for sharing staff / resources, and to ensure permanent leadership across the three schools.	The impact on the community would be minimal – whilst the current federation of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would be expanded to include Llansantffraid C. in W. School, provision would continue in all three locations.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – pupils would continue to attend either Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School or Llansantffraid C. in W. School.
Option 3a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Whilst the two schools currently operate as part of a federation, merging the schools to establish one new	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and the current site of Llanfechain C. in W.

<p>Wales school on two sites</p>	<p>school would provide further opportunities to improve the provision through collaboration of staff to share expertise across the school. However, pupils would continue to attend school in two different locations.</p>		<p>School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.</p>
<p>Option 3b: Close Llangedwyn Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of Llanfechain Church in Wales School</p>	<p>Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is not anticipated that this option would have a negative impact on quality and standards. The option would result in a larger school at Llanfechain, which could have a positive impact on quality and standards, as it would enable learners to benefit from greater opportunities and experiences as part of larger cohorts.</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, although the provision on the two sites would be managed by Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and the current site of Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.</p>
<p>Option 3c: Close Llanfechain Church in Wales School, but retain the site as part of</p>	<p>Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the</p>	<p>The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current site of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and the current</p>

<p>Llangedwyn Church in Wales School</p>	<p>Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is not anticipated that this option would have a negative impact on quality and standards. The option would result in a larger school at Llangedwyn, which could have a positive impact on quality and standards, as it would enable learners to benefit from being in larger cohorts of pupils. However there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils.</p>	<p>Llanfechain C. in W. School, although the provision on the two sites would be managed by Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p>	<p>site of Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.</p>
<p>Option 4a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llangedwyn site</p>	<p>Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Whilst the two schools currently operate as part of a federation, merging the schools to establish one new school would provide further opportunities to improve the provision through bringing the</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	<p>strengths of each current school together. Having all pupils located on one site would provide further opportunities for pupils by being part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p> <p>However there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.</p>		
<p>Option 4b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on the Llanfechain site</p>	<p>Based on the latest school categorisations, carried out in 2019, both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are currently in the Yellow support category, with an improvement capacity of B. It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Whilst the two schools currently operate as part of a federation, merging the schools to establish one new school would provide further opportunities to improve the provision through bringing the strengths of each current school</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	together. Having all pupils located on one site would provide further opportunities for pupils by being part of larger cohorts of pupils.		
Option 5: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales school on three sites	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. Whilst the school would operate over three sites, the school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources across the three sites, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.	The impact on the community would be minimal – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School.	There would be no impact on travel arrangements – provision would continue to be available on the current sites of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School, therefore pupils would continue to attend school in the same location.
Option 6a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.	It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llangedwyn.	There would be no provision in Llangedwyn, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order

	<p>The school would operate across two sites, therefore although not all pupils would be taught together, there would be an opportunity to increase the number of pupils on the smallest site, providing an opportunity for pupils to be part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>		<p>to access school activities / events.</p>
<p>Option 6b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llansantffraid and Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.</p> <p>The school would operate across two sites, therefore although not all pupils would be taught together, there would be an opportunity to increase the number of pupils on the smallest site, providing an opportunity for pupils to be part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council’s Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	<p>However there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.</p>		
<p>Option 6c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on two sites – Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p>	<p>In general, it is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils.</p> <p>The school would operate across two sites, therefore although not all pupils would be taught together, there would be an opportunity to increase the number of pupils on the smallest site, providing an opportunity for pupils to be part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p> <p>However the current sites of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llansantffraid. This would have a negative impact on the Llansantffraid community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llansantffraid, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llansantffraid.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	would not be suitable to accommodate all pupils currently attending the three schools. In particular, there are concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.		
Option 7a: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llangedwyn.	Whilst this would result in establishing one new, larger, school, locating the new school on the current Llangedwyn site would have a negative impact on quality and standards due to concerns about the suitability of the Llangedwyn site to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llanfechain or Llansantffraid. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain and Llansantffraid communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain and Llansantffraid, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llanfechain and Llansantffraid.	There would be no provision in Llanfechain or Llansantffraid, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.
Option 7b: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and	Whilst this would result in establishing one new, larger, school, the Llanfechain site does not have sufficient capacity to accommodate all current pupils,	Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llansantffraid. This would have a negative	There would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llansantffraid, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W.

<p>Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llanfechain.</p>	<p>therefore although it is anticipated that merging the three schools to establish one new school on one site would have a positive impact on quality and standards, this is unlikely to be the case should the new school be located on the current Llanfechain site due to concerns about the building's capacity to accommodate additional pupils and provide education which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.</p>	<p>impact on the Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llangedwyn and Llansantffraid.</p>	<p>School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>
<p>Option 7c: Merge Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School to create a new Church in Wales School on one site – Llansantffraid.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have an overall positive impact on quality and standards through the establishment of one larger school on the largest of the three current sites. The school would benefit from increased staffing, and improved opportunities to share expertise and resources, as well as the opportunity to secure permanent leadership, for the benefit of all pupils. All pupils would attend the same location, meaning that pupils would benefit from being part of larger cohorts of pupils.</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	<p>Whilst the current Llansantffraid site may not currently be able to accommodate all pupils currently attending the three schools, consideration has previously given to extending the site, therefore there is scope to increase the accommodation available on the site.</p>		
<p>Option 8a: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Ysgol Bro Cynllaith, Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant CP School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llangedwyn, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llangedwyn.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>
<p>Option 8b: Close Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W.</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for</p>

<p>attend nearest alternative schools</p>	<p>School would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Ysgol Llanfyllin. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llanfechain.</p>	<p>Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llanfechain community, and would result in the loss of primary provision from Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the school from Llanfechain.</p>	<p>pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>
<p>Option 8c: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that pupils would transfer to their nearest alternative schools. For the majority of pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, the closest alternative schools would be Ysgol Llanfyllin, Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent</p>	<p>Implementation of this option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain. This would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities, and would result in the loss of primary provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p>	<p>There would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst home to school travel would be provided for eligible pupils in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy, there would also be an additional travel requirement for parents in order to access school activities / events.</p>

	quality as that provided at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.		
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7. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The options have also been assessed against the following Critical Success Factors:

Critical Success Factor	Description
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must align with the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address the challenges facing education in Powys, as outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Vision and Guiding Principles outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 - Align with the Strategic Aims and Objectives outlined in the Council’s Strategy for Transforming Education in Powys 2020-2030 • The option must optimise the benefits of the Council’s Transforming Education Programme
2 – Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must optimise the resources available for the delivery of learning • The option must provide value for money in the delivery of learning
3 – Potential achievability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The option must be achievable within current legislation • The option must be operationally achievable • The option must be physically achievable
4 – Potential affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the option is affordable within the Council’s forecasted revenue • The extent to which the option is affordable within the forecasted capital funding available to the Council

Each option has been assessed against the Critical Success Factors based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3a	Option 3b	Option 3c	Option 4a	Option 4b	Option 5	Option 6a	Option 6b	Option 6c	Option 7a	Option 7b	Option 7c	Option 8a	Option 8b	Option 8c
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 – Value for money	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	?	?	?	x	x	✓
3 – Potential achievability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	?	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 – Potential affordability	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	?	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Total ✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	4
Total x	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	0	1	1	0
Outcome	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Discount	Possible	Discount	Discount	Preferred

8. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on the assessments carried out so far, the emerging preferred option for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is:

Option 8c: Close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, pupils to attend nearest alternative schools

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Meets all of the Critical Success Factors

Pre-consultation with the Diocese of St Asaph was carried out on this option during December / January 2021. In the consultation response received from the Diocese, concern was expressed about the impact of the emerging preferred option on access to Church in Wales places in the area currently served by Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

Alongside the emerging preferred option, the Council has committed to providing an extension at Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would ensure that sufficient Church in Wales places would continue to be available in the area. However, whilst plans to provide a 3-class extension to the Llansantffraid building are currently being developed, the timescale for completion of this development is unclear.

To address the concerns raised by the Diocese of St Asaph in respect of access to Church in Wales places until the extension to the Llansantffraid building is complete, consideration will be given to possible implementation options, in order to provide access to sufficient Church in Wales places in the interim period.

Data in respect of Llansantffraid C. in W. School and possible implementation options are considered in the next section.

PART C – LLANSANTFFRAID C. IN W. SCHOOL

9. THE CURRENT SITUATION AT LLANSANTFFRAID C. IN W. SCHOOL

Llansantffraid C. in W. School is located in the village of Llansantffraid in the Llanfyllin catchment area in North Powys. It is a voluntary aided school.

The following schools are located within 10 miles of Llansantffraid C. in W. School:

School	Distance from Llansantffraid C. in W. School (miles)
Llanfechain C. in W. School	2.3 miles
Carreghofa C.P. School	3.4 miles
Llandysilio C.I.W School	3.8 miles
Bryn Offa CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	4.4 miles
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4.5 miles
Arddleen C.P. School	4.7 miles
Ysgol Llanfyllin	5.4 miles
Trefonen CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	5.6 miles
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	6.4 miles
Ysgol Meifod	6.6 miles
Guilsfied C.P. School	7.6 miles
Brynhafren C.P. School	8.0 miles
Kinnerley CofE Primary School (Shropshire)	8.1 miles
Llanrhaedr Ym Mochant C.P. School	8.2 miles

The following is a summary of key data relating to Llansantffraid C. in W. School:

	School Type	Language Category	Admission Number ²⁰	Rural School? ²¹
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	Voluntary Aided Primary Church in Wales School building owned by the Diocese of St Asaph	English medium	15	No

Pupil Numbers

i) Current pupil numbers²²

	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total R-Yr 6
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	12	16	15	12	25	10	13	103

ii) Historical pupil numbers²³

	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2017	Jan. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2020
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	120	114	119	108	100	118	120

iii) Projected pupil numbers (Birth rate)²⁴

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023	Jan. 2024	Jan. 2025
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	100	96	87	87

iv) Projected pupil numbers (Finance projections)²⁵

²⁰ Powys County Council 'Admissions Information and Arrangements 2021-22

²¹ Annex F of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code (2018)

(<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/school-organisation-code-second-edition.pdf>)

includes a list of 'rural schools', to which the 'Presumption against the closure of rural schools' applies.

²² Finance NOR – 2020 Pupil Count Day (6th November 2020)

²³ PLASC (R-Yr6)

²⁴ Powys Schools Service Projections based on PLASC & Birth Rates

²⁵ Powys Finance Projections January 2021

	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2022	Jan. 2023
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	103	105	110

Building Capacity and Condition

i) Capacity

The following table provides information about the school's current capacity:

	Current Capacity ²⁶	Currently Filled	Surplus Capacity
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	103 (98.1%)	2 (1.9%)

ii) Building condition²⁷

In 2009, Welsh Government carried out condition and suitability assessments of all schools.

	Condition	Suitability	Access to hall on site
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	B Good	C Poor	Yes

Standards of Education

i) Estyn

	Llansantffraid C. in W. School
Date of Inspection	March 2014
Standards	Good
Wellbeing	Good
Learning Experiences	Good

²⁶ Welsh Government School Places Return – August 2020

²⁷ Premises Data Return to Welsh Government – 2020

Teaching	Good
Care, support and guidance	Good
Learning Environment	Good
Leadership	Good
Improving Quality	Good
Partnership Working	Good
Resource Management	Good
Follow up activity	The school will draw up an action plan that shows how it is going to address the recommendations

ii) **School Categorisation²⁸**

	Standards Group	Improvement Capacity	Support Capacity
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	N/A	B	Yellow

Financial information

i) **Cost per pupil (Section 52 Budget Statement, 2020/2021)**

	Budget share per school	Budget share per pupil	Notional SEN budget	Non ISB funds devolved to the school
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	£425,000	£3,758	£26,000	£7,000
Powys average (Primary)	N/A	£4,264	N/A	N/A

Home to school travel

²⁸ 2019. Categorisations were not carried out in 2020 due to Covid-19.

An analysis of pupil travel patterns has been carried out, based on the 109 pupils that were attending Llansantffraid C. in W. School in January 2020. The closest provider for these pupils is as follows:

	Percentage of pupils attending Llansantffraid C. in W. School
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	74.3%
Llangedwyn C. in W. School	4.6%
Trefonen Primary (Out of County)	3.7%
Llandysilio C. in W. School	2.8%
Ysgol Llanfyllin	2.8%
Morda CofE Primary School (Out of County)	1.8%
Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant C.P. School	1.8%
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	0.9%
Arddleen C.P. School	0.9%
Llanfechain C. in W. School	0.9%
Bryn Offa Primary (Out of County)	0.9%
Weston Rhyn Primary School (Out of County)	0.9%
Ysgol Meifod	0.9%
Abermule C.P. School	0.9%
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	0.9%
Carreghofa C.P. School	0.9%

Based on this information, Llansantffraid C. in W. School is the closest school for 81 (74.3%) of the current pupils.

The current average travel distance for pupils attending Llansantffraid C. in W. School in January 2020 is 2.17 miles.

Of the pupils that currently attend Llansantffraid C. in W. School, the furthest travel distance to school for those pupils for whom Llansantffraid C. in W. School is the closest provider is 2.83 miles.

Equalities Information

i) Free School Meals²⁹

	% of pupils who had a free school meal on Census day
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	15.8%

ii) Pupils in care³⁰

	% of pupils in care
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	0%

iii) SEN/ALN³¹

	School Action	School Action Plus	Statement
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	13.3%	0.8%	0.8%

²⁹ PLASC 2020

³⁰ Teacher Centre June 2020

³¹ PLASC 2020

PART D – IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

10. POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

The following possible implementation options have been identified in respect of the preferred way forward for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, which would provide continued access to additional Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School is complete.

Option	Description
<u>Delay implementation</u>	
1	Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.
<u>Temporary two sited options – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</u>	
2a	Retain the Llangedwyn site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.
2b	Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.
<u>Temporary three sited school option – Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School</u>	
3	Retain the Llangedwyn site and the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.

11. SWOT ANALYSIS OF EACH OPTION

SWOT analyses for each of the options identified above are provided below:

Option 1 – Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales throughout the implementation period. - Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice - Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not lead to rationalisation of the Powys schools infrastructure in the short term - The Council would need to maintain the three buildings in the short term - Would not enable the Council to realise any financial savings in the short term
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible reduction in pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain during the transition period if parents choose for pupils to attend different schools

Option 2a – Retain the Llangedwyn site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn in the short term - Would enable some rationalisation of the Council's school estate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School – would be responsible for a second site in the short term - The Llangedwyn site is located further away from Llansantffraid than Llanfechain, therefore this option would have a greater impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School - The Llangedwyn site is less suitable to accommodate pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School - Additional travel would be required for a greater number of pupils - Pupils currently attending Llanfechain may not choose to transfer to the Llangedwyn site

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would not accommodate all pupils currently accessing Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools - Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building in the short term - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site - Significant investment would be needed to accommodate pupils in the short term
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential negative impact on Llansantffraid

Option 2b – Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete - Would retain provision in Llanfechain in the short term - Would enable some rationalisation of the Council's school estate in the short term - The Llanfechain building is more suitable than the Llangedwyn building - The Llanfechain site is closer to Llansantffraid, therefore there would be less impact on Llansantffraid. - More pupils currently attend the Llanfechain site, therefore retaining this site would be more convenient for the majority of pupils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School – would be responsible for a second site in the short term - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn may not choose to transfer to the Llanfechain site - Would not accommodate all pupils currently accessing Llangedwyn and Llanfechain schools – some additional capacity may be required in order to accommodate pupils, which would have additional cost implications for the Council - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn would need to move schools twice during the transition period in order to continue to access Church in Wales provision
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential negative impact on Llansantffraid - Pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School would need to move schools twice in order

	to continue to access Church in Wales provision
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Option 3 – Retain the Llangedwyn site and the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete - Would retain provision in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain in the short term - No additional transport would be required in the short term 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater impact on Llansantffraid School – would be responsible for three sites in the short term - Would not enable any rationalisation of the Powys schools estate in the short term - Would not address issues with the Llangedwyn building - Would not provide access to a hall on the Llangedwyn site
Opportunities	Threats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential negative impact on Llansantffraid

12. IMPACT OF EACH IMPLEMENTATION OPTION

The likely impact of each implementation option on quality and standards, the community and travelling arrangements is considered below:

Option	Likely impact on quality and standards	Likely impact on the community	Likely impact of different travelling arrangements
<p>Option 1 – Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on quality and standards in the short term – the current provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, with the two schools continuing to operate as part of a federation.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, the anticipated impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on the community in the short term – provision would continue to be available at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>There would be no impact on travel arrangements in the short term – pupils would continue to attend Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>Following implementation of the proposal, the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>
<p>Option 2a – Retain the Llangedwyn site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the extension to</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Provision would continue to be available on the Llangedwyn site in the short term, however this would be under the management of</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llangedwyn site, however no provision would be available on the current Llanfechain site.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llangedwyn site, however there would be no provision on the Llanfechain site, therefore additional travel would be required for pupils currently</p>

<p>Llansantffraid is complete.</p>	<p>Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Pupils would be part of a larger school, would enable them to benefit from sharing expertise and resources across the sites.</p> <p>However, there is some concern about the suitability of the Llangedwyn school building to accommodate provision in the short term.</p> <p>In addition, there would be some impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the short term as the school would be responsible for management of the Llangedwyn site. This would be an additional requirement for current Llansantffraid staff.</p> <p>In the longer term, the likely impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>attending Llanfechain C. in W. School.</p> <p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>
<p>Option 2b – Retain the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in W. School until the</p>	<p>It is anticipated that this option would have a positive impact on quality and standards. Provision would continue to be available on the Llanfechain site in the short term, however this would</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llanfechain, however no provision would be available on the current Llangedwyn site.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llanfechain site, however there would be no provision on the Llangedwyn site, therefore additional travel would be</p>

<p>extension to Llansantffraid is complete.</p>	<p>be under the management of Llansantffraid C. in W. School. Pupils would be part of a larger school, would enable them to benefit from sharing expertise and resources across the sites.</p> <p>There would be some impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the short term as the school would be responsible for management of the Llanfechain site. This would be an additional requirement for current Llansantffraid staff. However the distance between Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is minimal, therefore it is not anticipated that the impact would be significant.</p> <p>In the longer term, the likely impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 8c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>required for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.</p> <p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>
<p>Option 3 – Retain the Llangedwyn site and the Llanfechain site on a temporary basis as part of Llansantffraid C. in</p>	<p>Provision would continue to be available on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain sites in the short term, however this would be under the management of Llansantffraid C. in W. School.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llanfechain and Llangedwyn sites therefore the impact on the community would be minimal.</p>	<p>In the short term, provision would continue to be available on the current Llangedwyn and Llanfechain sites, therefore the impact on travel arrangements would be minimal.</p>

<p>W. School until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete.</p>	<p>Pupils would be part of a larger school, would enable them to benefit from sharing expertise and resources across the sites.</p> <p>However, there is a risk that this option would have a negative impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School in the short term as the school would be responsible for management of two additional sites. This would be an additional requirement for current Llansantffraid staff.</p> <p>In the longer term, the likely impact on quality and standards would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on the community would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>	<p>In the longer term, there would be no provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain, and the likely impact on travel arrangements would be as outlined for Option 4c on page 50 of this document.</p>
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13. CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

The implementation options have also been assessed against the Critical Success Factors listed in section 7 above, based on the following criteria:

✓ – Meets ? – Could meet x – Does not meet

The assessment for each option is as follows:

	Option 1	Option 2a	Option 2b	Option 3
1 – Strategic fit and business needs	?	x	?	x
2 – Value for money	?	x	?	?
3 – Potential achievability	✓	x	?	x
5 – Potential affordability	?	x	?	?
Total ✓	1	0	0	0
Total x	0	4	4	2
Outcome	Preferred	Discount	Possible	Discount

14. EMERGING PREFERRED OPTION

Based on these assessments, the preferred implementation option is as follows:

Option 1 – Delay implementation of the emerging preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.

The reasons for this are:

- No impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales throughout the implementation period.
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

15. CONCLUSION

Having combined the outcomes of the two options appraisal exercises carried out, the overall preferred option in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is as follows:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, with pupils to attend nearest alternative schools**
- **To delay implementation of the preferred option until the extension to Llansantffraid is complete. Implement the emerging preferred option once the extension is complete.**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Delaying implementation of the proposal would not impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area throughout the implementation period
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

Further consideration of this option will now be carried out based on the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code.

Should the Council proceed with the preferred option outlined above, there would also be a need to carry out a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School following the planned extension to the school.

Further consideration of the preferred option will therefore be carried out based on the following proposal:

- To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31st August 2023
- To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.

PART E – FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PREFERRED OPTION

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, which is as follows:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31st August 2023**
- **To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.**

16. QUALITY AND STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

16.1 Likely impact on standards and progress overall, of specific groups and in skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School. The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide education for pupils which is of at least equivalent quality as that provided at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on standards and progress overall, and in some cases, this would have a positive impact on standards and progress.

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. The number of affected pupils belonging to these specific groups is small, however it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the standards and progress of these pupils.

This is also the case in respect of the impact on the skills of all pupils, including literacy, numeracy and ICT. In most cases, pupils would transfer to larger schools, which provide improved opportunities to share staff expertise and resources, and which have an improved ability to monitor pupil progress in these aspects.

16.2 Wellbeing and attitudes to learning

In the short term, it is possible that there would be an impact on pupil wellbeing, as they would need to transfer from Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School to alternative schools. It is possible that pupils could choose to transfer to different schools, which could have a further impact on their wellbeing during this time. However, the receiving school(s) would provide full support to the pupils during the transition period, to minimise any negative impact on them.

For some pupils, implementation of the preferred option could result in additional travel, which could have an impact on pupil well-being. However alternative primary provision would be available at a number of other schools located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is not considered that the additional travel time required to alternative provision would be excessive.

In the longer term, the intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on pupil wellbeing and attitudes to learning as they would transfer to larger schools with larger cohorts of pupils, providing improved social and extra-curricular opportunities.

16.3 Teaching and learning experiences

16.3.1 Quality of teaching

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council has no concerns about the quality of teaching at any of these schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the quality of teaching experienced by pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

16.3.2 The breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council's view is that all of these schools would provide a curriculum which is at least equivalent to that currently provided at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. In the majority of cases, pupils would transfer to larger schools, therefore the expectation would be that there would

be an improvement in the breadth, balance and appropriateness of the curriculum provided to pupils, and that the alternative schools would be better placed to develop provision which meets the requirements of the new curriculum.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools, which impacts on some aspects of the curriculum. Alternative Church in Wales provision is available in the catchment at Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School, ensuring that denominational provision would continue to be available to those pupils who wished to access it. The preferred option also includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would provide continued access to denominational provision.

16.3.3 The provision of skills

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C. P. School.

The Council has no concerns about the provision of skills at any of these schools, therefore it is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on the provision of skills for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

16.4 Care, support and guidance

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on tracking, monitoring and the provision of learning support, personal development and safeguarding for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

16.5 Leadership and Management

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

Should the Council proceed with implementation of the preferred option, Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would close, and pupils would transfer to alternative schools. For the majority of pupils, the closest alternative school would be either Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin, Ysgol Bro Cynllaith or Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School currently operate under an acting headteacher. Permanent leadership arrangements are in place in all of the alternative pupils may transfer to, with the exception of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School. The Council's view is that this would ensure improved leadership and management. In addition, Llansantffraid C. in W. School, Ysgol Llanfyllin and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School are significantly larger than Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore the headteachers of these schools would have more time available to them to focus on leadership and management.

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would have a negative impact on self-evaluation processes and improvement planning.

16.5.2 Professional learning

It is not anticipated that implementation of the preferred option would impact on professional learning opportunities. Staff currently employed at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School would be subject to a management of change process.

16.5.3 Use of Resources

Both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are projecting to be in a surplus budget position over the coming years. Whilst there are no concerns about the use of resources within these two schools, there are concerns about use of resources overall within the Powys schools' infrastructure. As indicated on page 5 above, one of the main challenges facing the Powys schools' infrastructure is the high proportion of small schools in the county. Both Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are among the smallest schools in the county, and the budget share per pupil at both schools is higher than the Powys average for primary schools.

Closure of the two schools would reduce the number of schools in Powys, and would enable the Council to use its resources more effectively for the benefit of all Powys learners.

16.6 Impact on vulnerable groups, including children with Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Implementation of the preferred option would result in the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is acknowledged that there would be an impact on any pupils belonging to vulnerable groups currently attending the two schools, including any pupils with SEN, and that in the short term, these pupils would need to transfer to alternative schools. The Council would work with Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School and the receiving schools to ensure an effective transition for any vulnerable children, including children with SEN, and their families.

In the longer term, the Council's view is that the provision available to pupils belonging to vulnerable groups, including children with SEN, would be at least equivalent to the provision available at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School.

16.7 Ability of the school/schools which are the subject of the proposals to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, including the quality of curriculum delivery and the extent to which the structure or size of the school is impacting on this

Implementation of the preferred option would result in the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, therefore these schools would no longer need to deliver the curriculum at the foundation phase or key stage 2.

Pupils currently attending these two schools would transfer to alternative schools. It is anticipated that receiving additional pupils would improve the receiving schools' ability to deliver the full curriculum in the foundation phase and key stage 2.

The preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School, following completion of the planned extension to the building of Llansantffraid C. in W. School. It is anticipated that this would lead to an increase in pupil numbers at Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which could mean that they would need to review their class structure, however it is not anticipated that this would have a negative impact on the school's ability to deliver the full curriculum at the foundation phase and each key stage of education, or on the quality of delivery.

17 NEED FOR PLACES AND IMPACT ON ACCESSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS

17.1 Will the alternative provision have sufficient capacity and provide accommodation of at least equivalent quality for existing and projected pupil numbers?

The following table shows the number of spaces available and the building condition of Powys schools providing English-medium education located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School:

School	Capacity	Current pupil numbers	Available spaces	Available capacity	Building Condition	Building Suitability
Ysgol Llanfyllin	1080	705	375	34.7%	C	B/C
Llansantffraid C. in W. School	105	103	2	1.9%	B	C
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	48	24	24	50.0%	B	B
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School	108	73	35	32.4%	A	A
Ysgol Meifod	77	81	-4	-5.2%	B	C
Ardleen C.P. School	110	96	14	12.7%	C	B
Carreghofa C.P School	115	91	24	20.9%	B	B
Llandysilio C. in W. School	116	62	54	46.6%	B	C
Guilfield C.P. School	157	137	20	12.7%	B	B

This suggests that there are sufficient places within 10 miles to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Whilst the majority of the neighbouring schools are community primary schools, the two C. in W. schools situated within the area are Llansantffraid C. in W. school and Llandysilio C. in W. school. It is recognised that the number of available places at Llansantffraid is currently limited due to the school being close to capacity, but there are places available at Llandysilio C. in W. School.

The preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places following the completion of a three class extension to the building. This would provide sufficient places to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is anticipated that the extension would be ready by September 2023.

In addition, a number of out of county schools are located within 10 miles of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, including schools located both in Shropshire and in Wrexham County Borough Council's area. Should there be no school in Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, it is

possible that some pupils would choose to attend provision that is out of county / country.

17.2 Is the alternative provision sufficient to meet existing and projected demand for schools of the same language category and (if relevant) designated religious character?

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools. Alternative Church in Wales provision is available in the area at Llansantffraid C. in W. School and Llandysilio C. in W. School.

The current accommodation at Llansantffraid would not be sufficient to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, however the preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places following the completion of a three class extension to the building. This would provide sufficient places to accommodate all pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. It is anticipated that the extension would be ready by September 2023.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both English-medium schools. There are a number of other English-medium providers in the local area.

17.3 What will be the nature of journeys to alternative provision and resulting journey times for pupils including SEN pupils?

Should there be no provision at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, alternative primary provision would be available at a number of other schools located within 10 miles of these schools. Should the schools close, additional travel would be required for pupils currently attending the two schools, however it is not considered that the length and nature of journeys for pupils to alternative provision would be excessive. This includes journeys for SEN pupils. One-way journeys to alternative provision would not be in excess of 45 minutes.

17.4 Is there evidence of current or future need/demand in the area for additional places?

The latest pupil projection figures for Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School suggest that pupil numbers at the two schools are not expected to increase significantly over the coming years.

17.5 Will the proposals improve access for disabled pupils in accordance with requirements under the Equality Act 2010?

Llangedwyn C. in W. School meets the requirements of the Equality Act whilst Llanfechain C. in W. School does not meet the requirements of the Equality Act.

Whether or not the proposals would improve access for disabled pupils would depend on the schools to which pupils transferred. The position in respect of the schools located within 10 miles of the two schools is as follows:

School	Compliant with Equality Act?
Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School	Partially
Ysgol Bro Cynllaith	Partially
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant C.P. School	Yes
Ysgol Meifod	Partially
Ardleen C.P. School	Partially
Carreghofa C.P School	Partially
Llandysilio C. in W. School	Partially
Guilsfield C.P. School	Partially

This suggests that there would be an improvement for pupils currently attending Llanfechain C. in W. School, however this may not be the case for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School.

Providing an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. school provides an opportunity to ensure that the school is compliant with the Equality Act.

18 RESOURCING OF EDUCATION AND OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

18.1 What effect will the proposals have on surplus places in the area?

The intention is that the proposal would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the area through the closure of two buildings.

The preferred option includes increasing the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places following the completion of a three class extension to the building in order to provide continued access to Church in Wales places, however overall, the intention is that the proposals would lead to a reduction in surplus places in the area.

18.2 Do the proposals form part of the local authority's 21st Century Schools Investment Programme and contribute to the delivery of sustainable schools for the 21st Century and to the better strategic management of the school estate?

The review of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School is linked to plans for capital investment in the Llanfyllin catchment as part of the 21st Century Schools Investment Programme.

The Council has recently developed a Programme Business Case (PBC) in respect of primary provision in the Llanfyllin catchment. The PBC identifies a preferred way forward for the Llanfyllin catchment, which is as follows:

To invest in the development of:

- A new community campus for approximately 900 pupils aged 4 – 18 in Llanfyllin, replacing the current poor condition buildings of Ysgol Llanfyllin – to be built on the current Ysgol Llanfyllin site.
- To establish and build a new 360 place area school, to replace Carreghofa School and Llandysilio C. in W. School – this could also potentially include neighbouring schools in the Welshpool catchment as well. Site to be confirmed.
- To establish a new Welsh-medium school on the current Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant site, replacing both Ysgol Pennant and Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant Primary School. This may require capital funding to extend the school.
- To provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. Primary School.
- Possible closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School, Llanfechain C. in W. School and Ysgol Bro Cynllaith.

18.3 What are the recurrent costs of proposals over a period of at least 3 years and is the necessary recurrent funding available?

The recurrent costs of this proposal would be the increased transport costs which are currently estimated to be an additional £46,000 per annum as detailed in 18.4. This has been included in the delegated revenue costing and is funded through savings in other areas of the formula in relation to this proposal.

18.4 Will additional transport costs be incurred as a result of the proposal?

It is estimated there will be additional transport costs of £46,000 annually, this is based on pupil's current location and assuming the pupils will go to the next nearest school. There would potentially be a need to decant pupils from Llansantffraid C. in W. school whilst the school was being extended, however this has not yet been confirmed. There may be additional transport costs due to this dependent on whether decanting is actually required and, if so, the location of the site.

18.5 What are the capital costs of the proposal and is the necessary capital funding is available?

There are no direct capital costs associated with the closure of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, which is the preferred option, with pupils to transfer to alternative schools.

Alongside this proposal to close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, the Council intends to provide an extension to Llansantffraid C. in W. School, which would provide additional Church in Wales places in the area. Initial feasibilities are currently being prepared.

It is estimated that the capital funding requirement for both the extension and any potential costs of decanting pupils from Llansantffraid, if required, would be approximately £3 million. This would be funded from the 21st Century Schools programme. Welsh Government provides 85% capital grant for investment in voluntary aided Church in Wales Schools, with the remaining 15% being provided by the Diocese / Governing Body of the school.

18.6 What is the scale of any projected net savings (taking into account school revenue, transport and capital costs)

It is estimated that this would result in annual revenue savings to the Council of around £66,000 per annum. This overall figure comprises a potential saving on Schools' delegated funding of £117,000, estimated additional transport costs of £46,000, potential loss of funding for pupils that may move to out of county of £11,000 and savings on catering costs of around £6,000.

18.7 Without the proposals, would the schools affected face budget deficits?

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llansantffraid C. in W. School is projected to be in a surplus budget position over the coming years. Llanfechain C. in W. School is projected to be in a deficit for the same timeframe.

18.8 Will any savings in recurrent costs be retained in the local authority's local schools budget?

Any savings would be reinvested in the Council's corporate budget and any reinvestment in the schools' system would be agreed as part of the annual budget planning cycle.

18.9 Will the proceeds of sales (capital receipts) of redundant sites be made available to meet the costs of the proposal or contribute to the costs of future proposals which will promote effective management of school places?

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School are both Church in Wales schools. Neither school site is owned by the local authority, therefore the proceeds of any sale of either site would not be available to the local authority.

19 OTHER GENERAL FACTORS

19.1 What impact will the proposals have on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds?

Implementation of the preferred option would impact on any pupils from economically deprived backgrounds currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School as they would need to transfer to alternative schools. Based on PLASC figures from January 2020, approximately 22% of pupils at Llangedwyn C. in W. School and approximately 20% of pupils at Llanfechain C. in W. School were eligible for Free School Meals, therefore it is acknowledged that implementation of this option would impact on some pupils from economically deprived backgrounds.

The intention is that implementation of the preferred option would have a positive impact on educational attainment among children from economically deprived backgrounds.

Implementation of this option would result in additional travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School for whom these are their closest schools. Whilst free home to school transport would be provided to eligible pupils in accordance with Council's home to school transport policy, it is acknowledged that there would be an impact on families due to the requirement to travel to school events, which could have a greater impact on children from economically deprived backgrounds.

19.2 Any equality issues, including those identified through equality impact assessments

Closing the two schools would impact on any pupils belonging to the protected characteristic groups that attend the schools. However, the intention is that the proposal would have a positive impact on all pupils, including pupils belonging to protected characteristic groups.

An initial review of PLASC data does not identify any particular equality issues, however a full equality impact assessment will be carried out as the process moves forward, which will be reviewed and updated throughout the process to take account of any feedback received relating to any equality issues.

19.3 Whether the school / schools involved are subject to any trust or charitable interests which might be affected by the proposals, for example in relation to the use or disposal of land.

The schools involved are all Church in Wales schools, therefore the land and buildings are owned by the Diocese of St Asaph.

20. SPECIFIC FACTORS IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

20.1 Whether the establishment of multi-site schools might be considered as a means of retaining buildings, or the reasons for not pursuing this option

A range of options have been considered in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, these are outlined in section 4 of this document, as well as an assessment of each option which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. school are already formally federated. However, pupil numbers at both schools are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years, with a high cost per pupil. Establishing a multi-sited school would not address this issue.

20.2 Whether alternatives to closure, such as clustering, collaboration or federation with other schools, might be considered or the reasons for not pursuing these as an alternative

Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School already operate as part of a federation. Continuing with the current arrangement is one of the options considered in section 4 of this document, and consideration was also given to an extended federation also including Llansantffraid C. in W. School. As assessment of these options has been carried out, which includes a summary of the weaknesses / threats associated with each.

However, pupil numbers at both schools are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years, with a high cost per pupil. Continuing with the current federation or extending the federation to include Llansantffraid C. in W. School would not address this issue.

20.3 Whether the possibility of making fuller use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource could be explored

The Council's view is that making more use of the existing buildings as a community or educational resource would not address the issues identified in respect of Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School. Pupil numbers at both schools are low, and are not projected to increase significantly over the coming years, with a high cost per pupil.

20.4 The overall effect of closure on the local community (including the loss of school based facilities which are used by the local community)

Implementation of the preferred option would mean that there would no longer be provision in Llangedwyn or Llanfechain. It is acknowledged that this would have a negative impact on the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain communities, including the loss of primary provision from the villages of Llangedwyn and Llanfechain, and a possible loss of any community facilities associated with the schools from these villages.

An initial community impact assessment has been carried out with input from Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School, which identified the potential impact of the preferred option on the community. This would be updated throughout the process to reflect any feedback received, and would be considered by the Council's Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

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

Should the Council proceed with the statutory process and eventually implementation of the preferred option, support would be provided to pupils and their parents as part of the transition process, to ensure full engagement with their new schools. The nature of this support would depend on the needs of the parents / pupils, however this could include transition meetings with new teachers and headteachers.

21. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Based on the options appraisal carried out and further consideration of the preferred option against the factors outlined in the School Organisation Code, the preferred option is as follows:

- **To close Llangedwyn C. in W. School and Llanfechain C. in W. School from the 31st August 2023**
- **To make a regulated alteration to increase the capacity of Llansantffraid C. in W. School by 90 places from September 2023, following completion of the construction project at Llansantffraid C. in W. School.**

The reasons for this are:

- Would address the issue of low pupil numbers at Llangedwyn and Llanfechain
- Would reduce the Council's overall surplus capacity in primary schools
- The Council would no longer need to maintain the Llangedwyn and Llanfechain buildings
- Revenue saving to the Council
- Pupils would attend larger schools, which would be better equipped to meet the requirements of the new curriculum

- Pupils would attend larger schools, which could provide a wider range of educational and extra-curricular opportunities
- Pupils would attend schools with more suitable accommodation
- Minimal impact on any other schools
- Potential reduction in travel for pupils currently attending Llangedwyn School if they transfer to their closest school
- Church in Wales provision would continue to be available at Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Delaying implementation of the proposal would not impact on Llansantffraid C. in W. School
- Would provide continued access to Church in Wales places in the area throughout the implementation period
- Would ensure that no pupils would have to move schools twice
- Supported by the Diocese of St Asaph

It is recommended that a paper is considered by the Council's Cabinet, requesting approval to commence consultation on the preferred option outlined above.